



## EXHIBIT A

# Inter Office Memo

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**ATTENTION: FOR FINAL ACTION OR  
MODIFICATION TO OR ADDITION OF  
CONDITIONS, SEE FINAL BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS' ACTION SUMMARY  
MINUTES.**

DATE: April 13, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning Commission

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 12643 - 2016 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL  
PROGRESS REPORT

STAFF CONTACT: Mohammad Khorsand, Senior Planner

REQUEST: Recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Resolution accepting the Annual Progress Report (APR) for the Fresno County General Plan for the 2016 calendar year and authorize the submittal of the APR to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

### PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

At its hearing of March 30, 2017, the Planning Commission, as part of its regular agenda, considered the Staff Report and testimony (summarized in Exhibit A). During the second speaker's testimony, there was a loss of a quorum, resulting in a continuation of the item.

At its hearing of April 13, 2017, the Commission considered the Addendum Staff Report and testimony (summarized in Exhibit A). A motion was then made by Commissioner Mendes and seconded by Commissioner Abrahamian to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution accepting the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report and authorize the submittal of the Report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

This motion passed on the following vote:

No:               None

Abstain:      None

By:   
William M. Kettler, Manager  
Development Services Division

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Exhibit A

2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR)

**March 30, 2017 Planning Commission Hearing**

Staff: The Fresno County Planning Commission considered the Staff Report and the attached Annual Report for 2016 and heard a summary presentation by staff.

Others: A member of the public presented a handout for distribution to the Commission. The speaker presented several concerns regarding the Annual Report, including:

- That the APR is not prepared adequately in reporting the progress of the policies and programs of the General Plan.
- Questioning if the implementation programs are working the way they should.
- That the Commission should direct staff to go back and make the recommended changes from the handout.
- Questioning the accuracy of the statements in the APR.

During testimony of a second member of the public the quorum was lost with the departure of two Commissioners (Commissioners Chatha and Lawson).

**April 13, 2017 Planning Commission Hearing**

Staff: The Fresno County Planning Commission considered the Addendum Staff Report dated April 13, 2017, and heard a summary presentation from staff.

Others: A member of the public presented a handout for distribution to the Commission and presented several concerns regarding the Annual Report, including:

- That the General Plan programs are not being implemented as written.
- That there is not a problem with late submittal of the APR.

RESOLUTION # 12643

A second speaker stated additional concerns, including:

- That the Housing Element seems to be inadequate and not in compliance with the statute.
- That the Commission should not approve the 2016 APR.
- That the Commission should direct staff to include detailed information of steps taken/not taken in implementing the programs of the General Plan.

A third speaker commented on an indicator program which could provide information on the effectiveness of the General Plan policies. The speaker requested the Planning Commission not recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the 2016 APR.

Correspondence: Correspondence from the public was presented to the Commission.

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# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING  
**STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR**

## **Planning Commission Staff Report Agenda Item No. 7 March 30, 2017**

**SUBJECT: 2016 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**STAFF CONTACT: Mohammad Khorsand, Senior Planner  
(559) 600-4022**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review the Annual Progress Report (APR) of the Fresno County General Plan for the 2016 calendar year and recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution accepting the APR and authorize submittal of the APR to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The review and acceptance of the General Plan Annual Progress Report is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It is the type of activity that is Categorically Exempt, Class 6 (Informational Collection) based on Section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines.

### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

California law requires the County to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan to guide the physical development of the unincorporated areas and to accommodate growth while protecting the County's natural resources. As the basis for local government decision-making, the General Plan includes goals and policies by which projects are analyzed against and actions are taken consistent with the overall vision for the County.

The General Plan must include seven mandated elements as required by State law (land use, circulation, housing, noise, safety, conservation, and open space). Additional elements of special and unique concern to a local government, including economic development, air quality, historic resources, parks and trails, and public facilities and finance, may be included as optional elements.

Implementation of the General Plan is the responsibility of various departments in the County as well as certain agencies that are not part of the County's structure but are under contract to provide services to the County.

State law, Government Code Section 65400, requires that the County submit an APR on the status of implementation of the General Plan, including the County's Housing Element, to the Board of Supervisors. The APR will then be forwarded to OPR and HCD. The APR which is

attached to this staff report (Attachment 1) contains a report on the status of the General Plan, including the Housing Element. The preparation of the APR meets County General Plan Policy LU-H.12, which requires annual review of the General Plan.

The purpose of the APR is to inform the Board of Supervisors and the residents of Fresno County about the status of implementing the County General Plan, as well as other planning activities that have occurred during the previous calendar year. State law requires generalized annual reporting on General Plan implementation, with specific reporting requirements and forms related specifically to the Housing Element. It is important to note that there is no standardized form, format or required content for the General Plan APR. The APR is also not required to incorporate all of the General Plan Elements and is not intended to be an elaborate or time-consuming endeavor.

The 2016 APR meets the statutory requirements by law, Government Code Section 65400, and reports on key aspects of the County's General Plan implementation during the calendar year 2016. The Annual Housing Element progress report is prepared according to the standard format prescribed by the State Department of Housing and Community Development and is included in the APR as an appendix.

As was mentioned above, prior to submittal of the APR to the State, it must be presented to the Board of Supervisors for review and acceptance. Staff is presenting this APR to the Planning Commission prior to presenting it to the Board.

This 2016 APR addresses the following topics:

- Status of the General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update process;
- A description of major planning activities;
- Information on various types of development applications that were received and processed;
- Description of the General Plan Amendments that were received and processed;
- Description of Zoning Code Text Amendments and Zone Changes that were received and processed;
- Status of Implementation Programs of each General Plan element; and
- Report of the progress of implementing the Housing Element as prescribed by HCD, including an evaluation of the implementation programs (included in the APR as an appendix).

### **Summary:**

The 2016 APR is prepared pursuant to Government Code Section 65400 and the adopted County General Plan that requires a report to be prepared each year regarding the implementation of the General Plan. This APR is prepared based on the guidance provided by OPR and reports on key aspects of the County's General Plan implementation during the

calendar year 2016. The Annual Housing Element progress report is prepared according to the standard format prescribed by HCD, which is included in the APR as an appendix.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS:**

- Recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution accepting the 2016 APR and authorize transmittal of the APR to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the State Department of Housing and Community Development; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

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# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING  
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

## ADDENDUM

### **Planning Commission Staff Report Agenda Item No. 4 April 13, 2017**

**SUBJECT: 2016 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**Review the Annual Progress Report (APR) of the Fresno County General Plan for the 2016 calendar year and recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution accepting the APR and authorize submittal of the APR to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).**

**STAFF CONTACT: Mohammad Khorsand, Senior Planner  
(559) 600-4022**

**Chris Motta, Principal Planner  
(559) 600-4227**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- Recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution accepting the Annual Progress Report prepared for the 2016 General Plan; and
- Recommend that the Board of Supervisors accept the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report and authorize the submittal of the Report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD); and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution to forward the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for acceptance.



**EXHIBITS:**

1. Staff Report – March 30, 2017
2. Public Correspondence dated March 29, 2017.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

At the Planning Commission's hearing of March 30, 2017 on the General Plan Annual Progress Report, prior to staff's presentation, the clerk distributed correspondence that was received by staff from the League of Women Voters the previous morning (March 29, 2017).

As staff began presenting the item, a Commissioner interjected that due to the late receipt of the correspondence, the meeting should be continued to allow the Commission to read the material.

Staff informed the Commission that the bulk of the correspondence was a study guide prepared for the 2015 Annual Progress Report and was previously presented to the Commission. Staff noted that the two letters dated March 29, 2017 had been reviewed by staff and that staff was prepared to address them. Staff suggested that the Commission receive staff's presentation and then make a determination as to how they wished to proceed. The Commission Chairman asked staff to present the item.

Staff presented a PowerPoint presentation which included the topics suggested by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) that may be included in the Annual Progress Report (APR) and the reporting requirements with respect to the Housing Element. Staff informed the Commission of the contents of the APR noting that there are no guidelines on how the APR should be prepared except for inputting the number of housing units permitted during the calendar year on a form prescribed by HCD. The Commission was also informed that the APR includes an overview of all elements of the General Plan and the activities associated with each element of the General Plan. In addition, there are two appendices attached to the body of the APR. Appendix "A" is a matrix showing the status of the implementation program of all elements of the General Plan and Appendix "B" is a report on the Housing Element, including a Matrix showing the status of the Housing Element implementation programs.

**RESPONSE TO LETTERS SUBMITTED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:****A. Content of the APR**

On page one of the one-page letter dated March 29, 2017, and on pages three through nine of the nine-page letter also dated March 29, 2017 submitted by the League of Women Voters, it is stated that "The Board of the Supervisors has decided or the General Plan mandates that the Annual Report should contain these five components"

- An analysis of the actions taken to implement General Plan programs
- The monitoring of General Plan mitigation measures
- The inclusion of an inventory of lot-size exceptions
- The inclusion of the County's Road Improvement Program
- The inclusion of data from the County's groundwater monitoring program

Below is the Land use policy LU-H.12 and program LU-H.D for implementation of that policy:

**Policy LU-H.12** states that the County shall review the General Plan annually and revise it as deemed necessary.

**Program LU-H.D** states that the Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan.

The policy noted above does not mandate that the APR include the components that are cited in the letter. Moreover, staff is not aware that the Board of Supervisors has given any direction regarding the contents of the APR. The OPR is the agency that has provided General Plan Annual Progress Report Guidance in a memorandum dated July 11, 2007. As was mentioned above, the guideline provided by OPR specifically states that there are no standardized forms or formats for preparation of the APR (except for standardized forms for the Housing Element) and that the APR is not required to incorporate all the elements suggested by OPR and need not be an elaborate and time-consuming task.

#### B. Program Implementation

Pages three and five of the nine-page letter references certain implementation programs that the author does not believe have been implemented even if the APR identifies a method used to implement that program. For instance, Program OS-E.A requires compiling an inventory of ecological significant resource areas, including unique natural resource areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and habitat for special-status plants and animals to be considered when area plans, specific plans, or other development proposals are considered by the County. Staff has provided information that all development projects that may have a potential impact on wetlands, riparian areas and habitat for special-status plants or animals are referred to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comment. If an impact is identified by these trustee agencies, mitigation measures recommended by the agencies will be considered during the environmental review of the project. This program has continuously been implemented as such.

Additionally, in recent years, the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) through a grant has been working on the Green Print project which has identified and produced a database for the areas within the jurisdiction of the eight-valley COGs that include unique natural resources such as important farmland, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, and other sensitive areas that must be avoided or protected. It should be noted that consultation with the trustee agencies and the database that the Green Print project has provided are effective means to protect the resources noted above in the Fresno County region.

#### C. Groundwater monitoring

Page seven of the letter, refers to Program OS-A. C for developing and maintaining a groundwater monitoring program. Staff has acknowledged that this program has not been implemented. Staff also acknowledges that per the Sustainable Groundwater

Management Act of 2014, local agencies are provided the option to develop the required groundwater sustainability plans. Agencies may opt to create a single plan covering the entire basin, or knit together multiple plans created by multiple agencies. A plan must include measurable objectives and interim milestones to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin within a 20-year time frame. The plan must include a physical description of the basin, including information on groundwater levels, groundwater quality, subsidence and groundwater-surface water interaction; historical and projected data on water demands and supplies; monitoring and management provisions; and a description of how the plan will affect other plans, including county and city general plans. The County of Fresno actively participates in all meetings for development of such plans.

**D. Satisfying the requirements of Public Resources Code 2108.6**

As is noted in the letter, the mitigation monitoring program for a general plan is different from a mitigation monitoring program for an individual project in that most of the measures that would reduce environmental impacts take the form of policies and programs that are part of the General Plan.

As is reported in the APR, the policies and programs of the General Plan have been implemented for the most part with the exception of certain programs that have been delayed. It is important to note that none of the programs that have been delayed have had the potential to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

**CONCLUSION:**

As staff brought to the Commission's attention at the March 30, 2017 hearing, the County is in the process of the General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update process which includes Revising the Policy Document, update of the Background Report, and preparing an Environmental Impact Report. The current General Plan policies and programs were adopted by the Board of Supervisors when the General Plan was updated in 2000. General Plan policy LU-H.E requires that every five years, the County conduct a major review of the General Plan and revise it as deemed necessary.

Since the adoption of the 2000 General Plan, there have been changes in circumstances, Board of Supervisors priorities, and the organization of the County, as well as recent legislation, all of which affect the implementation of the programs of the County's General Plan. The General Plan Review process examines policies and implementation programs of the General Plan to see which policies and programs have been implemented, which are no longer needed, or which ones require revision due to changes in circumstances, Board of Supervisors priorities, or the County's organization.

The revised Policy Document was presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at several hearings. At the last hearing that the Policy Document was presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration (June 2, 2015), the Board of Supervisors directed staff to continue work on the Policy Document, the Background Report, the Zoning Ordinance and to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As staff discussed at the Planning Commission hearing of March 30, 2017, this process has provided an opportunity for the public to express opinion on the current and proposed policies and programs. This process is ongoing with staff and the consultant team in the process of preparing a new revised policy document which will be made available to the public for review and will be presented to the Planning Commission at a future workshop.

Staff believes that any concern regarding the General Plan policies and programs should be presented and discussed as part of the General Plan Review process.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS:**

- Recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution accepting the Annual Progress Report prepared for the 2016 General Plan; and
- Recommend that the Board of Supervisors accept the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report and authorize the submittal of the Report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD); and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution to forward the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for acceptance.

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# 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report



**March 2017**



## **PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

Government Code Section 65400 requires that the County submit a report on the status of carrying out the implementation of its General Plan, including progress made toward the County's share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), to the Board of Supervisors. The General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR) will then be forwarded to the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

State law requires generalized annual reporting on General Plan Implementation, with specific reporting requirements and forms related specifically to the Housing Element. There is no standardized form or format for the General Plan APR.

The Annual Housing Element Progress Report is prepared according to the standard format prescribed by the State Department of Housing and Community Development and is included in the APR as Appendix B.

The purpose of this APR is to inform the Board of Supervisors and the residents of Fresno County on the status of implementing the County General Plan, as well as major planning activities undertaken within the unincorporated portions of Fresno County from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Public Works and Planning (PW&P) has prepared this 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR) in accordance with guidance provided by the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR). This APR covers the 2016 calendar year. The information included in this APR has been provided by various County Departments.

This APR covers the status of implementation of the County General Plan for the 2016 calendar year, and provides information on major planning activities and projects that have been processed, or initiated, for the unincorporated areas of the County.

### Primary Planning Activities

Key planning efforts that were initiated and/or continued in 2016 include:

- General Plan Five-Year Review
- Zoning Ordinance Update
- Update of Housing Element for the 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle
- Williamson Act Audit of Substandard-Size Parcels
- Fresno County Water Conservation Ordinance
- Operations of County Landfills and Recycling Programs

A detailed description of the above activities is provided throughout various sections of this APR.



## STATE GENERAL PLAN GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The OPR Guidance provides suggested content for the APR. The content provided below is based on suggestions from the Guidance.

1. *Date of presentation to the Board of Supervisors* — It is anticipated that the APR will be presented to the Planning Commission on March 30, 2017 and the Board of Supervisors on May 16, 2017. The APR is due to the State Office of Planning and Research and the Department of Housing and Community Development on or before April 1 of each year with a 60-day grace period. This APR will be forwarded to OPR and HCD following its acceptance by the Board.
2. *Measures associated with the implementation of the General Plan with specific reference to individual Elements* — The Board of Supervisors approved an Implementation Plan for the General Plan at the time the General Plan was updated in October 2000. The County General Plan is located on the County website at <http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/DepartmentPage.aspx?id=19705>.
3. *Housing Element reporting requirements* — this is provided in Appendix B.
4. *The degree to which the General Plan complies with OPR's General Plan Guidelines* — The General Plan was comprehensively updated in 2000 using the State General Plan Guidelines (Government Code Section 65040.2), and includes the seven mandatory Elements, four Regional Plans, ten Unincorporated Community Plans and six Specific Plans. The Elements of the General Plan include Agriculture and Land Use, Transportation and Circulation, Public Facilities and Services Element, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety. The Conservation and Open Space Elements are combined as one Element for a total of seven.

In addition to the mandatory requirements, the County General Plan also includes an optional Economic Development Element/Strategy which outlines the County's goals, policies and strategic initiatives for diversifying Fresno County's economy and reducing the County's unemployment rate.

5. *The date of the last update to the General Plan* — The General Plan was comprehensively updated in October 2000. The 2000 comprehensive update included:

The General Plan Background Report describes existing conditions and trends for all issues being addressed in the General Plan Update. The Background Report provides the factual support for General Plan Policies and serves as the "environmental setting" portion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

General Plan Policy Document - The Policy Document contains the Countywide goals, policies, standards, implementation programs, and land use and circulation

diagrams that collectively constitute the County's primary policy for land use, development and resource management.

**Economic Development Strategy** - The Strategy outlines the County's goals, policies and strategic initiatives for diversifying Fresno County's economy and reducing the County's unemployment rate. The Strategy serves as an overall framework for the General Plan Update and is the basis for the Economic Development Element in the General Plan.

**Environmental Impact Report** - The EIR was prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts on the General Plan Update.

**Fiscal and Financial Analysis** - The Financial Analysis examined the fiscal impacts (costs and revenues), County facility costs and the cost benefits associated with the new development under the General Plan and preparation of the General Plan Background Report.

6. *Priorities for land use decision-making established by the legislative body (e.g., passage of moratoria or emergency ordinances)* — On December 6, 2016 the Board of Supervisors considered and adopted Interim Ordinance pursuant to Government Code Section 65858 establishing a moratorium on the possession, planting, cultivation, harvesting, drying, processing of nonmedical marijuana outdoors on the grounds of a private residence, and the establishment or operation of businesses engaged in commercial nonmedical marijuana activity in all Zoning Districts of Fresno County. Adoption of the initial Interim Ordinance is effective for a period of up to 45 days unless earlier terminated or extended. The Board also considered and adopted Resolution of Intention initiating amendments to various sections of the Ordinance Code of Fresno County addressing the possession, planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, or processing of marijuana, and the establishment or operation of businesses engaged in commercial nonmedical marijuana activity in all Zoning Districts of Fresno County.

On January 10, 2017 the Board considered and adopted proposed extension of Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 16-017 through December 5, 2018, pursuant to Government Code Section 65858, prohibiting the possession, planting, cultivation harvesting, drying, or processing of nonmedical marijuana outdoors on the grounds of a private residence to the fullest extent permitted by State law, and the establishment or operation of a business engaged in commercial marijuana activity, in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County.

7. *List of planning activities initiated, General Plan Amendments, and major development applications processed.* – This is provided throughout this report.

## GENERAL PLAN OVERVIEW

State law requires every city and county in California to adopt a General Plan that is comprehensive and long term. The Plans must outline proposals for the physical development of the county or city and any land outside its boundaries which in the planning agency's judgment bears relation to its planning.

The Fresno County General Plan is the County's comprehensive planning document that provides the long-term framework for economic and land use development, and for the protection of the County's agricultural, natural, and cultural resources. Designed to meet State General Plan requirements, the document outlines goals, policies, and programs to guide day-to-day decisions concerning Fresno County's future. Fresno County's General Plan has a planning horizon of 15 to 25 years.

The 2000 General Plan was comprehensively updated based on the State General Plan Guidelines (Government Code Section 65040.2) which included the Background Report, the Policy Document, Economic Development Strategy, a Fiscal and Financial Analysis, and an EIR.

The General Plan Policy Document contains the Countywide goals, policies, standards, implementation programs, and land use and circulation diagrams that collectively constitute the County's primary policy for land use, development and resource management. The document includes the mandatory Elements: Agriculture and Land Use, Transportation and Circulation, Public Facilities and Services Element, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety. The Conservation and Open Space Elements are combined as one Element for a total of seven. In addition to the mandatory elements, the Policy Document includes an optional Economic Development Element/Strategy which outlines the County's goals, policies and strategic initiatives for diversifying Fresno County's economy and reducing the County's unemployment rate.

The Fiscal and Financial Analysis examined the fiscal impacts (costs and revenues), County facility costs and the cost benefits associated with implementation of the General Plan.

### Vision Statement

The General Plan sets out a vision reflected in goals, policies, programs, and diagrams for Fresno County. The County sees its primary role to be the protector of prime agricultural lands, open space, recreational opportunities, and environmental quality, and the coordinator of Countywide efforts to promote economic development. The General Plan is built on the following 12 major themes:

- Economic Development
- Agricultural Land Protection
- Growth Accommodation
- Urban-Centered Growth

- Efficient and Functional Land Use Patterns
- Service Efficiency
- Recreation Development
- Resource Protection
- Health and Safety Protection
- Health and Well-Being
- Enhanced Quality of Life
- Affordable Housing

### Key Goals

The County's General Plan goals flow from the Vision Statement and Themes and address a broad range of topics required by State law and those that address unique local concerns. The policies assist in carrying out the Plan Goals which require numerous individual actions and on-going programs involving virtually every County department and many other public agencies and private organizations to ensure that the policies and programs of the General Plan are systematically implemented.

The Countywide General Plan Policy Document contains explicit statements of goals, policies, standards, and implementation programs that constitute the formal policy of Fresno County for land use, development, open-space protection, and environmental quality. The following are some of the more notable Goals listed in the Economic Development and Agricultural Land Use Elements of the General Plan:

- Goal ED-A To increase job creation through regional leadership, agricultural productivity, and development of high-value-added processing firms.
- Goal ED-B To diversify the economic base of Fresno County through the expansion of non-agricultural industry clusters and through the development and expansion of recreation and visitor-serving attractions and accommodations.
- Goal ED-C To improve labor force preparedness by providing the local workforce with the skills needed to meet the requirements of an increasingly diverse business sector in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.
- Goal LU-A To promote the long-term conservation of productive and potentially-productive agricultural lands and to accommodate agricultural-support services and agriculturally-related activities that support the viability of agriculture and further the County's economic development goals.
- Goal LU-C To preserve and enhance the value of the river environment as a multiple-use, open-space resource; maintain the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the area; protect the quality and quantity of the surface and groundwater resources; provide for long-term preservation of productive agricultural land; conserve and enhance natural wildlife

habitats; and maintain the flood-carrying capacity of the channel at a level equal to the one (1) percent flood event (100-year flood).

Goal LU-D To promote continued agricultural uses along Interstate 5, protect scenic views along the freeway, promote the safe and efficient use of the freeway as a traffic carrier, discourage the establishment of incompatible and hazardous uses along the freeway, and provide for attractive, coordinated development of commercial and service uses that cater specifically to highway travelers, and of agriculture-related uses at key interchanges along Interstate 5.

Goal LU-F To encourage mixed-use pedestrian and transit-oriented development and to establish development standards for residential, commercial, and industrial development in urban and urbanizing areas.

### Implementation Programs

Each Element includes goal statements relating to different aspects of the issues addressed in the Element. Under each Goal Statement, the Plan sets out policies that amplify the Goal Statement. Implementation programs that are listed at the end of each section of the 2000 General Plan describe briefly the proposed action, the County agencies or departments with primary responsibility for carrying out the program, and the time frame for accomplishing the program.

## **GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS AND REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2016 RELATED TO EACH ELEMENT**

### Economic Development Element

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

The first step in expanding the County's job base is to strengthen the County's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the County's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the County, it is important to diversify the job base in the County.

Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors. Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the County and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

Since 2011, the County has contracted with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for implementation of the policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. The contract is reviewed annually.

As part of the General Plan Review process which is underway, the policies and programs will be evaluated and reviewed to keep the policies and programs that still serve a purpose and delete those that are obsolete.

### Agriculture and Land Use Element

The core concept for the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element is the "Urban-Centered Growth" to direct urban-type developments to cities and unincorporated communities where existing infrastructure and services can support that growth, thus preserving the County's valuable agricultural resources. Central to this land use concept for unincorporated Fresno County is a development pattern that balances the land requirements of residential growth with those of commerce, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife resources.

The Land Use Element provides maps, goals, and policies that guide decision-makers, planners, property owners, developers, and the general public as to how to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of unincorporated communities and the protection of valuable and sensitive natural resources.

During 2016, the County continued to implement General Plan policies relating to preservation of agricultural resources by directing growth to cities, in the form of annexation referrals, and unincorporated communities by processing land use entitlements. The primary activities associated with implementation of the Land Use Policies are noted below:

### Transportation and Circulation Element

The Transportation and Circulation Element describes the County's transportation network and establishes goals and policies that address the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and management of the transportation network. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The Element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system and management of access to the highway system by new development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

The Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

During 2016, the County continued to implement planning efforts to facilitate a safe and multi-modal road network. Major activities associated with the Transportation and Circulation Element are included below:

#### *Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan*

In 2009 the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan (Plan) was created through the coordinated efforts of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), the Fresno Cycling Club, the City of Fresno Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), various government and non-profit agencies, and citizens interested in improving the bicycling environment in Fresno County. Without the sustained efforts of these organizations and citizens, the continuing improvements to the cycling environment throughout the County would not be realized. The Plan is one component of the continued effort towards making bicycling an integral part of Fresno County daily life. The Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 and most recently amended September 24, 2013.

#### *Fancher Creek Bridle Trail Project*

On January 26, 2016, the Board approved to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail Project. The project, once completed, will provide an improved 1.3-mile-long equestrian/pedestrian trail within the Sunnyside neighborhood, located within a County island within the City of Fresno. The County worked extensively with various stakeholders including Tree Fresno and the Sunnyside Property Owners Association to establish parameters for the design of the trail, and the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew cleared the existing easement to enable the site to be surveyed. The Project is funded with Measure "C" funds for the construction of urban trails. Due to limited funding available, the trail will be constructed in two phases: Phase 1 - Kings Canyon to Butler and Phase 2 - Butler to California. Phase 1 will be constructed in 2018 or 2019. Phase 2 will be constructed when funding becomes available.

#### *Annadale Bike Lane Project*

The preliminary design of the Annadale Bike Lane Project commenced in January 2016. The project, once completed, will widen Annadale Avenue between Newmark and Reed Avenues with a four-foot shoulder for bicycles. The project will involve right of way acquisition and utility relocation. It is anticipated that construction will occur in the summer of 2019.

### *San Joaquin River Trail Project*

The San Joaquin River Trail Feasibility Project commenced on August 6, 2013. The feasibility study is to determine the alignment for San Joaquin River Trail Feasibility for Reach 1 which would begin at the Friant Cove Recreational Area and end at Finegold Day Use Area at the end of Sky Harbour Road. This Agreement with San Joaquin River Trail Feasibility was set to expire in August 2016 but was extended for an additional year. This project has experienced some delays and period of no activities as a result of availability of USBR staff, private property owners, and drought. This study will be completed by August 6, 2017.

### *The Lost Lake Trail Project*

The Lost Lake Project was added into the Fresno County Regional Bicycle & Recreational Master Plan in Sept 2013. The project is located within the Lost Lake Park near Friant, approximately 1.5 miles downstream of Friant Dam. The trail begins at a paved parking lot and there is a covered picnic area approximately 120 feet from the parking area. It is a well-defined, rock-lined trail which originates at the parking lot and continues for approximately 600 feet. There are various worn-in walking paths approximately 2000 linear feet that branch off from the defined trail. The proposed project would involve improving the existing defined trail by re-grading generally along the existing alignment. In order to preserve the natural setting of the area, realignment of the existing paths and removal of vegetation would be limited to the extent practicable. Environmental issues, like archeological limitations, may limit the extent to which the Nature Trail can be improved. On June 2, 2015, this project was approved by Board of Supervisors to proceed with project development and affirm support for the project. The Lost Lake Trail Project is projected to be constructed in 2018.

### *Fresno County Road Improvement Program*

On May 24, 2016 the Board of Supervisors approved the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP) and Declaration of Projects. The RIP is a multi-year maintenance and construction programming plan and reflects the County's efforts to protect and improve the public investment in the County road system and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and commodities. The RIP identifies maintenance funding levels and specific projects expected to be delivered within a defined time frame. The funding in the RIP reflects current and projected budgets and the RIP also identifies, but does not fund, a number of recommended projects that are necessary for an improved County road and bridge system. These prospective projects are described in a series of appendices to the RIP. The types of projects in the RIP include bridge replacement/repair, road reconstruction, traffic signals, shoulder widening, and pavement repair.

The RIP is intended to be a guide to the Board of Supervisors' road priorities and the Department's road program development, as well as for the Administrative Office, businesses, economic development community, utility companies, and the public at large. It should be viewed as a living document that will be adjusted over time to match revenues, and to allow the Board to respond to unforeseen needs or revenues.



## Public Facilities and Services Element

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities. Major activities in 2016 related to this Element are noted below:

### *Continuing Suspension of Public Facilities Impact Fees*

On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously-collected unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions.

The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP, and refund resulting funds to the current property owners of record.

On May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees to November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board with a workshop on the County's Facility Impact Fees and provide options for the Board to consider.

### *Mello Roos*

On December 9, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered information presented by staff regarding the process, cost, and timelines associated with Board direction to discontinue the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County. This followed an October 28, 2014 action in which the Board directed staff to return with the process, timeline, and costs necessary to implement amending the County's General Plan to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, dissolve existing community

facility districts (CFDs), remove conditions of approval/mitigation measures on existing approved subdivision maps, and rescind Board Resolution No. 11-018 relating to Statement of Goals and Policies for the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services.

The action would include a General Plan Amendment to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, the elimination of Mello-Roos conditions for existing approved tentative tract maps that currently have the requirement to annex to the Countywide CFD as a condition of approval or mitigation measure, the elimination of existing Board Policy regarding the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 for Police Protection Services, and the dissolution of existing CFDs for Police Protection Services.

At the December Board Hearing staff was directed to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

The Sheriff-Coroner took the Mello-Roos item back to the Board on June 16, 2015. The Board received the Sheriff-Coroner's presentation, approved maintaining the FY 2014-15 appropriations limits for the County's Mello-Roos CFDs for enhanced police protection services in FY 2015-16 and requested further analysis and information on the enhanced services provided. On July 14, 2015 the Board received the Sheriff-Coroner's presentation and approved the County's Mello-Roos CFD's FY 2015-2016 appropriations. No action was taken regarding discontinuing the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County.

On May 24, 2016 the Board directed staff to review and remove properties that have been erroneously included in the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts. The Board further directed staff to incorporate the issue of funding police protection services through the use of Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts into the ongoing general plan review process.

### Open Space and Conservation Element

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities. The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic, Cultural, and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

The primary focus of the Open Space and Conservation Element is to provide direction for future growth and development with respect to the conservation, management, and utilization of natural and cultural resources; the protection and preservation of open space; and the provision of parks and recreational resources. This Element establishes goals, policies, and programs that value and protect natural resources to ensure they are available for the future. During the 2016 calendar year, Fresno County continued implementing policies of the Open Space and Conservation Element.

### Health and Safety Element

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of Mitigation Measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This Element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment. The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise. The Development Services Division (DSD) of the Department of Public Works and Planning along with the Department of Public Health continue to review development applications for consistency with the goals and policies of the Safety Element and require mitigation measures when necessary when processing discretionary project applications.

### *Tree Mortality*

On August 23, 2016 the Board of Supervisors approved an Ordinance amending various sections of Fresno County Ordinance Code to add Temporary Mill/Chipping Facilities as a matter of by-right use in RC (Resource Conservation), TPZ (Timberland Preserve), and AE (Exclusive Agricultural) Districts, subject to certain standards and limited in duration to declared local state of emergency due to tree mortality and degraded forest conditions, plus an additional 180 consecutive days thereafter.

### Housing Element

The Housing Element Progress Report is included in Appendix B.

## **STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS**

### Discussion of Appendix A to the Annual Report

Appendix A provides a discussion of each of the implementation programs of the General Plan and the County's efforts and progress in implementing each of the programs.

### Summary of Programs Implemented

- Programs LU-A.A, LU-D.A, LU-F.B, LU-G.A, and LU-H.F to revise/amend/update the Zoning Ordinance to ensure compliance with policies and standards. Zoning Ordinance Amendments have been processed as needed since adoption of the 2000 Update to ensure compliance. A Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update is currently in process.
- Program LU-A.B to evaluate agricultural parcel sizes. The County did evaluate non-prime contracted agricultural parcels for viability in 2008. Ultimately, no changes were adopted. Generally, the County has acknowledged that 20 acres on the valley floor provides a viable operation. The Zoning Ordinance includes minimum agricultural parcel sizes.
- Program LU-C.B to work with agencies to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. The San Joaquin River Conservancy started the process of updating the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan in June of 2013 that includes an update of policies and planned facilities, and the preparation of a Master EIR. The County has been participating as a member of the Interagency Project Development Committee. The County also regularly coordinates with the interested agencies/stakeholders with regard to project reviews to discuss and minimize possible project impacts to river resources.
- Program LU-H.D, the Planning Commission shall annually review implementation programs and provides a report to the Board of Supervisors. The 2016 APR will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on March 30, 2017 and the Board on May 16, 2017.
- Program LU-H.E to conduct a major review of the General Plan, including the General Plan Policy Document and Background Report every five years and revise it as deemed necessary. The County is currently in the process of the General Plan Five-Year Review and comprehensively updating the Zoning Ordinance.
- Program LU-H.F to review and amend, as necessary, the Zoning Ordinance text and Zoning Map to reflect new policies and standards included in the General Plan during the 2000 Update. This program has been implemented and is no longer needed.

- Program TR-D.A regarding coordination on the Bicycle Plan. This Program is no longer necessary with adoption of the Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan.
- Program PF-C.D to develop tiered water pricing. The Program has been implemented. Due to recent drought conditions, County Service Area (CSA) and Water Works District (WWD) water rate structures are being modified to a flat rate (operational costs) plus a consumption rate (cost of water). Tiered consumption rates are being utilized in CSAs and WWDs where the supply or treatment of water is limited. All new developments are required to provide water rate structures prepared by an engineer and comprised of a flat rate and consumption rate. This program has been implemented and is no longer needed.
- Program OS-G.A to review the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts published by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and adopt procedures for performing air quality impact analysis and mitigation measures with any modifications deemed appropriate. The County refers development projects to SJVAPCD for review and comment. County staff will continue to review SJVAPCD comments and require district requirements as warranted as part of the CEQA review process.
- Program OS-I.A to prepare a Recreational Trails Master Plan for a Countywide trail system. This Program has been implemented with the adoption of the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011. This program is no longer needed.
- Program OS-I.B to investigate the potential of various land use controls for reserving areas for trails such as the acquisition of easements, open space and floodplain zoning, and subdivision control. The Program is being implemented on a continuous basis and is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
- Program OS-L.A to establish a Landscape Master Plan and Design guideline for SR 99. This Program was implemented with adoption of the Highway 99 Beautification Ordinance on December 9, 2005, and, with establishment of the Highway 99 Beautification Overlay District, and it is no longer needed.
- Program OS-L.B to work with the California Department of Transportation to apply for scenic highway designation for the State highway segments. The County in collaboration with Caltrans and Sierra Gateway Trust completed a Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program in support of a State Official Scenic Highway designation status for approximately 60.7 miles of segments of SR 180. On October 15, 2015 the Caltrans Director approved designation of two sections of SR 180 as an official State Scenic Highway.

- Program HS-G.A, the County shall amend and enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance, as necessary, consistent with the policies and standards within this Element. The County Environmental Health Division will continue to enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance and amend its policies as necessary.

#### Summary of the Implementation Programs Delayed

- Program ED-B.A: the County shall convene a group of the existing service providers to assess the current state of telecommunications infrastructure, the needs for the future, and the role of the County and other agencies in facilitating implementation of services demanded by high-technology firms.
- Program LU-A.C to develop and implement guidelines for design and maintenance of buffers of non-agricultural uses located within agricultural areas. Agricultural buffers have been considered in prior years by the Board, but specific direction to implement buffers Countywide has not been given.
- Program LU-A.I to identify and rank the value of agricultural land in Fresno County and to assess the approaches to determining agricultural land values in the 1981 Farmland Protection Policy Act land evaluation and site assessment (LESA) system.

The State Department of Conservation prepares and updates the Important Farmland Map that ranks the agricultural land throughout the State. The County, in its evaluation of impacts on agricultural land, does not utilize the LESA model. However, the impacts are analyzed for projects that may have a potential impact on conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

- Program LU-C.A: update and maintain the Kings River Regional Plan to guide County decision-making concerning land use and environmental quality within the Kings River influence area.
- Program LU-H.A to prepare and adopt a Regional Plan for the Friant-Millerton area.
- Program OS-A.C to develop, implement, and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Groundwater monitoring and reporting will be a key component of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. By January 31, 2020, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the County will be required to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for implementation.
- Program OS-D.B to adopt an ordinance for Riparian Protection Zones.
- Program HS-G.B: the County shall develop a Noise Control Program. A Noise Control Program has not been developed. However, all land use projects are

evaluated for potential noise impacts, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act, and appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated as necessary.

## **GENERAL PLAN REVIEW AND ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE PROCESS**

In June 2006, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to initiate the Five-Year Review of the General Plan, along with the comprehensive revision of the Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of the Five-Year Review was to evaluate the goals, policies and implementation programs of all the General Plan Elements to reflect the current status of General Plan implementation and to ensure they reflect changing conditions, priorities, and new laws since the adoption of the General Plan in 2000.

A final Draft of the Revised Policy Document was presented to the Board for action at a public hearing that was held on September 30, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board directed that a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) be prepared for the project and directed staff to bring an item back to the Board with options regarding preparation of a PEIR and the costs associated with each option.

### **Program Environmental Impact Report**

On December 9, 2014, the Board considered options presented by staff regarding EIR options for the General Plan Review and the Zoning Ordinance Update and allocated up to \$850,000.00 for preparation of the EIR.

On June 2, 2015, staff informed the Board of prior policy direction including prohibiting designation of new areas to Rural Residential; elimination of substandard homesite exceptions; and elimination of the urban village designation. Staff also discussed other policy-related matters that had occurred during the General Plan Review process and recent legislation that must be reflected in the County's General Plan. The Board changed the direction that was given to staff by the previous Board and directed staff to retain the current Rural Residential and homesite exception policies and address new legislation that affect the General Plan. The Board also directed staff to delete the Urban Village designation and to return with a final scope and cost estimate for the EIR to be prepared for the General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update.

On October 13, 2015 staff presented the Scope of Work for the PEIR and the Contract to retain the firm of Mintier-Harnish for the project. The Board approved the Scope of Work and the Contract for the project.

The kick-off meeting to start work on the project occurred on November 30, 2015.

## Progress on the current General Plan Comprehensive Review and Zoning Ordinance Update project

Since the execution of the contract for the new project, the following documents have been prepared in accordance with the scope of work:

- An Administrative Draft Revised General Plan Background Report for County Staff's review and comment.
- A Screencheck Draft Revised Background Report - based on the comments provided by staff, the consultant has prepared a screencheck for County Staff's review to ensure comments provided by various County departments/divisions have been incorporated, before the Public Review Draft Background Report is prepared.
- A Draft Revised General Plan Policy Document for County Staff's review and comment.
- A Draft Zoning Ordinance Update for County Staff's review and comment.

Before the Public Review Draft Policy Document is prepared and made available to the public, agencies and organizations, and before starting the EIR process, it is important that the new Board members are provided a briefing of the history of the project and the direction changes on some of the key land use policies that occurred in 2015 to confirm Board concurrence with the direction given to staff in 2015. Therefore, staff is anticipating a briefing session before the Board of Supervisors in April to either receive confirmation on the previous direction or new direction from the Board.

## Update of Unincorporated Community Plans

Fresno County has four adopted Regional Plans, ten adopted Unincorporated Community Plans, and six Specific Plans. In 2003, the Board of Supervisors established a priority list for updating the County's Regional and Community Plans.

Since 2003, the Friant Community Plan and the Laton Community Plan have been updated and adopted by the Board. The Friant Community Plan was updated in 2010 as a result of the Friant Ranch project which was an applicant-initiated project. The Laton Community Plan was updated and adopted by the Board in 2012. The funding for the update came out of the allocation for the General Plan Five-Year Review and Zoning Ordinance Update project.

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

### Discretionary Development Applications

Table 1 below provides a summary of discretionary development applications received by the Development Services Division (DSD) during the 2016 calendar year. As shown



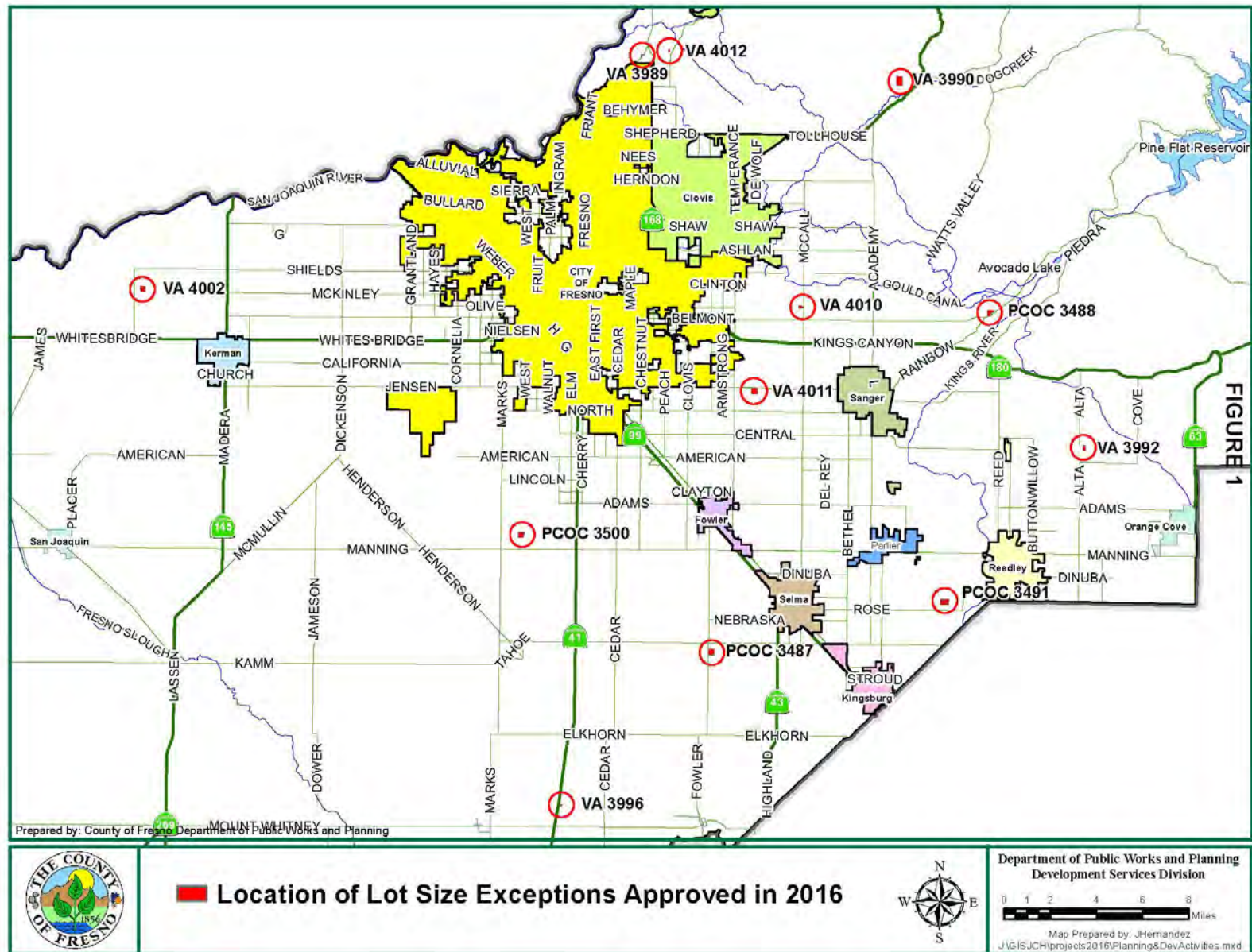
in the Table, DSD received a total of 311 new applications. The Table provides the status of the applications for the calendar year.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Applications Submitted in 2016</b>				
Application Type	Total Incoming	Approved	Denied / Withdrawn	Still in Process
Amendment (Rezone)	6	1	0	5
Amendment to Text	5	3	0	2
Conditional Use Permit	40	6	0	34
Director Review & Approval	58	28	5	25
General Plan Amendment	2	0	0	2
Merger	14	13	0	1
Pre-Certificate of Compliance	9	9	0	0
Property Line Adjustment	39	11	1	27
Site Plan Review	82	60	2	20
Tentative Parcel Map	14	8	0	6
Tentative Parcel Map Waiver	10	5	0	5
Tentative Tract Map	1	0	0	1
Variance	31	14	4	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>141</b>

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Lot Size Exceptions Approved in 2016</b>		
Exception Type	Size of Parcel Created	APN
Gift Deed (PCOC 3487)*	10 acres	385-090-41S
Gift Deed (PCOC 3488)*	1.42 acres	158-290-23
Gift Deed (PCOC 3491)*	10 acres	393-051-01 and 33
Gift Deed (PCOC 3500)*	2.5 acres	335-040-10
Variance (VA 3989)	2.38 and 2.38 acres	579-050-12S
Variance (VA 3990)	22.77, 20.87 and 20.01 acres	150-031-27
Variance (VA 3992)	1.50 and 15.50 acres	185-160-17
Variance (VA 3994), Figure 2	1.40, 4.50 and 5.50 acres	004-120-20S, 004-120-21S
Variance (VA 3996)	2.15 and 2.15 acres	055-350-22, 055-350-23
Variance (VA 4002)	22.00 and 12.25 acres	015-091-80S
Variance (VA 4010)	4.30, 4.75 and 4.75 acres	309-081-30
Variance (VA 4011)	4.41 and 39.16 acres	316-060-58
Variance (VA 4012)	2.74 and 2.43 acres	580-010-30S

Figures 1 and 2 depict the location of the parcels referenced in Table 2.

\*Gift deeds are permitted per Section 816.5.A.2.b.(2) of the Zoning Ordinance.





## **GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS**

The County's General Plan was written as a macro-level document, which also includes more specific portions, such as the Regional Elements and Land Use Map. As such, some new developments and projects that do not conform to the General Plan may request to amend the General Plan (GPAs), possibly altering specific aspects of the General Plan without altering the overall intention.

### General Plan Amendment No. 541, Fred Arastoo, Selma Community Plan (In Process)

This Amendment was initiated by Fred Arastoo, proposing to amend the Selma Community Plan by re-designating a 20.00-acre parcel from Agricultural to Medium-High-Density Residential, rezoning the 20.00-acre parcel from the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) to a T-P (Trailer Park) Zone District, and allowing a Mobile Home Park with RV parking, senior residential units and a market. The application is still being processed.

### General Plan Amendment No. 544, Clovis Cemetery District, General Plan (Recommended for Approval by the Planning Commission)

This Amendment was initiated by the Clovis Cemetery District, proposing to amend the text of General Plan Policy LU-E.14 to add "Cemetery" as an allowable use on a 14.06-acre parcel designated Special Commercial and zoned C-6(c) (General Commercial). Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3486 was also initiated to allow modification to an existing cemetery and expansion to the 14.06-acre parcel.

On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study Application No. 6929, and approved General Plan Amendment Application No. 544, and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3486.

### General Plan Amendment No. 545, Colburn R. Thomason, Shaver Lake Community Plan (In Process)

This Amendment was initiated by Colburn R. Thomason to amend the Shaver Lake Community Plan by expanding the existing boundary by changing the land use designation of an 81.29-acre parcel from its Sierra-North Regional Plan Designation as Public Lands and Open Space to Mountain Residential. The application is still being processed.

### General Plan Amendment No. 548, Gabrielson Ranch, General Plan (In Process)

This Amendment was initiated by Gabrielson Ranch, proposing to amend the General Plan by re-designating a .45-acre piece of land from Agricultural to Limited Industrial and an Amendment Application to rezone the same property from the AE-20 Zone District to the M-1 Zone District, to allow conversion of an ag-exempt metal building to a

storage building for non-ag-related products. The application was submitted 5/20/16 and is currently in process.

General Plan Amendment No. 549, Art Weldon, Fresno High-Roeding Community Plan (In Process)

This Amendment was initiated by Art Weldon, proposing to amend the Fresno High-Roeding Community Plan by re-designating a 6.5-acre parcel from Rural Residential to Limited Industrial and the associated Zone Change Application to rezone the subject property from RR (Rural Residential) Zone District to the CM(c) (Commercial and Light Manufacturing, Conditional) Zone District, to allow a mini-storage facility. The application was submitted 6/19/16 and is currently in process.

**ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

The County implements the General Plan primarily through its Zoning Ordinance. While the General Plan identifies general land use designations, zoning identifies specific uses and development standards. The Zoning Ordinance must be consistent with the General Plan designation and changes to the zoning of a property may require a General Plan Amendment. Zoning Ordinance Amendments processed in 2016 are identified below.

**Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance**

Amendment to the text:

There were five amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance in 2016 as described below.

Amendment to Text Application No. 372, Fresno County

The application proposed to amend Section 867 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit personal/recreational vehicle storage facilities for those properties located within the Sierra-North Regional Plan located proximate to two major roadways as so classified in the Circulation element of the Fresno County General Plan. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on May 26, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016.

Amendment to Text Application No. 373, Fresno County

The application proposed to amend various sections of the Zoning Ordinance to address tree mortality by accommodating temporary saw mills and planing mills as by-right mill uses limited to the time declared for the Tree Mortality State of Emergency plus an additional 180 days after the State of Emergency is lifted to allow for final processing, removal and site clearing of affected trees. The application was

recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on June 30, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 23, 2016.

#### Amendment to Text Application No. 374, Fresno County

The application proposed to amend Sections 873 and 877 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise additional time extension opportunities language for land use permit applications (Conditional Use Permits and Variances) in unincorporated areas of Fresno County. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on June 16, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 23, 2016.

#### **Rezone Applications**

The Zoning Ordinance Amendment Applications (Rezone) processed in 2016 are described below.

##### Rezone Application No. 3806

This application proposes to change the land use designation for an 81.29-acre property from its Sierra-North Regional Plan designation as Public Lands and Open Space to Mountain Residential for inclusion within the County-adopted Shaver Lake Community Plan and to rezone the said property from the RC-40 (Resource Conservation, 40-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District to an R-1-C(m) (Medium-Density Residential with Mountain Overlay) Zone District for future residential subdivision. The application is still being processed.

##### Rezone Application No. 3807

This application proposes to allow the rezone of a 20-acre parcel from the AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District to an M-3 (Heavy Industrial) Zone District. The application is still being processed.

##### Rezone Application No. 3808

This application proposes to allow the rezone of a 22-acre parcel from the AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District to an M-3 (Heavy Industrial) Zone District. The application is still being processed.

##### Rezone Application No. 3809

This application proposed to allow the rezone of four contiguous parcels totaling 77.96 acres from an R-1-B(c) (Single-Family Residential, 12,500 square-foot minimum parcel size, Conditional) Zone District and R-1-C(c) (9,000 square-foot minimum parcel size, Conditional) Zone District to an O (Open Conservation Land Use) Zone District and to irrigate orchards on said parcels with recycled water from an existing wastewater treatment facility. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning

Commission on July 21, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2016.

#### Rezone Application No. 3810

This application proposed to allow the rezone of 2.06 acres from the M-1 (Light Manufacturing) and R-1 (Single-Family Residential, 6,000 square-foot minimum parcel size) Zone Districts to a C-M (Commercial and Light Manufacturing) Zone District for a proposed retail variety store. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on January 14, 2016 and was reviewed by the Board on March 15, 2016. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on January 24, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2016.

#### Rezone Application No. 3811

This application proposed to allow the rezone of a 4.04-acre parcel from the AL-20(nb) (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size, Neighborhood Beautification Overlay) Zone District to an M-3 (Heavy Industrial) Zone District. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on March 24, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 26, 2016.

#### Rezone Application No. 3812

The application proposes to allow the rezone of a 6.58-acre parcel from an AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District to an M-1 (Light Manufacturing) Zone District. The application is still being processed.

#### Rezone Application No. 3813

This application proposes to allow the rezone of a five-acre parcel from an AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District to an M-1 (Light Manufacturing) Zone District. The application is still being processed.

#### Rezone Application No. 3814

This application proposed to allow the rezone of a 9.82-acre parcel from the AE-20(c) (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size, conditional to allow an agricultural dehydrator) Zone District to an R-R (Rural Residential, two-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on March 26, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 11, 2016.



#### Rezone Application No. 3815

This application proposes to allow the rezone of 8.38 acres from the AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District to an M-3(c) (General Industrial, conditional to allow a truck terminal) Zone District. The application is still being processed.

#### Rezone Application No. 3816

The application proposes to rezone a 30.05-acre parcel from the AL-20 Zone District to an M-3 Zone District to allow the relocation of a trucking yard displaced by the High-speed Rail project. The application is currently in process.

#### Rezone Application No. 3817

The application proposed to rezone a 37.55-acre parcel from the AE-20 Zone District to an AL-20 Zone District to allow personal/recreational vehicle storage. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on August 11, 2016. The application was approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 18, 2016.

#### Rezone Application No. 3818

The application proposes to rezone a 2-acre parcel from the AE-20 Zone District to an M-1 Zone District to allow conversion of an ag-exempt metal building to a storage building for non-ag-related products. The application is currently in process.

#### Rezone Application No. 3820

The application proposes to rezone a 6.5-acre parcel from the R-R Zone District to a C-M(c) Zone District to allow a mini-storage facility. The application was submitted on June 19, 2016 and is currently in process.

#### Rezone Application No. 3821

The application proposes to rezone an 8.46-acre parcel from the R-R Zone District to a C-6 Zone District (with no specified use indicated at the time of application submittal). The application is currently in process.

### **OTHER PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

#### Williamson Act Audit of Non-Conforming Parcels

On September 18, 2012, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to audit existing Williamson Act Contracts on an on-going basis for possible removal of lands from the program that do not meet the State or County's eligibility requirements to remain in the



program. Currently, there are approximately 7,700 Williamson Act Contracts and Farmland Security Zone (FSZ) Agreements between Fresno County and landowners, involving approximately 15,000 parcels and approximately 1.5 million acres of land. Staff has examined 1245 Williamson Act Contracted parcels (starting with the oldest Contract) and has non-renewed 123 parcels that did not meet the eligibility requirements to remain in the program. In 2016, due to limited staff resources, staff's audit of the Williamson Act Contracts was limited to contracted land on which a development was being proposed. The audit is an activity that is currently being implemented and is undertaken as staff workload permits.

### No Shoot

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) No-Shooting Boundary is reviewed annually for revisions necessitated by City annexations and requests from property owners to form No-Shooting Areas in the unincorporated areas of the County. The Fresno County Ordinance Code Section 10.44.040 prohibits the discharge of firearms within ¼-mile of the exterior boundaries of all cities within the County, including the Cities of Fresno and Clovis.

The first hearing of the ordinance occurred on July 12, 2016. At the second reading of the ordinance on September 13, 2016 the Board approved and adopted Ordinance amending Title 10 of the Fresno County Ordinance code modifying the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area No-Shooting Boundary. The Board directed staff to only adjust the No-Shooting boundary ¼-mile south to Church Avenue between Armstrong and Temperance Avenues in the City of Fresno's southeast area.

### Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), signed into law in September of 2014, established a new structure for managing California's groundwater resources by local agencies. The SGMA requires the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that will develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to ensure that the basin is operated within its sustainable yields without causing undesirable results. In 2016, the Department of Public Works and Planning worked to coordinate and collaborate with over 50 local agencies within the County who qualify under SGMA to be a GSA with the goal of ensuring all areas subject to SGMA are covered and in compliance. Staff anticipates sixteen (16) possible GSAs to cover the three high-priority basins within Fresno County.

During 2016, four (4) SGMA working group meetings were held, which were co-chaired by members of the Board of Supervisors with the goal to assure coordination among local agencies. The working group is also comprised of key County and Irrigation District staff and includes representation from other interested and affected Communities. As GSA formation is completed the newly formed agencies will begin preparation of a GSP. Failure to timely form a GSA and implement a GSP in a

groundwater basin could result in the State Water Resources Control Board asserting its power to manage local groundwater resources.

### Water Conservation Ordinance

On September 30, 2014 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance Code Chapter 14.01 (Water Conservation Ordinance). The Water Conservation Ordinance affects the 22 County-operated water systems, which are County Service Areas or Waterworks Districts (Districts). The Water Conservation Ordinance became effective on October 31, 2014. On that date all water Districts were placed on "Normal Water Conservation" regulations. The Normal Water Conservation regulations implemented a three-day-per-week outdoor watering schedule for the Districts. The 21 Districts were to remain on Normal Water Conservation regulations until the first Annual Water Conservation Report was presented to the Board in March for the following water year (April 1 through March 31).

The Ordinance is made up of Normal Water Conservation Regulations and 4 Stages. The regulations that make up the conservation stages are more detailed and strict the higher the stage number.

On March 24, 2015, the first Annual Water Conservation Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors which recommended various water conservation stages for 5 of the Districts. The various stages were recommended for the 5 Districts because of regulations by other water-providing agencies imposed on the Districts or water availability shortage concerns. Staff recommended that the remaining 16 Districts maintain Normal Water Conservation regulations.

On March 1, 2016, staff presented the 2016-17 Annual Water Conservation Report. Various stages were again recommended for several districts because of the regulations by other water-providing agencies imposed on the Districts or water availability shortage concerns. For two other Districts, County Service Areas (CSAs) 44D and 47, Stage 2 was recommended in order to meet State Drought Emergency Regulations of conserving 25% or diminishing outdoor watering days to two days per week. All of Staff's recommendations except those for CSAs 44D and 47 were implemented and effective April 2016 through March 31, 2017. For CSAs 44D and 47 staff recommended Stage 2 Water Conservation regulations. The Board implemented Normal Water Conservation regulations with the condition that if these Districts were not able to reduce water usage in the months of March and April of 2016 by 25% compared to the same months in 2013 then staffs' recommendation would be implemented on May 1, 2016. If these Districts were able to reduce water usage by 25% then they would remain on Normal Water Conservation regulations. CSAs 44D and 47 achieved the 25% reduction goal in the two month trial period and remained on Normal Water Conservation regulations for the remainder of the 2016-17 water year. Staff also tracked water conservation for all Districts for the 2016-17 water year.

This is no longer considered a consolidation project due to the result of the groundwater survey and the decision to move forward with two separate groundwater systems.

### Operations of County Landfills

Currently there are two landfills that are operating within the County: the American Avenue Disposal Site (AADS) and the Clovis Landfill (CL). AADS is a regional landfill used by the public and waste hauling companies with an estimated closure date of 6/30/2044. CL is used exclusively by the City of Clovis and its contracted waste haulers and has an estimated closure date of 4/30/2047.

### Recycling Programs

The County of Fresno is responsible for administration of management programs for solid waste streams in the unincorporated areas of the County. In addition, the County serves in an administrative capacity for the greater County of Fresno with respect to regional program implementation and reporting. Annual and Biannual reporting detailing for both local and regional programs for solid waste streams is submitted to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

Programs and reporting requirements that are currently administered by the County relating to solid waste and recycling include:

- California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32)
- California Solid Waste Law – Diversion Requirements (AB 939)
- Waste Tonnage Reporting for County Cities and Facilities (AB 901)
- Mandatory Recyclable Material Requirement (AB 341)
- Mandatory Organic Waste Material Requirement (AB 1826)
- Waste Reporting Parameters (AB 1594)
- Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Requirement (SB 1374); including Title 15 Building Standards Code related to diversion requirements.

## **APPENDIX A**

**This appendix includes a matrix showing the status of General Plan Implementation Programs for the Economic Development Element, Agriculture and Land Use Element, Transportation Element, Public Facilities and Services Element, Open Space and Conservation Element and the Health and Safety Element.**

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

**Economic Development Element**

ED-A  
Economic Development

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-A.A</b>			
The County shall create an economic development staff position(s) in the County Administrative Office and the Planning & Resource Management Department to serve as liaison/facilitator and support for the economic development implementation program and the Action Team. (See Policy ED-A.2, ED-A.3)	Board of Supervisors  CAO  PW & Planning	FY 00-01	On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.
<b>ED-A.B</b>			
The County shall create, support, and staff an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development. (See Policy ED-A.3)	Board of Supervisors  CAO	FY 00-01	The County's Development Services Division works with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County to coordinate countywide economic developments.
<b>ED-A.C</b>			
The County shall retain an independent and qualified institution to conduct an evaluation at least every five (5) years of success in achieving the goals and targets of the Economic Development Strategy. (See Policy ED-A.4)	Board of Supervisors  CAO	FY 05-06; every five (5) years there-after	On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs. The Economic Development Corporation regularly works to update the County's Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-A.D</b>			
The County, working in cooperation with the cities, shall develop criteria for the location in the unincorporated areas of value-added agricultural processing facilities that are compatible with an agricultural setting. Such criteria shall take into account the service requirements of facilities for processing agricultural products and the capability and capacity of the cities to provide the services required. (See Policy ED-A.7)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 01-02; 02-03; 03-04	This program has been implemented. The General Plan Policy LU-A.3 allows for the establishment of value added processing facilities in areas designated Agriculture through approval of a discretionary permit subject to established criteria which includes analysis of service requirements for facilities and the capability and capacity of surrounding areas to provide the services required.
<b>ED-A.E</b>			
The County shall establish guidelines for the analysis of the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary decisions by the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and other County decision-making bodies. (See Policy ED-A.11)	Board of Supervisors  CAO	FY 00-01	Per direction from the CAO's office; the analysis of economic impacts are no longer required in the staff report for discretionary permits.
<b>ED-A.F</b>			
The County shall contract with the Fresno EDC to develop marketing programs for Fresno County produce. (See Policy ED-A.14)	Board of Supervisors  CAO	On-going	As previously mentioned, the EDC is the contracting agency for implementing policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. The EDC has developed several marketing efforts for Fresno County produce. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-A.G</b>			
The County shall determine, in cooperation with existing agencies, if capital deficiencies exist for farmers with the capital costs of shifting production modes to crops that create higher employment levels. If such deficiencies are identified, the County, in partnership with existing agencies, shall work to access additional funds or redirect existing funds. (See Policy ED-A.18)	Board of Supervisors  Department of Agriculture	FY 02-03; 03-04	The EDC that is under contract with the County will identify if capital deficiencies exist for farmers with capital costs of shifting production modes for crops that create higher employment levels. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**ED-B**  
Economic Base Diversification

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-B.A</b>			
The County shall convene a group of the existing service providers to assess the current state of telecommunications infrastructure, the needs for the future, and the role of the County and other agencies in facilitating implementation of services demanded by high technology firms. (See Policy ED-B.4)	Board of Supervisors  CAO	FY 02-03; 03-04	In July 2002 the Fresno Regional e-Government Taskforce was created to develop a plan for utilizing electronic information technology to improve the delivery of governmental services and to expand the opportunity for economic development. The group was instrumental in improving collaboration and data sharing between the County and the Cities of Fresno and Clovis. In January 2010, regular meetings were suspended due to lack of funding. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-B.B</b>			
The County shall coordinate an initiative to deliver a comprehensive package of technical assistance regarding available technology to local businesses to improve their productivity and make this assistance available as an incentive for business prospects. (See Policy ED-B.9)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 02-03; 03-04	The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) works to enhance the stability and growth of Fresno County's existing companies by connecting them with specific resources, information and services with the primary objectives to assist businesses with expansions, survive economic difficulties, and make them more competitive in the wider marketplace. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.
<b>ED-B.C</b>			
The County shall convene a roundtable of major financial institutions, venture capital firms, and business finance agencies, such as the California Public Employees Retirement System (CALPERS), to determine the need for improving access to capital for non-agricultural businesses seeking to locate or expand in Fresno County. (See Policy ED-B.10)	Board of Supervisors  CAO  PW & Planning	FY 02-03	The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) through its Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention (BEAR) Action Network program works with businesses seeking to locate or expand in Fresno County and works to assist with financing and microloan programs. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.
<b>ED-B.D</b>			
The County shall initiate a planning process to identify additional recreation opportunities in the coast range foothills and other areas where "gateway opportunities" exist. (See Policy ED-B.18)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 01-02	The County recently participated in the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study to identify opportunities and constraints for possible land use changes and development activities relation to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. On May 10, 2016 the Board of Supervisors considered the study and chose to set the study aside.



**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-B.E</b>			
The County shall regularly evaluate the marketing programs of the Visitor and Convention Bureau and provide funding assistance as appropriate to support effective marketing programs that attract business travel to the county. (See Policy ED-B.20)	Board of Supervisors  CAO  PW & Planning	FY 00-01	The County has contracted with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation to work with the Visitor and Convention Bureau to develop and implement effective marketing programs that attract business and travel to the county. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**ED-C**  
Labor Force Preparedness

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-C.A</b>			
The County shall join with the Workforce Development Board, community colleges, and others to develop a countywide workforce preparation system. (See Policy ED-C.1)	Workforce Development Board  Department of Social Services	On-going	Fresno County is an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs in the County.
<b>ED-C.B</b>			
The County shall develop a skills inventory on the CalWORKS labor pool for local expansion and new businesses seeking employees. (See Policy ED-C.1)	Department of Social Services	FY 01-02	A skills inventory was developed for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. The system could then be queried and sorted by specific skills and can produce a list of clients meeting given criteria.
<b>ED-C.C</b>			
The County shall improve tracking systems for employment and retention for CalWORKS recipients. (See Policy ED-C.1)	Department of Social Services	FY 00-01	The Department of Social Services uses an automated system developed for use by counties throughout the State to record employment information.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>ED-C.D</b>			
The County shall continue efforts to assist the Fresno EDC, placement agencies, and businesses to assess the availability and work readiness of CalWORKS recipients for employment opportunities. (See Policy ED-C.1)	Department of Social Services	Ongoing	The County Department of Social Services through the CalWORKS program provides services such as job clubs, job fairs, participant assessments, adult basic education and vocational training. The County is also an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs.
<b>ED-C.E</b>			
The County shall continue its collaborative planning and funding efforts with agencies such as the County Office of Education, State EDD, local school districts, postsecondary educational institutions, training agencies, and the cities. Such efforts may include education management services, employment placement services, relocation and retention programs, youth employment programs, jobs clubs, and neighborhood jobs services. (See Policy ED-C.1 and ED-C.2)	Department of Social Services	Ongoing	The County Department of Social Services through the CalWORKS program provides services such as job clubs, job fairs, participant assessments, adult basic education and vocational training. The County is also an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs.
<b>ED-C.F</b>			
The County shall continue, on an ongoing basis, efforts initiated through the CalWORKS Job Creation Investment Fund to identify the skills required by the clusters and industries targeted for expansion, attraction, and new enterprise development. (See Policy ED-C.3)	Department of Social Services	On-going	The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board, the Employment Development Department and the Economic Development Corporation assist Fresno employers in meeting their labor needs by delivering outplacement, recruitment and training services.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

**Agriculture and Land Use Element**

LU-A  
Agriculture

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-A.A</b>			
The County shall review and amend its Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards of this section. (See Policies LU-A.1 through LU-A.21)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 00-01; 01-02	The County actively reviews and updates its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to ensure consistency with the policies of the General Plan. The County is working on comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update to ensure consistency of the Ordinance with the policies of the General Plan.
<b>LU-A.B</b>			
The County shall evaluate minimum parcel sizes necessary for sustained agricultural productivity on land designated for agriculture throughout the county, and, as appropriate, amend the Zoning Ordinance according to the results of that analysis. (See Policy LU-A.6.)	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	Policy LU-A.6 states that the County shall maintain twenty (20) acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture, except as provided in Policies LU-A.9, LU-A.10 and LU-A.11. The County may require parcel sizes larger than twenty (20) acres based on zoning, local agricultural conditions, and to help ensure the viability of agricultural operations.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<p>LU-A.C</p> <p>The County shall develop and implement guidelines for design and maintenance of buffers to be required when new non-agricultural uses are approved in agricultural areas. Buffer design and maintenance guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <p>a) Buffers shall be physically and biologically designed to avoid conflicts between agriculture and non-agricultural uses. b) Buffers shall be located on the parcel for which a permit is sought and shall protect the maximum amount of farmable land. c) Buffers generally shall consist of a physical separation between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. The appropriate width shall be determined on a site-by-site basis taking into account the type of existing agricultural uses, the nature of the proposed development, the natural features of the site, and any other factors that affect the specific situation. d) Appropriate types of land uses for buffers include compatible agriculture, open space and recreational uses such as parks and golf courses, industrial uses, and cemeteries. e) The County may condition its approval of a project on the ongoing maintenance of buffers. f) A homeowners association or other appropriate entity shall be required to maintain buffers to control litter, fire hazards, pests, and other maintenance problems. g) Buffer restrictions may be removed if agricultural uses on all adjacent parcels have permanently ceased. (See Policy LU-A.16)</p>	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	The County requires buffers for certain land uses with the potential to hinder agricultural uses. For discretionary land use proposals including tentative tract maps, buffers are taken into consideration as part of project conditions. This has also been applied to utility-scale photovoltaic solar facilities with a general policy of 50 feet between panels or structures and surrounding agricultural properties.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-A.D</b>			
The County shall periodically review agricultural land preservation programs and assess their effectiveness in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies. (See Policy LU-A.13 and LU-A.16)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Department of Public Works and Planning actively reviews the Williamson Act Program including reviewing (auditing) contracts for conformity with the State and County requirements and processing non-renewals for those contracts that do not meet the eligibility to remain in the Williamson Act Program. Staff also communicates with the State Department of Conservation on petitions for cancellations of contract and the County continues to utilize the Agricultural Land Conservation Committee to review cancellation petitions and forwards the Committee's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
<b>LU-A.E</b>			
The County shall continue to implement the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance, and will provide information to the local real estate industry to help make the public aware of the right-to-farm provisions in their area. (See Policy LU-A.15)	Department of Agriculture	Ongoing	The County staff utilizes the Right-to-Farm Ordinance notification process on many types of discretionary land use permits to insure that applicants or future property owners are aware of ongoing agricultural activities within the vicinity of discretionary projects. Further, County staff actively communicates with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office on discretionary projects proposed in agricultural areas and seeks comments from that Department.
<b>LU-A.F</b>			
The County, in cooperation with UC Cooperative Extension, resource conservation districts, and other industry agencies, shall develop and implement a public outreach program to inform agriculturists and the public of the advantages of participation in land trust agreements, conservation easements, dedication incentives, Williamson Act contracts, Farmland Security Act contracts, and the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program Fund. (See Policies LU-A.16 through LU-A.21)	PW & Planning  Department of Agriculture	Ongoing	The Board of Supervisors has adopted Resolutions of Support for land owners who wish to place their land under conservation easement. In 2015, the Board adopted one Resolution to place a 56-acre parcel in a conservation easement and in 2014 the Board adopted two Resolutions to place a total of 309-acres in a conservation easement. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Land Use Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-A.G</b>			
The County shall actively pursue grant funds under provisions of the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program Act of 1995 to assist interested farmers and ranchers in obtaining funds for conservation easements. (See Policy LU-A.16)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Board of Supervisors continues to adopted Resolution of Support for land owners who wish to place their land under conservation easement, provided that the proposals meet certain required criteria.
<b>LU-A.H</b>			
The County shall develop a program establishing criteria to prioritize funding for agricultural conservation easements. (See Policy LU-A.16)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	The County uses the State's criteria in its review of proposals for support of landowners' request for a Resolution of Support to obtain grants to place agricultural land under conservation easements. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Land Use Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.
<b>LU-A.I</b>			
The County shall assess the approaches to determining agricultural land values in the 1981 Farmland Protection Policy Act land evaluation and site assessment (LESA) system, and the Tulare County Rural Valley Lands Plan, 1975 amendment, to determine the potential for developing a similar process for identifying and ranking the value of agricultural land in Fresno County. If appropriate, the County shall establish an agricultural quality scale system to assist the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in agricultural land use conversion decisions. (See Policy LU-A.16)	PW & Planning  Department of Agriculture	FY 03-04	The County has not yet assessed utilizing an agricultural quality scale system similar to LESA to establish a threshold as part of evaluation of converting agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. However, the impacts of projects on agricultural land are analyzed for projects that may have a potential impact on conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses as part of the environmental assessment of discretionary projects. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Land use Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-A.J</b>			
The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including number of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location, shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan. (See Policies LU-A.9, LU-A.10, and LU-A.11)	PW & Planning Board of Supervisors	Annually	During 2016 four lot size exceptions were granted through provisions outlined in Policy LU-A.9. In addition, nine lot size exceptions, specific to agricultural zoning, were granted through variance applications approved by the decision-making bodies. A list of the exceptions granted is included on Page 19 of the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report.

**LU-B**

## Westside Rangelands

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-B.A</b>			
The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including numbers of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan. (See Policies LU-B.7, LU-B.9, and LU-B.10)	PW & Planning	Annually	During 2016 four lot size exceptions were granted through provisions outlined in Policy LU-A.9. In addition, nine lot size exceptions, specific to agricultural zoning, were granted through variance applications approved by the decision-making bodies. A list of the exceptions granted is included on Page 19 of the 2016 General Plan Annual Progress Report.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

LU-C  
River Influence Areas

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-C.A</b>			
The County will update and maintain the Kings River Regional Plan to guide County decision making concerning land use and environmental quality within the Kings River influence area. (See Policies LU-C.1 and OS-H.10)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 02-03 (first update); subsequently as needed	Due to budgetary constraints and timing of other plan updates, implementation of this program has been delayed. There has been some renewed interest in updating the plan has arisen with public interest in surface mining projects on the Kings River.
<b>LU-C.B</b>			
The County shall work with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, San Joaquin River Conservancy, City of Fresno, and other interested agencies and organizations to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Recompiled San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan was approved and adopted by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board on July 20, 2000. The San Joaquin River Conservancy started the process of updating the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan in June of 2013 that includes an update of policies and planned facilities, and the preparation of a Master EIR. The County has been participating as a member of the Interagency Project Development Committee. The County also regularly coordinates with the interested agencies / stakeholders with regard to project reviews to discuss and minimize possible project impacts to river resources.



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## LU-D

## Westside Freeway Corridor

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
LU-D.A			
The County shall revise its Zoning Ordinance to implement the revised provisions of this section concerning the Westside Freeway Corridor. (See Policies LU-D.1 through LU-D.7)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 01-02	Revisions to the County Zoning Ordinance were approved March 27, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors to implement the revised provisions of this section concerning the Westside Freeway Corridor with approval of Amendment to Text Application (AT) No. 337 and subsequently amended with AT 352 in 2004. Therefore, this program has been implemented and will be removed.

## LU-F

## Urban Development Patterns

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
LU-F.A			
The County shall work with the Cities of Clovis and Fresno and other cities as appropriate to adopt incentives and disincentives that will lead to compact urban development and infill of vacant and under-utilized land. (See Policies LU-F.1 through LU-F.10)	Board of Supervisors	Ongoing	The County's General Plan and the General Plan of the cities of Fresno and Clovis include policies that promote infill of vacant and underutilized land. Also, the cost of providing urban services to suburbs is a disincentive that has motivated several cities to pursue infill development over annexation of new territory. County staff continues to refer to General Plan policies that direct intensive urban growth to the cities and unincorporated communities and reviews relevant policies when processing discretionary land use permits.
LU-F.B			
The County shall review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to incorporate amendments that will implement the policies for pedestrian and transit-oriented development. (See Policies LU-F.1 through LU-F.10)	Board of Supervisors	FY 01-02	The County is in the process of updating its Zoning Ordinance which will include provisions for mixed uses and pedestrian and transit-oriented developments.

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## LU-G

## Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-G.A</b>			
The County shall review and revise, as appropriate, its Zoning Ordinance to facilitate moderate increases in density of housing in unincorporated urban communities. (See Policies LU-G.21 through LU-G.23)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	The County is in the process of reviewing the General Plan Policy document and updating its Zoning Ordinance. As part of the revision and update process the allowable density in the R2, R2-A, R3, R3-A, R4, C4 and RP Zone Districts is proposed to be increased to 20 units per acre.
<b>LU-G.B</b>			
The County shall review all annexation proposals submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission and prepare a recommendation to LAFCO for each proposal. The County shall formally protest when the annexation is inconsistent with city's adopted general plan or with the County's General Plan or applicable community plan. (See Policies LU-G.1 through LU-G.20)	PW & Planning Board of Supervisors	As Needed	The Department of Public Works and Planning reviews annexation proposals submitted by LAFCO to ensure consistency of the proposals with the City and County General Plans and the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and each City. A consistency determination letter is provided for each annexation proposal found to be consistent. During 2016 the County reviewed 10 annexation proposals submitted by LAFCO.

## LU-H

## General and Administrative Provisions

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-H.A</b>			
The County shall prepare and adopt a regional plan for the Friant-Millerton area consistent with the directives of Policy LU-H.8. (See Policy LU-H.8)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 02-03	This program has been suspended pending additional Board direction.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-H.B</b>			
County Staff shall meet regularly with cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues of common interest and concern. Staff shall report annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year and the planned schedule of meetings with local jurisdictions to address regional planning issues in the upcoming year.	PW & Planning	Ongoing	<p>Efforts that began in 2014 culminated into a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG). Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).</p> <p>On June 22, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and representatives of all 15 incorporated cities within the County was held at the FCOG. Topics discussed included SGMA, Marijuana Ordinances, land use and preservation and special districts.</p> <p>On November 17, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the representatives from the Cities of Clovis, Fowler, Fresno and Sanger was held at the FCOG. Topics discussed included industrial parks, spheres of influence and SGMA.</p> <p>There are efforts underway for the Board of Supervisors and the Fresno City Council to meet periodically to discuss regional issues.</p>
<b>LU-H.C</b>			
The County shall prepare and adopt minimum format and content guidelines for the preparation of updated and new regional, community, and specific plans to ensure consistency with the countywide General Plan. (See Policy LU-H.10)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	The County has prepared a format and guideline for new and updates to existing plans. This program has been implemented and should be deleted.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>LU-H.D</b>			
The Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. This review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program. (See Policy LU-H.12)	Planning Commission  Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 02-03; annually thereafter	The Public Works and Planning Department presented the 2015 General Plan Annual Progress Report to the Planning Commission on July 21, 2016 and to the Board on September 13, 2016. The preparation of this Annual Report which focuses principally on actions undertaken during 2016 to carry out the implementation programs of the General Plan to be presented to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meets the requirements of this program.
<b>LU-H.E</b>			
The County shall conduct a major review of the General Plan, including General Plan Policy Document and Background Report, every five years and revise it as deemed necessary. (See Policy LU-H.14)	Board of Supervisors  PW & Planning	FY 05-06; every five (5) years thereafter	The County initiated the General Plan review in 2006 and has been working on this effort since. On September 22, 2015 the Board of Supervisors accepted the scope of work and authorized the Chairman to execute a Consultant Agreement with the consulting firm of Mintier-Harnish to provide planning and environmental consulting services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Five-Year Review and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update.
<b>LU-H.F</b>			
The County shall comprehensively review and amend as necessary the Zoning Ordinance text and Zoning Map to reflect new policies and standards included in the General Plan during the 2000 update. (See Policy LU-H.15)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03; 03-04	The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to incorporate the policies of the 2000 General Plan Update. The County initiated the Zoning Ordinance Update in 2006 and has been working on this effort since. On September 22, 2015 the Board of Supervisors accepted the scope of work and authorized the Chairman to execute a Consultant Agreement with the consulting firm of Mintier-Harnish to provide planning and environmental consulting services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Five-Year Review and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
LU Mitigation Measure 4.16-2			
In approving new development, the County shall require that lighting standards be designed and constructed to minimize the project contribution to ambient light production and to preclude "spillover" light onto adjacent light-sensitive (e.g., residences, hospitals) properties.	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Public Works and Planning Department currently conditions discretionary projects that exterior lighting to be hooded and directed so as to avoid glare onto adjacent roads or properties. A Mitigation Measure is included to reduce ambient light as well as glare impacts when an environmental assessment is required.

**Transportation and Circulation Element**

TR-A  
Streets and Highways

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
TR-A.A			
The County shall prepare and adopt a priority list of street and highway improvements for the Road Improvement Program (RIP) based on a horizon of at least seven (7) years. The Board of Supervisors shall update the RIP every five (5) years, or more frequently as recommended by the responsible departments. The RIP shall program maintenance and rehabilitation, reconstruction, capacity, operational, safety improvements, and specific plan lines on a prioritized basis. The RIP shall be coordinated with the five (5) year major review of the General Plan and shall be included in the annual General Plan review. (See Policies TR-A.4 and TR-A.11)	PW & Planning Board of Supervisors	FY 00-01; every five years thereafter	On May 24, 2016 the Board of Supervisors approved the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP) and Declaration of Projects. The RIP is a multi-year maintenance and construction programming plan and reflects the County's efforts to protect and improve the public investment in the County road system and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and commodities. The RIP identifies maintenance funding levels and specific projects expected to be delivered within a defined time frame. The funding in the RIP reflects current and projected budgets and the RIP also identifies, but does not fund, a number of recommended projects that are necessary for an improved County road and bridge system. These prospective projects are described in a series of appendices to the RIP. The types of projects in the RIP include bridge replacement/repair, road reconstruction, traffic signals, shoulder widening, and pavement repair.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-A.B</b>			
The County shall consider adopting a traffic impact fee ordinance for areas outside the spheres of influence of cities in the county. The traffic fees should be designed to achieve the adopted LOS and preserve structural integrity based on a twenty (20)-year time horizon. The traffic mitigation fees should be updated at least every five years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant modification of the land use allocation used to develop the fees. The County shall require new development within the spheres of influence of cities in the county to pay the traffic impact fees of those cities. (See Policy TR-A.8)	PW & Planning Board of Supervisors	FY 01-02	A traffic impact fee has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors. However, on May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees to November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board with a workshop on the County's Facility Impact Fees and provide options for the Board to consider.
<b>TR-A.C</b>			
The County shall continue to identify and pursue appropriate new funding sources for transportation improvements. Grant funds from regional, State, and Federal agencies should be pursued and utilized when compatible with the General Plan policies and long-term local funding capabilities. (See Policy TR-A.10)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County continues to pursue funding for transportation improvements through Fresno Council of Governments.
<b>TR-A.D</b>			
The County shall coordinate its transportation planning with the Council of Fresno County Governments, Caltrans, cities within the county, and adjacent jurisdictions. (See Policy TR-A.6)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	During 2016, the County continued coordinating its transportation planning with FCOG, Caltrans, Cities and adjacent jurisdictions.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-A.E</b>			
The County shall update and maintain the Improvement Standards for other County development improvements, including private roads dedicated to public use. (See Policy TR-A.1)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County implements this program/policy on a continuous basis. The County is currently undergoing a comprehensive update of the County Improvement Standards.

**TR-B**  
Transit

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-B.A</b>			
The County shall work with the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) and transit providers in the county to periodically review and update the short-range transit plans in the county at least as often as required by State law. (See Policy TR-B.1)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02; every five years thereafter	The County works with FCOG on review and updates of the Short-Range Transit Plan on a continuous basis. The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area was last approved by the FCOG Policy board on June 25, 2015. FCOG staff is working on the plan that will be presented to the FCOG Policy Board for consideration in June of 2017.
<b>TR-B.B</b>			
The County shall encourage transit providers and the FCOG to prepare, adopt, and implement a long-range strategic transit master plan for the County or sub-areas of the county. The master plan shall review the transit corridors in this Policy Document and designate a set of transit corridors so that appropriate planning can be concentrated on these corridors. The plan(s) shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. (See Policy TR-B.1)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area Public Transportation Strategic Service Evaluation project was completed by FCOG on May 28, 2014. FCOG continues to prepare, adopt, and implement long-range strategic transit master plans for the County or sub-areas of the county.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-B.C</b>			
Through its representation on the FCOG Board and the FCRTA (a joint powers agency), the County shall work with these agencies to identify and pursue funding for transit. (See Policy TR-B.4)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	Fresno County continues to work with FCOG to identify and pursue funding for transit.
<b>TR-B.D</b>			
The County shall work with the FCOG and other agencies to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors and to acquire needed rights-of-way, including abandoned rights-of-way and track structures. (See Policy TR-B.3)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	Fresno County continues to work with FCOG to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors and to acquire needed rights-of-way, including abandoned rights-of-way and track structures.
<b>TR-B.E</b>			
The County shall work with the cities in the county to prepare and adopt land use and design standards for areas within designated urban transit corridors to promote transit accessibility and use. (See Policy TR-B.3)	PW & Planning	After FY 01-02 (if initiated by County)	In 2011, FCOG prepared the Public Transportation Infrastructure Study. The PTIS Study makes recommendations for investments, the timing of those investments, and funding sources augmenting Measure C sales tax revenue to pay for them. In addition, the PTIS study makes policy recommendations that will be important to be adopted by City- and County-elected officials and implemented by planning department and public works administrators in order to shape future growth in such a way that it supports the transit investments. Fresno County continues to work with FCOG to promote transit accessibility and use.
<b>TR-B.F</b>			
The County shall work with Caltrans and other agencies to determine the need for additional or expanded park-and-ride lots and to identify additional sites for such lots. (See Policy TR-B.2)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	Caltrans is the primary provider of Park and Ride lots on State highways. Fresno County continues to work with Caltrans and FCOG to determine the need for additional or expanded park-and-ride lots and to identify additional sites for such lots.



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TR-D  
Bicycle Facilities

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-D.A</b>			
The County shall work with the Fresno Council of Governments, Caltrans, and cities within the county to update the Regional Bikeways Plan to ensure consistency with the Circulation Diagram and Standards section. (See Policy TR-D.1)	PW & Planning	FY 00-01	The Regional Bikeways Plan was updated as part of the non-motorized section of the Regional Transportation Plan that was last updated by FCOG on June 26, 2014. The Regional Bikeways Plan is consistent with the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
<b>TR-D.B</b>			
The County shall encourage implementation and use of bikeways by use of Transportation Development Act Article III bicycle and pedestrian funds to implement and maintain bikeways or bike trails. The County shall continue to identify and pursue appropriate new funding sources for bikeway implementation. Grant funds from regional, State, and Federal agencies should be pursued and utilized when compatible with the General Plan policies and long-term local funding capabilities. (See Policy TR-D.1)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County continues to encourage implementation and use of bikeways by implementing the goals and policies in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
<b>TR-D.C</b>			
The County shall require that sufficient pavement width for bikeways shown on the Regional Bikeway Plan be constructed in conjunction with road construction projects, and that adequate right-of-way and/or pavement width for bicycle facilities be included in frontage improvements required of new development. Implementation through signing and striping is an operational decision, and may not coincide with initial construction. (See Policies TR-D.4 and TR-D.5)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County requires sufficient pavement width for bikeways shown on the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-D.D</b>			
The County shall use California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) bikeway design standards as guidelines for construction of Class I, II, III bicycle facilities. (See Policies TR-D.1 and TR-D.3)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011, specifies California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) bikeway design standards as guidelines for the construction of Class I, II, III bicycle facilities.
<b>TR-D.E</b>			
The County shall work with other agencies to provide facilities that help link bicycles to other modes, including provision of bike racks or space on buses and parking or lockers for bicycles at transportation terminals. (See Policy TR-D.8)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011, provides information on facilities that help link bicycle riders to other modes, including the provision of bike racks or space on buses and parking or lockers for bicycles at transportation terminals.

**TR-E**  
Rail Transportation

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-E.A</b>			
The County shall work with other agencies to plan line-designated railroad corridors to facilitate the preservation of important railroad rights-of-way for future rail expansion or other appropriate transportation facilities. (See Policies TR-E.3 and TR-E.4)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County continues to work with other agencies including the California High Speed Rail Authority for rail expansion to facilitate the railroad rights-of-way for railroads and other transportation facilities.
<b>TR-E.B</b>			
The County shall use appropriate zoning in designated rail corridors to ensure preservation of rail facilities for future local rail use. (See Policy TR-E.4)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County continues to use appropriate zoning classifications in designated rail corridors.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>TR-E.C</b>			
The County shall participate in the Council of Fresno County Governments Rail Committee to support improvement, development, and expansion of rail service in Fresno County. (See Policies TR-E.1 through TR-E.6)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The FCOG Rail Committee was dissolved in 2012 when the San Joaquin Valley Joint Powers Authority (SJVJPA) was formed. A Board of Supervisors member represents Fresno County by participating in the SJVJPA.

**Public Facilities and Services Element****PF-A**

## General Public Facilities and Services

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-A.A</b>			
The County shall ensure that infrastructure plans or area facilities plans are prepared in conjunction with any new or expanded community or specific plans and are reviewed and updated as needed. Such plans shall contain phasing and facility improvement time lines.	CAO PW & Planning	Annually	Where specific plan amendments or updates are required as part of a proposed development project, analysis is performed on the adequacy of existing plans to ensure adequacy of infrastructure to accommodate the proposed development.

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PF-B  
Funding

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-B.A</b>			
The County shall prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for designing and constructing County facilities. Roadways shall be included in the separate Roadway Improvement Plan (RIP). The CIP should be updated at least every five (5) years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant amendments to the General Plan.	<p>CAO</p> <p>Board of Supervisors</p> <p>PW &amp; Planning</p>	FY 01-02; every five years thereafter	The CIP was last updated in 2006. However, updates of the CIP have been suspended by the Board with the suspension of impact fees until November 9, 2017 based on Board action which occurred on February 2, 2015.
<b>PF-B.B</b>			
The County shall develop and adopt ordinances specifying acceptable methods for new development to pay for new capital facilities and expanded services. Possible mechanisms include development fees, assessment districts, land/facility dedications, county service areas, and community facilities districts. (See Policies PF-B.1 and PF-B.3)	<p>CAO</p> <p>Board of Supervisors</p> <p>PW &amp; Planning</p>	FY 01-02; 02-03	On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected, unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions. The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and, 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP and refund fees collected to the property owners of record. On February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees until November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.

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## PF-C

## Water Supply and Delivery

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-C.A</b>			
The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified.	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	The Water Geology Section of the Department of Public Works and Planning reviews all discretionary permits and provides recommendation for requirements and mitigation measures as necessary. The County, prior to consideration of any discretionary project related to land use, requires a water supply evaluation as outlined in General Plan Policy PF-C.17. In addition, the County is currently working to implement the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which will further address the resolution of water supply problems. In 2015, six SGMA working group meetings were held, which were co-chaired by members of the Board of Supervisors. The working group is also comprised of key County and Irrigation District staff and includes representation from other interested and affected Communities.
<b>PF-C.B</b>			
The County shall adopt a well construction and destruction ordinance that will include among other requirements the mapping of location information on abandoned wells in the County GIS database and which includes a procedure for ensuring that abandoned wells are properly destroyed.	PW & Planning, Community Health Dept.	FY 02-03	The County Environmental Health Division has developed a procedure to ensure the abandoned wells are properly destroyed.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-C.C</b>			
The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared water master plans for water delivery systems for areas undergoing urban growth. The County shall have approved such plans prior to implementation. (See Policy PF-C.8)	PW & Planning including Surveyor's Office	As Needed	Updates of water master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Millerton Specific Plan area, Shaver Lake area and Friant Specific Plan area have approved plans. As an example, in 2010, a Water Supply Assessment was completed for the Millerton Specific Plan as part of the approval process for Tentative Tract Map No. 5430.
<b>PF-C.D</b>			
The County shall develop and implement a tiered water pricing structure for County Service Areas and Waterworks Districts. (See Policy PF-C.29)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	Tiered water rate structures have been implemented in recent developments. Due to recent drought conditions, CSA and WWD water rate structures are being modified to a flat rate (operational costs) plus a consumption rate (cost of water). Tiered consumption rates are being utilized in CSAs and WWDs where the supply or treatment of water is limited. All new developments are required to provide water rate structures prepared by an engineer and comprised of a flat rate and consumption rate.
<b>PF-C.E</b>			
The County shall establish water demand standards based on types and sizes of uses to serve as a basis for determining the adequacy of a proposed water supply for new development. (See Policy PF-C.14)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	Although specific standards have not been established, water supply and proposed water use are evaluated on a per-project basis by Public Works and Planning staff to determine adequate water supply. Further, in regards to landscaping, the County is implementing the State required Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance which applies to both residential and commercial projects. The MWELO was part of the Governor's Drought Executive Order of April 1, 2015. The revised ordinance was approved on July 15, 2015.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-C.F</b>			
The County shall establish a review and/or regulatory process for proposed transfers of surface water to areas outside of the county and for substitution of groundwater for transferred surface water. (See Policy PF-C.23)	PW & Planning	FY 00-01	This program has been implemented with the adoption of the Groundwater Transfer Ordinance and should be deleted.
<b>PF-C.G</b>			
The County shall develop a list of water conservation technologies, methods, and practices that maximize the beneficial use of water resources. The County shall review and update the list periodically to eliminate practices that no longer prove beneficial and add new technologies that become available. (See Policy PF-C.28)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	The County enforces the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance as a means to promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to invest water and other resources as efficiently as possible, to establish a structure for planning, designing, installing maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated projects, to establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention for established landscapes, and to use water efficiently without waste by setting a Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) as an upper limit for water use and reduce water use to the lowest practical amount. These standards are enforced for any residential, commercial, or industrial projects that require a permit, plan check or design review and that have a 500 square feet or more landscaping area.

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## PF-D

## Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
PF-D.A			
The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a sewer master plan for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth. The County shall have approved such plans prior to implementation. (See Policy PF-D.7)	PW & Planning including the Surveyor's Office	As Needed	Areas that experience urban growth are required to prepare a sewer master plan or update the current master plan. The Public Works and Planning Department is responsible for implementing the policies and implementation programs in the plan. This program is implemented as needed.

## PF-E

## Storm Drainage and Flood Control

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
PF-E.A			
The County shall work with responsible flood control agencies to pursue adoption of appropriate regulations and programs as necessary and appropriate to implement required actions under State and Federal storm water quality programs. (See Policy PF-E.13)	PW & Planning Board of Supervisors	Ongoing	The County coordinates with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) who is the Lead Agency for the Municipal Storm Water Permit held by FMFCD, the cities of Fresno and Clovis, Fresno County, and California State University Fresno. The County also requires development to file storm water permits with the State Water Resources Control Board when the project meets the minimum threshold for permitting.



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Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

## PF-F

## Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
PF-F.A			
The County shall require new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses to provide adequate areas on site to accommodate the collection and storage of recyclable materials. (See Policy PF-F.1)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	The Public Works and Planning staff review and comment on Initial Studies/Environmental Assessments and, when appropriate, provide comments recommending that new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses provide adequate areas on site for the collection and storage of recyclable materials. The County implemented a mandatory hauler program in the mid-2000s to mandate refuse and recycling collection for all unincorporated areas. .

## PF-G

## Law Enforcement

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
PF-G.A			
The County shall prepare and adopt a master plan to identify locations for sheriff substations and community offices. The County should further evaluate these locations in the regional and unincorporated community plan updates. (See Policy PF-G.1)	Sheriff's Department  PW & Planning	As Needed	Sheriff's Department has established substations in unincorporated County areas to be able to provide faster response to service calls. Although no master plan has been prepared, when Community Plans are updated, a location is identified for a Sheriff's substation. Further, the Sheriff's Department actively works with Public Works and Planning staff on land use matters pertinent to their facilities.  As an example, during the Laton Community Plan Update Public Works and Planning Department staff worked with Sheriff's Department staff to identify a potential location for a future Sheriff's substation.

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## PF-H

## Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-H.A</b>			
If a Fire Protection Master Plan has not been prepared for the area and the County Director of Planning & Resource Management determines that additional fire protection facilities are needed, the County shall not approve discretionary development until such time as a Master Plan has been adopted or other facilities acceptable to the Director are provided, with appeal rights as provided by County Ordinance. The Fire Protection Master Plan must contain the following information: identification of water supply; delineation of the service area boundary; designation of an appropriate fire protection entity; determination of structural, equipment, and personnel needs and costs; and a financing plan based on shared benefit. (See Policy PF-H.2)	PW & Planning	As Needed	The Public Works and Planning staff routes all projects to the appropriate fire district for review and comment. The District then identifies appropriate fire protection measures to accommodate the project. Upon consultation with the District, Staff will include the conditions for each project.
<b>PF-H.B</b>			
The County shall work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, and city fire departments to maximize the use of resources to develop functional and/or operational consolidations and standardization of services and to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources. (See Policy PF-H.1)	CAO  County Fire Departments	Ongoing	The County works cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Cal Fire on various land use and permit matters. The County contracts with the California Department of Forestry / Cal Fire for the Amador Plan during the non-fire season to provide additional protection.

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PF-I  
School and Library Facilities

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>PF-I.A</b>			
The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable school districts to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded school facilities. (See Policies PF-I.3, PF-I.4, and PF-I.5)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County involves the respective school district in the update of each regional, community and specific plan to identify the need for and potential location of new or expansion of existing facilities. Further, through the General Plan Conformity (GPC) findings process, potential school site acquisitions are evaluated for consistency with the General Plan. This is required per Public Resources Code 21151.2 and Government Code 65402. No GPC requests were processed for school sites in 2016.
<b>PF-I.B</b>			
The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable library districts and library interest groups to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded library facilities. (See Policy PF-I.9)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County involves library administration in the update of each regional, community and specific plan to identify the need for and potential location of new or expansion of existing facilities.

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**Open Space and Conservation Element**

## OS-A

## Water Resources

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
OS-A.A			
The County shall develop, implement and maintain a water sustainability plan (see Policy OS-A.1).	PW & Planning	FY 01-02; Ongoing	In June 2006 the County adopted a Fresno Area Regional Groundwater Management Plan. Also with the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, local agencies within the Kings, Westside, and Delta Mendota basins in the County will be required to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies who will in turn create Groundwater Sustainability Plans. The plans are required to be adopted by January 31, 2020.
OS-A.B			
The County shall establish and maintain a centralized water resource database for surface and groundwater that includes the water budget, groundwater monitoring data, and the groundwater recharge site inventory. (See Policies OS-A.7 through OS-A.10)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02; Ongoing	Water budget development and maintenance will be required through the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in areas with aquifers identified as being in a condition of critical overdraft. The County has completed a study through the AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding, to identify potential recharge sites northeast of the City of Fresno and City of Clovis. As development occurs, the County will use this information to attempt to preserve those areas identified as prime recharge areas.
OS-A.C			
The County shall develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Information from this program shall be provided to the Board of Supervisors during the annual General Plan review. (See Policy OS-A.9)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02; Ongoing	Groundwater monitoring and reporting will be a key component of the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. By January 31, 2020, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the County will be required to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for implementation.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
OS-A.D The County shall develop, implement, and maintain land use plans to preserve for recharge purpose those lands identified as suitable for groundwater recharge in the water resource database inventory. (Policy OS-A.10)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	The County has completed a study through the AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding to identify potential recharge sites northeast of the City of Fresno and City of Clovis. As development occurs, the County will use this information to attempt to preserve those areas identified as prime recharge areas.

OS-B  
Forest Resources

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
OS-B.A The County, in consultation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall conduct a careful evaluation of the Forest Practice Rules with regard to: clearcutting and other forest management practices with potential visual impacts; use of prescribed burning; protection of biological, soil, and water resources; and protection of old growth forest in Fresno County. If the Forest Practice Rules are determined to be inadequate, a compilation of Special Forest Practice Rules for Fresno County shall be proposed to the Board of Forestry to address those inadequacies. (See Policies OS-B.2 and OS-B.3)	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	The Department of Forestry and Fire Protections enforcement authority granted under the Forest Practice Act and Rules is only applicable when conversion of land from a use other than growing a commercial crop of trees, or commercialization of forest products occurs and is only applicable on private land. Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.

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Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-B.B</b>			
The County shall encourage the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to complete an inventory of existing and residual stands of ancient and old growth forest on private timberlands in Fresno County. The results of this inventory shall be incorporated into the County's biological resources database for use in future land use planning decisions. (See Policy OS-B.2)	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	<p>The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has no mandate or authority to enter private timber lands unless enforcement of the Forest Practice Act and rules have been triggered.</p> <p>Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p> <p>As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Open Space and Conservation Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.</p>
<b>OS-B.C</b>			
The County shall encourage the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify potential impacts on, and the need for preservation of, old growth forest in Fresno County. (See Policy OS-B.2)	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	<p>The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is required by law to identify potential impacts to a wide variety of natural and cultural resources when engaging in a discretionary project that triggers compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</p> <p>Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p>
<b>OS-B.D</b>			
The County shall formally request that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection include educational materials for residents in its Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber. Such materials should include information concerning the Forest Practice Act, Forest Practice Rules, and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Timber Harvest Plan review process. (See Policy OS-B.2)	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	A "Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber" (NOI) is a specific requirement of the Forest Practice Act and Rules and is required for a wide variety of timber harvest documents. A modification of the NOI would require rule change by the Board of Forestry (BOF).

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

OS-D  
Wetland and Riparian Areas

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-D.A</b>			
The County shall work toward the acquisition by public agencies or private non-profit conservation organizations of creek corridors, wetlands, and areas rich in wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature as public open space where such areas cannot be effectively preserved through the regulatory process. Such protection may take the form of fee acquisition or protective easements and may be carried out in cooperation with other local, State, and Federal agencies and private entities. Acquisition shall include provisions for maintenance and management in perpetuity. (See Policies OS-D.2 and OS-D.8)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County continues to coordinate with the San Joaquin River Conservancy for projects in the vicinity of their resources. Further, through discretionary land use permits, the County will review requests by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CAF&W) for offsetting habitats, consider mitigation and review and formal proposal for mitigation banking to CAF&W.
<b>OS-D.B</b>			
The County shall adopt an ordinance for riparian protection zones identifying allowable activities in riparian protection zones and allowable mitigation techniques. (See Policy OS-D.4)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	Due to budgetary constraints, a specific ordinance has not been adopted. The County continues to coordinate with resource agencies for projects located within sensitive habitat and applies policies for those proposals within river influence areas.

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Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

OS-E  
Fish and Wildlife Habitat

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
OS-E.A			
The County shall compile inventories of ecologically-significant resource areas, including unique natural areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and habitats for special-status plants and animals from existing data sources. The inventories shall be presented when area plans, specific plans, or other project development proposals are considered by the County. The classification system shall be based on the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships (WHR) system and shall identify appropriate buffer zones around the identified resource areas in order to account for periodic, seasonal, or ecological changes. The maps shall be revised on a regular basis to reflect the availability of new information from other agencies, changes in definition, or any other changes. (See Policies OS-E.1, OS-E.2, and OS-E.5)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	Development projects that may have a potential impact on wetlands, riparian areas and habitats for special-status plants and animals are referred to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comments. Recommended mitigation measures proposed by these agencies will be considered during the environmental review of development projects.



**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-E.B</b>			
The County shall maintain current maps that indicate the extent of significant habitat for important fish and game species, as these maps are made available by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The relative importance of these game species shall be determined by the County, in consultation with CDFG, based on relevant ecological, recreational, and economic considerations. These maps shall be used by the County to evaluate proposed area plans, specific plans, and any other project development proposals to determine the compatibility of development with maintenance and enhancement of important fish and game species. (See Policy OS-E.2)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County refers development projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly CDFG) for review and comment as to any potential impact on sensitive species of plants or animals. County staff also has access to State-maintained software which provides updated maps containing biological data in an electronic mapping database.

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Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

OS-F  
Vegetation

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-F.A</b>			
The County shall prepare and maintain an updated list of State and Federal rare, threatened, and endangered plant species known or suspected to occur in the county. The following other uncommon or special-status species which occur or may occur in the County should also be included on the list: 1) plant species included in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California; and 2) species of special concern as designated by California Department of Fish and Game. In addition to updating the list, as new information becomes available, the list should be reviewed and amended at least once every two years. (See Policy OS-F.5)	PW & Planning	FY 00-01; every two years thereafter	The County refers development projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly CDFG) for review and comment as to any potential impact on sensitive species of plants or animals. County staff also has access to State-maintained software which provides updated maps containing sensitive species of plants and animals data in an electronic mapping database (Rare Final 5, etc.).
<b>OS-F.B</b>			
The County shall make the Fresno County Oak Management Guidelines and other educational resources available to landowners located in oak woodland habitat. (See Policy OS-F.11)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The boundaries of the oak woodland habitat area have yet to be established; when they are, a handout will be prepared and distributed with every permit that is issued within these areas. Individual projects in oak woodland areas are evaluated for buffering or tree preservation requirements depending on the sensitivity of the habitat and relative health of tree growth as indicated by independent studies provided by project applicants. Further, Policy OS-F.11 which contains the County's Oak Woodlands Management Guidelines is considered.

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Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

OS-G  
Air Quality

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-G.A</b>			
The County shall review the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts published by the SJVAPCD and adopt procedures for performing air quality impact analysis and mitigation measures with any modifications deemed appropriate. (See Policy OS-G.1)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	The County refers development projects to the SJVAPCD for review and comment on potential air quality impacts and requires development projects to comply with SJVAPCD rules to mitigate any impact on air quality. For Discretionary projects, County staff will review SJVAPCD comments and require district requirements as warranted (i.e., indirect source review, etc.) as part of the CEQA review process.
<b>OS-G.B</b>			
The County shall adopt a package of programs to reduce its employees' work-related vehicular trips.	CAO  PW & Planning	FY 02-03	<p>The County commonly promotes and utilizes telephone conference calling in lieu of physical meetings so as to minimize travel related impacts. The County has begun to use video conferencing for both inter-County and intra-county meetings, with the resultant reduction in employee work-related vehicular trips. The County is also in the planning and development stages of countywide e-government programs that will impact the number of vehicular trips required to conduct business. Additionally, given the increasing quality of current aerial photos and the available historical imagery which allows comparative analysis, County staff can in some instances use aerial information rather than conducting field visits.</p> <p>The County encourages employee participation in FCOG's car and van pool program.</p>
<b>OS-G.C</b>			
The County shall amend its Subdivision and Grading Ordinances and Development Standards to address dust control measures for new development, access roads, and parking areas. (See Policies OS-G.13 and OS-G.14)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	All development projects must comply with the SJVAPCD regulations for dust control and project conditions or mitigation for discretionary land use permits may require additional levels of dust control.

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OS-H  
Parks and Recreation

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-H.A</b>			
The County shall work with local, State, and Federal agencies to complete a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and services in the county and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development as funds permit. The County shall consider preparation of a County park and recreation master plan to provide a policy framework for independent implementation by the cooperating agencies. (See Policies OS-H.1 through OS-H.3)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02; 02-03	Funds have not been available to prepare a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development.
<b>OS-H.B</b>			
As new development occurs, the County shall consider contracting with existing entities or forming county service areas (CSAs) that have the authority to receive dedications or grants of land or funds, plus the ability to charge fees for acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks; open space; and riding, hiking, and bicycle trails. (See Policy OS-H.4)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	Public Works and Planning staff considers the need for an entity to hold and maintain parkland, open space, and trails as a part of the project review. The Department considers these service needs when a CSA is being formed or expanded. It should be noted that due to limitations of the Proposition 218 process, which allows residents within a CSA to vote on or consider discontinuation of service, the use of CSAs for Services beyond basic services (i.e., sewer and water) can become problematic and has limited the use of CSAs in more recent developments.

**APPENDIX A**  
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OS-I  
Recreational Trails

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-I.A</b>			
The County shall prepare a Recreational Trails Master Plan for a countywide trail system that identifies appropriate corridors and the design of the trails in the corridors based on the criteria listed in the policies of this section. The Recreational Trail Corridor Map (Figure OS-1) and Conceptual Recreational Trail List shall be used as a starting point for the master plan process. (See Policies OS-I.1 and OS-I.10)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	This program has been implemented; the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011. This program should be deleted.
<b>OS-I.B</b>			
The County shall investigate the potential of various land use controls for reserving areas for trails such as the acquisition of easements, open space and floodplain zoning, and subdivision control. (See Policies OS-I.3 and OS-I.4)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	This program has been implemented. It is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
<b>OS-I.C</b>			
The County shall enact an ordinance to prohibit the use of recreational trails by all motorized vehicles except maintenance vehicles, regulate users on multiple purpose paths, and protect the interests of property adjacent to trails. (See Policy OS-I.5)	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	This program has been implemented. It is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011. The County uses the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) approved sign R44A on Class I bike paths. This program should be deleted.

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

OS-J  
Historical, Cultural, and Geological Resources

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
OS-J.A			
The County shall adopt and implement an ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical, and geological resources. The ordinance shall provide for implementation of applicable development conditions, open space easements, tax incentives, related code revisions and other measures as needed. (Policy OS-J.1)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	Development projects are referred to State Historic Preservation Officer, the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission and the Fresno County Historical Society for potential impact on significant archeological and historical and geological resources. However, no ordinance has been developed.

OS-L  
Scenic Roadways

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
OS-L.A			
The County, in cooperation with the Fresno Council of Governments and the Association for the Beautification of Highway 99, shall participate in establishing a landscape master plan and design guidelines for the Highway 99 corridor. The plan and guidelines shall unify the design features of the Highway 99 corridor while recognizing the individuality of each community. (See Policies OS-L.7 and OS-L.8)	PW & Planning  CAO	FY 03-04	This program has been implemented via adoption of Amendment to Text (AT) No. 361 on July 8, 2008, and has been incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance. This program should be deleted.

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Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>OS-L.B</b>			
The County shall work with the California Department of Transportation to apply for scenic highway designation for the State highway segments eligible for such designation, and take necessary steps for approval, including adoption of scenic corridor protection programs for eligible segments. (See Policy OS-L.9)	PW & Planning	FY 03-04	County staff collaborated with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. and Caltrans in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for segments of SR 180. Staff of the County and Caltrans with the Sierra Gateway Trust worked together to complete the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program in support of a State Official Scenic Highway designation status for approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180. On October 15, 2015, the Caltrans Director approved designation of the two sections of eastern SR 180 from the Alta Main Canal near Minkler to near the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park, and the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park to Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove as a State Scenic Highway.

**Health and Safety Element****HS-A**

## Emergency Management and Response

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-A.A</b>			
The County shall maintain agreements with other local, State, and Federal agencies to provide coordinated disaster response.	Sheriff's Depart.  CAO  PW & Planning  County Fire Dept.  Co. Office of Emergency Services	Ongoing	On November 14, 1995, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), established the geographic area of the County of Fresno as the Fresno County Operational Area, and designated Fresno County as the Operational Area Lead Agency. In the County's role as the Operational Area lead agency, County OES maintains ongoing communication with local government agencies (County Departments, Incorporated Cities, Special Districts, and Public School Districts), as well as many State and Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to maintain and enhance the communities capability to respond to and recover from disasters.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-A.B</b>			
The County shall continue to monitor and periodically evaluate County emergency planning, operations, and training capabilities. (See Policy HS-A.1)	County Office of Emergency Services	Ongoing	The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) implements this program on an ongoing basis. OES is located within the Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division and coordinates planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for disasters occurring within the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. Fresno County OES coordinates the development and maintenance of the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, which is updated periodically.
<b>HS-A.C</b>			
The County shall continue to periodically evaluate County-owned safety and emergency management facilities and public utility systems for susceptibility to damage due to flood inundation or seismic or geologic hazards and implement corrective actions should problems be identified. (See Policies HS-A.2 and HS-A.3)	PW & Planning  Co. Office of Emergency Services	Ongoing	The County Department of Internal Services will evaluate County facilities in conjunction with concerns raised by the occupying department. Facility issues or any damage resulting from events are inspected with the assistance of Risk Management staff and qualified consultants or sub-consultants. Modifications, improvements or construction of new structures to replace existing facilities are also evaluated with the assistance of staff from the Department of Public Works and Planning (Capital Projects Division). A more comprehensive inventory of existing facilities is targeted as budgeting and staffing permit.
<b>HS-A.D</b>			
The County shall continue to conduct programs to inform the general public of emergency preparedness and disaster response procedures. (See Policy HS-A.4)	County Office of Emergency Services	Ongoing	The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) implements this program on an ongoing basis. The County OES maintains contact and emergency information on the County's website. The Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan provides additional details regarding County hazards and responses to mitigate damage or injury. In addition, the Public is also encouraged to obtain family and business preparedness information at websites maintained by The American Red Cross and FEMA.



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HS-B  
Fire Hazards

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
HS-B.A			
The County shall review the design of all buildings and structures to ensure they are designed and constructed to State and local regulations and standards as part of the building permit plan check process. (See Policy HS-B.2)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Department of Public Works and Planning continues to review all proposed development to ensure it is designed and constructed to State and local regulations as part of the building permit and plan check process.

HS-C  
Flood Hazards

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
HS-C.A			
The County shall continue to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. The County shall maintain flood hazard maps and other relevant floodplain data and shall revise or update this information as new information becomes available. In the County's review of applications for building permits and discretionary permits and proposals for capital improvement projects, the County shall determine whether the proposed project is within the 100-year floodplain based on these maps. (See Policy HS-C.7)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Department of Public Works and Planning maintains the most current FEMA flood hazard maps and updates the information as necessary or as new data / maps are released by FEMA. All submitted projects are reviewed to determine proximity to the 100-year floodplain during the grading permit process.
HS-C.B			
The County shall continue to implement and enforce its Floodplain Management Ordinance. (See Policy HS-C.8)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The Department of Public Works and Planning reviews all submitted projects for conformance with floodplain requirements through the grading permit process.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-C.C</b>			
The County shall continue to develop and review relevant dam failure evacuation plans and continue to provide public information on dam failure preparedness. (See Policy HS-C.13)	PW & Planning  County Office of Emergency Services	Ongoing	There are 23 dams within Fresno County that pose a significant risk to people and/or property. The Fresno County Office of Emergency Services has developed dam failure evacuation plans for each of these 23 dams. The Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2009) Section 4.2.9 evaluates dam failure in Fresno County. According to this document, there were 14 dam failures between 1976 and 1983, but all were earthen dams on private property. Although there remains a risk of dam failure in Fresno County, there have not been any failures of major dams.

**HS-D**  
Seismic and Geological Hazards

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-D.A</b>			
The County shall regularly review readily available information published by the California Division of Mines and Geology and other agencies and use the information to update County maps and the General Plan Background Report. (See Policies HS-D.1 and HS-D.2)	PW & Planning	Ongoing	The County reviews material published by the California Division of Mines and Geology and updates the maps and the General Plan Background Report as necessary. Further, County staff actively engages with and discusses proposed mining projects with State Mining and Geology Board staff.
<b>HS-D.B</b>			
The County shall inventory unreinforced masonry structures, including emergency facilities and other critical facilities constructed prior to 1948, used for human occupancy (excluding single-family residential structures), and evaluate the facilities for seismic safety. If found below acceptable standards, the County shall implement a program to mitigate potential hazards.	PW & Planning	FY 02-03; 03-04	A survey was conducted in 1991 to identify all unreinforced masonry buildings in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. The survey did not identify any building to be below acceptable standards. Since unreinforced masonry buildings are not allowed within the unincorporated areas, this program will be deleted as part of the ongoing General Plan Review process.

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PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-D.C</b>			
The County shall develop a public awareness program to aid in the identification and mitigation of unreinforced masonry structures. (See Policy HS-D.6)	PW & Planning	FY 02-03	Because no unreinforced masonry buildings have been located within the unincorporated areas of the County, a public awareness program has not been developed.

**HS-E**  
**Airport Hazards**

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-E.A</b>			
The County shall refer to the Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission for review projects within the Airport Review Area requiring amendments of general, community and specific plans, airport master plans, rezoning applications, zoning ordinance text amendments, and building code amendments for consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan.	PW & Planning, Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission	Ongoing	All applicable land use applications are referred to the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) that is administered by FCOG, for evaluation of consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan. Recommendations of the ALUC are incorporated into staff's evaluation and forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

**APPENDIX A**  
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HS-F  
Hazardous Materials

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-F.A</b>			
The County shall review discretionary uses which involve use of hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes in regulated quantities. (See Policy HS-F.2)	PW & Planning, Dept. of Community Health	Ongoing	The County Health Department continues to review discretionary uses that generate hazardous materials. The Department of Public Works and Planning routes discretionary permit applications to the Health Department for review and comment. Any proposed project that may generate hazardous material will be required to comply with the recommended conditions or mitigation measures.
<b>HS-F.B</b>			
The County shall investigate funding alternatives for site acquisition, development, and operation for a permanent household waste facility.	PW & Planning	FY 01-02	On March 14, 2013 the County received Planning Commission approval to permit the establishment of a 15,000 square-foot household hazardous waste facility at the American Avenue Landfill. This Facility has since been constructed and is operational.
<b>HS-F.C</b>			
The County shall review the plans to mitigate soil or groundwater contamination for redevelopment or infill projects. (See Policy HS-F.4)	PW & Planning, Dept. of Community Health	Ongoing	Development projects are referred to Environmental Health for review and comments. If the subject site is identified as a contaminated site, the Environmental Health recommends mitigation measures to address soil or groundwater contamination. Further, as part of the environmental review process, staff has the ability to access State and Federal databases for contaminated sites and can apply appropriate mitigation to discretionary land use projects via comments from State, Federal or local agencies

**APPENDIX A**  
Review of General Plan Implementation Programs

HS-G  
Noise

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	TIME FRAME	STATUS
<b>HS-G.A</b>			
The County shall amend and enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance as necessary, consistent with the policies and standards within this element. (See Policies HS-G.1 through HS-G.9)	PW & Planning, Dept. of Community Health	FY 01-02	The County Environmental Health Division will continue to enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance and amend its policies as necessary. Discretionary land use permits which may generate excessive noise levels are often required to complete a noise analysis, and proposals within designated noise areas of airports are evaluated or limited to avoid conflicts with General Plan noise standards.
<b>HS-G.B</b>			
The County shall develop an effective noise control program that includes: A) An ordinance (1) defining acceptable noise levels based on land use, (2) setting forth monitoring methodology and determination of violations, (3) defining exemptions and variance procedures, and (4) delineating enforcement and abatement procedures; and B) A public information program to inform county residents of the impact of noise on their lives.	PW & Planning, Dept. of Community Health	FY 01-02	All land use projects are evaluated for potential noise impacts as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated as necessary. As stated in response to HS-G.A above, staff coordinates with the Health Department regarding discretionary land use permits, and additional evaluation may be required for excessive noise-generating uses. However, a noise control program that addresses all components of this Implementation Program has not been developed.

# **APPENDIX B**

## **GENERAL PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE 2016 CALENDAR YEAR**

## **Appendix B**

### **Housing Element Progress Report**

#### Fifth-Cycle Update

In February 2013, Fresno COG assembled a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Technical Committee, consisting of representatives of Fresno County local governments, to discuss the methodology by which the total allocation of housing units for the Fresno County region, determined by HCD, will be distributed among the cities and the County. The development of the methodology was in anticipation of preparation of the Fifth-Cycle Housing Element for the 2015-2023 Planning Period.

The idea for preparation of a Joint Housing Element for Fresno County governments was discussed at the RHNA Technical Committee meetings based on the experience of Kings County in preparing a joint Housing Element for their jurisdictions. The idea was favorably received by all jurisdictions in Fresno County and with the exception of the Cities of Fresno, Orange Cove and Firebaugh, all of the other 12 cities and the County agreed on preparing a Joint Housing Element. A committee consisting of representatives of participating local governments (Committee) was formed to oversee the process of preparation of the Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element (MJHE) for the Fifth-Cycle planning period (2015-2023).

At the January 17, 2014 meeting, the Fresno COG Policy Board authorized Fresno COG staff to administer the contract with the consultant for the project. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the project was prepared and released on March 11, 2014 with a response deadline of April 11, 2014. A consultant selection sub-committee was appointed by the Committee to select a consultant for the project. On May 7, 2014, the sub-committee selected the consulting firms of Mintier-Harnish and Veronica Tam and Associates to prepare the Joint Fifth-Cycle Housing Element for the Fresno County region.

The Committee worked with the consulting team and prepared a draft MJHE that was made available for public review in May of 2015.

The Draft MJHE was presented to the Planning Commission at a study session that was held on June 4, 2015 and to the Board of Supervisors at a study session that was held on July 14, 2015. At the conclusion of the study session, the Board authorized submittal of the document to HCD for a 60-day statutory review.

On October 9, 2015 County staff received comments from HCD on the draft Update. Revisions to the draft document were made to address comments received from HCD and were submitted to HCD for review on December 10, 2015. On January 19, 2016 staff received a letter from HCD indicating that the revised Fifth-Cycle Update will comply with State housing element law when adopted by the Board of Supervisors and

submitted to the Department.

On March 15, 2016 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted the Fifth-Cycle Housing Element and the document was forwarded to HCD for certification on April 29, 2016.

On October 9, 2015 the County received a Letter of Certification from HCD for the Fifth-Cycle Housing Element Update.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Fifth-Cycle Update received the 2016 Outstanding Planning Award in the Planning Best Practices Category from the American Planning Association Central Section of the California Chapter (see attached letter dated May 6, 2016). The Multi-Jurisdictional Fifth-Cycle Housing Element Update also received the American Planning Association California chapter 2016 Award of Merit for Best Practices Award (see attached letter dated July 14, 2016).

The following pages include various forms for reporting housing development activities that occurred in 2016 on forms prescribed by HCD and evaluation of the Fifth-Cycle Program.





July 14, 2016

Mohammad Khorsand  
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning  
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: American Planning Association California Chapter  
2016 Award of Merit

Nomination: Best Practices Award  
*The Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element*

On behalf of APA California and this year's Awards Jury, it gives us great pleasure to inform you that your nomination has been selected as the winner of the 2016 Best Practices Award of Merit for the *The Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element*. After much deliberation and review, the Awards Jury found that your nomination was worthy of a merit acknowledgement in this Award category.

We would like to cordially invite you to attend the 2016 State Conference to be held at the Pasadena Convention Center, October 22-25, 2016. The Awards Ceremony will be held on **Monday, October 24, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.** Due to an abbreviated amount of time available for the awards ceremony this year, Award of Merit winners will not be recognized on the dais but will be acknowledged in the presentation. There will also be an opportunity to have your photograph taken with the APA California President, Hing Wong. We also encourage you to work with your local Section to submit your nomination to National APA for consideration for a 2017 National Planning Award. A nominated plan, project, effort or individual does not have to win a Chapter Award of Excellence to be eligible for a National Planning Award. The nomination period will be open later this summer. You can obtain information from the APA website at [www.planning.org/awards](http://www.planning.org/awards). Please let us know how we can support you with this process.

While the winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at the conference, you are encouraged to share your good news with your friends and colleagues, in your newsletters, and in local newspapers.

If you are interested in having your project featured in a future edition of the CalPlanner newsletter, please contact Marc Yeber, APA California Vice President for Public Information at [myplanning@live.com](mailto:myplanning@live.com).

You will be provided with one complimentary ticket to the Awards Ceremony. Please advise State Awards Co-Coordinator Mary P. Wright at (949) 489-1442, or e-mail her at [wright@civicsolutions.com](mailto:wright@civicsolutions.com) by Friday, September 4, 2016, if you would like the comp ticket. Also, let us know if you will be accepting the Award in person or be represented by someone else at the Awards Ceremony. If you need additional tickets for the Awards Ceremony or to register for the conference, you will find information online at [www.apacalifornia.org](http://www.apacalifornia.org).

Again, congratulations on your Award! We look forward to congratulating you personally at the Awards Ceremony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mary P. Wright'.

Mary P. Wright, AICP/LEED AP ND  
APA California  
Awards Coordinator (South)  
[wright@civicsolutions.com](mailto:wright@civicsolutions.com)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Isle'.

Michael Isle, AICP  
APA California  
Awards Coordinator (North)  
[misle@teichert.com](mailto:misle@teichert.com)



## American Planning Association Central Section - California Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*

May 6, 2016

Mohammad Khorsand  
Senior Planner  
Fresno County  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Khorsand:

Re: 2016 APA CA Central Section Planning Awards

On behalf of the Central Section Board, I'm honored to notify you that the **Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element** has been selected to receive the **2016 Outstanding Planning Award in the Planning Best Practices Category**. The Board applauds your efforts to create and maintain vibrant and healthy communities within the Central Section. Further details regarding formal delivery of your award will be forthcoming.

As a section award recipient, you are now eligible to submit your project for APA California State Chapter Award consideration. If you choose to do so, please note that these applications are due by June 1, 2016. Details regarding the awards may be located on the Chapter website at <https://www.apacalifornia.org/events/awards-program/>. If/when needed, I am happy to provide the Section award confirmation signature on your State application.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Terry'.

Rob Terry, AICP MP  
Section Director Elect  
Central Section CA APA

CC: Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element Team – c/o Fresno COG

**ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**  
***Housing Element Implementation***  
(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

**Jurisdiction** Fresno County

**Reporting Period** 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

**Table A**

**Annual Building Activity Report Summary - New Construction**  
**Very Low-, Low-, and Mixed-Income Multifamily Projects**

Housing Development Information								Housing with Financial Assistance and/or Deed Restrictions		Housing without Financial Assistance or Deed Restrictions	
1	2	3	4				5	5a	6	7	8
Project Identifier (may be APN No., project name or address)	Unit Category	Tenure  R=Renter O=Owner	Affordability by Household Incomes				Total Units per Project	Est. # Infill Units*	Assistance Programs for Each Development	Deed Restricted Units	Note below the number of units determined to be affordable without financial or deed restrictions and attach an explanation how the jurisdiction determined the units were affordable. Refer to instructions.
			Very Low - Income	Low - Income	Moderate- Income	Above Moderate- Income			See Instructions	See Instructions	
(9) Total of <b>Moderate and Above Moderate</b> from Table A3 ▶					63	38	101				
(10) Total by income Table A/A3 ▶ ▶					63	38	101				
(11) Total <b>Extremely Low-Income</b> Units*											

\* Note: These fields are voluntary

# ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

## *Housing Element Implementation*

(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

**Jurisdiction** Fresno County  
**Reporting Period** 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

**Table A2**

**Annual Building Activity Report Summary - Units Rehabilitated, Preserved and Acquired pursuant to GC Section 65583.1(c)(1)**

Please note: Units may only be credited to the table below when a jurisdiction has included a program in its housing element to rehabilitate, preserve or acquire units to accommodate a portion of its RHNA which meet the specific criteria as outlined in GC Section 65583.1(c)(1)

Activity Type	Affordability by Household Incomes				(4) The Description should adequately document how each unit complies with subsection (c)(7) of Government Code Section 65583.1
	Extremely Low - Income*	Very Low - Income	Low - Income	TOTAL UNITS	
(1) Rehabilitation Activity	1	3	1	5	Owner-Occupied units receiving a Housing Assistance Rehabilitation Program (HARP) loan from the County of Fresno for housing rehabilitation
(2) Preservation of Units At-Risk	0	0	0	0	
(3) Acquisition of Units	0	0	0	0	
(5) Total Units by Income	1	3	1	5	

\* Note: This field is voluntary

**ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**  
***Housing Element Implementation***  
 (CCR Title 25 §6202 )

**Jurisdiction**                      Fresno County  
**Reporting Period**                      1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

**Table A3**  
**Annual building Activity Report Summary for Above Moderate-Income Units**  
**(not including those units reported on Table A)**

	1. Single Family	2. 2 - 4 Units	3. 5+ Units	4. Second Unit	5. Mobile Homes	6. Total	7. Number of infill units*
No. of Units Permitted for <b>Moderate</b>	49	0	0	4	10	63	NA
No. of Units Permitted for <b>Above Moderate</b>	38	0	0	0	0	38	NA

\* Note: This field is voluntary

# ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

## *Housing Element Implementation*

(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

**Jurisdiction** Fresno County

**Reporting Period** 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

**Table B**

**Regional Housing Needs Allocation Progress**

**Permitted Units Issued by Affordability**

Enter Calendar Year starting w/with the first year of the RHNA allocation period. See Example.												Total Units to Date (all years)	Total Remaining RHNA by Income Level
Income Level		RHNA Allocation by Income Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9		
Very Low	Deed	943											921
	Restricted Non-deed restricted		22									22	
Low	Deed	518											319
	Restricted Non-deed restricted		199									199	
Moderate	Deed	518											-175
	Restricted Non-deed restricted		693									693	
Above Moderate		808	1,418									1,418	-610
Total RHNA by COG. Enter allocation number:		2,787	2,332									2,332	455
Total Units ▶▶▶													
Remaining Need for RHNA Period ▶▶▶▶▶													

Note: units serving extremely low-income households are included in the very low-income permitted units totals.

**ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**  
***Housing Element Implementation***  
 (CCR Title 25 §6202 )

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Fresno County	
<b>Reporting Period</b>	1/1/2016 -	12/31/2016

### Table C

## Program Implementation Status

[illegible]

**ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**  
***Housing Element Implementation***  
(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

**Jurisdiction**                      Fresno County  
**Reporting Period**                      1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

**General Comments:**



	Program	Time Frame	Status
1	<p><b>Regional Collaboration on Housing Opportunities</b></p> <p>The Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element provides an opportunity for countywide housing issues and needs to be more effectively addressed at the regional level rather than just at the local level. The 13 participating jurisdictions are committed to continue the regional collaboration in the implementation of the Housing Element. By working together, the jurisdictions can share best practices, explore opportunities for further collaboration, and make the best use of limited resources.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The County of Fresno Public Works and Planning Department, with assistance of the Fresno COG, will take the lead in coordinating the Countywide Fifth Cycle Housing Element Committee meetings.</li> <li>2. Continue to participate in the Countywide Housing Element Technical Committee to collaborate on housing program implementation and regional issues including, disadvantaged unincorporated communities (SB 244), infrastructure challenges, farmworker housing, homelessness, and fair housing.</li> <li>3. The Committee will meet at least biannually to evaluate successes in implementation of programs and to identify gaps and additional needs.</li> <li>4. The Committee will meet annually with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to discuss funding opportunities and challenges in implementation of programs, and seek technical assistance from HCD and other State agencies in the implementation of housing programs and the pursuit of grant funding.</li> <li>5. The Committee will meet periodically with Fair Housing of Central California to discuss fair housing issues and opportunities for education.</li> <li>6. The Committee will advocate on behalf of the Fresno County region for more grant funding for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements.</li> <li>7. Continue to seek partnerships with other jurisdictions in</li> </ol>	Ongoing	<p>The Committee that was made up of the participating local governments to oversee the fifth-cycle housing element update (Committee) met quarterly in 2016 to discuss implementation of the housing element as well as implementation of SB244. The Committee will meet with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in the near future.</p> <p>The Committee periodically meets with Fair Housing of Central California to discuss fair housing issues and opportunities for education.</p> <p>The Committee will seek opportunity to partner with other jurisdictions in the region and other agencies to explore viable options for increasing the availability of farmworker housing in suitable locations in the region.</p>

Program		Time Frame	Status
	the region and other agencies (such as the Housing Authority), housing developers, community stakeholders, and agricultural employers/employees to explore viable options for increasing the availability of farmworker housing in suitable locations in the region.		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.3, Policy 1.4, Policy 1.7, Policy 4.2, Policy 4.3, Policy 4.6			
2	<p><b>Review Annexation Standards in Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> <p>All jurisdictions in Fresno County are subject to the City-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which establishes procedures for annexation of land to cities. The City/County MOU encourages urban development to take place within cities and unincorporated communities in an effort to preserve agricultural land. The MOU standards for annexation require that development be imminent and that a minimum of 50 percent of annexation areas have an approved tentative subdivision map or site plan. While cities can take certain steps to “prezone” land in advance of annexation, the annexation of the land into the city limits is dependent upon private developers to request an annexation.</p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>During the Housing Element planning period, the County of Fresno and the cities within the County will work together to review and revise, as deemed appropriate by all parties, the standards for annexation contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the cities.</p>	Ongoing	The County continues to work with the cities within the County for any proposed revision to the Standards for Annexation contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) either at the time of renewal of MOUs or upon a request by a city.
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.1, Policy 1.3, Policy 1.4			
3	<p><b>Adequate Sites Program</b></p> <p>The County will ensure that there are adequate sites available to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 2,722 units. In support of this Housing Element, the County has developed a parcel-specific inventory of sites suitable for future residential development</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <p>1. Complete General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update in</p>	Ongoing	<p>The County has developed a system to maintain residential land inventory of lands identified to accommodate county’s RHNA allocation. Data are stored electronically, and can be reviewed on a semi-annual basis to assure that any changes to land use designation , annexations, and other removal or additions to the inventory is current.</p> <p>The County will continue to direct residential developments to existing communities.</p>

Program	Time Frame	Status
<p>2016 to achieve internal consistency.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Maintain and annually update the inventory of residential land resources.</li> <li>3. Monitor development and other changes in the inventory to ensure the County has remaining capacity consistent with its share of the regional housing need.</li> <li>4. Continue to designate and zone adequate sites to meet special housing needs as required.</li> <li>5. Continue to encourage a variety of housing types for all income levels such as mixed use and higher density housing through implementation of the General Plan and community plans, through incentives or other mechanisms encouraging affordability, maintaining existing zoning and upzoning where appropriate. These efforts will also consider promoting development within existing communities, active transportation and access to services and amenities.</li> <li>6. Direct interested residential developers, especially affordable housing developers throughout the County, to Community Plan and Specific Plan areas where amenities are or can be located and where water and sewer service providers have or can provide capacity and potential for the expansion of infrastructure (see Program 12), such as the Shaver Lake Forest Specific Plan, Millerton Specific Plan, Sierra North Regional Plan, Laton, and Tranquility areas.</li> <li>7. Meet with developers to discuss constraints and opportunities on TP zoned sites and address constraints and establish incentives, procedures or other mechanism by 2017 to promote development</li> <li>8. Actively participate in the development of the next RHNA Plan to better ensure that the allocations are reflective of the County's General Plan policies and are realistic based on land use patterns in the unincorporated areas of the County.</li> </ol>		

Program		Time Frame	Status
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.1, Policy 1.2, Policy 1.3, Policy 1.4, Policy 1.5, Policy 1.6, Policy 1.7, Policy 1.8, Policy 1.9			
4	<p><b>Monitoring of Residential Capacity (No Net Loss)</b></p> <p>The County has identified residential capacity within its nonresidential zones to accommodate 744 units for lower-income households. To ensure sufficient residential capacity is maintained within the nonresidential zones to accommodate the identified need, the County will develop and implement a formal ongoing (project-by-project) evaluation procedure pursuant to Government Code Section 65863. Should an approval of commercial development result in a reduction of capacity within the nonresidential zones below the residential capacity needed to accommodate the remaining need for lower income households, the County will identify and zone sufficient sites to accommodate the shortfall.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and implement a formal evaluation procedure pursuant to Government Code Section 65863 by 2016.</li> <li>2. Annually monitor the effectiveness of non-residential zones to facilitate residential development.</li> <li>3. If rezoning/upzoning is required to replenish the sites inventory for meeting the RHNA shortfall, the sites shall be adequate in size to accommodate at least 16 units per site at a minimum density of 20 units per acre, and shall be rezoned within two years.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	The County continues to monitor its inventory of vacant sites available for residential developments to ensure sufficient lands are available to accommodate the county's share of the fifth-cycle RHNA allocation.
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.1, Policy 1.2, Policy 1.3, Policy 1.4, Policy 1.5, Policy 1.6			
5	<p><b>Lot Consolidation and Lot Splits</b></p> <p>The County's vacant sites inventory is comprised of parcels of varying sizes, from small lots of less than half acre to large lots of over 20 acres; either case presents unique challenges to residential development, especially to multi-family housing development. The County will facilitate lot consolidation or lot splitting to promote the efficient use of land for residential development in compliance with the Subdivision Map Act, when an applicant submits an application. Currently, the County utilizes tools such as ministerial processing and other</p>	Ongoing	The County continues to facilitate lot consolidation and lot splits to promote the efficient use of land for residential development. There were no residential development project requiring lot consolidation or lot split process.

Program		Time Frame	Status
	<p>streamlining tools, as appropriate, to facilitate lot merging and parcelization.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist interested developers/property owners in identifying opportunities for lot consolidation or lot splitting.</li> <li>2. Continue to streamline the processing of requests for lot consolidation and lot splitting concurrent with other development reviews.</li> <li>3. Annually monitor lot consolidation activities as part of the County's annual report to HCD on Housing Element progress and evaluate if County efforts are effective in facilitating lot consolidation of small sites for residential development. If appropriate, make necessary changes to facilitate lot consolidation.</li> <li>4. Encourage the use of master plans/specific plans to provide a cohesive development strategy for large lots.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.1, Policy 1.2, Policy 1.3, Policy 1.4, Policy 1.5, Policy 1.6</p>			
6	<p><b>Coordination of Infrastructure and Services</b></p> <p>Fresno County does not provide the infrastructure that cities typically provide. The County manages a number of County Service Areas (CSAs) and Water Works Districts (WWDs) that were created to provide water and /or sewer services to specific small or large developments in the County. It is the policy of Fresno County to discourage urban-type development in areas designated for agriculture. The water and sewer services in certain unincorporated communities are provided by service providers which are independent with their own Board of Directors. When a development is proposed in an unincorporated community, County staff works closely with the developer and the service provider to facilitate adequate infrastructure to support the development. The County will continue to coordinate with various service providers to ensure adequate infrastructure and services are available to serve proposed development.</p> <p>Actions to be taken:</p>	Ongoing	The County continues to coordinate with water and sewer service providers to assess development trends, needs for infrastructure and services, and plans for expansion of services to meet the county's RHNA allocations. No major development project was proposed during the calendar year 2016.

Program	Time Frame	Status
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to coordinate with independent service providers to assess development trends, needs for infrastructure and services, and plans for expansion. Communicate with the service providers at least semi-annually or as major development applications are received to discuss and pursue plans for future expansion to ensure adequate infrastructure and services are available to meet the County's RHNA, consistent with housing development trends.</li> <li>2. As part of coordination and communication with CSDs, provide assistance as appropriate to encourage infrastructure improvements in communities with infrastructure and service deficiencies (see Table 2A-6 in the Appendix).</li> <li>3. Seek (at least annually and on-going) and support funding applications by CSDs for infrastructure and service expansions that are consistent with the County's General Plan and Community Plan policies.</li> <li>4. As funding permits, CDBG and/or HOME funds provide gap financing to affordable projects as a means to reducing the costs of development, including infrastructure improvements. At least annually meet with developers and community stakeholders to discuss and pursue or support additional funding resources.</li> <li>5. Annually explore and pursue funding opportunities for community plan updates as necessary to promote development within existing communities with active transportation and access to services and amenities.</li> <li>6. Provide a copy of the adopted Housing Element to the various service providers serving the unincorporated communities.</li> </ol>		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.7		

	Program	Time Frame	Status
7	<p><b>Affordable Housing Incentives</b></p> <p>The County will provide loan funds as gap financing to eligible affordable housing developers to expand the supply of units affordable to lower-income households, including extremely low-income households and households with special needs, such as seniors, disabled (including persons with developmental disabilities), the farmworkers, the homeless, and those at risk of homelessness. The County will offer assistance to other agencies in accessing local, state, and federal funding for affordable housing by adopting and sending resolutions and letters of support for these agencies' efforts.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to offer incentives such as gap financing, density bonus, streamlined processing (such as pre-application consultation to identify potential issues early on and concurrent processing of required permits to the extent feasible) to facilitate the development of affordable housing, with an emphasis on housing opportunities for very low and extremely low income households, as well as special needs populations, such as the elderly, disabled (including developmentally disabled), farmworkers, the homeless, and those at risk of becoming homeless.</li> <li>2. Continue to seek partnerships and regularly meet, at least annually, with other agencies (such as the Housing Authority), housing developers, community stakeholders and employers to discuss and pursue viable opportunities for providing affordable housing</li> <li>3. Monitor the State Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD's) and HUD's websites at least semi-annually for Notices of Funding Ability (NOFA) and, where appropriate, prepare or support applications for funding for affordable housing for lower-income households (including extremely low-income households), such as seniors, disabled (including persons with developmental disabilities), the homeless, and those at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>4. Continue to support and encourage other agencies and housing developers, such as the Fresno Housing Authority and Self-Help Enterprises, in the application of funds, including State HCD and USDA Rural Development loans</li> </ol>	Ongoing	<p>In 2016, Fresno County did not utilize any HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds as gap financing loans for the development of affordable housing in the unincorporated area. The County had two HOME-funded affordable housing projects under construction during 2016 (not yet completed), but both were in partnership with cities (Reedley and Selma).</p> <p>The County had planned to provide a HOME loan in 2016 to assist one Self-Help affordable housing single family development (11 units) in the unincorporated community of Riverdale. However, this project was cancelled by the developer due the lack of eligible applicants.</p> <p>The County continues its efforts to provide HOME funds as gap financing to develop new affordable housing projects in the unincorporated area and its partner cities, as its Federal HOME funding permits.</p>

Program		Time Frame	Status
	<p>and grants and other funding sources that may become available.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue current efforts to streamline and improve efficiencies in planning and permit approval and building inspection service.</li> <li>Establish to the extent feasible, a program that accommodates submittal and issuance of certain permits via the Internet by 2020.</li> </ol>		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.2, Policy 2.1, Policy 2.2, Policy 2.3, Policy 2.4, Policy 2.5, Policy 2.6, Policy 2.7			
8	<p><b>Farmworker Housing</b></p> <p>The farming industry is the foundation of the County's economy base. According to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2012, about 58,600 workers were employed in farm labor throughout the County, indicating a significant need to provide housing for farmworkers and their families, particularly during peak harvest seasons.</p> <p>Actions to be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to seek partnerships and regularly meet, at least annually, with other agencies (such as the Housing Authority), housing developers, community stakeholders, and agricultural employers/employees to discuss opportunities for farmworker housing. Contact agricultural stakeholders and the nonprofit developers annually to discuss viable options for locating suitable farmworker housing starting at the end of 2016.</li> <li>Continue to support and encourage other agencies and housing developers, such as the Fresno Housing Authority and Self-Help Enterprises, in the application of funds for farmworker housing, including State HCD and USDA Rural Development loans and grants and other funding sources that may become available.</li> <li>Annually monitor the status of farmworker housing as part of the County's annual report to HCD on Housing Element progress and evaluate if County efforts are effective in facilitating the provision of farmworker housing. If appropriate, make necessary changes to enhance opportunities and incentives for farmworker housing</li> </ol>	Ongoing	The County continues to seek partnerships with other agencies to discuss opportunities for farmworker housing.



Program		Time Frame	Status
	development.		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.2, Policy 2.1, Policy 2.3, Policy 2.4, Policy 2.5			
9	<p><b>Preserving Assisted Housing</b>  The County has few affordable rental housing projects in the unincorporated areas, and none are considered at risk of converting to market-rate housing. Nevertheless, the County will continue to monitor status of affordable housing projects and other affordable housing agreements (such as density bonus agreements).</p> <p>Actions to be taken:  Continue to monitor status of affordable housing projects. If projects become at risk of converting to market-rate housing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitor the status of any Notice of Intent and Plan of Action filed by property owners to convert to market-rate units.</li> <li>2. Identify nonprofit organizations as potential purchasers/managers of at-risk housing units.</li> <li>3. Explore funding sources available to purchase affordability covenants on at-risk projects, transfer ownership of at-risk projects to public or nonprofit agencies, purchase existing buildings to replace at-risk units, or construct replacement units.</li> <li>4. Ensure the tenants are properly noticed and informed of their rights and eligibility to obtain special Section 8 vouchers reserved for tenants of converted HUD properties.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	The Housing Authority of Fresno County (HAFC) manages, monitors, improves, and creates assisted housing in the unincorporated area. No affordable housing rental projects in the unincorporated area are considered at risk of converting to market rate housing.
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 3.6			

	Program	Time Frame	Status
10	<p><b>Zoning Ordinance Amendments</b></p> <p>The County is in the process of amending its Zoning Ordinance. The amendment is expected to be completed in 2016. As part of the update, the County will address the following:</p> <p>Density Bonus: Consistent with Government Code, a density bonus up to 35 percent over the otherwise maximum allowable residential density under the applicable zoning district will be available to developers who provide affordable housing as part of their projects.</p> <p>Conditional Use Permit: The County, as part of the Zoning Ordinance update, will examine alternatives to requiring discretionary approval for development of multi-family housing in the C- 4 Zone District by amending the Zoning Ordinance and/or permit procedures as appropriate by 2016 to promote certainty and streamlining in the approval process. Options may include director or other staff-level review and approval of multi-family housing applications.</p> <p>Allowable Density for R2, R2-A, R3, R3-A, R-4, C4, and RP: Increase the allowable density at these zones to 20 units per acre.</p> <p>Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing: Address the provision of SRO housing as a conditionally permitted use.</p> <p>Agricultural Uses and Farm Labor Housing in Residential Zones: The County of Fresno, as part of its Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update, will review and may consider possible revisions to the Ordinance which may include requiring new agricultural operations in residential zones that are limited types of agriculture to be subject to a discretionary permit or restrictions to address issues of land use compatibility.</p> <p>In addition, the County approved zoning amendments to the Zoning Ordinance on December 8, 2015 to address emergency shelters, reasonable accommodation, and farmworker housing. Within one year of the Housing Element adoption and as part of the comprehensive Zoning Ordinance update, the County will review these recent amendments, and revise as</p>	Ongoing	<p>The County amended the Zoning Ordinance on December 8, 2015 to included provisions for emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, reasonable accommodation, and farmworker housing consistent with State law. As part of the comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update that is underway, the County will include provisions for density bonus, discretionary approval requirement for multi-family housing in C-4 zone , SRO housing, and increasing density for R2, R2A, R3, R3A, R4, C4 and RP zones.</p>

Program		Time Frame	Status
	<p>appropriate, to ensure compliance with state laws and the County will continue to monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Zoning Ordinance in facilitating housing for the homeless and other persons with special needs and make amendments as necessary.</p> <p>Actions to be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete comprehensive Zoning Ordinance update in 2017 to address the density bonus provisions, increase the allowable density at R2, R2-A, R3, R3-A, R4, C4 and RP to 20 units per acre.</li> <li>2. Address the provision of Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) housing as part of the comprehensive Zoning Ordinance update in 2016.</li> <li>3. Examine, in 2016, alternatives to requiring discretionary approval for the development of multi-family housing in the C-4 Zone District and adopt appropriate actions to expedite the review and processing of multi-family housing development applications.</li> <li>4. Consider establishing a discretionary permit requirement for new agricultural operations in residential zones and addressing farm labor housing in those zones in a similar manner.</li> <li>5. Annually review the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Zoning Ordinance and process any necessary amendments to remove or mitigate potential constraints to the development of housing.</li> </ol>		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 4.1, Policy 4.2, Policy 4.3, Policy 4.4, Policy 4.5, Policy 4.6			
11	<p><b>Monitoring of Planning and Development Fees</b></p> <p>The County charges various fees to review and process development applications and impact fees when developments are to occur. On September 15, 2015, the Board of Supervisors gave staff direction to return with amendments to eliminate the capital facilities fee imposed by the County.</p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p>	Ongoing	<p>On May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees to November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board with a workshop on the County's Facility Impact Fees and provide options for the Board to consider.</p>

Program		Time Frame	Status
	Should the Board decide to reinstate impact fees, monitor the fees annually to ensure they do not unduly constrain housing development.		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 4.1, Policy 4.2, Policy 4.3, Policy 4.4, Policy 4.5, Policy 4.6			
12	<p><b>Housing Assistance Rehabilitation Program (HARP)</b></p> <p>This program provides loans to qualifying homeowners in the unincorporated County and participating cities for the rehabilitation of their homes. Eligible improvements include energy efficiency upgrades and installations, health and safety and hazard corrections, and accessibility modifications. Loan terms under this program vary according to household income and the improvements and repairs that are needed.</p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>Provide rehabilitation assistance to eight households in the unincorporated areas during the planning period (eight low-income households).</p>	Ongoing	<p>Fresno County provided HARP loans to 5 low income households in the unincorporated area during 2016. These loans are no-interest affordable payment loans for eligible housing rehabilitation.</p> <p>The County continues to market HARP to all unincorporated area homeowners, and continues to meet with community groups to provide information on the program.</p>
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 3.2, Policy 4.1			
13	<p><b>Rental Rehabilitation Program (RRP)</b></p> <p>This program provides no interest loans to qualifying property owners for making improvements to their rental properties occupied by eligible tenants. Eligible improvements include repairing code deficiencies, completing deferred maintenance, lead-based paint and asbestos abatement, HVAC repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, accessibility modifications, and kitchen and bathroom upgrades.</p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>Provide assistance for the rehabilitation of four rental housing unit during the planning period.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Fresno County did not provide any Rental Rehabilitation Program loans for housing rehabilitation projects in the unincorporated area during 2016.</p> <p>One single family rehabilitation project was completed initially as a rental; however the low income owner decided to move into it as an owner occupant rather than rent it to a low income tenant, so it resulted in a HARP loan project instead.</p> <p>The County continues to market the Rental Rehabilitation Program to eligible rental property owners.</p>
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 3.2, Policy 4.1			

Program		Time Frame	Status
14	<p><b>Code Enforcement</b></p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Planning is responsible for the enforcement of County Zoning Ordinance and Building Code violations and applicable State codes. One of the main goals of the Code Enforcement program is to bring to the attention of residential owners any existing ordinance or code violation which could have a negative impact on their neighborhood. County staff investigates violations of property maintenance standards and encourages property owners to seek assistance through available housing rehabilitation programs.</p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b> Continue to enforce property maintenance standards and abate substandard structures through Code Enforcement and various housing rehabilitation programs.</p>	Ongoing	The County continues to enforce zoning and building codes to ensure compliance with land use regulations and safety codes. Code enforcement staff will respond to complaints and pursues each case to abate the violation. The County Zoning Ordinance includes fines and other punitive measures for those who do not abate the violations.
<p><b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 1.8, Policy 2.5, Policy 3.1, Policy 3.2, Policy 3.3, Policy 3.4, Policy 3.5, Policy 4.1</p>			
15	<p><b>Homebuyer Assistance Program (HAP)</b></p> <p>This program assists lower-income families with purchasing their first home by providing a zero interest, deferred payment loan that does not exceed 20 percent of the purchase price of the single family residence (plus loan closing costs). Households earning up to 80 percent Area Median Income (AMI) in unincorporated Fresno County and participating cities are eligible for this program.</p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b> Provide assistance to 11 households in the unincorporated areas during the planning period (including 11 low-income households) as part of the 11-unit affordable housing project in Riverdale.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Fresno County did not provide any HAP loans to eligible homebuyers to purchase a home in the unincorporated area during 2016. HAPs were only made for purchases in participating cities during this period.</p> <p>HAP loans previously envisioned to be provided to 11 new homebuyers in a new Self-Help affordable housing project in the unincorporated community of Riverdale were ultimately not provided, as the development project was cancelled by the developer due to lack of eligible applicants.</p> <p>The County continues to market HAP to eligible first time homebuyers, and works closely with lenders and the real estate community to ensure the program is made available whenever possible to qualified applicants.</p>
<p><b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 2.8</p>			
16	<p><b>First-Time Homebuyer Resources</b></p> <p>Fresno County residents have access to a number of homebuyer assistance programs offered by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA):</p>	Ongoing	The County continues to provide information on its Homebuyer Assistance Program to first time homebuyers via flyers and its website, as well as through meetings with lenders, realtors, and community groups, to ensure the program is made available whenever possible to qualified applicants. During meetings with lenders and community groups, other non-County sources of available financing are also discussed.

	Program	Time Frame	Status
	<p><b>Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC):</b> The MCC Tax Credit is a federal credit which can reduce potential federal income tax liability, creating additional net spendable income which borrowers may use toward their monthly mortgage payment. This MCC Tax Credit program may enable first- time homebuyers to convert a portion of their annual mortgage interest into a direct dollar for dollar tax credit on their U.S. individual income tax returns.</p> <p><b>CalPLUS Conventional Program:</b> This is a first mortgage loan insured through private mortgage insurance on the conventional market. The interest rate on the CalPLUS Conventional is fixed throughout the 30-year term. The CalPLUS Conventional is combined with a CalHFA Zero Interest Program (ZIP), which is a deferred-payment junior loan of three percent of the first mortgage loan amount, for down payment assistance.</p> <p><b>CalHFA Conventional Program:</b> This is a first mortgage loan insured through private mortgage insurance on the conventional market. The interest rate on the CalHFA Conventional is fixed throughout the 30-year term.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote available homebuyer resources on County website and public counters by 2016.</li> <li>2. Annually review funding resources available at the state and federal levels and pursue as appropriate to provide homebuyer assistance.</li> </ol>		<p>The State of California’s federally funded “Keep Your Home California” program has to date helped 2,930 Fresno County households (countywide) struggling with mortgage payments to keep their home.</p> <p>The County continues to review funding resources available from the State and Federal government to pursue as appropriate to provide homebuyer assistance. There were no new funding sources available to the County from these or other sources during 2016.</p>
	<p><b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 2.8</p>		
17	<p><b>Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance</b></p> <p>The Housing Choice Voucher Program extends rental subsidies to extremely low- and very low-income households, including families, seniors, and the disabled. The program offers a voucher that pays the difference between the current fair</p>	Ongoing	<p>The County supports the efforts of the Housing Authority of Fresno County (HAFC) in offering Section 8 and other rental assistance programs in the unincorporated area. The County reviews and certifies the HAFC’s five-year and annual plans for consistency with the County’s Consolidated Plan. The County does not provide rental assistance directly.</p>

Program		Time Frame	Status
	<p>market rent (FMR) as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and what a tenant can afford to pay (i.e. 30 percent of household income). The Fresno Housing Authority administers the housing choice voucher program in Fresno County. Given the continued need for rental assistance, the County supports and encourages the provision of additional subsidies through the Housing Choice Voucher Program.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to support and encourage the provision of vouchers to qualifying Fresno County households.</li> <li>2. Continue to refer interested households and homeowners to the Fresno Housing Authority and encourage landlords to register their properties with the Housing Authority for accepting HCVs.</li> <li>3. Work with the Housing Authority to disseminate information on incentives for participating in the HCV program throughout the county areas with varying income levels to promote housing opportunities for all unincorporated community residents.</li> </ol>		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 2.2			
18	<p><b>Energy Conservation</b></p> <p>Go Green Fresno County is a comprehensive package of environmental practices that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted as county policy on July 8, 2008. The 'Go Green' policy includes seven components:</p> <p>Power Green: Promote energy efficiency by encouraging the use of compact fluorescent lights (CFL's); by attaining leadership in energy and environmental design certification for all new county facilities, and; by requiring the use of energy-conserving landscaping on County-owned properties. The County will also consider PG&amp;E's climate smart program to make Fresno County a "climate neutral" operation.</p> <p>Build Green: Foster a unified, regional approach to green design and construction and will instill consumer awareness. County staff will work with the building industry to develop standards that will promote sustainable building. Tree</p>	Ongoing	<p>The County makes every effort to incorporate "green building" and energy efficient components in housing being rehabilitated when practical and acceptable to the client. The County continues to promote and implement the County's Go Green initiatives and is considering inclusion of design standards for new development that encourage alternative transportation (for example, bicycle lanes, bus turnouts, and direct pedestrian connections to transit lines) as a part of the update of the County Zoning Ordinance to conserve energy and improve air quality.</p>

Program	Time Frame	Status
<p>preservation and tree planting efforts will also be required during the entitlement process and site plan review.</p> <p>Commute Green: A comprehensive employee commute program intended to mitigate congestion on Fresno County's roads and help employees rethink the way driving impacts air quality. The program also aims to make Fresno County the first Central California County to have commuter programs and/or policies that allow telecommuting and alternative-work schedules.</p> <p>Purchase Green: Establishes environmentally-friendly purchasing practices. Fresno County is a very large consumer of goods and services whose employees' and contractors' purchasing decisions impact the environment. The goal is to minimize environmental impacts by considering product standards including; biodegradable, carcinogen free, reusable, low toxicity and more.</p> <p>Operate Green: Procure fuel-efficient and low emission vehicles, including community service officer vehicles.</p> <p>Work Green: Establish the expectation that employees will participate in waste reduction and recycling programs as part of their regular work procedures.</p> <p>Share Green: Engage local media participation in Go Green Fresno County through a public service announcement campaign to educate residents and business about County efforts. Pursue environmental outreach grants to further outreach efforts to schools, businesses and the community as a whole. Conduct a yearly Go Green Fresno County art contest for all Fresno County schools with scholarships to be provided by community businesses and organizations.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to promote and implement the County's Go Green initiatives.</li> <li>2. Consider inclusion of design standards for new development that encourage alternative transportation (for example, bicycle lanes, bus turnouts, and direct pedestrian connections to transit lines) as a part of the update of the County Zoning Ordinance to conserve energy and improve</li> </ol>		



Program		Time Frame	Status
	<p>air quality.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote and support Pacific Gas and Electric Company programs that provide energy efficiency rebates for qualifying energy-efficient upgrades.</li> <li>Continue to incorporate conservation measures in housing rehabilitation programs.</li> <li>Expedite review and approval of residential alternative energy devices.</li> </ol>		
<b>Relevant Policies:</b> Policy 6.1, Policy 6.2, Policy 6.3			
19	<p><b>Fair Housing</b></p> <p>Impediments to fair housing in Fresno County are identified in the County's Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing, which was most recently submitted and accepted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in May 2010. It was most recently reviewed in May 2015, and was found to continue to reflect accurate fair housing conditions in the County. The geographic area covered by this document includes the unincorporated areas and partner cities participating with the County in its HUD grant programs.</p> <p>Impediments to fair housing choice in Fresno County's Urban County HUD program area included in the AI are: Affordability, Accessibility, Education, Public Policies, and Language Barriers. The County focuses available federal HUD grant resources toward mitigating these impediments through its housing programs and services. For Accessibility and Affordability, the County continues to provide its federal housing funding toward the construction of new affordable housing, toward the rehabilitation of existing affordable housing, and toward direct assistance to low and moderate income first-time homebuyers to purchase an affordable home.</p> <p>For Education, the County supports and provides its housing program participants with homeownership education training, including information regarding credit, budgeting, realtors, appraisal, home inspection, and a hands-on session on basic home repairs. The County also undertakes efforts to affirmatively further fair housing, which include conducting</p>	Ongoing	Fresno County focuses available resources toward mitigating obstacles through its affordable housing programs and services. Information on fair housing rights and responsibilities is available at public counters, and is provided during outreach efforts around the County. During 2016, five outreach and education workshops were conducted on fair housing for lenders, real estate professionals, housing providers, community stakeholders and the community at large. No complaints were received regarding fair housing during 2016.

Program	Time Frame	Status
<p>workshops with area lenders, realtors and property owners to discuss fair housing laws and policies along with information on the County's housing programs.</p> <p>For Language/Public Policies, the County makes every effort to provide material regarding its housing programs in the language of the intended population (English/Spanish), including marketing materials, educational materials and public hearing notifications and publishing. Staff of the County's Affordable Housing Programs, are bilingual in English/Spanish and public meetings on housing issues are frequently conducted in both languages.</p> <p>These programs and services provide opportunities for County residents to have affordable housing choices, provide residents with information and skills to maintain their affordable home, and enable residents to be aware of housing discrimination laws and understand where to report such issues. Materials presented at workshops include publications of the Fair Housing Council of Central California (FHCCC). These programs and services are all intended to help mitigate impediments to fair housing as directed by HUD.</p> <p>The County refers complaints on fair housing to the FHCCC which is the local regional agency which investigates and litigates fair housing issues. As appropriate, FHCCC may further refer complaints to HUD or to the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct outreach and education workshops at least annually and on an on-going basis for lenders, real estate professionals, housing providers, community stakeholders, and the community at large.</li> <li>2. Provide information and written materials on fair housing rights, available services, and responsible agencies in English and Spanish. Place materials at County libraries, Community Services Districts offices, and public counters, and on the County's website by 2016.</li> <li>3. Refer fair housing complaints to HUD, State</li> </ol>		

Program		Time Frame	Status
	<p>Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DEFH), Fair Housing Council of Central California (FHCCC), and other housing agencies.</p> <p>4. Conduct Fair Housing Assessment as required by HUD on a regular basis (every five years).</p>		
Relevant Policies: Policy 5.1, Policy 5.2			

## EXHIBIT E

March 29, 2017

Fresno County Planning Commission  
2220 Tulare Street, 6th floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

RECEIVED  
COUNTY OF FRESNO

MAR 29 2017

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
AND PLANNING  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Attached please find the League Women Voters of Fresno comments on the 2016 General Plan Progress Report.

Of the County's many planning documents, the General Plan is the most important. It addresses everything from job creation to public services to conservation of the county's natural resources. It is not surprising, therefore, that it is often referred to as a "constitution" for future development. Accordingly, all regulatory land use controls exercised by the County should be in accordance with its adopted General Plan.

The annual progress report (APR) to the Board of Supervisors is the one time each year that the County can comprehensively evaluate the implementation of its General Plan.

The Board of Supervisors has decided that the annual report should contain these five components.

- An analysis of the actions taken to implement General Plan programs
- The monitoring of General Plan mitigation measures
- The inclusion of an inventory of lot-size exceptions
- The inclusion of the County's Road Improvement Program
- The inclusion of data from the County's groundwater monitoring program

After carefully study of the 2016 APR, the League has the following comments as examples of our concern:

1. While the APR provides information about each of the General Plan programs, it does not state whether the programs are working as planned, which is precisely the information that the Board needs to have.
2. In addition, the Draft 2016 APR lacks information from the County's groundwater monitoring program, (a required component of the APR,) as well as information about the County's struggle to implement programs designed to mitigate adverse environmental effects.

The League hopes that Commissioners understand they should not forward to the Supervisors an APR that does not provide the Supervisors with the information needed to make well-informed decisions.

The League is available to work with the Commission and staff to improve the 2016 APR. We hope that you will take note of the attached comments that detail our concerns.

Sincerely,



Nyla Zender,  
League President  
[nylajz@comcast.net](mailto:nylajz@comcast.net)



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

March 29, 2017

Fresno County Planning Commission  
2220 Tulare Street, 6th floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

RECEIVED  
COUNTY OF FRESNO

MAR 29 2017

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
AND PLANNING  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The League Women Voters of Fresno (League) respectfully submits this email letter as comment on Item #7 on the Planning Commission's agenda for March 30: Review of the Draft 2016 General Plan Progress Report.

### **Importance of General Plans and Annual Progress Reports**

Of the County's many planning documents, the General Plan is certainly the most important. Enacted in 2000, the Fresno County General Plan is the master plan for the physical development of the county. The General Plan addresses everything from job creation to public services to conservation of the county's natural resources. It is not surprising, therefore, that courts have dubbed general plans "constitutions" for future development. Accordingly, it follows that all regulatory land use controls exercised by Fresno County must be in accordance with its adopted General Plan.

The annual progress report (APR) is one of those all-important regulatory controls. It is the one time during the year that the County has set aside for the comprehensive evaluation of the degree to which the Plan's goals, policies and programs are being successfully implemented.

### **Content and Scope of the APR**

The directive to prepare an APR comes from two sources: the State of California (State) and from the Fresno County General Plan itself.

The State mandates (1) that counties effectively implement their general plans and (2) that they prepare APRs.

California Government Code 65400.

*(a) After the legislative body has adopted all or part of a general plan, the planning agency shall do both of the following:*

*(1) Investigate and make recommendations to the legislative body regarding reasonable and practical means for implementing the general plan or element of the general plan, so that it will serve as an effective guide for orderly growth and development, preservation and conservation of open-space land and natural resources, and the efficient expenditure of public funds relating to the subjects addressed in the general plan.*

*(2) Provide by April 1 of each year an annual report to the legislative body, the Office of Planning and Research, and the Department of Housing and Community Development that includes all of the following:*

*(A) The status of the plan and progress in its implementation. [League underlining]*

And the Fresno County General Plan mandates that APRs contain the following five components.

- ① Program LU-H.D. *The Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan.*
- ② Program LU-H.D (continued). *This review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of **Public Resources Code 21081.6** for a mitigation monitoring program.*
- ③ Programs LU-A.J and LU-B.A. *The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including number of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location, shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan.*
- ④ Program TR-A.A. *The County shall prepare and adopt a priority list of street and highway improvements for the Road Improvement Program (RIP).... The Board of Supervisors shall update the RIP every five (5) years, or more frequently as recommended by the responsible departments. The RIP shall program maintenance and rehabilitation, reconstruction, capacity, operational, safety improvements,.... The RIP shall be coordinated with the five (5) year major review of the General Plan and shall be included in the annual General Plan review.*
- ⑤ Program OS-A.C. *The County shall develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Information from this program shall be provided to the Board of Supervisors during the annual General Plan review.* [League underlining]

### Focus and Content of the Draft 2016 Annual Progress Report (APR)

The League has carefully evaluated the focus and content of the County's draft 2016 APR to see if it contains the five components prescribed by the General Plan. The table below shows which of the required components the County has included in the 2016 APR and which the County has not included.

Component	Controlling Program	Component to be Evaluated / Included in the APR	Addressed in 2016 APR?
1	Program LU-H.D	Implementation of General Plan programs	Yes
2	Program LU-H.D	Satisfying Public Resources Code 21081.6 for mitigation monitoring	No
3	Programs LU-A.J & LU-B.A	Inclusion of an inventory of lot-size exceptions	Yes
4	Program TR-A.A	Inclusion of the County's Road Improvement Program	No
5	Program OS-A.C	Inclusion of data from the County's groundwater monitoring program	No

The League finds that the draft APR for 2016 addresses 3 of the 5 required components of the APR.

### Compliance with the General Plan

The State mandates that APRs are prepared, but it gives counties local control over the content of the reports. That said, it's important to recognize that this local control does not extend to the County deciding not honor

the directives of its General Plan. Actions taken by a County must be in accordance with its General Plan, and this is especially true for the implementation of those programs that execute State statutes. Fresno County's APRs must contain the 5 components listed on the previous page.

### League Comments on APR Components 1, 2 and 5

#### **Component 1: Focus on General Plan Implementation Programs**

General Plan Program LU-H.D requires that Fresno County's APRs focus principally on actions undertaken during the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the General Plan. The General Plan does not explain why General Plan programs should be the focus of APRs; however, it may be because these programs are mechanisms by which things get done, thereby precipitating a succession of effects.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS ➔ IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES ➔ ACHIEVEMENT OF GENERAL PLAN GOALS

Ideally, then, APRs explain how well programs are being implemented. Unfortunately, that is often not the case. Reports in the 2015 and 2016 APRs regarding Programs ED-A.C and OS-E.A demonstrate the problem.

Program ED-A.C	The County shall retain an independent and qualified institution to conduct an evaluation at least every five (5) years of success in achieving the goals and targets of the Economic Development Strategy.
From the 2015 APR	<i>On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs. The Economic Development Corporation regularly works to update the County's Economic Development Strategy.</i>
From the 2016 APR	<i>On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs. The Economic Development Corporation regularly works to update the County's Economic Development Strategy. As part of the General Plan Review process, policies and programs of the Economic Development Element are being reviewed to determine which policies still serve a purpose and should be kept and which ones have served their purpose or are no longer relevant and should be deleted or revised.</i>
League Response	The 2015 and 2016 reports are virtually identical. The 2015 and 2016 APRs do not address whether the program is actually being implemented. More candid reporting would simply have stated that Program ED-A.C is not being implemented.

Program OS-E.A	The County shall compile inventories of ecologically significant resource areas, including unique natural areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and habitats for special-status plants and animals from existing data sources. The inventories shall be presented when area plans, specific plans, or other project development proposals are considered by the County. The classification system shall be based on the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships (WHR) system and shall identify appropriate buffer zones around the identified resource areas in order to account for periodic, seasonal, or ecological changes. The maps shall be revised on a regular basis to reflect the availability of new information from other agencies, changes in definition, or any other changes.
From the 2015 APR	Development projects that may have a potential impact on wetlands, riparian areas and habitats for special-status plants and animals are referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comments. Recommended mitigation measures proposed by these agencies will be considered during the environmental review of development projects.
From the 2016 APR	Development projects that may have a potential impact on wetlands, riparian areas and habitats for special-status plants and animals are referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comments. Recommended mitigation measures proposed by these agencies will be considered during the environmental review of development projects.
League Response	The 2015 and 2016 reports are identical. The 2015 and 2016 APRs do not address whether the program is actually being implemented. More candid reporting would simply have stated that Program OS-E.A is not being implemented.

The reporting problems associated with Programs ED-A.C and OS-E.A illustrate best three common flaws found throughout the 2016 APR.

1. With respect to reporting the status of General Plan programs, because the 2016 APR is virtually identical to the 2015 APR, it's logical that county residents should conclude that during 2016 the County made very little progress in the implementation of its General Plan. The League hopes this is not the case and that the fault lies not with the implementation of the General Plan but with a defect of the reporting, which is easily corrected.
2. Rather than simply stating whether or not programs are being implemented, the 2016 APR supplies information about secondary matters, which diverts attention away from important considerations.

For example, with respect to Program ED-A.C, which requires the County to enter into contract every five years with an independent institution to evaluate the success in meeting the goals of the County's Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), rather than addressing the matter directly, the 2016 APR explains that the County has entered into contract with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and that the EDC regularly updates the CEDS and is responsible for implementing programs in the Economic Development Element. Regrettably, the 2016 APR does not state whether 5-year evaluations are being prepared. Also, the added information includes an error. Contrary to what is reported in the 2016 APR, the EDC is not "*responsible*" for implementing programs in the County's Economic Development Element.

A similar problem exists with the County's report on Program OS-E.A. The APR does not report whether the County is compiling the ecologically inventories required by the program. Instead, the APR merely attests to the fact that state and federal agencies routinely review new land use projects and recommend mitigation measures. Because the 2016 APR does not address whether the County is actually compiling the inventories, the only logical conclusion is that the County has not implemented the program.

3. The 2016 APR does not give the Planning Commission the information it needs to assist the Board of Supervisors in its review of the General Plan.

The most recent draft of the General Plan Guidelines produced by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) describes the purpose of the APR as follows:

***Purpose of the Report***

- *To provide enough information to allow local legislative bodies to assess how the general plan is being implemented in accordance with adopted goals, policies, and implementation measures.*
- *To provide enough information to identify necessary course adjustments or modifications to the general plan as a means to improve local implementation.*
- *To provide a clear correlation between land use decisions that have been made during the 12-month reporting period and the goals, policies, and implementation measures contained in the general plan.*

It's clear to League members that the 2016 APR does not provide enough information to enable the Board of Supervisors to assess whether the General Plan is being implemented in accordance with adopted goals, policies and implementation measures. Neither does it provide enough information to identify necessary course adjustments as a means to improve implementation the General Plan. In other words, the 2016 APR is silent on matters that matter most. The remedy lies with the Planning Commission. Commissioners can acknowledge the inadequacy of the Draft 2016 APR and ask the County's planning staff to modify the APR so that it satisfies the purposes delineated by OPR.



## **Component 2: Satisfying the Requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for Mitigation Monitoring**

General Plan Program LU-H.D states that Fresno County's APRs must satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program. The salient portions of that code are reproduced below.

Public Resources Code 12081.6 – Component of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

*(a) (1) The public agency shall adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes made to the project or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.*

*(b) A public agency shall provide that measures to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures. Conditions of project approval may be set forth in referenced documents which address required mitigation measures or, in the case of the adoption of a plan, policy, regulation, or other public project, by incorporating the mitigation measures into the plan, policy, regulation, or project design.*

The Fresno County General Plan is considered a "project" under CEQA. Public Resources Code 12081.6 states that in order to mitigate the adverse effects of the adoption of a project, the county must adopt a program to ensure that mitigation measures are fully enforceable and implemented and, furthermore, that the County may choose, as an enforcement mechanism, the incorporation of mitigation measures into the project itself.

This is exactly what the County chose to do in adopting its 2000 General Plan. The County incorporated several hundred mitigation measures into the General Plan as policy statements, thus creating the prospect that the General Plan would be "*self-mitigating*," environmentally speaking. Below is an explanation from the EIR as to how self-mitigation was to function.

Introduction to the 2000 EIR, page I-4: "*The General Plan Update is intended to be self-mitigating; it is assumed impacts identified in this EIR would generally be mitigated through adopted federal, State, and local laws and regulations, through the implementation of identified General Plan policies for unincorporated areas of the County, or some combination thereof, rather than through measures independent of the General Plan.*" (League underlining.)

The County provided a more detailed explanation of the concept of self-mitigation on page 1 of Exhibit B to the October 3, 2000 staff report to the Board of Supervisors for the adoption of the General Plan.

*The mitigation monitoring program for a general plan is different from a mitigation monitoring program for an individual project in that most of the measures that would reduce environmental impacts take the form of policies and programs that are part of the "project itself" (i.e., the general plan). Hence, under CEQA, a mitigation monitoring program would only be required for those measures that were not part of the project itself.*

*The Final EIR for the Fresno County General Plan indicates only two impact areas for additional mitigation measures beyond the policies and programs of the General Plan. These are Impact 4.9-4 (Biological Impacts) and Impact 4.16-2 (Visual Quality).*

*The General Plan Policy Document assigns responsibilities to the Planning Commission for carrying out monitoring responsibilities for EIR mitigation measures. Program LU-H.D of the General Plan states that "the Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the*

*Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. The review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program.”*

It is clear from these descriptions that the County believed that self-mitigation would succeed. On that basis, the County would satisfy the monitoring requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 by annually monitoring only those mitigation measures that “*were not part of the project itself,*” namely Mitigation Measures 4.9-4 and 4.16-2.

Mitigation Measure 4.9-4. *Fresno County shall define the specifications for landmark tree identification....*  
Mitigation Measure 4.16-2. *In approving new development, the County shall require lighting standards....*

**Unfortunately, that assumption is no longer valid.** Due to widespread failure of the County to enforce the implementation of General Plan programs and policies (mitigation measures), the County is now faced with the task of expanding the monitoring required under Public Resources Code 21081.6 to include each of the mitigation measures that were incorporated into the General Plan as policy statements.

The 2000 General Plan EIR identified dozens of potentially significant adverse impacts related to the adoption of the General Plan. The impacts ranged from the loss of important farmland to an increased strain on public services to harm to biological resources. The EIR acknowledged that most of these impacts were unavoidable even with mitigation; however, to lessen impacts, the 2000 EIR recommended the adoption of over 300 mitigation measures, all of which were subsequently incorporated into the Plan as individual policies.

The assumption in 2000 was that these 300+ mitigation measures would be implemented through the successful execution of the General Plan, which contained programs designed specifically to implement policies functioning as mitigation measures.

But we now have two sources of information demonstrating that a large number of those General Plan programs have not been implemented in accordance with directives in the General Plan – if at all.

The first source is the 2016 APR itself, which on pages 18 and 19 lists 8 programs that have not been implemented. They are Programs ED-B.A, LU-A.C, LU-A.I, LU-C.A, LU-H.A, OS-A.C, OS-D.B and HS-G.B.

The second source is a 126-page study published by the League on September 1, 2016. The study analyzed program implementation during 2015. The League study found that the County had been able to successfully implement only 47 of 121 General Plan programs (39%). That study is attached to this email letter and can be found online at [www.fresno.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.fresno.ca.lwvnet.org).

The League study examined program implementation as described in the County’s 2015 APR. Because the 2016 APR is virtually identical to the 2015 APR, the League finds that the lack of implementation is unchanged. In other words, the League’s study for calendar 2015 applies equally well to calendar year 2016.

The task of assessing the potential damage from the failure to implement the General Plan falls to the County. The question for the Planning Commission is whether the inquiry should occur as part of the 2016 APR. The League asserts that it must. Under Government Code 65400, the County’s planning agency is charged with investigating and making recommendations to the Board regarding reasonable and practical means for implementing the General Plan – and this investigation surely includes the County’s inability to successfully implement the programs and policies that serve as mitigation measures for the adoption of the General Plan.

## **Component 5: The Inclusion of Data from the County's Groundwater Monitoring Program**

The General Plan program that directs the creation of a groundwater monitoring program is Program OS-A.C.

*Program OS-A.C. The County **shall** develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Information from this program shall be provided to the Board of Supervisors during the annual General Plan review.*

According to the General Plan, the original timeframe for developing the groundwater monitoring program was fiscal year 2001/2002. Even so, the program is not yet developed. We know this to be true because the 2016 APR includes Program OS-A.C under the heading “*Summary of the Implementation Programs Delayed.*”

The 2016 APR does not explain why the groundwater monitoring program has not been developed, but the APR does contain a statement suggesting that a comparable groundwater monitoring program will eventually come to being through the implementation of State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

*Program OS-A.C to develop, implement, and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Groundwater monitoring and reporting will be a key component of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. By January 31, 2020, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the County will be required to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for implementation. (2016 APR, Appendix A, Page 32)*

Be that as it may, the League asserts that the County is prohibited from abandoning the implementation of a General Plan program in the hope that a State law will one day accomplish the same end.

At the time the General Plan was adopted in 2000, the need for groundwater monitoring was well understood. The General Plan Background Report contains these statements:

*The aquifer serving the Fresno-Clovis area...is designated as ‘critically overdrafted’ by DWR.”*

*“Long-term projects would indicate a continuing annual overdraft of the basin underlying most of Fresno County.”*

To monitor the increasing groundwater overdraft, the County adopted, as a mitigation measure, Policy OS-A.9, which was to be implemented through Program OS-A.C.

*Policy OS-A.9 (a mitigation measure). The County shall develop, implement, and maintain a program for monitoring groundwater quantity and quality within its boundaries. The results of the program shall be reported annually and shall be included in the water resource database.*

Policy OS-A.9 was specifically designed to lessen two adverse impacts identified in the 2000 EIR.

*Impact 4.8-1. Development under the Draft General Plan could result in the demand for water exceeding available supply, resulting in overdraft conditions and potential adverse effects on groundwater recharge potential.*

*Mitigation Measure 4.8-1. No mitigation is available beyond Draft General Plan Policies...OS-A.1 through OS-A.10...for Fresno County. [Policy OS-A.9 is included in this list of mitigation measures.]*

Impact 4.8-9. Increased development under the Draft General Plan, in combination with other cumulative development, would increase demand for water exceeding available supply and require additional facilities for water treatment and delivery systems. Secondary effects of long-term groundwater overdraft conditions would increase. Surface and groundwater quality could be affected by increased areas under concurrent construction and increased impervious areas, and from continued agricultural practices. The increase in wastewater treated from increased development intensity and development in new areas could affect the quality of waters receiving treated effluent.

Mitigation Measure 4.8-9. *None available beyond Draft General Plan Policies...OS-A.1 through OS-A.30...*  
[Policy OS-A.9 is included in this list of mitigation measures.]

The Planning Commission seated in 2000 thought that groundwater monitoring was important enough to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that information from Program OS-A.C be provided to the Board during the annual review of the General Plan. Below is an excerpt from Exhibit A to the staff report for the October 3, 2000 adoption of the General Plan showing the addition of the underlined sentence.

*Page 5-6 \* [General Plan Draft Policy Document]  
Revise Implementation Program OS-A.C as follows:*

*The County shall develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Information from this program shall be provided to the Board of Supervisors during the annual General Plan review.*

*( \* ) Indicates revisions / corrections specifically identified by Planning Commission in their deliberations.*

It is clear that Program OS-A.C is an essential environmental component of the General Plan. The League feels, therefore, that the Planning Commission has an obligation to explain why information from this program is not being forwarded to the Board as part of the 2016 APR.

The Planning Commission is reminded that when the Board of Supervisors adopted drought emergency Resolution 15-086 on March 24, 2015, the resolution stated that the drought had caused “severe decreases to the local groundwater supplies leading to the failure of many public and private wells” and that the situation had caused “extreme peril to the safety of persons and property.” The League believes that the failure to implement Program OS-A.C may have exacerbated groundwater problems experienced by county residents.

## **Conclusion**

The League hopes the Planning Commission appreciates the importance of the role it plays in the successful implementation of the General Plan.

The Board of Supervisors needs a complete report – one that provides enough information to enable the Board to make decisions as to whether the General Plan needs modification. With this idea in mind, the League recommends that the Draft 2016 APR be amended to include...

- For each General Plan program, a short statement as to whether it is being implemented in the manner prescribed by the General Plan (yes or no), and where there is a departure from that directive, a statement as to how that departure affects the County’s ability to achieve the goals of the General Plan.

- An analysis of the degree to which the County has been successful in implementing each of the mitigation measures that were incorporated into the General Plan as policy statements.
- With respect to Program OS-A.C (development of a groundwater monitoring program), an explanation as to why the program has not been implemented, and if the cause is a lack of funding, an analysis of how a lack of funding is affecting implementation of other programs in the General Plan.

The League is available to work with the Planning Commission and with County planning staff to help correct the shortcomings in Draft 2016 APR.

Sincerely,



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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

# Review of the Draft Fresno County General Plan Annual Progress Report for 2015

## A Study Guide Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno

September 1, 2016

Dear Residents of Fresno County,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is responsible for implementing our County's General Plan.

That Plan assigns hundreds of responsibilities to various County departments – everything from protecting the environment to ensuring an adequate water supply throughout the county; everything from enhancing agricultural productivity to improving employment opportunities for all county residents.

Because the State Legislature believes that effective planning is essential to the well-being of California residents, it requires each county to prepare an annual report describing the progress made in implementing its general plan.

This report is called an Annual Progress Report or **APR**.

In support of its mission to encourage the informed participation of citizens in government, the League of Women Voters of Fresno decided to review the Fresno County APR for calendar year 2015 for the purpose of reporting the degree to which the County has been able to successfully implement its General Plan.

In conducting a review of the APR for 2015, the League performed two studies – one study to see how well the County is achieving its General Plan goals and a second study to see how well the County is executing each of its 121 General Plan implementation programs.

The League is saddened to report that the two studies show conclusively that the 2015 APR does not demonstrate that the County is achieving its General Plan goals or successfully executing its General Plan implementation programs. In fact, the League discovered that the County is able to demonstrate successful implementation of less than half of its General Plan programs.

The League hopes this review of the 2015 APR will serve as a resource document for years to come. The review contains a copy of every Fresno County goal and implementation program. It also contains critical citations from various Fresno County APRs, past and present, chronicling the activities the County has undertaken to implement its General Plan.

Notably, the review provides an explanation of how the 2000 General Plan is designed to function and why its implementation is so important to the well-being of all county residents.

Should you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact the League.

Sincerely,



Nyla Zender, President  
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# Review of the Draft Fresno County General Plan Annual Progress Report for 2015

## A Study Guide Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno

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## 1.0 Introduction

The League of Women Voters of Fresno (**League**) offers this review of the Draft Fresno County Annual Progress Report (APR) for calendar year 2015.

What is an APR? An APR is an annual self-evaluation prepared by a county or city to determine how well it has been able to implement its general plan during the previous year. In some ways, an APR is analogous to an annual report prepared by a business entity.

According to the Office of Planning and Research in Sacramento, each APR should examine reasonable and practical ways to implement a general plan so that the plan serves as an effective guide for (1) orderly growth and development, (2) the preservation and conservation of open-space and natural resources and (3) the efficient expenditure of public funds related to the subjects addressed in the general plan. California law requires that an APR be submitted to the State each year by April 1. Fresno County missed that deadline last spring, so its 2015 APR is now 5 months past due.

The 2015 APR is important because it provides an opportunity for County residents and the Board of Supervisors to gauge how well Fresno County was able to implement its General Plan during 2015 and to consider the resources and activities that will be needed to improve implementation in the future.

This review begins with a set of findings (page 3). The findings indicate (1) that the County has been unable to adequately implement its General Plan and (2) that the 2015 APR is inadequate to the task of reporting that deficiency. As such, the 2015 APR is an inadequate reporting tool. To be of utility, the APR must be properly focused and complete.

The review contains on page 4 an easy-to-understand explanation of the content and function of general plans and APRs. This is followed

on pages 5 and 6 by an explanation of how the implementation programs in the Fresno County General Plan are designed to function.

(Note: This review does not address Fresno County's Housing Element. Unlike other Elements of the General Plan, the Housing Element has its own statutory requirements for review and update. Its current format is quite different from other Elements in the General Plan, having no implementation programs per se.)

A complete list of the 121 General Plan implementation programs under review is presented on pages 7 – 15.

This review also contains a brief history of the County's preparation of earlier APRs. Given that the General Plan was adopted in 2000 and that APRs are prepared annually, it's natural to expect that the APR under current review would be the County's 15<sup>th</sup> APR, but it's not. It's the County's third APR. This is because the County prepared its first APR in 2002 and did not prepare another until 2013. That second APR encompassed two years of reporting – 2013 and 2014 together. So the 2015 APR is the County's third report.

The League's analysis of the Draft 2015 APR is found on pages 16 – 26. League recommendations are found on page 27.

**Appendix A** contains a copy of the 46 goals articulated in the General Plan (excluding those from the Housing Element). The League used this data to gauge how well the County has been able to achieve its General Plan goals.

**Appendix B** contains excerpts from both the 2001/2002 APR and the Draft 2015 APR. These excerpts address how well the County has been able to implement its General Plan programs. The League used this data to gauge the degree to which the County has been able to demonstrate successful implementation of its General Plan programs.



## 2.0 Findings

In arriving at its findings, the League thoroughly examined both the Fresno County General Plan Policy Document and the County's Draft Annual Progress Report (**APR**) for calendar year 2015. The League also consulted the Office of Planning and Research publication entitled *General Plan Annual Progress Report Guidance 2016* (April 2016) and understands that the principal focus of the APR is the collection of activities undertaken by the County to implement its General Plan programs during calendar year 2015.

After careful review and fact checking, the League arrived at the findings presented below. Regrettably, the findings are distressing.

They indicate that the County's draft 2015 APR is insufficient as an informational document. The APR does not demonstrate that the County made satisfactory progress either toward achieving General Plan goals or in implementing its General Plan programs during 2015.

That being the case, the League strongly recommends that the Draft 2015 APR be revised so as to provide the Board of Supervisors with a more complete and accurate picture of the County's ability/inability to execute its General Plan goals and programs. The League is mystified by the APR's failure to demonstrate progress and questions whether this deficiency is truly due to the County's failure to make progress or whether the 2015 APR failed in its responsibility to report what progress was made.

### Findings

**1. The Draft 2015 APR fails to adequately address whether progress was made toward achieving General Plan goals during 2015.**

The APR refers to only 7 of the County's 46 General Plan goals, and the County activities cited in the APR do not directly reference any particular goals.

**2. The Draft 2015 APR fails to adequately address whether General Plan Programs were successfully implemented during 2015.**

Although the APR presents "facts" related to each of the implementation programs, it does not assess whether the County has been able to implement those programs in accordance with directives contained in the General Plan.

**3. The Draft 2015 APR fails to provide a complete and accurate review of the overall administration of the General Plan.**

The APR does not provide information sufficient to help the Board of Supervisors evaluate the effectiveness of the General Plan as a tool to guide orderly growth and development, conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

**4. The Draft 2015 APR fails to investigate what is needed in the way of resources to fully implement the General Plan.**

Although previous APRs attribute delays in implementing the General Plan to the County's failure to allocate sufficient funds for that purpose, the 2015 APR fails to provide any information that might enable the Board to address that deficiency.

**5. County practices have been inconsistent with General Plan direction.**

With regard to the implementation of General Plan programs, the APR reveals a pattern of extensive alteration of the program directives within the General Plan without the obligatory amendment of the Plan by the Board of Supervisors.

### 3.0 Statutory Requirements

State law requires each county to have a general plan and to prepare annual reports assessing its implementation.

California Government Code §65300 decrees that “...*the legislative body of each county...shall adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county...*,” and §65302 requires that, as a minimum, every general plan shall be organized into Elements that address land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety. The Fresno County General Plan Policy Document contains these required Elements plus two additional Elements: an Economic Development Element and a Public Facilities and Services Element.

California Government Code §65400(a) requires that by April 1 of each year, each county shall submit to the Office of Planning and Research an annual report that includes “*the status of the [general] plan and progress in its implementation.*”

### 4.0 Some Misunderstandings about General Plans

While most people appreciate the importance of everyday planning (the use of schedules, blueprints, agendas, and the like), they often fail to appreciate the value of civic planning. Evidence for this can be seen in the relatively few numbers of residents who participate in the drafting of long-term general plans for the physical development of their counties and cities. This is disappointing because what people fail to realize is that their personal safety, health, mobility – and even their employment – are closely tied to their communities’ social agreements on how land is used.

It’s important to dispel three myths about general plans: (1) that they are only “guides” to development, and are, therefore, unenforceable; (2) that they are not specific enough to be meaningful; and (3) that

they get nothing done, being only a collection of policies designed to place limitations on development.

Nothing could be further from the truth – especially here in Fresno County. General plans are not labeled “general” because they are applied “as a general rule,” meaning, mostly but not all of the time. They are called “general” because they are applied “universally” across an entire jurisdiction. The California Supreme Court has called the general plan a “*constitution for future development.*” As such, general plans are applicable all of the time and everywhere within a particular jurisdiction.

The Fresno County General Plan is surprisingly specific, although people will always debate the meaning of the wording within it. For example, General Plan Policy PF-D.7 reads, “*The County shall require preparation of sewer master plans for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth.*” But what does it mean to be “*experiencing urban growth?*” Debates over word meaning are ubiquitous and are not an automatic sign of non-specificity.

And finally, even though people may view a general plan as being simply a collection of rules that place limitations or boundaries on development, that’s not the case here in Fresno County. The Fresno County General Plan is an action plan that includes a collection of 121 all-important County tasks designed to enhance residents’ quality of life. And even though County officials may choose not to engage in these tasks, that is not the fault of the General Plan.

General plans afford residents the opportunity to create a vision for their communities, to resolve social problems, to prioritize civic projects and to evolve in harmony with their natural environment. General plans are primarily land use plans, and land use planning profoundly affects all aspects of people’s lives.

## 5.0 The 2000 General Plan Policy Document

Fresno County's General Plan Policy Document was adopted by the Board of Supervisors October 3, 2000.

And just what is the principal function of that document? Well, the Fresno County General Plan defines its primary role this way:

*"Protector of prime agricultural lands, open space, recreational opportunities, and environmental quality; and the coordinator of countywide efforts to promote economic development."*

That's pretty much everything! The Plan is centered on a number of themes, including *economic development, agricultural land protection, urban-centered growth, efficient and functional land use patterns* and an *enhanced quality of life*.

A key component of the 2000 General Plan was the creation of a new Economic Development Element whose purpose was to pioneer an economic strategy for improving the lives of county residents. The expectation was that by 2020 Fresno County would become a center for a wide variety of high value-added agricultural farming operations.

This, along with job growth in emerging non-agriculture industrial clusters, such as information technology and fabricated metal components manufacturing, would provide Fresno County residents with greater employment opportunities. A higher rate of employment in better paying jobs would increase consumer spending and decrease the cost of services for the unemployed. The resultant increase in revenues for the public sector and the mitigation of negative impacts associated with economic growth would result in an impressive quality of life for all county residents.

Now, admittedly, that vision seems overly optimistic. Still, it's one yardstick by which to gauge whether the County has been able to successfully implement its Plan.

The General Plan Policy Document contains many policies and programs. How many? Excluding the Housing Element from the count, the Policy Document contains a total of 604 policies and 121 implementation programs.

Nearly all of these 604 policies are expressed as courses of action or principles of action, and they usually begin with the words "*The County shall....*" For example, Policy LU-H.9 reads,

*"The County shall coordinate with cities and adjacent counties to address regional planning and growth issues."*

The County's 121 implementation programs, when taken together, are a set of planned tasks or actions aimed at carrying out – or implementing – these 604 policies. For example, the program designed to carry out the policy cited above is Implementation Program LU-H.B, which reads,

*"County Staff shall meet regularly with cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues of common interest and concern. Staff shall report annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year and the planned schedule of meetings with local jurisdictions to address regional planning issues in the upcoming year."*

All 121 implementation programs contain the word "*shall*," which is considered an unequivocal directive.

You will notice that the implementation program cited above names the party responsible for carrying out the action, in this case, County staff. This naming of responsible parties is true for every implementation program. The General Plan names 12 different parties responsible for implementing all 121 General Plan programs. They are shown in the chart on the next page. Because some implementation programs are overseen by multiple parties, there are actually more "responsibilities" than there are programs. There are a total of 170 assignments of responsibility for the 121 programs.

## Who is Responsible for Implementing General Plan Programs?

According to the General Plan, 12 parties are responsible for implementing the County's 121 programs. They are listed in the chart below.

You will notice that the bulk of the responsibilities fall to the Department of Public Works and Planning. That Department has 103 (or just over 60%) of the 170 shared responsibilities. Looked at another way, that Department has complete or partial responsibility for implementing 103 (or 85%) of the 121 implementation programs in the General Plan.

And although the Board of Supervisors is ultimately responsible for the success of every program, the Board is listed as having only 28 (or roughly 16%) of the total number of responsibilities. Consider Implementation Program ED-A.A, which reads, *"The County shall create an economic development staff position(s) in the County Administrative Office and the Planning & Resource Management Department to serve as liaison/facilitator and support for the economic development implementation program and the Action Team."* Only the Board of Supervisors has the authority to create such a staff position, and that's why this responsibility is listed as a "Board" responsibility alone.

	<div>Economic Development Element</div> <div>Agriculture and Land Use Element</div> <div>Transportation and Circulation Element</div> <div>Public Facilities and Services Element</div> <div>Open Space and Conservation Element</div> <div>Health and Safety Element</div>						<div>Total for Each Responsible Party</div> <div>Percentage of the Total Responsibility</div>	
<b>Board of Supervisors</b>	12	11	2	3			28	16.47
<b>Department of Public Works and Planning</b>	6	21	19	17	21	25	103	60.59
<b>County Administrative Office</b>	8			4	2		14	8.24
<b>Planning Commission</b>		1					1	0.59
<b>Agricultural Department</b>	1	3					4	2.35
<b>Workforce Development Board</b>	1						1	0.59
<b>Community Health Department</b>				1			1	0.59
<b>Surveyor's Office</b>				2			2	1.18
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				1		1	2	1.18
<b>Fire Department</b>				1		1	2	1.18
<b>Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance</b>	7						7	4.12
<b>Office of Emergency Services</b>						5	5	2.94
<b>Total Number of Responsibilities for Each Element</b>	35	36	21	29	27	22	170	100.02

## 6.0 List of the 121 Implementation Programs

### Overview

On the following eight pages are charts containing the complete list of the General Plan's 121 implementation programs.

These programs are to be reviewed annually in an APR. Program LU-H.D declares,

*"The Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. This review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program."*

In creating the chart of 121 implementation programs, the League has taken the liberty to shorten the wording of each program – to reduce each task to a single line of text. The main verb in each task has been highlighted in bold print in order to focus attention on the action to be undertaken. Some programs contain two tasks. For example, the implementation program cited in the previous paragraph (LU-H.D) describes two principal tasks. In the interest of brevity, the League has shortened the description of the program to read as follows:

***Review*** the 2000 General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken to carry out General Plan implementation programs.

***Recommend*** (as appropriate) amendments to the 2000 General Plan.

The County has given each implementation program a 4-letter identification label. The first two letters identify the General Plan

Element where the program appears. For example, Implementation Program LU-H.D is part of the Agriculture and Land Use Element. The "LU" stands for "Land Use." The third letter in the identification label – "H" – identifies the particular goal to which the program applies. Because "H" is the 8<sup>th</sup> letter in the alphabet, Program LU-H.D serves the 8<sup>th</sup> goal listed in the Agriculture and Land Use Element. Goal LU-H is supported by several implementation programs: LU-H.A through LU-H. F. Implementation Program LU-H.D is the 4<sup>th</sup> program in that list, since "D" is the 4<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet.

To sum up: For Program LU-H.D, "LU" stands for the Agriculture and Land Use Element; "H" for the 8<sup>th</sup> goal in that Element and "D" for the 4<sup>th</sup> program under that goal.

In addition to shortening the wording of each program, the League has taken the liberty to assign a number to each program. This numbering system makes it easy to locate and discuss individual implementation programs. For example, Implementation Program LU-H.D has been assigned the number 40 because it's the 40<sup>th</sup> implementation program in the General Plan Policy Document.

And lastly, the 2000 General Plan assigns each implementation program a particular timeframe. For example, Implementation Program LU-H.D – the annual review of the General Plan – has been given an "annual" timeframe. Other implementation programs have been assigned particular target years. For example, the General Plan assigns fiscal year 2002/2003 for the implementation of Program LU-C.A – the update of the Kings River Regional Plan. (As you may know, that plan has not been updated, and that's a problem, for while the General Plan contains language allowing a certain amount of wiggle room timewise, there is no provision in the General Plan that allows the County to forego implementation altogether.)

The League encourages county residents to learn the importance of these programs. Their successful implementation protects natural resources, enhances the environment and expands economic opportunities throughout the county.

# **List of the 121 Fresno County General Plan Implementation Programs under Review** **(As Adopted by Fresno County Board of Supervisors October 3, 2000)**

18 PROGRAMS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT			
No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
1	ED-A.A	<b>Create</b> a staff position to facilitate and support economic development and an Action Team	00-01
2	ED-A.B	<b>Create, support</b> and <b>staff</b> an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development	00-01
3	ED-A.C	<b>Retain</b> an independent institution to evaluate success in achieving the County's Economic Development Strategy	2005, 2010, 2015
4	ED-A.D	<b>Develop</b> ( <u>in cooperation with cities</u> ) criteria to determine the best locations for new value-added agricultural facilities	01-04
5	ED-A.E	<b>Establish</b> guidelines to analyze the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary actions	00-01
6	ED-A.F	<b>Contract</b> with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to develop marketing programs for county produce	Ongoing
7	ED-A.G	<b>Determine</b> ( <u>in cooperation with agencies</u> ) if capital deficiencies exist for farmers shifting to production modes creating higher employment <b>Access</b> ( <u>in cooperation with agencies</u> ) additional funds or redirect existing funds (if capital deficiencies are found to exist)	02-04
8	ED-B.A	<b>Convene</b> a group of service providers to assess the current state of and future need for state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure	02-04
9	ED-B.B	<b>Coordinate</b> an initiative to deliver a comprehensive package of technological assistance to local businesses to improve their productivity	02-04
10	ED-B.C	<b>Convene</b> a roundtable of financial institutions to determine funding needs for agricultural businesses locating or expanding in the county	02-03
11	ED-B.D	<b>Initiate</b> a planning process to identify additional recreational opportunities in the coast range foothills – or elsewhere in the county	01-02
12	ED-B.E	<b>Evaluate</b> the marketing programs of the Visitor and Convention Bureau <b>Provide</b> funding assistance to attract business travel to the county	01-02
13	ED-C.A	<b>Join with</b> the Workforce Development Board, community colleges and others to develop a countywide workforce preparation system	Ongoing
14	ED-C.B	<b>Develop</b> a skills inventory for the CalWORKS labor pool for use by new and existing businesses seeking employees	01-02
15	ED-C.C	<b>Improve</b> tracking systems for employment and retention of CalWORKS recipients	00-01
16	ED-C.D	<b>Assist</b> the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and others agencies to assess the work readiness of CalWORKS recipients	Ongoing
17	ED-C.E	<b>Plan</b> and <b>fund</b> ( <u>in collaboration with various educational institutions and agencies</u> ) a variety of job placement services	Ongoing
18	ED-C.F	<b>Identify</b> (as initiated via the CalWORKS Job Creation Investment fund) work skills needed for industry clusters targeted for expansion	Ongoing



## 24 PROGRAMS IN THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
19	LU-A.A	<b>Review</b> and <b>amend</b> the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan	00-02
20	LU-A.B	<b>Evaluate</b> minimum parcel sizes necessary to sustain agricultural productivity <b>Amend</b> ( <u>as appropriate</u> ) the Zoning Ordinance according to the results of the evaluation	03-04
21	LU-A.C	<b>Develop</b> and <b>implement</b> design guidelines for buffers between new non-agricultural uses and agricultural uses in agricultural areas	03-04
22	LU-A.D	<b>Review</b> and <b>assess</b> the effectiveness of agricultural land preservation programs in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies	Ongoing
23	LU-A.E	<b>Implement</b> the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance <b>Provide</b> information about the Ordinance to the real estate industry to raise public awareness of the County's right-to-farm policies	Ongoing
24	LU-A.F	<b>Develop</b> and <b>implement</b> ( <u>in cooperation with agencies</u> ) a public outreach program to raise awareness of ag land conservation incentives	Ongoing
25	LU-A.G	<b>Pursue</b> grant funds to assist farmers and ranchers interested in obtaining ag land conservation easements	Ongoing
26	LU-A.H	<b>Develop</b> a program establishing criteria to prioritize funding for ag land conservation easements	02-03
27	LU-A.I	<b>Assess</b> the approaches used by the LESA system (1981) and Tulare County (1975) to determine ag land values <b>Determine</b> the potential of developing a similar process of ranking the value of ag land in Fresno County <b>Establish</b> (If appropriate) an agricultural quality scale system to assist the County with regard to the conversion of ag land to other uses	03-04
28	LU-A.J	<b>Maintain</b> an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit for agricultural areas ( <u>Information on lot size exceptions shall be included in the annual General Plan review.</u> )	Annually
29	LU-B.A	<b>Maintain</b> an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit for Westside rangelands ( <u>Information on lot size exceptions shall be included in the annual General Plan review.</u> )	Annually
30	LU-C.A	<b>Update</b> and <b>maintain</b> the Kings River Regional Plan to guide County decision making concerning land use and environmental quality	02-03
31	LU-C.B	<b>Work with</b> San Joaquin River agencies and interested organizations to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan	Ongoing
32	LU-D.A	<b>Revise</b> the Zoning Ordinance to implement changes in the 2000 General Plan that apply to the Westside Freeway Corridor	01-02
33	LU-F.A	<b>Work with</b> the cities of Clovis and Fresno (and other cities) to adopt incentives that will lead to compact urban and infill development	Ongoing
34	LU-F.B	<b>Review</b> the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to incorporate new policies for transit-oriented development	01-02
35	LU-G.A	<b>Review</b> and <b>revise</b> ( <u>as appropriate</u> ) the Zoning Ordinance to facilitate density increases for unincorporated urban communities	01-02
36	LU-G.B	<b>Review</b> annexation proposals submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) <b>Protest</b> annexations that are inconsistent with either the 2000 General Plan or applicable community plan	As needed

37	LU-H.A	<b>Prepare</b> and <b>adopt</b> a Friant-Millerton Regional Plan consistent with the directives of Policy LU-H.8	02-03
38	LU-H.B	<b>Meet with</b> cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues <b>Report</b> annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year along with a calendar of scheduled meetings for the following year	Ongoing
39	LU-H.C	<b>Prepare</b> and <b>adopt</b> guidelines for updating regional and community plans to ensure consistency with the 2000 General Plan	02-03
40	LU-H.D	<b>Review</b> the 2000 General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken to carry out General Plan implementation programs <b>Recommend</b> ( <u>as appropriate</u> ) amendments to the 2000 General Plan (This review shall satisfy the state requirement to monitor implementation of the mitigation measures for the 2000 General Plan.)	Annually
41	LU-H.E	<b>Conduct</b> a major review of the 2000 General Plan, including the Policy Document and the Background Report, every five years <b>Revise</b> ( <u>as necessary</u> ) the 2000 General Plan	2005, 2010, 2015
42	LU-H.F	<b>Review</b> and <b>amend</b> (as necessary) the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to reflect new policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan	02-04



## 19 PROGRAMS IN THE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
43	TR-A.A	<b>Prepare</b> and <b>adopt</b> a priority list of street and highway improvements for the Road Improvement Program (RIP) (The Road Improvement Program shall be included in the annual General Plan review.)	2005, 2010, 2015
44	TR-A.B	<b>Consider</b> adoption of a traffic impact fee ordinance to achieve adopted levels of service outside city spheres of influence (SOIs)	01-02
45	TR-A.C	<b>Identify</b> and pursue new funding sources for transportation improvements	Ongoing
46	TR-A.D	<b>Coordinate</b> the County's transportation planning with the Fresno COG and various agencies and jurisdictions	Ongoing
47	TR-A.E	<b>Update</b> and <b>maintain</b> Improvement Standards for County development improvements, including private roads dedicated to public use	Ongoing
48	TR-B.A	<b>Work with</b> the Fresno COG and transit providers to review and update the County's short-range transit plans	2005, 2010, 2015
49	TR-B.B	<b>Encourage</b> transit providers and the Fresno COG to prepare, adopt and implement a long-range strategic transit master plan	Ongoing
50	TR-B.C	<b>Work with</b> the Fresno COG and FCRTA to identify and pursue funding for transit	Ongoing
51	TR-B.D	<b>Work with</b> the Fresno COG and other agencies to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors	Ongoing
52	TR-B.E	<b>Work with</b> the cities to prepare and adopt land use and design standards for designated urban transit corridors to promote transit use	01-02
53	TR-B.F	<b>Work with</b> Caltrans and other agencies to determine the need for (and location of) additional or expanded park-and-ride facilities	Ongoing
54	TR-D.A	<b>Work with</b> the Fresno COG and other agencies to update the Regional Bikeways Plan to ensure consistency with the Circulation Diagram	00-01
55	TR-D.B	<b>Encourage</b> implementation and use of bikeways through use of Transportation Development Act Article III bicycle and pedestrian funds <b>identify</b> and <b>pursue</b> new sources of bikeway funding	Ongoing
56	TR-D.C	<b>Require</b> sufficient pavement width and road right-of-way width for bikeways associated with new development	Ongoing
57	TR-D.D	<b>Use</b> Caltrans bikeway design standards for Class I, II and III bicycle facilities	Ongoing
58	TR-D.E	<b>Work with</b> other agencies to link bicycle use with other modes of transportation	Ongoing
59	TR-E.A	<b>Work with</b> other agencies to plan line-designated railroad corridors to preserve important railroad rights-of-way for future rail expansion	Ongoing
60	TR-E.B	<b>Use</b> appropriate zoning in designated rail corridors to ensure preservation of rail facilities for future rail use	Ongoing
61	TR-E.C	<b>Participate</b> on the Fresno COG Rail Committee to support improvement, development and expansion of rail service	Ongoing

## 18 PROGRAMS IN THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
62	PF-A.A	<b>Ensure</b> that infrastructure plans or area facility plans are prepared for any new or updated community plans or specific plans	Annually
63	PF-B.A	<b>Prepare</b> and <b>adopt</b> a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for designing and constructing County facilities	01-02
64	PF-B.B	<b>Develop</b> and <b>adopt</b> fee ordinances for new development to pay for new capital facilities and expanded services	01-03
65	PF-C.A	<b>Develop</b> and <b>apply</b> a process to resolve water supply problems within the county	01-02
66	PF-C.B	<b>Develop</b> and <b>adopt</b> a well construction / deconstruction ordinance <b>Identify</b> the location of abandoned wells to ensure that abandoned wells are properly destroyed	02-03
67	PF-C.C	<b>Prepare or cause to be prepared</b> water master plans for water delivery systems for areas undergoing urban growth	As needed
68	PF-C.D	<b>Develop</b> and <b>implement</b> a tiered water pricing structure for county service areas (CSAs) and waterworks districts	02-03
69	PF-C.E	<b>Establish</b> water demand standards to serve as a basis for determining adequate water supplies for new developments	01-02
70	PF-C.F	<b>Establish</b> a review and/or regulatory process for proposed surface water transfers out of the county and for replacement by groundwater	00-01
71	PF-C.G	<b>Develop, review</b> and <b>update</b> a list of water conservation technologies, methods and practices to maximize the beneficial use of water	01-02
72	PF-D.A	<b>Prepare or cause to be prepared</b> sewer master plans for areas experiencing urban growth	As needed
73	PF-E.A	<b>Work with</b> responsible flood control agencies to adopt regulations that satisfy state and federal stormwater quality programs	Ongoing
74	PF-F.A	<b>Require</b> onsite recycle collection areas for all new commercial, industrial and multi-family residential uses	01-02
75	PF-G.A	<b>Prepare</b> and <b>adopt</b> a master plan to identify locations for sheriff substations and community offices <b>Evaluate</b> the locations of sheriff substations and community offices during the update of unincorporated community plans	As needed
76	PF-H.A	<b>Require</b> a Fire Protection Master Plan or needed fire protection facilities for all discretionary development	As needed
77	PF-H.B	<b>Work with</b> the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection and other agencies to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources	Ongoing
78	PF-I.A	<b>Coordinate</b> with school districts the updating of regional, community and specific plans to identify the need for additional school facilities	Ongoing
79	PF-I.B	<b>Coordinate</b> with library districts the updating of regional, community and specific plans to identify the need for additional library facilities	Ongoing

## 25 PROGRAMS IN THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
80	OS-A.A	<b>Develop, implement and maintain</b> a water sustainability plan	01-02 / Ongoing
81	OS-A.B	<b>Establish and maintain</b> a centralized water resource database that includes a water budget and a groundwater recharge inventory	01-02 / Ongoing
82	OS-A.C	<b>Develop, implement and maintain</b> a groundwater monitoring program (Information from the groundwater monitoring program shall be included in the annual General Plan review.)	01-02 / Ongoing
83	OS-A.D	<b>Develop, implement and maintain</b> land use plans to preserve lands suitable for groundwater recharge	02-03
84	OS-B.A	<b>Evaluate</b> (in consultation with the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection) the Forest Practice Rules <b>Propose</b> (if necessary) to the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection "Special Forest Practice Rules" for Fresno County	03-04
85	OS-B.B	<b>Encourage</b> the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection to complete an inventory of old growth forests on private timberlands	03-04
86	OS-B.C	<b>Encourage</b> the U.S. Forest Service and the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify potential impacts on old growth forests	03-04
87	OS-B.D	<b>Request</b> the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection to include education materials on forest management in its Timber Harvest Notices	03-04
88	OS-D.A	<b>Work with</b> public agencies and organizations to acquire (for themselves) critical habitat not preserved through usual regulatory processes	Ongoing
89	OS-D.B	<b>Adopt</b> an ordinance for riparian protection zones identifying allowable activities and mitigation techniques in those zones	02-03
90	OS-E.A	<b>Compile and maintain</b> inventories of ecologically significant resource areas to be used in the evaluation of development projects	Ongoing
91	OS-E.B	<b>Maintain</b> maps of habitat for important fish and game species to be used in the evaluation of development projects	Ongoing
92	OS-F.A	<b>Prepare and maintain</b> a list of state and federal rare, threatened and endangered plant species	every two years
93	OS-F.B	<b>Provide</b> the Fresno County Oak Management Guidelines to landowners located in oak woodland habitat	Ongoing
94	OS-G.A	<b>Review</b> the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's <i>Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts</i> <b>Adopt</b> procedures for performing air quality impact analysis and for preparing air quality mitigation measures	02-03
95	OS-G.B	<b>Adopt</b> a package of programs to reduce the County's work-related vehicular trips	02-03
96	OS-G.C	<b>Amend</b> the Subdivision Grading Ordinance and Grading Standards to address dust control measures for new construction	02-03
97	OS-H.A	<b>Work with</b> local, state and federal agencies to complete a comprehensive inventory of recreational facilities in the county <b>Work with</b> local, state and federal agencies to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition <b>Consider</b> preparation of a County park and recreation master plan to provide a policy framework for independent use by such agencies	01-03
98	OS-H.B	<b>Consider</b> (for new development) contracting with existing agencies or forming CSAs to acquire and operate open space amenities	Ongoing
99	OS-I.A	<b>Prepare</b> a Recreational Trails Master Plan for a countywide trail system that identifies appropriate corridors and trail design	02-03

100	OS-I.B	<b>Investigate</b> the potential of various land use controls for reserving areas for trails	02-03
101	OS-I.C	<b>Enact</b> an ordinance to limit the use of trails by motorized vehicles	01-02
102	OS-J.A	<b>Prepare</b> and <b>enact</b> an ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical and geological resources	02-03
103	OS-L.A	<b>Establish</b> (in cooperation with Fresno COG and the Assoc. for the Beautification of Highway 99) a landscape master plan for Highway 99	03-04
104	OS-L.B	<b>Work with</b> Caltrans to apply for scenic highway designations and adopt scenic corridor protection programs for eligible highway segments	03-04

## 17 PROGRAMS IN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
105	HS-A.A	<b>Maintain</b> agreements with local, state and federal agencies to provide coordinated disaster response	Ongoing
106	HS-A.B	<b>Monitor</b> and <b>evaluate</b> County emergency planning, operations and training capabilities	Ongoing
107	HS-A.C	<b>Evaluate</b> County-owned safety and emergency management facilities and systems to assess susceptibility to flood and seismic damage	Ongoing
108	HS-A.D	<b>Inform</b> the general public of emergency and disaster response procedures	Ongoing
109	HS-B.A	<b>Review</b> the design of all new buildings and structures to assure compliance with state and local regulations and standards	Ongoing
110	HS-C.A	<b>Participate</b> in the Federal Flood Insurance Program <b>Maintain</b> and <b>update</b> (as necessary) flood hazard maps and floodplain data <b>Determine</b> if proposed projects lie within the 100-year floodplain	Ongoing
111	HS-C.B	<b>Implement</b> and <b>enforce</b> the County's Floodplain Management Ordinance	Ongoing
112	HS-C.C	<b>Develop</b> and <b>review</b> dam failure evacuation plans <b>Provide</b> the public with information on dam failure preparedness	Ongoing
113	HS-D.A	<b>Review</b> new information published by the Cal. Div. of Mines and Geology to update maps and the General Plan Background Report	Ongoing
114	HS-D.B	<b>Inventory</b> unreinforced masonry structures used for human occupancy <b>Evaluate</b> such structures for seismic safety <b>Implement</b> (if necessary) a program to mitigate potential hazards	02-04
115	HS-D.C	<b>Develop</b> a public awareness program to aid in the identification of unreinforced masonry structures	02-03
116	HS-E.A	<b>Refer</b> projects in the Airport Review Area to the Fresno Co. Airport Land Use Comm. to determine consistency with the 2000 General Plan	Ongoing
117	HS-F.A	<b>Review</b> discretionary uses which involve the use of hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes	Ongoing
118	HS-F.B	<b>Investigate</b> funding alternatives for site acquisition, development and operation for a permanent household waste facility	01-02
119	HS-F.C	<b>Review</b> plans to mitigate soil or groundwater contamination for redevelopment or infill projects	Ongoing
120	HS-G.A	<b>Amend</b> and <b>enforce</b> ( as necessary) the Fresno County Noise Ordinance consistent with policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan	01-02
121	HS-G.B	<b>Develop</b> a noise control program that includes an ordinance defining acceptable noise levels and enforcement and abatement procedures <b>Develop</b> a public information program to inform county residents of the impact of noise on their lives	01-02

## 7.0 Prior Annual Progress Reports

### APR for October 3, 2000 through Fiscal Year 2001/2002

California Government Code §65400(a) requires the County to submit to the Office of Planning and Research by April 1 of each year an annual report assessing “progress” made in implementing its General Plan. So, upon completion of the first fiscal year under the 2000 Plan, which ended June 30, 2002, the County submitted its first APR – labeled “2001/2002” to the Office of Planning and Research.

In 2013, a decade later, the League assessed the merits of that first APR in a report titled Proposed 2013 Review and Revision of the Fresno County 2000 General Plan – A Study Guide Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno. The League found the APR to be quite accurate in its evaluation of the implementation of General Plan programs. But that APR was not all good news. The APR revealed some early difficulties with the implementation of the General Plan. Data from the 2001/2002 APR indicated that by the end of June 2002, only half of the County’s General Plan programs had been timely implemented, a third partially so and a fifth not at all. The 2001/2002 APR explained that this “*lack of progress*” was “*principally due to the allocation of resources associated with funding and/or staffing.*”

Then in 2003, for reasons unknown to the League, the County ceased preparing annual reports, despite the statutory requirement to prepare them. For the next 10 years, the County prepared no reports documenting its ability to implement the General Plan.

### APR for Calendar Years 2013 and 2014

In 2013, the League pressed the County to resume the preparation of APRs. Two years later, on March 24, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved its second APR, a single report covering calendar years 2013 and 2014. The County’s second APR was a profound disappointment, for although it did report on activities undertaken by the County, the APR did not evaluate whether there was a nexus between those

activities and the implementation of the General Plan, and, unlike the first APR from 2001/2002, it failed to individually assess the programs specifically designed to implement the General Plan.

## 8.0 Review of the 2015 Annual Progress Report

In conducting its review of the Draft 2015 APR, the League performed two studies: one to assess whether the APR demonstrated that the County had made progress in achieving its General Plan goals during 2015 and a second to determine if the County had been able to successfully implement its General Plan programs during that same time period.

The 2015 APR is the County’s third APR. In form and content, it’s quite like the second 2013/2014 APR, but in one respect, it’s very different. And it’s this difference that has afforded the League the opportunity to conduct a long-awaited analysis – a comparison of the County’s ability to implement the General Plan then and now (2002 vs 2015). This analysis is possible because the 2001/2002 APR and the 2015 APR both contain individual assessments for each one of the County’s 121 implementation programs. Given these two sets of data, the League was able to analyze the relative effectiveness of the two APRs in describing progress made in the implementation of each of these programs. The data for this comparative analysis are housed in **Appendix B** beginning on page 69. The analysis and the accompanying results are found on pages 18 – 22.

The League was also able to analyze how well the Draft 2015 APR describes progress made in achieving General Plan goals. The data for this analysis are housed in **Appendix A**, beginning on page 28. The analysis and the accompanying results are found on page 17.

Importantly, what these two studies show is that the County has not been able to demonstrate through its APRs that it’s able to achieve its General Plan goals or implement its General Plan programs. What is not so well-known is whether the problem is the result of poor implementation or poor reporting – or both.

## 9.0 Review Results

### First of Two Studies: Progress toward Achieving General Plan Goals

What's the relationship between the County's 46 General Plan goals and its 121 implementation programs? It's a simple association, really. Goals are attained through program implementation. That being so, it's sensible to conduct an evaluation of General Plan programs in light of the goals they are designed to achieve.

But that's easier said than done. A significant problem is the fact that General Plan goals are not assembled together in any one place. They are located in various sections of the General Plan Policy Document. In order to perform an adequate review of the County's ability to achieve its General Plan goals, the League first found it necessary to gather those goals into a single location. The result was the creation of **Appendix A**, which houses a verbatim collection of the County's 46 General Plan goals.

**Appendix A** also includes other essential information:

- Excerpts from the General Plan Policy Document justifying the need for each goal
- Excerpts from the Draft 2015 APR describing planning activities during 2015 in support of these goals
- Similar excerpts from the 2013/14 APR, which were included in **Appendix A** to provide a more robust recent history of activities reported to implement the General Plan.

Based on the analysis of the information in **Appendix A**, the League reached the inescapable conclusion that the Draft 2015 APR does not address progress made in achieving General Plan goals. (It must be noted here that the same holds true for the 2013/2014 APR.)

A case in point is the set of County activities described in the 2013/2014 and 2015 APRs for the Agriculture and Land Use Element.

The County's eight General Plan goals for that Element are summarized below and reproduced in full in **Appendix A** on pages 33 – 37. The complete report of activities undertaken by the County during 2013/2014 and 2015 in support of that Element are reproduced in **Appendix A** on pages 38 and 39.

The goals in the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element are....

- The long-term conservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural lands
- The preservation of the unique character of the Westside Rangelands
- The preservation of the environmental and aesthetic qualities of riverine environments
- The protection of the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources
- The conservation and enhancement of natural wildlife habitat
- The promotion of continued agricultural uses along Interstate 5
- The encouragement of mixed-use pedestrian and transit-oriented development
- The establishment of development standards for residential, commercial, and industrial development in urbanizing areas

Do the activities described in the 2013/2014 APR and Draft 2015 APR advance these eight goals? No, they do not. The APRs focus on but two activities: a private study on the potential for increased recreational development northeast of Fresno and a joint meeting between Madera and Fresno Counties that included a 30-minute presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

A fundamental flaw in the Draft 2015 APR, and in the 2013/2014 APR as well, is the failure to show a nexus between reported planning activities and General Plan goals. A second flaw is the failure to identify activities in support of each and every goal.

## Second of Two Studies: Implementing General Plan Programs

The second of the League's studies evaluated the implementation of the County's 121 General Plan programs. California Government Code §65400(a) requires every county to prepare Annual Progress Reports (**APRs**) on the implementation of their general plans.

When the Fresno County General Plan was adopted in 2000, the County placed a requirement in its General Plan – through the adoption of Implementation Program LU-H.D – that all Fresno County APRs would focus “principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan....”

And why did the County do that?

The need to focus on implementation programs came out of an environmental assessment prepared in 2000 for the General Plan. When the General Plan was adopted that year, the accompanying EIR found that development under the Plan would likely cause several significant and unavoidable adverse impacts, among them impacts to transportation infrastructure, biological resources, air quality and water resources. To lessen these impacts, the County adopted a set of mitigation measures, 293 of which were incorporated into the General Plan as General Plan “policies.”

An example is Policy PF-C.5, which reads, *“The County shall develop a County water budget to determine long-term needs and to determine whether existing and planned water resource enhancements will meet the county’s needs over the twenty (20) year General Plan horizon.”*

This mitigation measure was thought necessary because analysis in the EIR (2000 EIR: p. 4.8-25) determined that *“development under the Draft General Plan could result in the demand for water exceeding available supply, resulting in overdraft conditions and potential adverse effects on groundwater recharge potential.”* The EIR specifically identified Policy PF-C.5 as a mitigation measure to lessen this adverse impact (2000 EIR: p. 4.8-30). To implement that policy,

the County developed General Plan Program PF-C-A, which reads, *“The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified.”*

With the adoption of this and the other 120 programs in the 2000 General Plan, the County was able to claim that, environmentally speaking, the General Plan would be *“self-mitigating.”* Environmental mitigation would be assured because the County would have no other recourse under the law but to implement its General Plan programs.

In the course of reviewing the Draft 2015 APR, the League asked itself this question: Does the Draft 2015 APR demonstrate successful implementation of the programs described in the General Plan, for if it does not, then there is room to argue that the County may be responsible for environmental harm.

As a preliminary step to answering that question, the League took a look at a representative set of ten implementation programs: the first five programs in the Economic Development Element (Programs ED-A.A through ED-A.E) and the first five programs in the Agriculture and Land Use Element (Programs LU-A.A through LU-A.E).

What the League discovered was disturbing. According to information in the draft 2015 APR for these ten implementation programs, the County either failed to implement the programs or failed to implement them in a manner prescribed by the General Plan.

The charts on the next two pages contain the following information for each of these ten programs:

1. A summary of the program task, as directed by the General Plan
2. A summary\* of what the County self-reported in the Draft 2015
3. A League comment on the County's reporting.

\* The full text from the Draft 2015 APR on the implementation of each of the ten programs is found in **Appendix B** on pages 70 – 72 and on pages 78 – 80.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST FIVE PROGRAMS from the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Source	Statements
1	ED-A.A	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Create</b> a staff position to facilitate and support economic development and an Action Team  The County contracted with EDC ( <b>Economic Development Corporation</b> ) to implement Economic Development Element programs.  <i>This staff position no longer exists, although the County did create the position immediately upon adoption of the 2000 General Plan.</i>
2	ED-A.B	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Create, support and staff</b> an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development  The County has contracted with EDC to coordinate countywide economic developments.  <i>There is no Action Team.</i>
3	ED-A.C	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Retain</b> an independent institution to evaluate success in achieving the county's economic strategy (every five years)  The County has contracted with EDC to help the County regularly update its Economic Development Strategy.  <i>There is no evidence that there has been "independent" evaluation of the success of the County's Economic Development Strategy.</i>
4	ED-A.D	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Develop</b> ( <u>in cooperation with cities</u> ) criteria to determine the best locations for new value-added agricultural facilities  This program has been implemented. Policy LU-A.3 allows for the establishment of value added processing facilities.  <i>This program has not been implemented. No "criteria" have been developed to determine the best locations for such facilities.</i>
5	ED-A.E	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Establish</b> guidelines to analyze the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary actions  The CAO has indicated that this analysis is not needed and so it is no longer included as a section in agenda items.  <i>Guidelines were established and implemented. The CAO did not have the authority to contravene this requirement of the General Plan.</i>

As indicated above, after 2000, the County departed from the requirements of the General Plan and contracted with EDC to oversee the implementation of the County's Economic Development Strategy and General Plan programs in the County's Economic Development Element.

In similar fashion, at the some point after 2000, the County decided not to implement programs such as Program OS-E.B (County standards for the protection of fish and game species), Program OS-F.A (County mapping of rare or endangered plant species) and Program OS-G.A (County procedures for performing air quality impact analyses), reasoning that state and federal agencies had greater expertise in these fields.

These decisions were counter to the requirements of the General Plan and should only have been put into effect after environmental review and with the requisite amendment of the General Plan. There are many other instances of this type of departure from the requirements of the General Plan. Such changes contravened the directives of the General Plan and may have been made without public knowledge.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST FIVE PROGRAMS from the AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Source	Statements
19	LU-A.A	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Review</b> and <b>amend</b> the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan  The County is working on a comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update that is scheduled to be adopted in 2017.  <i>There is no evidence that the County comprehensively reviewed the Zoning Ordinance for conformity with the 2000 General Plan.</i>
20	LU-A.B	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Evaluate</b> minimum parcel sizes necessary to sustain agricultural productivity and <b>amend</b> (as appropriate) the Zoning Ordinance  Policy LU-A.6 states that the County shall maintain 20 acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture.  <i>The County has not evaluated the minimum parcel sizes necessary to sustain agricultural productivity on prime farmland.</i>
21	LU-A.C	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Develop</b> and <b>implement</b> design guidelines for buffers between new non-agricultural uses and agricultural uses in agricultural areas  The County requires buffers for certain land uses with the potential to hinder agricultural uses.  <i>The County has not developed "guidelines" for buffers between non-agricultural uses and agricultural uses for use countywide.</i>
22	LU-A.D	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Review</b> and <b>assess</b> the effectiveness of ag land preservation programs in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies  The County actively reviews Williamson Act contracts for conformity with the State and County requirements.  <i>The APR does not demonstrate that the County has assessed the "effectiveness" of various agricultural land preservation programs.</i>
23	LU-A.E	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	<b>Implement</b> the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance by providing information to the real estate industry to raise public awareness  County staff utilizes the Right-to-Farm Ordinance notification process on many types of discretionary land use permits.  <i>The APR does not demonstrate that the County has engaged the real estate industry to raise public awareness about this ordinance.</i>

The comments in the Draft 2015 APR for the programs listed above are indicative of comments throughout the Draft 2015 APR. While such comments may be factual, they are often not on point. They do not address program implementation or prescribed timeframes. They do, however, give the impression that the County has been successfully implementing programs in conformity with General Plan requirements.

A case in point is Program LU-A.B (second row above), which requires the County to evaluate the minimum parcel sizes necessary to maintain agricultural productivity in the county. The Draft 2015 APR reports that General Plan Policy LU-A.6 requires the County to maintain 20 acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture. (See page 78 in **Appendix B** for the actual wording.) While true, the comment does not address whether the County has performed the required evaluation. Actually, it's very doubtful that it has. Policy LU-A.6 was adopted in 2000, and the 2001/2002 APR reported that Program LU-A.B was to be implemented during fiscal year 2003-2004. So the 20-acre minimum stipulated in Policy LU-A.6 from 2000 cannot be the result of an evaluation that was to be done during fiscal year 2003-2004.

As the next step in its second study, the League compared the tasks described in all 121 implementation programs against the report of their implementation in the Draft 2015 APR. This comparison generated statistical information about the accuracy and focus of the Draft 2015 APR.

To facilitate this part of the study, the League created **Appendix B**, which includes the following data:

1. The exact wording of each of the 121 implementation programs from the 2000 General Plan
2. The exact wording from the County's first APR (2001/2002) as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2001/2002
3. The exact wording from the Draft 2015 APR as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2015.

A method was developed to record the success of implementation. After careful review, the League tagged each program with one of three colors.

- Green if the APR clearly demonstrated that expected progress had been made  
Green if the program had been successfully completed or if the program was to be initiated in a future year
- Orange if the APR demonstrated partial attainment of expected progress
- Red if the APR reported no expected progress  
Red if the APR failed to focus its attention on the program task(s) as described in the General Plan Policy Document

Once each implementation program had been tagged with a color, it was possible to develop tables illustrating the relative success of program implementation during both 2001/2002 and 2015. The tables are shown below. They show that the County was having fairly good success implementing programs for all six Elements during 2001/2002 but much less success during 2015. For example, with regard to the Open Space and Conservation Element, the 2001/2002 APR demonstrated that 20 of 25 programs were being successfully implemented. In 2015, that number had fallen to 5 of 25. With regard to the overall success of program implementation, the data showed that successful implementation had fallen by nearly half between 2001/2002 and 2015. In 2001/2002, the County reported that it had good success implementing 86 of its 121 programs (71%), but for 2015, the County demonstrated successful implementation of only 47 of 121 programs (39%).

### 2001/2002 APR

Degree of Success in Implementing Programs by Element

	Degree of Success			Total Number of Programs
	Clear Evidence of Progress	Weak Evidence of Progress	No Evidence of Progress	
Economic and Development Element	14	2	2	18
Agriculture and Land Use Element	12	9	3	24
Transportation and Circulation Element	14	3	2	19
Public Services and Facilities Element	10	3	5	18
Open Space and Conservation Element	20	0	5	25
Health and Safety Element	16	1	0	17
Tabulation of Progress Toward Program Implementation	86	18	17	121

### 2015 Draft APR

Degree of Success in Implementing Programs by Element

	Degree of Success			Total Number of Programs
	Clear Evidence of Progress	Weak Evidence of Progress	No Evidence of Progress	
Economic and Development Element	5	4	9	18
Agriculture and Land Use Element	8	7	9	24
Transportation and Circulation Element	11	6	2	19
Public Services and Facilities Element	5	5	8	18
Open Space and Conservation Element	5	3	17	25
Health and Safety Element	13	2	2	17
Tabulation of Progress Toward Program Implementation	47	27	47	121

The two bar graphs at the right illustrate the same data in terms of percent. For example, the top green bar in the first graph shows that in 2001/2002, the County was able to successfully implement 14 of 18 (78%) of the programs in its Economic Development Element.

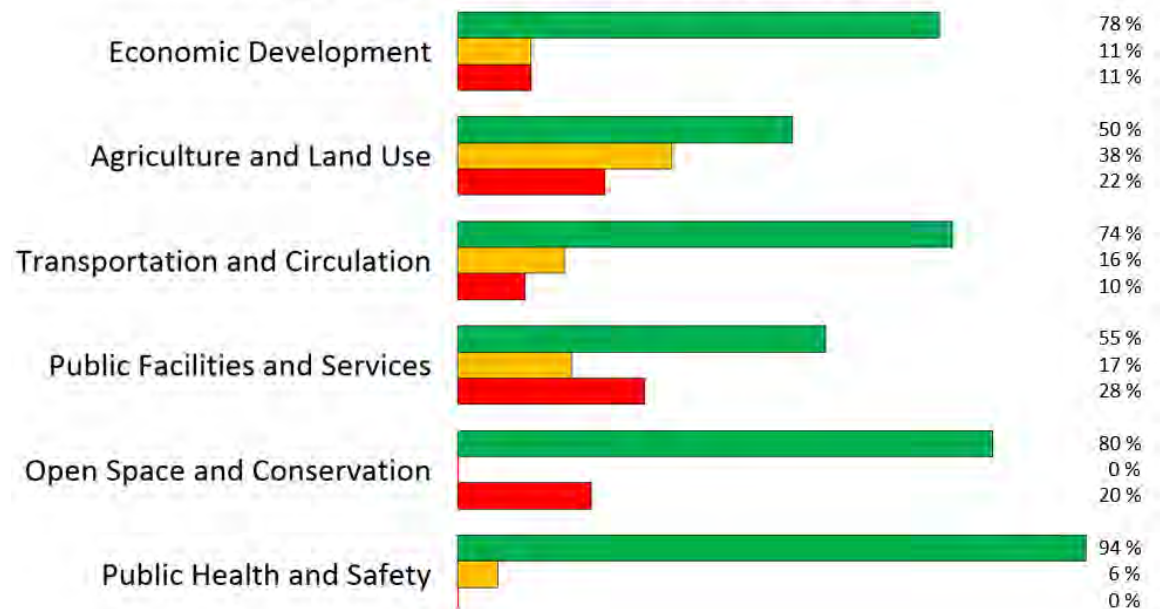
The greatest change in the rate of success from 2001/2002 to 2015 was a drop of 60 points (80% to 20%) for the Open Space and Conservation Element.

A claim could be made that the declining rate in the successful implementation of these General Plan programs is simply an aberration, that over the years County staff has found alternative implementation procedures that are just as effective as the ones prescribed in the General Plan.

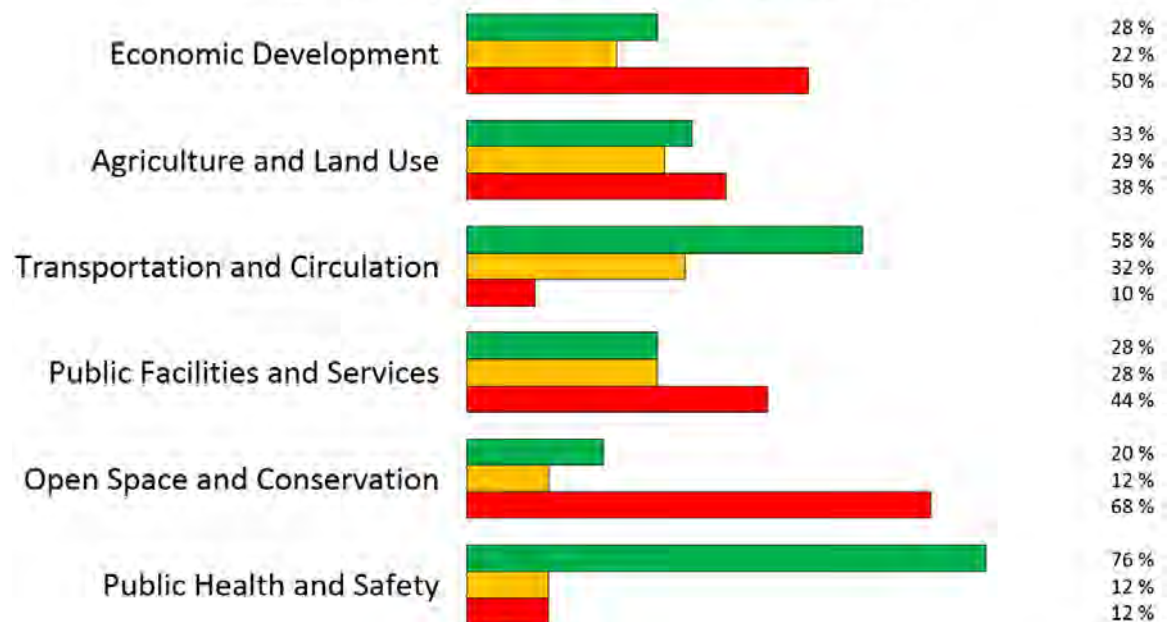
The League's response to such a claim would be that the County's General Plan programs were designed specifically to implement certain General Plan policies, and that if at some point County staff had felt that the text of the General Plan should have been amended to change the way the General Plan was implemented, then the Board of Supervisors should have held hearings to determine whether those changes would have been equally effective in implementing those same policies. It's important to remember that comfortable fixes are not always proper or legal. County staff cannot make major changes to General Plan programs without first getting approval from the Board of Supervisors in the form of General Plan amendments.

The chart on the following page illustrates the difference in the content of the County's first APR (2001/2002) and its third APR (2015).

### Progress Reported in the 2001/2002 APR



### Progress Reported in the Draft 2015 APR



## COMPARISON OF THE CONTENTS OF THE 2001/2002 AND DRAFT 2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

CONTENT	2001/2002 APR	Draft 2015 APR
General Plan Vision Statement and List of General Plan Themes	✓	✓
General Plan Policy Document		
Presentation of General Plan Goals	Complete	Partial
Report on Planning Activities Related to Each General Plan Element	-	✓
Report on the Status of Each Implementation Program	✓	✓
Lists		
General Plan Amendments Adopted during the Reporting Period of the APR	-	✓
Variances Granted for Changes in Lot Size	✓	✓
Collaborative County Projects, Programs and Partnerships	✓	-
Activities of the County's Economic Development Action Team	✓	-
Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors		
Amendments to the Text of the General Plan	✓	-
Adjustments to the Timeframes for the Implementation of General Plan Programs	✓	
Prioritization, Ranking and Rating for the Update of Regional, Community and Specific Plans	✓	-
The Incorporation of an Indicators Program into County Planning	✓	-
Guidelines for the Format and Content of Regional, Community and Specific Plans	✓	-
Updates		
Population Estimates for Cities in Fresno County	✓	-
Fresno County Median Income and Housing Affordability	✓	-
Acreage under Agricultural Contracts (Williamson Act)	✓	-
Continuing Work on the First (2005) Review and Revision of the General Plan	-	✓
Continuing Work on the Update of the Zoning Ordinance	-	✓

## 10.0 Recommendations

### Reflection: A Lesson in Subjunctive History

Subjunctive history is the pondering of the ‘what if’s’ of history. What if certain events in the past had been different? How might they have changed history?

For example, what if the Hessian commander (reading German) had translated the message (written In English) stating that General Washington was about to cross the Delaware River? And what if the keys to the locker that contained the binoculars that iceberg spotters where to have used on the Titanic had not been left back at the dock?

Questions such as these remind us of the importance of due diligence, and by calling attention to what might have happened, they alert us to the consequences of what did happen. And even though subjunctive history is only imagined, it has a powerful ability to inform.

In bringing this review of the Draft 2015 APR to a close, the League poses this question: What would the state of the General Plan be today and how might our lives be different if the County had prepared APRs between the years 2003 and 2013 and if the County had searched for and found the resources needed to fully implement General Plan programs and achieve the its goals?

Below is an imaginary statement that could have been delivered by a member of the Board of Supervisors the day the Board approved the County’s first APR in the spring of 2003. Imagine how our county might be different today had this or a similar statement been made.

“Board, I’d like to express a concern I have. Although we’re only two years into the Plan, I see some major difficulties on the horizon. I spent last week going through the entire Policy Document, as well as the Planning Commission’s annual report,

and now, for the first time, I have a true picture of just how much work lies ahead for us.

Our new General Plan demands a lot from this Board. It spells out dozens of tasks, some of which will take thousands of man-hours and tens of thousands of dollars to complete. I don’t know about you, but I’m feeling a bit overwhelmed.

In case you’re not aware, according to our new Plan, we need to amend about a dozen ordinances, create a half dozen new ones and develop a number of plans that deal with everything from measuring the effectiveness of our ag conservation programs to assessing our ability to sustain current levels of water use in this county. It’s a long to-do list, and it’s hard to know where to start.

To give you a really good picture of what I’m talking about, I’d like to take a minute or two to mention just a few of these requirements. Our General Plan mandates that we give serious consideration to developing a parks and recreation master plan for the entire county and that we work with state and federal agencies to identify suitable locations for new parks. We are also to make sure that water and sewer master plans are prepared for areas of the county that are experiencing urban growth. There are requirements to develop a Friant-Millerton Regional Plan before more development occurs in that area and a requirement to update the Kings River Regional Plan so that we can make better planning decisions for that area. Not only that, but over the next 20 years we’re required to meet regularly with our cities and neighboring counties to address planning and growth issues and to report annually the planning efforts of the previous year and present a calendar of scheduled meetings for the following year. Quite frankly, I



didn't realize that our General Plan had that much specificity.

With regard to the County's ag industry, the General Plan directs us to convene a roundtable of financial institutions to determine the funding needs of ag interests that are either expanding or locating to our County, and to work with various agencies to determine if capital deficiencies exist for ag operations that are capable of changing their modes of operation to create better employment opportunities for residents. If deficiencies are found, we're supposed to help find funding for those operations. With regard to seasonally employed ag workers, the General Plan directs us to work with our cities to develop criteria for the location of new value-added ag facilities so that workers can have year-round employment. And to better protect ag interests, we are also directed to develop guidelines for buffers between new non-ag uses and existing ag uses and to evaluate the minimum parcel sizes needed to sustain the range of ag activities we have in this county.

And there's a lot more. In an effort to improve business productivity generally, we're required by the Plan to convene a group of service providers who can help us assess what's needed both now and in the future in the way of state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure so that we can then provide local businesses with technological assistance.

And finally, with respect to resources, there are, as expected, a number of requirements regarding the protection of listed species, including the preparation of an ordinance identifying riparian protection zones. And because air quality is such a concern, the General Plan also directs us to review

the Air District's air quality guidelines so that we can create our own procedures for analyzing air quality impacts and preparing mitigation measures.

But by far the most daunting of these tasks are those associated with water conservation. The General Plan requires us to develop a process to resolve water supply problems in the county. As part of that effort, we are also required to develop and implement a water sustainability plan and a centralized water resource database that includes a county water budget and an inventory of properties that can serve as groundwater recharge basins. And finally, we're required to develop and oversee a groundwater monitoring program.

Now I know this is a lot to digest, but someone's going to have to address these and the hundred other mandates I didn't even mention. These requirements are clearly spelled out in the Plan, and they're not going to go away.

The reason I brought this up today is because I think we need to be real about this, and I don't think there's any way we're going to get these things done in the time allotted – if at all. So, I'd like to make a couple of suggestions and then hear what you have to say. First, I suggest we do as the Planning Commission recommended in its annual report and adjust the timeframes in the General Plan, and second, I strongly suggest that we ask staff to research what's needed over the long haul in the way of staff time and dollars to fully implement the Plan. I don't want to spend a lot of time on this if nothing is going to come of it.

There. I've said my piece. I'm thinking that some of you probably have similar concerns."

That fictional statement was never delivered, of course, but it does serve a purpose. It focuses attention on significant concerns that should have been raised early on in the implementation of the General Plan, and it highlights much of the work that remains to be done even today.

In drafting the 2001/2002 APR, the Planning Commission observed that some of the implementation timeframes incorporated into the General Plan were unworkable and should be changed. On page V-3, the 2001/2002 APR reads,

*“While progress has been made for most of the programs there are some programs where progress has not been made within the timeframe set out in the particular implementation program. The lack of progress is principally due to the allocation of resources associated with funding and/or staffing. These programs are listed below for review and determination of a course of action/revision for the coming fiscal year. Recommended changes will require amendment of the General Plan....”*

The Planning Commission specifically recommended changing the timeframes for six programs. But did that happen? It’s difficult to know for sure. On June 10, 2003, the Board of Supervisors approved the Commission’s recommendation to change these timeframes, but the version of the General Plan Policy Document on the County’s website today still contains the original timeframes from the time of the adoption of the General Plan in 2000.

Did the Board of Supervisors implement the Commission’s 2001/2002 recommendation to adopt an “*indicators*” program to assist the County with future assessments of General Plan implementation? On page III-3 of the 2001/2002 APR there is this statement:

*“In an effort to promote the use of indicators in the annual report the Sustainability Committee (Committee) of the League of Women Voters has initiated a ‘pilot project’ to develop a set of indicators for two elements of the General Plan under the themes*

*of economic development and agricultural land protection. The Committee is researching the data sources for the compilation of readily available information from primary sources that can be tracked over a period of time. It is anticipated that the results of this ‘pilot project’ will be provided to the County staff for its work on the next annual report.”*

But there was no “*next annual report*,” and although the Board of Supervisors approved the use of an indicators program at its August 26, 2003 Board meeting and directed its staff to “*return to the Board with [an] implementation plan on the indicators for use on a regular basis...*,” an indicators program was never established by the County. (Note: The County is currently considering the adoption of new General Plan Policy LU-H.C, which would read, “*The County shall develop an Indicators Program that monitors the success of the County in achieving the goals of the General Plan....*” That change in the General Plan could take place as early as 2017.)

Generally speaking, the 2001/2002 APR was optimistic with respect to the implementation of General Plan programs and the preparation of future annual progress reports. Page V-1 of that report reads,

*“The County is making progress in the implementation of the General Plan as adopted in October 2000. The status on implementation programs in Section IV is most indicative of the accomplished work.”*

So why did the County then abandon its legal obligation to prepare further annual progress reports, and why did the County subsequently fail to implement many of its General Plan programs?

The League cannot answer these questions, but it is pleased to report that in 2013 the County resumed the preparation of APRs. The League believes that what is needed now is a solid commitment from the Board of Supervisors to fully implement its General Plan. The first step in that effort is the preparation of a 2015 APR that provides an accurate review of the County’s ability to do just that.



## League Recommendations

This review of the Draft 2015 APR by the League of Women Voters of Fresno demonstrates conclusively that the APR fails to adequately assess the degree to which the County has been able to make progress in achieving its General Plan goals and in implementing its General Plan programs. For example, the Draft 2015 APR's discussion of activities associated with the implementation of the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element does not demonstrate a nexus between those activities and the General Plan goals designed to conserve agricultural lands, preserve riverine environments and protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources.

Equally flawed is the analysis of the County's ability to implement General Plan programs. The League has determined that the Draft 2015 APR demonstrates satisfactory progress in the implementation of only 47 of the County's 121 programs (39%). This compares unfavorably with the success demonstrated in the 2001/2002 APR, where adequate progress was shown for 86 (71%) of the County's General Plan programs.

### Recommendation #1:

The League recommends that County staff redraft the 2015 APR so that it provides the Board of Supervisors with a complete and reliable picture of progress made during 2015 to achieve General Plan goals and implement General Plan programs. If it turns out that the amended report shows virtually no progress made during 2015, that's acceptable as long as the analysis is accurate.

Here is an example of the type of correction that's needed. With regard to Program PF-C.A, which reads, *"The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified,"* rather than report, as was done in the Draft 2015 APR, that the County requires water supply evaluations for "new" discretionary projects and is currently working

to implement the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), it would be much more appropriate to report, if accurate, that the County has not taken any steps to develop a process to resolve existing water supply problems in the county.

### Recommendation #2

Because the 2001/2002 APR and the 2013/2014 APRs both state that the inability to implement General Plan programs is the result of the insufficient allocation of funds, the League recommends that the County take immediate steps to research what it will take in the way of staff resources and funding to fully implement the General Plan, keeping in mind that 85% of the General Plan's 121 program are managed through the Department of Public Works and Planning.

### Other Considerations

The League is concerned that the County's failure to implement its General Plan could have legal repercussions. The County, for example, may have difficulty defending its inaction to implement Program PF-C.A in the case of a county resident whose water supply problem has been exacerbated by the County's failure to implement the program designed to alleviate that problem. Furthermore, it is the League's understanding that a court has the general authority to impose various remedies, including the issuance of injunctions that limit project approvals, should the court determine that a general plan is inadequate. A court could declare the County's General Plan legally deficient upon a finding that (1) the County is either unable to implement or has decided not to implement General Plan programs specifically designed to mitigate previously identified adverse environmental impacts and (2) the lack of implementation has, in fact, resulted in harm to the environment.

This concludes the League's review of the County's Draft 2015 APR.

# **Appendix A**

## **Achieving General Plan Goals**

Appendix A contains the following data:

1. The complete text from the General Plan describing the goals within each General Plan Element
2. The complete text from the 2013/2014 Annual Progress Report describing government activities related to each General Plan Element
3. The complete text from the Draft 2015 Annual Progress Report describing government activities related to each General Plan Element

## 2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

### TAKEN FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

During the second half of the 20th Century, Fresno County's economy has been driven by agriculture and residential development. For most of this period, Fresno County has had the largest agricultural output of any county in the United States. Despite this success, Fresno County's unemployment rate has remained among the highest in California and the county's average wage levels have been low.

To address these chronic problems, Fresno County is taking a leadership role in promoting economic development. The long- and short-term objective of the County is to work with cities, the private sector, and other organizations to create good jobs at a faster rate than population growth to bring Fresno County in line with the rest of California in terms of employment rates and wage levels.

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

#### A. JOB CREATION

Numerous agencies are involved in economic development in Fresno County, including County departments, the cities, and a variety of regional planning, marketing, and workforce training organizations. Fresno County's Economic Development Strategy seeks to change the pace and direction of business and employment growth in the county. For this effort, strong leadership and regional partnering and coordination are needed.

The first step in expanding the county's job base is to strengthen the county's historical economic base of agriculture. Technological and marketing advances have opened up new global markets for American produce and Fresno County has an opportunity to expand its markets. It is essential for the county's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

Shifts in consumer preferences and technological advances in food processing have created many new economic opportunities in agriculture. Combined with emerging international markets, the volume demand can support a scale of production well beyond the crop levels produced in Fresno County. Therefore, value-added food processing can become a much stronger industrial sector in the county, creating an increased number of well-paying jobs.

Policies in this section address economic development planning and management, agricultural productivity, and high-value-added agriculture. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development.

#### Goal ED-A JOB CREATION

To increase job creation through regional leadership, agricultural productivity and development of high-value-added processing firms.

## **B. ECONOMIC BASE DIVERSIFICATION**

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the county, it is important to diversify the job base in the county. Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors. Industries such as metal fabrication and machinery that have emerged from the county's historical agricultural economy are now heavily engaged in production of a wide range of components for the consumer economy. Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the county and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Every year, Fresno County hosts millions of visitors, more than half of which come to recreate. As the county's economy diversifies, demand for business travel will increase, with the need to develop more and better accommodations, amenities, and services. Similarly, the county's location as a gateway to Yosemite and the other Sierra attractions creates the opportunity for recreational and resort development in the foothills that can have a very beneficial impact on the local economy.

Policies in this section address information technology, non-agricultural industry, and recreation and tourism. Related policies are included in Section TR-E, Rail Transportation; Section TR-F, Air Transportation; Section OS-H, Parks and Recreation; Section OS-J, Historical, Cultural, and Geological Resources; Section OS-K, Scenic Resources; Section OS-L, Scenic Roadways; and Section PF-J, Utilities.

### **Goal ED-B ECONOMIC BASE DIVERSIFICATION**

To diversify the economic base of Fresno County through the expansion of non-agricultural industry clusters and through the development and expansion of recreation and visitor-serving attractions and accommodations.

## **C. LABOR FORCE PREPAREDNESS**

The new jobs created over the next 20 years through implementation of the Economic Development Strategy will not benefit the current and future labor force of the county if its members are not qualified to secure and retain the jobs created. Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

Policies in this section seek to improve labor force preparedness for the local work force. Related policies are included in Section ED-A, Job Creation; Section LU-B, Economic Base Diversification; and Section PF-I, School and Library Facilities.

### **Goal ED-C LABOR FORCE PREPAREDNESS**

To improve labor force preparedness by providing the local workforce with the skills needed to meet the requirements of an increasingly diverse business sector in the 21st century global economy.

## PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC GOALS

### Complete Text from the 2013/2014 Annual Progress Report

Although Fresno County has been one of the larger agricultural commodity producers in the United States, the County's unemployment rate has remained among the highest in California and the County's average wage levels have been low.

To address these chronic problems, Fresno County has taken a leadership role in promoting economic development. The long- and short-term objective of the County is to work with cities, the private sector, and other organizations to create good jobs at a faster rate than population growth to bring Fresno County in line with the rest of California in terms of employment rates and wage levels.

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

The first step in expanding the County's job base is to strengthen the County's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the County's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the County, it is important to diversify the job base in the County.

Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors. Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the County and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

In August 2011, the County entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation for implementation of the policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. The contract is renewed annually.

#### Rapid Response Processing Program

On September 10, 2013 the Board of Supervisors approved the Rapid Response Processing Program. In 2014, as part of this program, additional staff was added to assist with processing and workload. The primary function of the program is to actively seek out potential job creating business applicants in need of assistance with land use/building permit processes. By actively seeking and assisting/facilitating these applicants, it is surmised that additional employment opportunities will result. The priority of the Program is given to new businesses, or expansion of existing businesses that result in the creation of at least 20 new full-time jobs, either directly by applicant or indirectly in support of businesses. Rapid response staff will all assist with other possible job growth applications in need of processing to maintain application processing timelines.

## **Complete Text from the 2015 Draft Annual Progress Report**

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

The first step in expanding the County's job base is to strengthen the County's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the County's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the County, it is important to diversify the job base in the County. Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors.

Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the County and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

Since 2011, the County has contracted with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for implementation of the policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. The contract is reviewed annually. Most recently (2015) the County tasked EDC to continue marketing employment-ready CalWORKs participants to local businesses, manage and improve the Ready2Hire jobs matching website, identify and coordinate training courses for CalWORKs participants for anticipated industry employment needs, and attract businesses to expand or relocate to Fresno County.

In 2015, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) worked with business that required relocation due to the High Speed Rail (HSR) project. The Department of Public Works and Planning has utilized its Rapid Response Process to process land use entitlement applications for businesses affected by the High Speed Rail (HSR) project expeditiously. In 2015, the County and EDC worked with the High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) for reimbursement of the cost of land use entitlements to relocate businesses affected by the HSR project in Fresno County. The Public Works and Planning Department has processed some land use entitlement projects involving relocation of businesses affected by HSR for which the cost of processing land use entitlements have been reimbursed by the Authority.

## 2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

### TAKEN FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

The Agriculture and Land Use Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Land Use Diagram, the land use designations that appear on the diagram, and related development standards. The second major part sets out goals, policies, and implementation programs organized under four main headings: Resource Lands, Rural Development, Urban Development, and Administration.

#### A. AGRICULTURE

Since the early 1950s, Fresno County has been the leading agricultural county in the United States in the value of farm products. Since most of the county's highly productive agricultural soils could be easily developed by urban, rural residential, and other non-agricultural uses, careful land use decision-making is essential to minimizing the conversion of productive agricultural land. This land use conversion diminishes Fresno County's agricultural production capacity and economic viability and detrimentally impacts surrounding agricultural operations to the extent that further losses in production may occur.

As the introduction to the Economic Development Element states, the first step in expanding the county's job base is to strengthen the county's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the county's agricultural economy to reduce the conversion of productive agricultural land. Policies in this section seek to sustain agriculture by protecting agricultural activities from incompatible land uses, promoting agricultural land preservation programs, developing programs to preserve or maintain soil conditions or improve soil productivity, facilitating agricultural production by supplying adequate land for support services, and controlling expansion of non-agricultural development onto productive agricultural lands. Related policies are included in Section ED-A, Job Creation; Section LU-B, Westside Rangelands; and Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery.

#### Goal LU-A. AGRICULTURE

To promote the long-term conservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural lands and to accommodate agricultural-support services and agriculturally-related activities that support the viability of agriculture and further the County's economic development goals.

#### B. WESTSIDE RANGELANDS

The western rangelands of Fresno County's coastal foothills possess unique physiographic features and are relatively isolated from major population concentrations. This area is sensitive to human activity and is best suited for continuation of open space uses that protect important watershed areas, decrease flood hazards, and prevent loss of wildlife habitat, grazing land, and other desirable open space uses. At the same time, various non-intensive uses are suitable for this land including grazing and other agricultural operations, mining, oil and gas development, and various recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, and rock hounding.

Policies in this section seek to preserve rangelands by maintaining their open space character, minimizing grading and erosion, maintaining grazing and agricultural operations, accommodating mineral resource recovery, and protecting biological resources from development. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture and Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

## **Goal LU-B. WESTSIDE RANGELANDS**

To preserve the unique character of the Westside Rangelands, which includes distinctive geologic and topographic landforms, watersheds, important agricultural activities, and significant biological resources, while accommodating agriculture, grazing, recreation, resource recovery, and other limited uses that recognize the sensitive character of the area.

## **C. RIVER INFLUENCE AREAS**

The San Joaquin and the Kings River valleys have unique features such as topography, wildlife, vegetation, micro-climate, and openness that make them attractive for multiple uses including agriculture, sand and gravel mining, recreation, and homesite development. These river valleys at the same time are subject to natural constraints to development such as periodic flooding and soils with a high water table and poor filtration capacity for domestic sewage.

Policies in this section seek to preserve and enhance the county's river influence areas by avoiding adverse impacts from development and encouraging environmentally-friendly recreational and agricultural activities. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-C, Mineral Resources; Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Section OSI, Recreational Trails; and Section OS-K, Scenic Resources.

## **Goal LU-C. RIVER INFLUENCE AREAS**

To preserve and enhance the value of the river environment as a multiple use, open space resource; maintain the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the area; protect the quality and quantity of the surface and groundwater resources; provide for long term preservation of productive agricultural land; conserve and enhance natural wildlife habitat; and maintain the flood-carrying capacity of the channel at a level equal to the one (1) percent flood event (100-year flood).

## **D. WESTSIDE FREEWAY CORRIDOR**

The Westside Freeway (Interstate Route 5), constructed between 1965 and 1972, is a major travel corridor between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Because protecting the freeway as a major traffic artery is of paramount interest to the public, development along this corridor must be carefully planned.

In 1963, the California State Legislature adopted the Westside Freeway Park and Development Act, requiring each local jurisdiction traversed by Interstate 5 to prepare development policies for the interchange areas. In response to this legislation, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted the General Plan for Land Use-Westside Freeway as a long-range guide for land use along the freeway and around its interchanges.

Policies in this section identify major and minor interchange areas where travel-related commercial and agriculture-related development is deemed appropriate, define the appropriate uses for these interchange areas, and seek to protect the rest of the corridor for agricultural operations. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.



## **Goal LU-D. WESTSIDE FREEWAY CORRIDOR**

To promote continued agricultural uses along Interstate 5, protect scenic views along the freeway, promote the safe and efficient use of the freeway as a traffic carrier, discourage the establishment of incompatible and hazardous uses along the freeway, and provide for attractive, coordinated development of commercial and service uses that cater specifically to highway travelers, and of agriculture-related uses at key interchanges along Interstate 5.

## **E. NON-AGRICULTURAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The vast majority of Fresno County's rural area is designated for agricultural, rangeland, or open space uses. However, the General Plan designates land for four types of rural development that are primarily residential in character: Rural Residential, Foothill Rural Residential, Rural Settlement Areas, and Planned Rural Communities.

This plan, however, restricts the designation of additional areas for such development because there is already a large inventory of vacant rural residential lots, additional rural residential development is not needed to accommodate projected unincorporated growth, and rural residential development has environmental and service impacts that can and should be avoided.

Rural Settlement Areas, which consist of small unincorporated residential settlements surrounded by agriculture and other open space uses, have experienced little growth since their early founding. Substantial population growth in these areas is not anticipated in the future. Planned Rural Community is an intermediate land use designation that provides for a density of development that is higher than that of the Rural Residential but still significantly lower than the General Plan's urban designations. This designation has been applied to a single location (Quail Lake Estates Specific Plan). This General Plan prohibits the designation of any additional land as Planned Rural Community for the same reasons cited above. These restrictive land use policies retain land use planning options for future generations.

Policies in this section provide for appropriate development in rural areas by directing development away from productive and potentially productive agricultural areas, limiting expansion of existing designated rural residential areas, and minimizing the environmental and service impacts of continued development within areas already designated for rural development. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-B, Westside Rangeland; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; and Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.

## **Goal LU-E. NON-AGRICULTURAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

To provide for the continued development of areas already designated for nonagricultural rural-residential development in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and public infrastructure and service costs while restricting designation of new areas for such development.

## **F. URBAN DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

The fundamental policy directive of this General Plan is to direct intensive development to cities, unincorporated communities, and other areas where public facilities and infrastructure are available (see page 8, Agricultural Land Protection Vision Statement). The County has a direct role in shaping the character of urban development as it continues to manage growth in the existing unincorporated communities and specific plan areas. At the same time, the County seeks to support and encourage the cities in their land use planning efforts to ensure that a quality living environment is provided for all existing and future residents of the county.

This section addresses development patterns in urban and urbanizing areas. The policies in this section have two main purposes. The first is to encourage pedestrian- and transit-oriented development and infill of vacant or under-utilized urban land. These policies seek to create well designed, mixed-use, higher-density developments in which jobs, commercial activities, and amenities are located along transit corridors and closer to residential areas to encourage pedestrian and transit access. The second purpose of this section is to establish development guidelines and standards for urban residential, commercial, and industrial development. Related policies are included in Section TR-B, Transit, Section TR-D, Bicycle Facilities, Section PF-I, School and Library Facilities; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery, Section LU-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.

## **Goal LU-F. URBAN DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

To encourage mixed-use pedestrian and transit-oriented development and to establish development standards for residential, commercial, and industrial development in urban and urbanizing areas.

## **G. INCORPORATED CITY, CITY FRINGE AREA, AND UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Each incorporated city in the county and its unincorporated urban fringe functions as a single community requiring an extensive system of urban services. The most efficient method to provide required urban services at the lowest cost to the taxpayers is to concentrate urban development within cities, thus avoiding duplication of services and discouraging the formation of special purpose districts. In addition, there are a number of unincorporated communities in Fresno County that have a substantial urban population and exist as separate, distinct communities surrounded by agriculture or other open space uses. These communities have problems similar to those of cities in that urban growth depends on the provision of adequate services. Improved land use planning is required to maintain compact urban boundaries, minimize intrusion of urban development into productive agricultural areas, and create the optimum situation for provision of services. The challenge of addressing these planning issues has historically been greatest in the urban fringe areas surrounding the cities of Fresno and Clovis, the two largest cities in Fresno County.

Policies in this section seek to encourage coordination and consistency with the County and the cities regarding all land use matters, encourage growth within the cities, and ensure that development in unincorporated areas has adequate water and sewer services. Related sections include Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; and Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.

## **Goal LU-G. INCORPORATED CITY, CITY FRINGE AREA, AND UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

To direct urban development within city spheres of influence to existing incorporated cities and to ensure that all development in city fringe areas is well planned and adequately served by necessary public facilities and infrastructure and furthers countywide economic development goals.

## **H. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

There are several types of development, structures, and activities including mobilehome development, home occupations, second dwellings, and planned development that the County authorizes throughout the unincorporated area according to specific zoning provisions. Policies in this section provide the overall framework for the regulation of these types of development and uses.

The Fresno County General Plan must be monitored and maintained regularly if the County is to achieve the goals of the plan. At the same time, the plan must be implemented systematically through further planning efforts, a wide range of programs and ordinances, and day-to-day decisions. Policies in this section provide direction for these follow-up efforts.

Policies in this section address mobilehomes, home occupations, second unit dwellings, Planned Developments, the proposed Friant-Millerton Regional Plan, guidelines for updating the General Plan, and review of the countywide General Plan. Related sections include Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Development.

## **Goal LU-H. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

To provide for mobilehome development, home occupations, second dwellings, and planned development in appropriate locations under specified conditions and to provide for the effective and systematic implementation of the General Plan.

## PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE GOALS

### 2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

The core concept for the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element is the "Urban-Centered Growth" to direct urban-type developments to cities and unincorporated communities where existing or planned infrastructure and services can support that growth, thus preserving the County's scarce and valuable agricultural resources. Central to this land use concept for unincorporated Fresno County is a development pattern that balances the land requirements of residential growth with those of commerce, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife habitats.

The Land Use Element provides maps, goals, and policies that guide decision-makers, planners, property owners, developers, and the general public as to how to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of unincorporated communities and the protection of valuable and sensitive natural resources.

During 2013 and 2014, the County continued to adhere to General Plan policies for preservation of agricultural resources by directing growth to cities and unincorporated communities where the services are available or are planned to accommodate urban-type developments. The primary activities associated with implementation of the Land Use Policies are noted below:

#### Friant Corridor Land Use Feasibility Study

The purpose of the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study is to identify and assess opportunities and constraints (both physical and economic) for possible land use changes and development activities within the corridor area relating to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. The Corridor Study area is comprised of lands outside of any city Sphere of Influence and is situated on the east and the west sides of Friant Road between the City of Fresno and the unincorporated community of Friant. On May 21, 2013, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to begin the process of initiating discussions with all relevant parties to determine financial and/or study participation. The first of three public workshops regarding initiating the Feasibility Study for the Friant Corridor was held on August 1, 2014.

#### Joint Meeting between Madera and Fresno Counties

Efforts that began in 2014 culminated into a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

### 2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)

The core concept for the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element is the "Urban-Centered Growth" to direct urban-type developments to cities and unincorporated communities where existing infrastructure and services can support that growth, thus preserving the County's valuable

agricultural resources. Central to this land use concept for unincorporated Fresno County is a development pattern that balances the land requirements of residential growth with those of commerce, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife resources.

The Land Use Element provides maps, goals, and policies that guide decision-makers, planners, property owners, developers, and the general public as to how to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of unincorporated communities and the protection of valuable and sensitive natural resources.

During 2015, the County continued to implement General Plan policies relating to preservation of agricultural resources by directing growth to cities, in the form of annexation referrals, and unincorporated communities by processing land use entitlements. The primary activities associated with implementation of the Land Use Policies are noted below:

#### *Friant Corridor Land Use Feasibility Study*

The purpose of the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study was to identify and assess opportunities and constraints (both physical and economic) for possible land use changes and development activities within the corridor area relating to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. The Corridor Study area is comprised of lands outside of any city Sphere of Influence and covers land on the east and the west sides of Friant Road between the City of Fresno and the unincorporated community of Friant. On May 21, 2013, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to begin the process of initiating discussions with all relevant parties to determine financial and/or study participation.

The first of two public workshops regarding initiating the Feasibility Study for the Friant Corridor was held on August 1, 2014. A second public workshop was held on August 3, 2015. A public review draft of the Study was released in June of 2015, and based on comments received, a revised public review draft was released in October of 2015. Staff also made two presentations to the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board regarding the Study: one in September of 2014 and a second in October of 2015. The Study was presented to the Fresno County Planning Commission on November 19, 2015 and the vote was 6 to 1 to recommend that the Board of Supervisors reject the Study. On May 10, 2016 the Board of Supervisors considered the study and chose to set the study aside.

#### *Regional Cooperation between Fresno County and Surrounding Jurisdictions*

Efforts that began in 2014 resulted in a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in Madera County. Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

On June 22, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and representatives of all 15 incorporated cities within the County was held at the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG). Topics discussed included SGMA, Marijuana Ordinances, land use and preservation and special districts.

On November 17, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the representatives from the Cities of Clovis, Fowler, Fresno and Sanger was held at the Fresno COG. Topics discussed included industrial parks, spheres of influence and SGMA.

## 2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

### TAKEN FROM THE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

The Transportation and Circulation Element provides the framework for Fresno County decisions concerning the countywide transportation system, which includes various transportation modes and related facilities. It also provides for coordination with the cities and unincorporated communities within the county, with the Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the Council of Fresno County Governments, and with State and Federal agencies that fund and manage transportation facilities within the county. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system, and management of access to the highway system by new development, throughout the unincorporated areas of the county.

The element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

#### A. STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

The Fresno County Circulation System is a street and highway plan designed to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods to and within the county and to ensure safe and continuous access to land. Using the State freeways and highways and the County's system of highways as its basic framework, the County Circulation System brings together the circulation plans of the cities and unincorporated communities within the county into a unified, functionally integrated, countywide system that is correlated with the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

Policies in this section seek to create a unified, coordinated, and cost-efficient countywide street and highway system by maintaining and rehabilitating existing roads, maintaining an acceptable level of service (LOS), coordinating improvements with other local jurisdictions, maintaining adequate funding, and providing multi-modal uses where appropriate along street and highway corridors. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Development; and Section HS-G, Noise.

#### Goal TR-A. STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

To plan and provide a unified, coordinated, and cost-efficient countywide street and highway system that ensures the safe, orderly, and efficient movement of people and goods.

#### B. TRANSIT

Transit systems—both buses and rail—provide alternatives to automobile use and are especially important for those who cannot or do not drive. As Fresno County grows, the potential for transit use and the need for transit will increase. The General Plan supports expansion of the existing transit system, especially in connection with new development.

Policies in this section seek to develop a safe and efficient mass transit system by promoting transit services within urban corridors of dense population and employment, addressing user needs (i.e, seniors, minority, handicapped), developing convenient transfers between transportation systems, and ensuring adequate funding for the system. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section HS-G, Noise; and Section OS-G, Air Quality.

## **Goal TR-B. TRANSIT**

To promote a safe and efficient mass transit system that provides service to residents without access to automobiles and, in urban areas, helps to reduce congestion, improves the environment, and provides viable non-automotive means of transportation.

## **C. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

Fresno County has a relatively complex highway transportation system, serving cars, heavy trucks, agricultural and commercial vehicles, buses, transit, bicycles, and pedestrian traffic. Coordinating these many forms of transportation is critical to achieving maximum road efficiency and minimizing costly road expansion or construction.

Policies in this section seek to reduce travel demand on the county's roadway system and maximize the operating efficiency of transportation facilities. The intent is to reduce vehicle emissions and reduce the needed investment in new or expanded facilities. In rural areas, transportation management can sometimes be better addressed through development location and access management rather than conventional systems management. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section TR-A, Streets and Highways; and Section OS-G, Air Quality.

## **Goal TR-C. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

To reduce travel demand on the County's roadway system and maximize the operating efficiency of transportation facilities so as to reduce the quantity of motor vehicle emissions and reduce the amount of investment required in new or expanded facilities.

## **D. BICYCLE FACILITIES**

The bicycle has steadily been gaining in acceptance and importance in recent years as a means of recreation, transportation, and healthful exercise. The extent of this increase is reflected in the dramatic rise of bicycle sales. This use of the bicycle by a growing segment of the public has generated an interest in the need for adequate facilities for cyclists.

Policies in this section seek to provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible bikeway system that connects cities to other communities, to major facilities, and to recreational areas and regional parks; these policies also strive to establish bikeways along existing recreational bicycling routes, to encourage safety-oriented design, to link bikeways to other modes of transportation, and to provide adequate funding. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; and Section OS-I, Recreational Trails.

## **Goal TR-D. BICYCLE FACILITIES**

To plan and provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible bikeway system that facilitates the use of the bicycle as a viable alternative transportation mode and as a form of recreation and exercise.

## **E. RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

Rail transportation has played an important historical role in the development of the county. Currently, the County's role in rail transportation is limited primarily to land use regulation through the Zoning Ordinance. Federal and State agencies have primary jurisdiction over rail facilities and operations.

Policies in this section seek to provide a safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound rail system by supporting improvements to at-grade crossings, protecting and supporting acquisition of railroad rights-of-way, and developing multi-modal stations that link rail with other transportation modes. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; and Section HS-G, Noise.

### **Goal TR-E. RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

To plan for a safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound rail system to meet the needs of all Fresno County residents, industry, commerce, and agriculture.

## **F. AIR TRANSPORTATION**

Air transportation plays a key role in the movement of goods and people not only to locations outside of the county but also between locations within the county. Currently, the County's role in air transportation is strictly limited to land use regulation through the Zoning Ordinance. State and Federal agencies have primary jurisdiction over airport facilities and operations.

Policies in this section seek to promote the maintenance and improvement of general and commercial aviation facilities by avoiding potential land use conflicts between airports and surrounding urban uses and supporting the local Airport Land Use Commission. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; and Section HS-G, Noise.

### **Goal TR-F. AIR TRANSPORTATION**

To promote the maintenance and improvement of general and commercial aviation facilities within the parameters of compatible surrounding land uses.



# PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION GOALS

## 2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

The Transportation and Circulation Element describes the County's transportation network and establishes goals and policies that address the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and management of the transportation network. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The Element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system, and management of access to the highway system by new development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

The Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

During 2013 and 2014, the County continued to implement planning efforts to facilitate a safe and multi-modal road network. Major accomplishments associated with implementing the policies of the Transportation and Circulation Chapter include:

### Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan (Amendment)

The Fresno County Regional Bicycle Master Plan was originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors in February 2012. The County Planning Commission, in August 2013, based on a recommendation by staff, recommended that the Board of Supervisors revise the Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan. The revisions included revising Figure 6 to clearly depict standards for the Class I Bike Path, adding the Lost Lake Pedestrian Nature Trail and the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail, revising Figure 9 and adding Figures 9A and 9B to illustrate the County's conceptual recreation trails, adding Figure 10 to depict standards for Recreational/Hiking/Pedestrian/Equestrian Trails and Off-Road Cyclists, updating Table V to include Class II bicycle lanes projects completed from 2005-2012, and updating Table VII to include the Lost Lake Pedestrian Nature Trail and the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail.

On September 24, 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the Fresno County Regional Bicycle Master Plan.

The Lost Lake Pedestrian Nature Trail and Fancher Creek Bridle Trail will be included in the next scheduled update of the Transportation and Circulation and Open Space and Conservation Elements of the October 2000 Fresno County General Plan.

### Fresno County Road Improvement Program

On June 3, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered the Approval of the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP) and Declaration of Projects. The RIP is a multi-year maintenance and construction programming plan and reflects the County's efforts to protect and improve the public investment in the County road system and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and commodities. The RIP identifies maintenance funding levels and specific projects expected to be delivered within a defined time frame. The funding in the RIP reflects current and projected budgets and the RIP also identifies, but does not fund, a number of recommended projects that are necessary for an improved County

road and bridge system. These prospective projects were described in a series of appendices to the RIP. In 2014 the RIP considered the following projects: bridge replacement/repair, road reconstruction projects, traffic signals, congestion mitigation air quality projects, and pavement repair.

The RIP is intended to be a guide to the Board of Supervisors' road priorities and the Department's road program development, as well as for the Administrative Office, businesses, economic development community, utility companies, and the public at large. It should be viewed as a living document that will be adjusted over time to match revenues, and to allow the Board to respond to unforeseen needs or revenues.

At its June 2014 Hearing, the Board acted unanimously to approve the RIP as recommended by staff.

## **2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)**

The Transportation and Circulation Element describes the County's transportation network and establishes goals and policies that address the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and management of the transportation network. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The Element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system and management of access to the highway system by new development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

The Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

During 2015, the County continued to implement planning efforts to facilitate a safe and multi-modal road network. Major activities associated with the Transportation and Circulation Element are included below:

### *Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan*

In 2009 the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan (Plan) was created through the coordinated efforts of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), the Fresno Cycling Club, the City of Fresno Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), various government and non-profit agencies, and citizens interested in improving the bicycling environment in Fresno County. Without the sustained efforts of these organizations and citizens, the continuing improvements to the cycling environment throughout the County would not be realized. The Plan is one component of the continued effort towards making bicycling an integral part of Fresno County daily life. The Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 and most recently amended September 24, 2013.

During 2015, the construction of one bicycle lane project was completed. The project was a cooperative endeavor between the City of Fresno and the County, and resulted in the construction of bicycle lanes on Cedar Avenue from McKinley Avenue to Clinton Avenue. The County's portion of the project was funded from the County's Measure "C" Extension Local Transportation Funds for Bicycle Facilities. Cedar Avenue is designated as a Class II bicycle facility in the City Bike Master Plan and in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreation Trails Master Plan.

The design of the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail Project commenced. The project, once completed, will provide an improved 1.3-mile-long equestrian/pedestrian trail within the Sunnyside neighborhood, located within a County island within the City of Fresno. The County worked

extensively with various stakeholders including Tree Fresno and the Sunnyside Property Owners Association to establish parameters for the design of the trail, and the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew cleared the existing easement to enable the site to be surveyed. The Project is funded with Measure "C" funds for the construction of urban trails.

### *Fresno County Road Improvement Program*

On April 7, 2015 the Board of Supervisors approved the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP) and Declaration of Projects. The RIP is a multi-year maintenance and construction programming plan and reflects the County's efforts to protect and improve the public investment in the County road system and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and commodities. The RIP identifies maintenance funding levels and specific projects expected to be delivered within a defined time frame. The funding in the RIP reflects current and projected budgets and the RIP also identifies, but does not fund, a number of recommended projects that are necessary for an improved County road and bridge system. These prospective projects are described in a series of appendices to the RIP. The types of projects in the RIP include bridge replacement/repair, road reconstruction, traffic signals, shoulder widening, and pavement repair.

The RIP is intended to be a guide to the Board of Supervisors' road priorities and the Department's road program development, as well as for the Administrative Office, businesses, economic development community, utility companies, and the public at large. It should be viewed as a living document that will be adjusted over time to match revenues, and to allow the Board to respond to unforeseen needs or revenues.

### *Roads/Bridges*

In 2015, construction was completed on several federally-funded projects including bridge preventative maintenance of 17 bridges, two shoulder-widening projects on Lassen Avenue and Belmont Avenue, a traffic signal on Belmont and Helm Avenues, a safety striping project on mountain roads, as well as two locally-funded pavement resurfacing projects.

## 2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

### TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities.

#### A. GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Modern development requires a wide range of publicly-provided facilities and services, such as water, wastewater disposal, storm drainage, and garbage collection. The General Plan seeks to provide for the logical and efficient extension of these services as new development occurs.

Policies in this section seek to ensure public facilities and services are available in a timely fashion to serve new development. Related policies are included in Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; LU-G, Incorporated City, Fringe Area and Unincorporated Community Development; Section PF-B, Funding; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; and PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control.

#### Goal PF-A. GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

To ensure the timely development of public facilities and to maintain an adequate level of service to meet the needs of existing and future development.

#### B. FUNDING

In the past, Federal and State grants paid for many improvements and expansions of public facilities, but this type of funding has dwindled in recent years. Generally, expansion of facilities or the development of new facilities is the responsibility of the private developer. Public entities are responsible for operation and maintenance of such facilities in accordance with all State, Federal and local laws. Residents and property owners within the service area are responsible for the costs of operation and maintenance of public facilities and services which are usually collected as assessments, charges, and fees for service. The occasional need to upgrade or replace capital facilities may be funded by service fees, surcharge fees, assessments, grants, loans, bonds or other financial instruments.

Policies in this section seek to ensure that new development pays its fair share of the cost of new facilities; that there are adequate funding sources for new facilities and services; and that public financing is equitable, financially feasible, and consistent with County guidelines, policies, and existing fee programs. The policies also seek to ensure that public facilities are constructed in accordance with an approved public facilities plan and in accordance with approved standards of the County or special district. Related policies are included in Section LU-E, Non- Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development.

## **Goal PF-B. FUNDING**

To ensure that adopted facility and service standards are achieved and maintained through the use of equitable funding methods.

## **C. WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY**

Water supply and delivery is one of the most critical issues for Fresno County and is essential to the environment, economy, and quality of life in Fresno County. Readily available groundwater and the development of facilities for the storage and conveyance of surface water have allowed Fresno County to grow and prosper as the nation's premier agricultural region. Fresno County's agriculture and its many dependent businesses are sustained by an affordable and reliable water supply made possible through conjunctive use of groundwater and stored surface water. In addition, the ready availability of high quality groundwater allows most residents, municipalities, and industries within Fresno County to meet their water supply needs without expensive delivery and treatment infrastructure.

However, there are a number of factors affecting the county's existing water resources. Throughout much of the county, groundwater is in a state of overdraft. In some county areas, contamination from natural or manmade sources has reduced groundwater quality such that its use requires treatment. Increased contamination of surface water sources is also an emerging concern. There are also concerns regarding the import and export of surface water that could affect long-term supplies. Finally, there is the increase in water demand that will accompany the county's anticipated growth.

Policies in this section seek to ensure an adequate water supply for both domestic and agricultural users by providing necessary facility improvements, ensuring water availability, and utilizing water conservation measures. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section PF-B, Funding; and Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control.

## **Goal PF-C. WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY**

To ensure the availability of an adequate and safe water supply for domestic and agricultural consumption.

## **D. WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL**

Cities and special districts own and operate numerous wastewater collection systems throughout the county. Residents in rural areas that are not served by centralized systems use on-site septic systems. Industries are required to provide treatment or pre-treatment of their wastewater and obtain separate discharge permits from the Central Valley California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Many unincorporated communities have elected to form special districts to provide sewage collection and wastewater treatment, as well as other services. Approximately 30 of these districts provide wastewater services. The County owns and operates ten wastewater treatment facilities on behalf of water works districts and county service areas.

Fresno County's Mandatory Sewer Connection Ordinance requires connection to public sewer systems where they are available, precluding the issuance of permits for installation of individual on-site septic systems in such cases. In areas where public systems become available where they did not previously exist, structures served by individual septic systems must be connected to the public system within three years, or sooner if the existing facilities pose a health risk.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the safe disposal of wastewater by promoting efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand in centralized systems and by ensuring safe development, operation, and maintenance of on-site septic systems. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources, and Section PF-B, Funding.

### **Goal PF-D. WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL**

To ensure adequate wastewater collection and treatment and the safe disposal of wastewater.

### **E. STORM DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL**

Flooding is a natural occurrence in the Central Valley because it is the drainage basin for thousands of watershed acres of Sierra Nevada and Coast Range foothills and mountains. Flooding in Fresno County occurs primarily along the Kings River in the central-eastern portion of the county and some sections of the San Joaquin River and along many of the foothill streams along the east and west sides of the valley.

The valley floor of Fresno County has many challenges concerning storm drainage and flood control due to its mountain watersheds and the flat topography of the central valley floor. During the winter and spring months, river and stream systems in Fresno County swell with heavy rainfall and snow melt runoff. Diverting and retaining this water for groundwater replenishment is crucial for not only public safety but maintaining an adequate water supply for domestic and agricultural uses.

Policies in this section seek to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound means to drain stormwater and provide flood control by providing necessary facility improvements, ensuring adequate funding, providing a means to detain/retain runoff, and ensuring the facilities meet State environmental regulations. Related policies are included in Section HS-C, Flood Hazards; Section OS-A, Water Resources; and Section PF-B, Funding.

### **Goal PF-E. STORM DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL**

To provide efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally-sound storm drainage and flood control facilities that protect both life and property and to divert and retain stormwater runoff for groundwater replenishment.

### **F. LANDFILLS, TRANSFER STATIONS, AND SOLID WASTE PROCESSING FACILITIES**

The siting of solid waste facilities in the United States has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Proper siting of solid waste facilities such as landfills, transfer and processing stations, and resource recovery facilities is crucial to ensure protection of the environment and to meet the increasingly stringent legislative requirements for such facilities.

Fresno County operates two active solid waste disposal facilities or landfills: the American Avenue Landfill and the Coalinga Landfill. These landfills have a service area of 6,000 square miles. Portions of the unincorporated areas of the county also use the Clovis Landfill and the Orange Avenue

Landfill. Only a small portion of the unincorporated county's solid waste is taken to these facilities, as the Clovis Landfill serves mainly the city of Clovis, and the Orange Avenue Landfill serves mainly the city of Fresno.

Policies in this section reaffirm and incorporate the goals and policies of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between the Cities of Fresno and Clovis and the County of Fresno, which address solid waste disposal and facilities. Related policies are included in Section HS-F, Hazardous Materials.

## **Goal PF-F. LANDFILLS, TRANSFER STATIONS, AND SOLID WASTE PROCESSING FACILITIES**

To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in the county in an effort to protect the public health and safety.

## **G. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

When unincorporated communities develop and other development occurs in the county, consideration must be given to the adequacy of law enforcement facilities and services. Development normally occurs over a long period of time and involves many developers.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement service by providing that adequate staffing, facilities, and funding are available in new development areas. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding, and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

## **Goal PF-G. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

To protect life and property by deterring crime and ensuring the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement service and facility needs to meet the growing demand for police services associated with an increasing population.

## **H. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

When unincorporated areas develop, consideration must be given to the adequacy of fire protection and emergency medical facilities and services. Development normally occurs over a long period of time and involves many developers. It is, therefore, essential that policies be developed whereby new development can share the cost of providing needed fire protection and emergency medical facilities.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the prompt and efficient provision of fire and emergency medical facility and service needs, ensure adequate funding is available in new development areas, and protect the life and property of residents of and visitors to Fresno County. Related policies are included in Section HS-A, Emergency Management and Response; Section HS-B, Fire Hazards; Section PF-B, Funding; Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development; and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

## **Goal PF-H. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

To ensure the prompt and efficient provision of fire and emergency medical facility and service needs, to protect residents of and visitors to Fresno County from injury and loss of life, and to protect property from fire.

## **I. SCHOOL AND LIBRARY FACILITIES**

New residential development has the potential for increasing enrollment and overcrowding existing school facilities. In fact, 2020 population projections estimate an additional 344,000 new persons in the county which would likely add 77,800 students and create a demand for 101 new schools (74 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, and 14 high schools). Since funds for the construction of new schools are scarce, one of the county's biggest challenges is to ensure that new residential developments that have the potential for causing overcrowding to existing schools, not be constructed unless adequate public school facilities are available or will be available to meet the needs of the proposed development. In addition, new residential growth will bring demand for new or expanded library facilities in the county.

Policies in this section seek to provide safe access to schools, maintain acceptable levels of service, and ensure adequate funding for new school and library facilities. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding.

### **Goal PF-I. SCHOOL AND LIBRARY FACILITIES**

To provide for the educational needs of Fresno County and provide libraries for the educational, recreational, and literary needs of Fresno County residents.

## **J. UTILITIES**

Within the county, there are several private companies that provide electrical, gas, and telephone services. Mutual support among the County and these companies is essential to the efficient provision of existing services and to ensure that new service needs such as telecommunications are met.

Policies in this section seek to facilitate the efficient provision of necessary services and facilities and to minimize the impacts of utilities on surrounding land uses. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding.

### **Goal PF-J. UTILITIES**

To provide efficient and cost-effective utilities that serve the existing and future needs of people in the unincorporated areas of the county.



## PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES GOALS

### 2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities. Major development in 2013 and 2014 related to this Element include:

#### Continuing Suspension of Public Facilities Impact Fees

On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected, unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions.

The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and, 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP and refund resulting funds to the current property owners of record.

On February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.

#### Mello Roos

On December 9, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered information presented by staff regarding the process, cost, and timelines associated with Board direction to discontinue the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County. This followed an October 28, 2014 action in which the Board directed staff to return with the process, timeline, and costs necessary to implement amending the County's General Plan to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, dissolve existing community facility districts, remove conditions of approval/mitigation measures on existing approved subdivision maps, and rescind Board

Resolution No. 11-018 relating to Statement of Goals and Policies for the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services.

The action would include a General Plan Amendment to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, the elimination of Mello-Roos conditions for existing approved tentative tract maps that currently have the requirement to annex to the Countywide CFD as a condition of approval or mitigation measure, the elimination of existing Board Policy regarding the Use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 for Police Protection Services, and the dissolution of existing Community Facility Districts for Police Protection Services.

At the December Board Hearing staff was directed to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos community facilities act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

## **2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)**

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities. Major activities in 2015 related to this Element are noted below:

### *Continuing Suspension of Public Facilities Impact Fees*

On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions.

The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP, and refund resulting funds to the current property owners of record.

On May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees to November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board with a workshop on the County's Facility Impact Fees and provide options for the Board to consider.

On December 9, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered information presented by staff regarding the process, cost, and timelines associated with Board direction to discontinue the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County. This followed an October 28, 2014 action in which the Board directed staff to return with the process, timeline, and costs necessary to implement amending the County's General Plan to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, dissolve existing community facility districts (CFDs), remove conditions of approval/mitigation measures on existing approved subdivision maps, and rescind Board Resolution No. 11-018 relating to Statement of Goals and Policies for the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services.

The action would include a General Plan Amendment to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, the elimination of Mello-Roos conditions for existing approved tentative tract maps that currently have the requirement to annex to the Countywide CFO as a condition of approval or mitigation measure, the elimination of existing Board Policy regarding the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 for Police Protection Services, and the dissolution of existing CFDs for Police Protection Services.

At the December Board Hearing staff was directed to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

The Sheriff-Coroner took the Mello-Roos item back to the Board on June 16, 2015. The Board received the Sheriff-Coroner's presentation, approved maintaining the FY 2014-15 appropriations limits for the County's Mello-Roos CFDs for enhanced police protection services in FY 2015-16 and requested further analysis and information on the enhanced services provided. On July 14, 2015 the Board received the Sheriff-Coroner's presentation and approved the County's Mello-Roos CFD's FY 2015-2016 appropriations. No action was taken regarding discontinuing the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County.

On May 24, 2016 the Board directed staff to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

## 2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

### TAKEN FROM THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities.

The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic; Cultural; and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

#### A. WATER RESOURCES

Fresno County is large and geographically diverse. The mountainous eastern region of the county receives up to 70 inches of precipitation annually, mostly in snowfall. Many small mountain lakes and streams in this region are tributaries to the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers which flow into the Central Valley. The valley and western portions of the county, by contrast, are extremely arid, with less than 10 inches of annual rainfall. Groundwater conditions and quality vary widely across the county.

There are a number of factors affecting the county's existing water resources. Throughout much of the county, groundwater is in a state of overdraft. In some county areas, contamination from natural or manmade sources has reduced groundwater quality such that its use requires treatment. Supplies of imported surface water have been reduced due to changing regulations, and there is growing pressure to allow long-term transfers of water out of the county. Finally, there is the increase in water demand that will accompany the county's anticipated growth.

Policies in this section seek to protect and enhance the surface water and groundwater resources in the county. The policies address broad water planning issues, groundwater recharge, the relationship of land use decisions to water issues, and water quality problems. Related policies are included in Section HS-C, Flood Hazards; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Section OS-D, Wetland and Riparian Areas; and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas. Other relevant policies are included in the Kings River Regional Plan.

#### Goal OS-A. WATER RESOURCES

To protect and enhance the water quality and quantity in Fresno County's streams, creeks, and groundwater basins.

## **B. FOREST RESOURCES**

Almost all of the lands available for timber production in Fresno County lie within the southern part of the Sierra National Forest and the northern portion of the Sequoia National Forest. Timber from these areas is the only long-term supply for the local wood product industry. The challenge to Fresno County is to maintain current timber production operations without jeopardizing one of its most valuable natural assets—its forests.

Policies in this section seek to protect forestry resources by encouraging productive use of forest land, carefully managing the forest ecosystem, protecting forest resources, discouraging the development of land uses that conflict with timberland management, and encouraging participation in the Timberland Production Zone program. Related policies are included in Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Section OS-F, Vegetation.

### **Goal OS-B. FOREST RESOURCES**

To maintain healthy, sustainable forests in Fresno County, conserve forest resources, enhance the quality and diversity of forest ecosystems, reduce conflicts between forestry and other uses, encourage a sustained yield of forest products, protect and conserve lands identified as suitable for commercial timber production within the county, and conserve forest lands that have other resource values including recreation, grazing, watershed, and wildlife habitats.

## **C. MINERAL RESOURCES**

Fresno County has been a leading producer of minerals because of the abundance and wide variety of mineral resources that are present in the county. Extracted resources include aggregate products (sand and gravel), fossil fuels (oil and coal), metals (chromite, copper, gold, mercury, and tungsten), and other minerals used in construction or industrial applications (asbestos, high-grade clay, diatomite, granite, gypsum, and limestone). Aggregate and petroleum are the county's most significant extractive resources and play an important role in maintaining the county's overall economy.

Policies in this section intend to preserve the future availability of its mineral resources. In addition, policies in this section seek to promote the orderly extraction of mineral resources while minimizing the impact of these activities on surrounding land uses and the natural environment. Related policies are included in Section LU-C, River Influence Areas. Other relevant policies are included in the Kings River Regional Plan.

### **Goal OS-C. MINERAL RESOURCES**

To conserve areas identified as containing significant mineral deposits and oil and gas resources for potential future use, while promoting the reasonable, safe, and orderly operation of mining and extraction activities within areas designated for such use, where environmental, aesthetic, and adjacent land use compatibility impacts can be adequately mitigated.

## **D. WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREAS**

The rivers and streams that flow from the Sierra Nevada mountains historically meandered through broad floodplains in the San Joaquin Valley. Because of urbanization and agriculture, these broad floodplains have been restricted to narrower belts along the rivers and streams or otherwise modified for flood control. Within this modified landscape, remaining riparian habitat is of great value to resident and migratory animal species as it provides corridors and linkages to and from the biotic regions of the county. The numerous essential habitat elements provided by the remaining riparian/riverine corridors in Fresno County make them perhaps the most significant contributor to wildlife habitat throughout the county.

The San Joaquin Valley area of Fresno County still contains large wetlands and wildlife refuge areas, while the foothills east of the city of Fresno contain vernal pools. These areas support many specialized plant and animal species.

Policies in this section seek to protect riparian and wetland habitats in the county while allowing compatible uses where appropriate. Related policies are included in Section LU-C, River Influence Areas; Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Section OS-F, Vegetation.

### **Goal OS-D. WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREAS**

To conserve the function and values of wetland communities and related riparian areas throughout Fresno County while allowing compatible uses where appropriate. Protection of these resource functions will positively affect aesthetics, water quality, floodplain management, ecological function, and recreation/tourism.

## **E. FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Fresno County is unique among California counties in the range of habitats that it encompasses. The County cuts an east/west cross-section across central California that includes the spine of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the Central Valley, and a small portion of the inner Coast Range. Fresno County's different regions can be described in terms of 29 distinct habitat types based on the composition and structure of vegetation found in each area. Within these habitats, there is a close relationship between natural vegetation and wildlife. The disruption of natural vegetation areas alters the food chain upon which many animals are dependent. The preservation of natural vegetation areas is, therefore, key abundance and well-being of many wildlife species.

Policies in this section seek to protect natural areas and to preserve the diversity of habitat in the county. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-B, Forest Resources; Section OS-D, Wetland and Riparian Areas; Section OS-F, Vegetation; and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas.

### **Goal OS-E. FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**

To help protect, restore, and enhance habitats in Fresno County that support fish and wildlife species so that populations are maintained at viable levels.

## **F. VEGETATION**

Beyond providing habitat for wildlife as addressed in the two previous sections, Fresno County's native vegetation such as oak woodlands must be managed to maintain its diversity and health for ecological as well as aesthetic reasons.

Policies in this section seek to protect native vegetation resources primarily on private land within the county. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-B, Forest Resources; Section OS-D, Wetland and Riparian Areas; Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas.

## **Goal OS-F. VEGETATION**

To preserve and protect the valuable vegetation resources of Fresno County.

### **G. AIR QUALITY**

Air quality in Fresno County is a key element in defining the quality of life for county residents. Air pollution adversely affects human health, degrades the natural and built environments, causes agricultural losses, and changes the earth's climate. Air quality is a global problem that must be addressed by all levels of government.

The linkages between land use patterns, transportation systems, and air quality are the primary means for local governments to address air quality issues. The main method of local control over air quality in Fresno County is the reduction of the number of vehicular miles traveled (VMT) and resulting vehicular emissions. Thus, Fresno's air quality strategy focuses on ways to reduce air pollutants by promoting compact efficient development patterns that support transit use, walking, and bicycling as alternatives to single occupant vehicle use. This type of land use based strategy, however, poses a challenge for a county such as Fresno whose jurisdiction is primarily rural. The primary role for Fresno County in this strategy is to direct development to population centers; to encourage jobs-housing balance; to avoid proliferation of scattered low-density residential development projects; and to minimize further parcelization and designation of land for rural-residential development.

Policies and implementation programs addressing air quality that are directly related to land use and transportation issues are included in the Land Use Element and the Transportation and Circulation Element as, as described below.

#### **Land Use Related Air Quality Policies (Land Use Element)**

The land use related air quality policies address four objectives:

- a. To keep growth in existing development areas;
- b. To encourage compact development;
- c. To encourage mixed-use development; and
- d. To encourage pedestrian and transit-oriented development in urban areas.

#### **Transportation Related Air Quality Policies (Transportation and Circulation Element)**

The main air quality-related transportation strategy is to make transportation infrastructure improvements that will reduce motor vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled and encourage an increase in the share of non-automobile trips. Policies addressing this strategy are included in the Transportation and Circulation Element. These policies address the following aims:

- a. To plan for a multi-modal transportation system that meets community mobility needs, improves air quality, and shifts travel away from single-occupant automobiles to less polluting transportation modes such as transit, carpools, bicycling, and walking;
- b. To ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects will not impair efforts to meet air quality standards;
- c. To ensure that the design of streets, sidewalks, and bike paths/routes within new development encourages walking and biking;
- d. To ensure that the design of streets is compatible with present and future transit needs;
- e. To plan an extensive system of bikeways and pedestrian paths in urban areas to encourage bicycle and pedestrian trips that replace vehicular trips;



- f. To plan for future transit needs in the region which may include light rail, commuter rail, or expanded bus service, as appropriate; and
- g. To facilitate rural transit, paratransit, and carpooling to provide a range of transportation options from the small rural communities to the major cities in the county.

Policies in this section address assessing and mitigating air quality impacts; coordination and cooperation with local jurisdictions on regional air quality issues; employer-based trip reduction programs; establishment of congestion management and transportation control measures; and reduction of toxic and hazardous emissions, particulate matter, and fugitive dust. Related policies are included in Section TR-A, Streets and Highways; Section TR-B, Transit; Section TR-C, Transportation System Management; Section TR-D, Bicycle Facilities; and Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns.

## **Goal OS-G. AIR QUALITY**

To improve air quality and minimize the adverse effects of air pollution in Fresno County.

## **H. PARKS AND RECREATION**

Fresno County has a wide variety of recreational resources. The county contains regional parks, State and national parks, national forests, wilderness areas, and other resources. The primary responsibility for development and maintenance of the County park system lies with the County's General Services Department.

Policies in this section seek to enhance recreational opportunities in the county by encouraging the further development of public and private recreation lands, and requiring development to help fund additional parks and recreation facilities. Related policies are included in Section LUC, River Influence Areas; Section OS-I, Recreational Trails; and Section OS-K, Scenic Resources.

## **Goal OS-H. PARKS AND RECREATION**

To designate land for and promote the development and expansion of public and private recreational facilities to serve the needs of residents and visitors.

## **I. RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

While many Fresno County communities have bikeways that provide both local and regional service, pedestrian and recreational (including bicycling, equestrian, and hiking) facilities are more localized and do not form a contiguous regional system. Recreational trails are trails designed primarily for the recreational use of bicyclists, pedestrians, or equestrians, or any combination thereof. They are intended to be primarily off-street facilities, although some recreational trails designed for bicycle use only may be on-street bikeways.

Policies in this section seek to enhance recreational opportunities in the county by encouraging the development of a countywide trail system. Related policies are included in Section TR-D, Bicycle Facilities, and OS-C, Mineral Resources.

## **Goal OS-I. RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

To develop a system of hiking, riding, and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation and transportation and circulation.



## **J. HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Fresno County's history includes at least five indigenous Native American tribes and Spanish, Mexican, and American colonization. There are many archeological and historic sites and a large stock of historically significant buildings and landmarks in the county. The county also contains several unique geological features and geological resources of bygone eras.

Policies in this section seek to preserve the historical, archeological, paleontological, geological, and cultural resources of the county through development review, acquisition, encouragement of easements, coordination with other agencies and groups, and other methods.

### **Goal OS-J. HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

To identify, protect, and enhance Fresno County's important historical, archeological, paleontological, geological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

## **K. SCENIC RESOURCES**

Fresno County encompasses a diverse landscape ranging from fine cultivated farmlands of the valley and foothill grasslands to high mountain peaks. The scenic qualities of the area are an important component of the quality of life in the county. Scenic resources also play an important role in the economic development of the region, including the expansion of tourism-based industries, and the locational decisions of businesses.

Policies in this section are intended to protect the scenic resources of the county and ensure that development enhances those resources through the identification of important scenic resources, development review, acquisition, encouragement of easements, coordination with other agencies and groups, and other methods. Related policies are included in OS-H, Parks and Recreation.

### **Goal OS-K. SCENIC RESOURCES**

To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of Fresno County and discourage development that degrades areas of scenic quality.

## **L. SCENIC ROADWAYS**

The retention of existing scenic qualities along roadways is an important part of the County's efforts to enhance the quality of life in the county. The County has a major responsibility for developing and maintaining a circulation system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of goods and people. Concern for the maintenance of environmental quality and scenic resources also requires that emphasis be placed on the preservation and enhancement of visual amenities along roadways.

Policies in this section are intended to protect the scenic resources along roadways of the county by identifying, developing, and maintaining of scenic amenities along roads and highways in the county and ensuring that development enhances those resources. Related policies are included in Section TR-A, Streets and Highways, and Section OS-K, Scenic Resources.

### **Goal OS-L. SCENIC ROADWAYS**

To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of land and landscape adjacent to scenic roads in Fresno County.

# PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION GOALS

## 2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities. The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic; Cultural; and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

The primary focus of the Open Space and Conservation Element is to provide direction for future growth and development with respect to the conservation, management, and utilization of natural and cultural resources; the protection and preservation of open space; and the provision of parks and recreational resources. This Element establishes goals, policies, and programs that value and protect natural resources to ensure they are available for the future. During 2013 and 2014, Fresno County continued implementing policies of the Open Space and Conservation Element. Major accomplishments to implement this Element during 2013 and 2014 are as follows:

### Conservation Easements for Grand Island Farms and Cactus Corner

On March 25, 2014, the Board of Supervisors considered a request from Sequoia Riverlands Trust to adopt a resolution in support of the purchase of two Agricultural Conservation Easements totaling 309 acres of land to be purchased by a Grant from the State Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program for the purpose of conserving agricultural land resources in perpetuity. The two easements consisted of 132 acres of land owned by Grand Island Farms and 177 acres owned by Cactus Corner Farms.

The Board determined the subject parcels meet the eligibility criteria as listed in the Public Resources Code 10251 and adopted a resolution supporting the filing of an application for funding from the California Farmland Conservancy Program for purchase of the Agricultural Conservation Easements by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the continued agricultural use in compliance with Federal, State and local laws and ordinances which apply in general to the farming operations in Fresno County.

### State Official Scenic Highway Designation for Segments of State Route 180

On November 12, 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors submitted a Letter of Intent to Caltrans for designation of certain segments of State Route (SR) 180 as Scenic Highway and provided direction to staff to continue collaborative efforts with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. (Gateway Trust) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for segments of SR180. Staffs of the three agencies worked together to complete the proposed Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program in support of a State Official Scenic Highway designation status for approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180.

On February 10, 2015, the Board adopted a resolution approving the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program prepared for the eastern segments of SR 180 from Trimmer Springs Road to the Tulare County line and from the Kings Canyon National Park boundary north of General Grant Grove to the Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove, and authorized submittal of the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program to Caltrans in pursuit of obtaining a State Official Scenic Highway designation for the above-described segments of SR 180.

## **2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)**

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities. The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic, Cultural, and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

The primary focus of the Open Space and Conservation Element is to provide direction for future growth and development with respect to the conservation, management, and utilization of natural and cultural resources; the protection and preservation of open space; and the provision of parks and recreational resources. This Element establishes goals, policies, and programs that value and protect natural resources to ensure they are available for the future. During the 2015 calendar year, Fresno County continued implementing policies of the Open Space and Conservation Element. Major activities related to this Element during 2015 are as follows:

### *Conservation Easements for Cactus Corner*

On July 14, 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered a request from Sequoia Riverlands Trust to adopt a resolution in support of the purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement on 56.39 acres of land to be purchased by a Grant from the State Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program for the purpose of conserving agricultural land resources in perpetuity. The easement consisted of land owned by Cactus Corner Farms.

The Board determined the subject parcels met the eligibility criteria as listed in Public Resources Code 10251 and adopted a resolution, subject to conditions, supporting the filing of an application for funding from the California Farmland Conservancy Program for purchase of the Agricultural Conservation Easement by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, and the continued agricultural use in compliance with Federal, State and local laws and ordinances which apply in general to the farming operations in Fresno County.

### *State Official Scenic Highway Designation for Segments of State Route 180*

On November 12, 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors submitted a Letter of Intent to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for designation of certain segments of State Route (SR) 180 that traverses Fresno County as an official Scenic Highway and provided direction to staff to continue collaborative efforts with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. (Gateway Trust) and Caltrans in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for two segments of SR 180. Staff from the three agencies worked together to prepare the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program which is required by Caltrans for nominating a State Highway for an Official Scenic Highway designation. The

segments of SR 180 nominated to be included in Caltrans' Scenic Highway program consisted of approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180.

On February 10, 2015, the Board adopted a resolution approving the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program prepared for the eastern two segments of SR 180: 1) from Alta Main Canal near Minkler to near the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park (post miles 78.6/110.8), and 2) from General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park to Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove (post miles 112.1/137.9). The Board authorized submittal of the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program to Caltrans in pursuit of obtaining a State Official Scenic Highway designation for the above-described segments of SR 180.

On October 15, 2015 the Director of Caltrans approved the official State Scenic Highway Designation for the segments of SR 180 described above. Granting this designation established the first Officially-Designated Scenic Highway in Caltrans District 6.

## 2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

### TAKEN FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of mitigation measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment.

The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise.

#### A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

Although Fresno County seeks to minimize hazards and reduce safety risks, in the event of an emergency, quick and effective response is vital. The County's Emergency Response Program is designed to respond to a wide range of emergency situations.

Policies in this section seek to create an effective emergency response and management system for Fresno County through periodic evaluation of the Emergency Response Program, by ensuring that vital public infrastructure is designed to remain operational during and after a major disaster event, by siting critical emergency response facilities as far from potential disaster impact areas as is practical, and through continuing public education and outreach on emergency preparedness and disaster response programs. Related policies are included in Section PF-H, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

#### Goal HS-A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

To protect public health and safety by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of natural or technological disasters.

#### B. FIRE HAZARDS

Structural and wildland fire hazards can threaten life and property in Fresno County. Wildland fires resulting from either natural or manmade causes occur in forests, brush, grasslands, fallow agricultural areas, and vacant lots. Such fires are capable of causing widespread damage to Fresno County's valuable range and forest lands, in addition to threatening the lives and personal property of persons residing in wildfire-prone areas.

Wildfires can also exacerbate air quality problems, particularly during the summer months when ambient air quality is already low. Structural fires generally result from manmade causes and can easily spread through densely settled urban areas, causing large-scale loss of personal property, personal injury, and, occasionally, fatalities.

Policies in this section are designed to ensure that new development is constructed to minimize potential fire hazards, minimize the risk of fire in already developed areas, and to provide public education concerning fire prevention. Related policies are included in Section PF-H, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

## **Goal HS-B. FIRE HAZARDS**

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and natural resources resulting from fire hazards.

## **C. FLOOD HAZARDS**

Flooding is a natural occurrence in the Central Valley because it is the drainage basin for thousands of watershed acres of Sierra Nevada and Coast Range foothills and mountains. Flooding in Fresno County occurs primarily along the Kings River in the central-eastern portion of the county, some sections of the San Joaquin River, and many of the foothill streams along the east and west sides of the valley. A variety of mechanisms are currently employed to reduce flood damage in flood prone areas, including flood control reservoirs, levee systems, and watershed treatment.

Policies in this section are designed to minimize flood hazards by restricting development in flood prone areas, requiring development that does occur in floodplains to be designed to avoid flood damage, and through public education about flood hazards. Related policies are included in Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control, and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas.

## **Goal HS-C. FLOOD HAZARDS**

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage resulting from flood hazards.

## **D. SEISMIC AND GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

There are a number of active and potentially-active faults within and adjacent to Fresno County. Although most of Fresno County is situated within an area of relatively low seismic activity by comparison to other areas of the state, the faults and fault systems that lie along the eastern and western boundaries of the county, as well as other regional faults, have the potential to produce high-magnitude earthquakes throughout the county. The principle earthquake hazard is groundshaking. Older buildings constructed before building codes were established and newer buildings constructed before earthquake-resistant provisions were included in the building codes are the most likely to be damaged during an earthquake. Other geologic hazards in Fresno County include landslides, subsidence, expansive soils and erosion, and volcanic hazards.

Policies in this section seek to ensure that new buildings and facilities are designed to withstand seismic and geologic hazards.

## **Goal HS-D. SEISMIC AND GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

To minimize the loss of life, injury, and property damage due to seismic and geologic hazards.

## **E. AIRPORT HAZARDS**

Airport safety hazards include hazards posed to aircraft and hazards posed by aircraft to people and property on the ground. With proper land use planning, aircraft safety risks can be reduced, primarily by avoiding incompatible land uses.

Policies in this section are designed to minimize public exposure to risks associated with airport operations and to minimize the siting of land uses near airports that might interfere with airport operations. Related policies are included in Section HS-F, Hazardous Materials, and Section HS-G, Noise.

### **Goal HS-E. AIRPORT HAZARDS**

To minimize the exposure of the public to high noise levels and safety hazards through land use controls and policies for property in the vicinity of airports; and to limit urban encroachment around airports in order to preserve the safety of flight operations and the continued viability of airport facilities.

## **F. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Hazardous waste handlers and generators in Fresno County include industries, businesses, public and private institutions, and households. The transport, storage, use, and disposal of toxic or hazardous materials poses potential safety hazards in the event of unintentional exposure, leak, fire, or accident.

Policies in this section are designed to ensure that development projects minimize public risks associated with both intended and unintended exposure to hazardous materials and wastes. Related policies are included in Section HS-A, Emergency Management and Response.

### **Goal HS-F. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, and damage to property resulting from the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes.

## **G. NOISE**

Noise is subjectively defined as unwanted sound. Noise can result from many sources, including traffic on freeways and other roads, railroad operations, aircraft, and industrial activities. Exposure to excessive noise is often cited as a health problem, primarily in terms of its contribution to undue stress and annoyance. The Background Report includes an analysis of major noise sources in the county and noise contours along major traffic corridors.

Policies in this section set noise standards and seek to protect noise-sensitive uses from excessive noise either through noise-reducing project design features or by allowing noise sensitive land uses to only locate in areas with ambient noise levels below specific thresholds. Related policies are included in Section LU-D, Westside Freeway Corridor, and Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns.

**Goal HS-G. NOISE**

To protect residential and other noise-sensitive uses from exposure to harmful or annoying noise levels; to identify maximum acceptable noise levels compatible with various land use designations; and to develop a policy framework necessary to achieve and maintain a healthful noise environment.



## PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING HEALTH AND SAFETY GOALS

### 2013/2014 FINAL ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wild land fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of Mitigation Measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This Element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment. The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise. The Development Services Division (DSD) of the Department of Public Works and Planning continues to implement regulations in accordance with the goals and policies of the Safety Element when processing discretionary project applications. DSD continues to enforce County Noise Compatibility Guidelines to determine the compatibility of land uses when evaluating proposed development projects. Also, DSD implements Noise Standards that require sound attenuation for structures indicated as "conditionally acceptable" structures under the compatibility guidelines.

#### Participation in the preparation of the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)

DSD staff participated in preparation of Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as a member of the COG's RTP Round Table that was assembled by the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) to assist the agency in preparation of their 2014 RTP and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which is required as part of the RTP according to Senate Bill 375.

On November 15, 2013, the Board of Supervisors received a presentation regarding Senate Bill 375, Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 and its impact on the RTP including preparation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy for Fresno County, the Housing Element of the General Plan and growth in Fresno County regions. The Agenda Item consisted of four scenarios (A through D) which were developed by COG's staff under the guidance of the RTP Roundtable and the Coalition of Community Based Organizations. After presentation and consideration of all four scenarios, the Board of Supervisors recommended Scenario "B" as the preferred development scenario for preparation of the Sustainable Committee Strategy for the Fresno County Region. The Fresno County's SCS was accepted by the California Air Resources on January 29, 2015.

## **2015 DRAFT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of Mitigation Measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This Element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment. The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise. The Development Services Division (DSD) of the Department of Public Works and Planning along with the Department of Public Health continue to review development applications for consistency with the goals and policies of the Safety Element and require mitigation measures when necessary when processing discretionary project applications.




## Appendix B

### Implementing General Plan Programs

Appendix B contains the following data:

1. The exact wording of each of the 121 implementation programs from the 2000 General Plan
2. The exact wording from the County's first APR (2001/2002) as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2001/2002
3. The exact wording from the Draft 2015 APR as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2005.

The wording from each of the two APRs has been assigned a color to signify how well the County was able to demonstrate successful implementation.

-  Green if the APR clearly demonstrated that expected progress had been made  
Green if the program had been successfully completed or if the program was to be initiated in a future year
-  Orange if the APR demonstrated partial attainment of expected progress
-  Red if the APR reported no expected progress  
Red if the APR failed to focus its attention on the program task(s) described in the General Plan Policy Document

# COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

## DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN



### plan

The County shall create an economic development staff position(s) in the County Administrative Office and the Planning & Resource Management Department to serve as liaison/facilitator and support for the economic development implementation program and the Action Team.

## STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR



### 1 PROGRAM ED-A.A

Designations Completed and Work Ongoing -- On April 23, 2002, the Board of Supervisors was designated as the Economic Development Action Team to implement the Economic Development Element of the County General Plan. The Board also created the position of Assistant County Administrative Officer for Economic Development. Additionally, the Community Development Division's Economic Development program staff collaborate and coordinate activities with the new Assistant CAO as well as cities, communities, economic development agencies and other partners to implement the Economic Development Strategy and Element.

## STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs.

### 2 PROGRAM ED-A.B

The County shall create, support, and staff an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development.

The Board of Supervisors, as the Economic Development Action Team has initiated and continued to support several regional economic development projects/initiatives of countywide significance. Refer to Appendix B Part I b for a listing of those projects.

The County's Developments Services Division works with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County to coordinate countywide economic developments.

### 3 PROGRAM ED-A.C

<p>The County shall retain an independent and qualified institution to conduct an evaluation at least every five (5) years of success in achieving the goals and targets of the Economic Development Strategy.</p>	<p>Future year.</p>	<p>On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs. The Economic Development Corporation regularly works to update the County's Economic Development Strategy.</p>
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### 4 PROGRAM ED-A.D

<p>The County, working in cooperation with the cities, shall develop criteria for the location in the unincorporated areas of value-added agricultural processing facilities that are compatible with an agricultural setting. Such criteria shall take into account the service requirements of facilities for processing agricultural products and the capability and capacity of the cities to provide the services required.</p>	<p>Work will be occurring in FY 02-03.</p>	<p>This program has been implemented. The General Plan Policy LU-A.3 allows for the establishment of value added processing facilities in areas designated Agriculture through approval of a discretionary permit subject to established criteria which includes analysis of service requirements for facilities and the capability and capacity of surrounding areas to provide the services required.</p>
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### 5 PROGRAM ED-A.E

<p>The County shall establish guidelines for the analysis of the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary decisions by the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and other County decision-making bodies.</p>	<p>Currently, agenda items presented to the Board of Supervisors relating to economic development projects contain the appropriate economic analysis. In light of current limitations on staffing resources, County staff is in the process of reevaluating this requirement and preparing a policy recommendation that would define the type of agenda items where this economic analysis would be required. The emphasis would be on requiring this type of</p>	<p>Prior direction from the CAO has indicated that this analysis is not needed and the analysis is no longer included as a section of agenda items.</p>
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	analysis on projects that have a significant impact on the local economy.		
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## 6 PROGRAM ED-A.F

The County shall contract with the Fresno EDC to develop marketing programs for Fresno County produce.	<p>The EDC has developed several marketing efforts for Fresno County produce as follows: 1) Food Processing Cluster* formation, 2) Water Cluster* formation, 3) Skill Set Analysis and Labor Study, 4) EDC Branding with the use of produce in graphics and giveaways, 5) Site Visit thank you gifts and promotional mailings.</p> <p>*Clusters are defined as collections of competing and collaborating companies networked into horizontal and vertical relationships, involving strong common buyer-supplier linkages.</p>		As previously mentioned, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is the contracting agency for implementing policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. EDC has developed several marketing efforts for Fresno County produce.
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## 7 PROGRAM ED-A.G

The County shall determine, in cooperation with existing agencies, if capital deficiencies exist for farmers with the capital costs of shifting production modes to crops that create higher employment levels. If such deficiencies are identified, the County, in partnership with existing agencies, shall work to access additional funds or redirect existing funds.	Progress has been stalled due to the very weak agricultural economy and State business climate. Lending institutions are not investing in California agriculture at the present time.		The EDC that is under contract with the County will identify if capital deficiencies exist for farmers with capital costs of shifting production nodes for crops that create higher employment levels.
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## 8 PROGRAM ED-B.A

The County shall convene a group of the existing service providers to assess the current state of telecommunications infrastructure, the needs for the future, and the role of the County and other agencies in	In July 2002 the Board of Supervisors created the Fresno Regional e-Government Taskforce to develop a plan for utilizing electronic information technology to improve the delivery of governmental services and to		In July 2002 the Fresno Regional e-Government Taskforce was created to develop a plan for utilizing electronic information technology to improve the delivery of governmental services and to
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facilitating implementation of services demanded by high technology firms.	expand the opportunity for economic development. A draft cooperative agreement and a draft Fresno e-Government Strategic Plan is currently being circulated between cities in Fresno County and the Council of Fresno County Governments.		expand the opportunity for economic development. The group was instrumental in improving sharing between the County and the Cities of Fresno and collaboration and data Clovis. In January 2010, regular meetings were suspended due to lack of funding.
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## 9 PROGRAM ED-B.B

The County shall coordinate an initiative to deliver a comprehensive package of technical assistance regarding available technology to local businesses to improve their productivity and make this assistance available as an incentive for business prospects.	Ongoing -- Community Development Division staff has partnered with the Rapid Response Program (RRP) of the Greater Fresno Chamber of Commerce, which provides technical assistance to new and existing business to improve their productivity. The RRP is one of the implementation partners identified in the Economic Development Strategy. Activity has thus far been focused on the I-5 Business Development Corridor and the Orange Cove and Parlier Renewal Community areas.		EDC works to enhance the stability and growth of Fresno County's existing companies by connecting them with specific resources, information and services with the primary objectives to assist businesses with expansions, survive economic difficulties, and make them more competitive in the wider marketplace.
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## 10 PROGRAM ED-B.C

The County shall convene a roundtable of major financial institutions, venture capital firms, and business finance agencies, such as the California Public Employees Retirement System (CALPERS), to determine the need for improving access to capital for non-agricultural businesses seeking to locate or expand in Fresno County.	Refer to Appendix B, Part II		EDC, through its Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention (BEAR) Action Network program, works with businesses seeking to locate or expand in Fresno County and works to assist with financing and microloan programs.
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## 11 PROGRAM ED-B.D

<p>The County shall initiate a planning process to identify additional recreation opportunities in the coast range foothills and other areas where “gateway opportunities” exist.</p>	<p>The Fresno County Tourism Committee has initiated meetings on the Westside to begin to identify potential recreational opportunities in the area near Coalinga.</p>	<p>The County recently participated in the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study to identify opportunities and constraints for possible land use changes and development activities related to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. On May 10, 2016 the Board of Supervisors considered the study and chose to set the study aside.</p>
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## 12 PROGRAM ED-B.E

<p>The County shall regularly evaluate the marketing programs of the Visitor and Convention Bureau and provide funding assistance as appropriate to support effective marketing programs that attract business travel to the county.</p>	<p>In progress --The Community Development Division and CAO staff are working with the Fresno County Tourism Committee, the County's tourism consultant, and community leaders to finalize the Master Plan for Tourism, which includes plans for funding and for realignment of the Convention &amp; Visitor's Bureau to enhance tourism marketing and opportunities that will attract business and recreational travel to Fresno County. The final plan is to be presented to Board of Supervisors in October 2002, with implementation already in progress. As a condition for the provision of an annual contribution provided by the Board of Supervisors to finance the promotion of tourism, each year the Fresno Convention and Visitors Bureau is required under contract to provide a report of promotion activities implemented by the Bureau and the results obtained through those promotions.</p>	<p>The County has contracted with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation to work with the Visitor and Convention Bureau to develop and implement effective marketing programs that attract business and travel to the county.</p>
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### 13 PROGRAM ED-C.A

<p>The County shall join with the Workforce Development Board, community colleges, and others to develop a countywide workforce preparation system.</p>	<p>E&amp;TA [<a href="#">Fresno County Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance</a>] is one of 11 partners in Workforce Connection, the local one-stop center under the Workforce Investment Act, which consolidated employment and training activities. E&amp;TA has staff co-located at 6 sites throughout the County and the E&amp;TA Director is a member of the Workforce Investment Board. Other partners include Adult Schools, Community Colleges, government agencies and community based organizations.</p>	<p>Fresno County is an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs in the County.</p>
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### 14 PROGRAM ED-C.B

<p>The County shall develop a skills inventory on the CalWORKS labor pool for local expansion and new businesses seeking employees.</p>	<p>E&amp;TA partnered with the Employment Development Department to develop skill sets for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. This system can be queried and sorted by specific skills and can produce a list of clients meeting given criteria.</p>	<p>A skills inventory was developed for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. The system can be queried and sorted by specific skills to produce a list of clients meeting given criteria.</p>
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### 15 PROGRAM ED-C.C

<p>The County shall improve tracking systems for employment and retention for CalWORKS recipients.</p>	<p>E&amp;TA uses an automated system developed for use by counties throughout the State to record employment information, including retention information for 30, 60 and 90 day intervals. The system produces a report used for additional follow-up.</p>	<p>The Department of Social Services uses an automated system developed for use by counties throughout the State to record employment information.</p>
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## 16 PROGRAM ED-C.D

<p>The County shall continue efforts to assist the Fresno EDC, placement agencies, and businesses [to] assess the availability and work readiness of CalWORKS recipients for employment opportunities.</p>	<p>E&amp;TA engages in a number of activities to assess our client's job readiness, including contracting with an employment agency for employment appraisals, conducting job fairs and recruitment fairs, business functions, and partnering with EDC to match employer recruiting with CalWORKs applicants.</p>	<p>The County Department of Social Services through the CalWORKS program provides services such as job clubs, job fairs, participant assessments, adult basic education and vocational training. The County is also an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs.</p>
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## 17 PROGRAM ED-C.E

<p>The County shall continue its collaborative planning and funding efforts with agencies such as the County Office of Education, State EDD, local school districts, post-secondary educational institutions, training agencies, and the cities. Such efforts may include education management services, employment placement services, relocation and retention programs, youth employment programs, jobs clubs, and neighborhood jobs services.</p>	<p>E&amp;TA continues to fund the Fresno County Office of Education for management services to provide supplemental funding to local Adult Schools. In addition, Adult Schools receive funding for Job Clubs; EDD staff is co-located to provide CalJOBS assistance, job announcements and Community Service certifications.</p>	<p>The County Department of Social Services through the CalWORKS program provides services such as job clubs, job fairs, participant assessments, adult basic education and vocational training. The County is also an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs.</p>
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## 18 PROGRAM ED-C.F

<p>The County shall continue, on an ongoing basis, efforts initiated through the CalWORKS Job Creation Investment Fund to identify the skills required by the clusters and industries targeted for expansion, attraction, and new enterprise development.</p>	<p>E&amp;TA partnered with the Employment Development Department to develop skill sets for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. This system can be queried and sorted by specific skills and can produce a list of</p>	<p>The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board, the Employment Development Department and the Economic Development Corporation assist Fresno employers in meeting their labor needs by delivering outplacement, recruitment and training services.</p>
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	clients meeting given criteria. E&TA works closely with EDC to connect qualified clients with targeted industries for attraction and expansion.		
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# COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

## DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN



## STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR



## STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



### 19 PROGRAM LU-A.A

<p>The County shall review and amend its Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards of this section.</p>	<p>Sections 816 and 817 of the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance have been amended to implement General Plan Policies establishing limitations regarding exception provisions for creation of homesite parcels and limitations regarding the number of residences permitted on each parcel. Staff will undertake evaluation of applicable Subdivision Ordinance provisions and recommend modifications accordingly.</p>	<p>The County actively reviews and updates its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to ensure consistency with the policies of the General Plan. The County completed a text amendment in 2015 to update its Zoning Ordinance to comply with requirements of state law as part of the 4th-Cycle Housing Element update. The County is also actively working on a comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update scheduled to be presented to decision-makers in 2017.</p>
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### 20 PROGRAM LU-A.B

<p>The County shall evaluate minimum parcel sizes necessary for sustained agricultural productivity on land designated for agriculture throughout the county, and, as appropriate, amend the Zoning Ordinance according to the results of that analysis.</p>	<p>FUTURE YEAR - Proposals to eliminate Williamson Act subvention funding have prompted evaluation of minimum parcel sizes necessary for sustained agricultural productivity, which could result in amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.</p>	<p>Policy LU-A.6 states that the County shall maintain twenty (20) acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture, except as provided in Policies LU-A.9, LU-A.10 and LU-A.11. The County may require parcel sizes larger than twenty (20) acres based on zoning, local agricultural conditions, and to help ensure the viability of agricultural operations.</p>
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### 21 PROGRAM LU-A.C

<p>The County shall develop and implement guidelines for design and maintenance of buffers to be required when new non-</p>	<p>Future Year Program. Currently, discretionary applications in the agricultural areas are reviewed for compatibility with</p>	<p>The County requires buffers for certain land uses with the potential to hinder agricultural uses. For discretionary land use proposals</p>
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<p>agricultural uses are approved in agricultural areas. Buffer design and maintenance guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Buffers shall be physically and biologically designed to avoid conflicts between agriculture and non-agricultural uses.</li> <li>b. Buffers shall be located on the parcel for which a permit is sought and shall protect the maximum amount of farmable land.</li> <li>c. Buffers generally shall consist of a physical separation between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. The appropriate width shall be determined on a site-by-site basis taking into account the type of existing agricultural uses, the nature of the proposed development, the natural features of the site, and any other factors that affect the specific situation.</li> <li>d. Appropriate types of land uses for buffers include compatible agriculture, open space and recreational uses such as parks and golf courses, industrial uses, and cemeteries.</li> <li>e. The County may condition its approval of a project on the ongoing maintenance of buffers.</li> <li>f. A homeowners association or other appropriate entity shall be required to maintain buffers to control litter, fire hazards, pests, and other maintenance problems.</li> <li>g. Buffer restrictions may be removed if agricultural uses on all adjacent parcels have permanently ceased.</li> </ul>	<p>adjacent land uses. Conditions requiring setbacks, landscaping, etc. are recommended on projects as applicable.</p>	<p>including tentative tract maps, buffers are taken into consideration as part of project conditions. This has also been applied to utility-scale photovoltaic solar facilities with a general policy of 50 feet between panels or structures and surrounding agricultural properties.</p>
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## 22 PROGRAM LU-A.D

<p>The County shall periodically review agricultural land preservation programs and assess their effectiveness in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies.</p>	<p>Reviews carried out in FY 00-01 and 01-02. The first review focused on the Farmland Security Zone program and inclusion of grazing land; subsequent reviews have focused on potential effects of the State budget proposal to remove subvention funds.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning actively reviews the Williamson Act Program including proactively reviewing (auditing) contracts for conformity with the State and County requirements and processing non-renewals for those contracts that do not meet the eligibility to remain in the Williamson Act Program. Staff also communicates with the State Department of Conservation on petitions for cancellations of contract and the County continues to utilize the Agricultural Land Conservation Committee to review cancellation petitions and forwards the Committee's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.</p>
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## 23 PROGRAM LU-A.E

<p>The County shall continue to implement the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance, and will provide information to the local real estate industry to help make the public aware of the right-to-farm provisions in their area.</p>	<p>Copies of "Right to Farm" ordinances have been obtained from all counties and are being reviewed. Identification of participants in an ordinance improvement committee is commencing.</p>	<p>County staff utilizes the Right-to-Farm Ordinance notification process on many types of discretionary land use permits to insure that applicants or future property owners are aware of ongoing agricultural activities within the vicinity of discretionary projects. Further, County staff actively communicates with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office on discretionary projects proposed in agricultural areas and seeks comments from that Department.</p>
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## 24 PROGRAM LU-A.F

<p>The County, in cooperation with UC Cooperative Extension, resource conservation districts, and other industry agencies, shall develop and implement a public outreach program to inform</p>	<p>The Agricultural Department attends Fresno County Farm Bureau meetings and Agricultural Roundtable meeting and discusses Williamson Act contracts and land conservation programs. The</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors has adopted Resolutions of Support for land owners who wish to place their land under conservation easement. In 2015, the Board adopted one Resolution to place a 56-acre parcel in a</p>
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<p>agriculturists and the public of the advantages of participation in land trust agreements, conservation easements, dedication incentives, Williamson Act contracts, Farmland Security Act contracts, and the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program Fund.</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Planning updates program-mailing materials each year in conjunction with the annual acceptance of applications for participation in the County's Agricultural Land Conservation Program. Outreach to the Farm Bureau and rural community newspapers is conducted at that time. Throughout the year staff make referrals to the Department of Conservation and farmland trust organizations to promote participation in the County's program.</p>		<p>conservation easement and in 2014 the Board adopted two Resolutions to place a total of 309 acres in a conservation easement.</p>
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## 25 PROGRAM LU-A.G

<p>The County shall actively pursue grant funds under provisions of the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program Act of 1995, to assist interested farmers and ranchers in obtaining funds for conservation easements.</p>	<p>County efforts to date have included support findings for four applications for conservation easements funded though the American Farmland Trust and the Cattlemen's Association.</p>		<p>The Board of Supervisors has adopted Resolutions of Support for land owners who wish to place their land under conservation easement. In 2015, the Board adopted one Resolution to place a 56-acre parcel in a conservation easement and in 2014 the Board adopted two Resolutions to place a total of 309 acres in a conservation easement. The Resolutions adopted by the Board in 2014 and 2015 were in support of obtaining grants from the Department of Conservation for placing certain parcels under conservation easement.</p>
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## 26 PROGRAM LU-A.H

<p>The County shall develop a program establishing criteria to prioritize funding for agricultural conservation easements.</p>	<p>The County is now using the State's criteria for its review of proposals for conservation easements. Additional criteria would most effectively be created at such time as the County may administer funding programs.</p>		<p>The County uses the State's criteria in its review of proposals for support of landowners' requests for a Resolution of Support to obtain grants to place agricultural land under conservation easements.</p>
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## 27 PROGRAM LU-A.I

<p>The County shall assess the approaches to determining agricultural land values in the 1981 Farmland Protection Policy Act land evaluation and site assessment (LESA) system, and the Tulare County Rural Valley Lands Plan, 1975 amendment, to determine the potential for developing a similar process for identifying and ranking the value of agricultural land in Fresno County. If appropriate, the County shall establish an agricultural quality scale system to assist the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in agricultural land use conversion decisions.</p>	<p>Future fiscal year activity</p>	<p>The County has not yet assessed utilizing an agricultural quality scale system similar to LESA to establish a threshold as part of evaluation of converting agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. However, the impacts of projects on ag land are analyzed for projects that may have a potential impact on conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses as part of the environmental assessment of discretionary projects.</p>
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## 28 PROGRAM LU-A.J

<p>The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including number of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location, shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan.</p>	<p>The Current Planning Unit presently maintains this information. Since the adoption of the General Plan Update in October 2000, there have been seven applications heard by a decision making body to allow exceptions to the required parcel size in the areas designated Agriculture. Of these applications, six have been approved. This number does not include those applications filed and approved which qualified under the homesite exception provisions of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.</p>	<p>During 2015 seven lot size exceptions were granted through provisions outlined in Policy LU-A.9. In addition, five lot size exceptions, specific to agricultural zoning, were granted through variance applications approved by the decision-making bodies. A list of the exceptions granted is included on Page 19 of the 2015 General Plan Annual Progress Report.</p>
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## 29 PROGRAM LU-B.A

<p>The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including numbers of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location shall be presented to the Board of</p>	<p>The Current Planning Unit presently maintains this information. Since the adoption of the General Plan Update in October 2000, there has been one application heard by a decision making</p>	<p>During 2015 seven lot size exceptions were granted through provisions outlined in Policy LU-A.9. In addition, five lot size exceptions, specific to agricultural zoning, were granted through variance applications approved by</p>
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Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan.	body to allow exceptions to the required parcel size in the areas designated Westside Rangeland. This application was approved. This number does not include those applications filed and approved which qualified under the homesite exception provisions of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.		the decision-making bodies. A list of the exceptions granted is included on Page 19 of the 2015 General Plan Annual Progress Report.
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### 30 PROGRAM LU-C.A

The County will update and maintain the Kings River Regional Plan to guide County decision-making concerning land use and environmental quality within the Kings River influence area.	No activity to date on the updating of the Kings River Regional Plan. A prioritization plan will be presented to the Board in conjunction with the 2002 Annual Report.		Due to budgetary constraints and timing of other plan updates, implementation of this program has been delayed. Some renewed interest in updating the plan has arisen with public interest in surface mining projects on the Kings River.
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### 31 PROGRAM LU-C.B

The County shall work with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, San Joaquin River Conservancy, City of Fresno, and other interested agencies and organizations to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.	The Current Planning Unit currently routes projects to the river groups when located in/adjacent to these areas. Staff also discusses with applicants the implications of developing in the River Overlay area at the pre-application stage. In addition to this staff of the Department of Public Works and Planning attend meetings of the San Joaquin River Conservancy to be current on parkway activities.		The Recompile San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan was approved and adopted by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board on July 20, 2000. The San Joaquin River Conservancy started the process of updating the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan in June of 2013 that includes an update of policies and planned facilities, and the preparation of a Master EIR. The County has been participating as a member of the Interagency Project Development Committee. The County also regularly coordinates with the interested agencies/stakeholders with regard to project reviews to discuss and minimize possible project impacts to river resources.
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### 32 PROGRAM LU-D.A

<p>The County shall revise its Zoning Ordinance to implement the revised provisions of this section concerning the Westside Freeway Corridor.</p>	<p>The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to establish the process for designation of major and minor interchanges along the Westside Freeway Corridor. Since the General Plan update, the Board has designated a minor interchange at Lassen Avenue and I-5. Ongoing work relates to expansion of the permitted uses to include value added agriculture and potential application of an overlay zone.</p>	<p>Revisions to the County Zoning Ordinance were approved March 27, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors to implement the revised provisions of this section concerning the Westside Freeway Corridor with approval of Amendment to Text (AT) No. 337 and subsequently amended with AT No. 352 in 2004. Therefore, this program has been implemented.</p>
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### 33 PROGRAM LU-F.A

<p>The County shall work with the Cities of Clovis and Fresno and other cities as appropriate to adopt incentives and disincentives that will lead to compact urban development and infill of vacant and under-utilized land.</p>	<p>Negotiations on the new Tax Sharing Agreement with the City of Fresno included evaluation of new growth areas for the City and incentives for development and infill of vacant and underutilized land. A new Tax Sharing Agreement was executed with the City of Clovis in June 2002. The MOU update with the City of Clovis created incentives and disincentives which direct growth to the cities. Two examples are the application of city development fees to unincorporated sites proposed for development and the stipulation of a percentage of development that must occur before development proceeds in other areas. Agreements with other cities will be renegotiated as they become due for renewal. Other work on this implementation program to date has included participation on the technical committees for the City of Fresno General Plan Update and the City of Clovis Southeast Urban Center Specific Plan. Other work will be carried out in conjunction with the updating of community plans.</p>	<p>The County partnered with twelve of the fifteen cities within Fresno County, including the City of Clovis, to create a multi-jurisdictional Housing Element that includes incentives and disincentives that encourage compact urban development. The MOUs between the County and the cities provide a check and balance system to ensure that development of annexed land is imminent. Also, the cost of providing urban services to suburbs is a disincentive that has motivated several cities to pursue infill development over annexation of new territory. County staff continues to refer to General Plan policies that direct intensive urban growth to the cities (and unincorporated communities) and reviews relevant policies when processing discretionary land use permits.</p>
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### 34 PROGRAM LU-F.B

The County shall review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to incorporate amendments that will implement the policies for pedestrian and transit-oriented development.	The implementation of this policy will require the adoption of new ordinances and modification of the existing Zoning Ordinance. The comprehensive update of the Zoning Ordinance was not included in the FY02-03 budget.		The County has reviewed the Zoning Ordinance and has initiated an Ordinance Update. On October 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered and approved the scope of work prepared for the General Plan Five-Year Review, Zoning Ordinance Update and the associated Environmental Impact Report. The updated Zoning Ordinance will include provisions for mixed uses and pedestrian and transit-oriented developments.
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### 35 PROGRAM LU-G.A

The County shall review and revise, as appropriate, its Zoning Ordinance to facilitate moderate increases in density of housing in unincorporated urban communities.	To be reviewed under the Community and Regional Plan updates, and the comprehensive update of the Zoning Ordinance.		The County is in the process of reviewing the General Plan Policy document and updating its Zoning Ordinance. As part of the revision and update process the allowable density in the R2, R2-A, R3, R3-A, R4, C4 and RP Zone Districts is proposed to be increased to 20 units per acre. The update is expected to be completed in 2017 and to be presented before decision-makers.
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### 36 PROGRAM LU-G.B

The County shall review all annexation proposals submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission and prepare a recommendation to LAFCO for each proposal. The County shall formally protest when the annexation is inconsistent with city's adopted general plan or with the County's General Plan or applicable community plan.	The County reviews annexation proposals under provisions of the adopted Memoranda of Understanding and through the LAFCo process. To date all proposed annexations have been within the adopted spheres of influence and have been consistent with the applicable city general plans. The process relies on the annexation's consistency with the cities adopted general plans since County-		The Department of Public Works and Planning reviews annexation proposals submitted by LAFCo to ensure consistency of the proposals with the City and County General Plans and the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and each City. A consistency determination letter is provided for each annexation proposal found to be consistent. During 2015 the County reviewed 14 annexation proposals submitted by LAFCo.
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	adopted community plans of the incorporated cities have not been updated.		
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### 37 PROGRAM LU-H.A

The County shall prepare and adopt a regional plan for the Friant-Millerton area consistent with the directives of Policy LU-H.8.	Work has not progressed on the new regional plan. A priority list will be reviewed with the Planning Commission in conjunction with the Annual Report and then submitted to the Board of Supervisors for its direction to staff.		This program has been suspended pending additional Board direction.
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### 38 PROGRAM LU-H.B

County Staff shall meet regularly with cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues of common interest and concern. Staff shall report annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year and the planned schedule of meetings with local jurisdictions to address regional planning issues in the upcoming year.	Work since the adoption of the General Plan Update has been focused on MOUs with Clovis and Fresno. Preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan by COG involved all the cities in the technical committee. That plan was adopted in September 2001.		<p>Efforts that began in 2014 culminated into a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG). Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).</p> <p>On June 22, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and representatives of all 15 incorporated cities within the County was held at the Fresno COG. Topics discussed included SGMA, Marijuana Ordinances, land use and preservation and special districts.</p> <p>On November 17, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the representatives from the cities of Clovis, Fowler, Fresno and Sanger was held at the Fresno COG. Topics discussed included</p>
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### 39 PROGRAM LU-H.C

The County shall prepare and adopt minimum format and content guidelines for the preparation of updated and new Regional, community, and specific plans to ensure consistency with the countywide General Plan.	The draft format and content guidelines have been prepared and will be presented in conjunction with the Annual Report.		The County has prepared a format and guideline for updating existing plans and preparing new regional and community plans.	
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### 40 PROGRAM LU-H.D

The Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. This review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program.	Staff is preparing the Annual Report for review by the Planning Commission and acceptance by the Board pursuant to this implementation program.		The Public Works and Planning Department presented the 2014 General Plan Annual Progress Report to the Planning Commission on February 26, 2015 and to the Board on March 24, 2015. The preparation of this Annual Report which focuses principally on actions undertaken during 2015 to carry out the implementation programs of the General Plan meets the requirements of this program and is being presented to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.	
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### 41 PROGRAM LU-H.E

The County shall conduct a major review of the General Plan, including General Plan Policy Document and Background Report, every five years and revise it as deemed necessary.	Future year activity.		The County initiated the General Plan review in 2006 and has been working on this effort since that time. On September 22, 2015 the Board of Supervisors accepted the scope of work and authorized the Chairman to execute a Consultant Agreement with the consulting firm of Mintier-Harnish to provide planning and environmental consulting services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the	
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## 42 PROGRAM LU-H.F

The County shall comprehensively review and amend as necessary the Zoning Ordinance text and Zoning Map to reflect new policies and standards included in the General Plan during the 2000 update.

Portions of the Zoning Ordinance have been amended to address parcel size exceptions and density standard, consistent with the 2000 update. Additional amendments will be processed in future years, as necessary, to implement General Plan Policies.

The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to incorporate the policies of the 2000 General Plan Update. The County initiated the Zoning Ordinance Update in 2006 and has been working on this effort since that time. On September 22, 2015 the Board of Supervisors accepted the scope of work and authorized the Chairman to execute a Consultant Agreement with the consulting firm of Mintier-Harnish to provide planning and environmental consulting services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Five-Year Review and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update.

## COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

### DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN



### STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR



### STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



#### 43 PROGRAM TR-A.A

<p>The County shall prepare and adopt a priority list of street and highway improvements for the Road Improvement Program (RIP) based on a horizon of at least seven (7) years. The Board of Supervisors shall update the RIP every five (5) years, or more frequently as recommended by the responsible departments. The RIP shall program maintenance and rehabilitation, reconstruction, capacity, operational, safety improvements, and specific plan lines on a prioritized basis. The RIP shall be coordinated with the five (5) year major review of the General Plan and shall be included in the annual General Plan review.</p>	<p>Staff is working on development of an update to the 1997-2004 Road Improvement Program. Funding changes are being evaluated. Completion was delayed due to budget constraints and vacant positions. A draft Road Improvement Program update is expected to be ready for Board consideration in January 2003.</p>	<p>On April 7, 2015 the County Board of Supervisors approved the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP). The RIP identified anticipated revenues and defined the areas of road program emphasis as well as specific planned projects over a five-year period.</p>
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#### 44 PROGRAM TR-A.B

<p>The County shall consider adopting a traffic impact fee ordinance for areas outside the spheres of influence of cities in the county. The traffic fees should be designed to achieve the adopted LOS and preserve structural integrity based on a twenty (20) year time horizon. The traffic mitigation fees should be updated at least every five years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant modification of the land use allocation used to develop the fees. The County shall require new development within</p>	<p>Current traffic mitigation practices continue on a site and project-specific basis. A report identifying the basic requirements for a regional fee program has been provided to the Board for its consideration. The County is also a supporting partner in a Council of Fresno County Governments' application for a 2001/02 State Partnership Planning grant, to evaluate freeway and interchange needs in the greater Fresno-Clovis-Madera metropolitan areas. This study will provide baseline information needed to develop a</p>	<p>A traffic impact fee has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors. However, on February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.</p>
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the spheres of influence of cities in the county to pay the traffic impact fees of those cities.	multi-jurisdictional regional impact fee nexus study for State highway improvements.		
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#### 45 PROGRAM TR-A.C

The County shall continue to identify and pursue appropriate new funding sources for transportation improvements. Grant funds from regional, State, and Federal agencies should be pursued and utilized when compatible with the General Plan policies and long-term local funding capabilities.	The Staff continually monitors sources of funding for applicability for the County.		The County continues to pursue funding for transportation improvements through the Fresno Council of Governments.
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#### 46 PROGRAM TR-A.D

The County shall coordinate its transportation planning with the Council of Fresno County Governments, Caltrans, cities within the county, and adjacent jurisdictions.	Public Works and Planning staff participate in the following: COFCG Transportation Technical Committee; COFCG Model Steering Committee "COFCG Regional Transportation Plan Steering Committee "COFCG TEA-221 Steering Committee, COFCG Regional Trails Plan Steering Committee; COFCG East-West Corridor Steering Committee; COFCG Freight Advisory Committee; Fresno Area Regional Collaborative Land Use/Transportation Committee; Caltrans Project Development Teams for the SR 180 west extension. SR 180 east, and SR 43; Fresno County Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee; Manning Avenue Transportation Corridor of Economic Significance Technical Support Committee; San Joaquin River Conservancy Interagency Project Development Team, and the Golden State Corridor Coalition.		During 2015, the County continued coordinating its transportation planning with Fresno COG, Caltrans, Cities and adjacent jurisdictions.
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#### 47 PROGRAM TR-A.E

The County shall update and maintain the Improvement Standards for other County development improvements, including private roads dedicated to public use.	Staff is drafting revised improvement standards to update the 1966 document. It is anticipated a draft document will be circulated in fiscal year '02-'03. In the interim, staff is analyzing alternative construction materials and practices on a case by case basis.		The County implements this program/policy on a continuous basis. The County is currently undergoing a comprehensive update of the County Improvement Standards.
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#### 48 PROGRAM TR-B.A

The County shall work with the Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) and transit providers in the county to periodically review and update the short-range transit plans in the county at least as often as required by State law.	The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Fresno-Clovis Urbanized Area was adopted by the COFCG in 2001. The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Area (outside of the FCMA) was adopted by the COFCG in June 2002. Implementation Program has been completed. Next update in FY 06-07.		The County implements this policy on a continuous basis. The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area 2016-2020 was adopted by Fresno COG on June 25, 2015.
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#### 49 PROGRAM TR-B.B

The County shall encourage transit providers and the COFCG to prepare, adopt, and implement a long-range strategic transit master plan for the County or subareas of the county. The master plan shall review the transit corridors in this Policy Document and designate a set of transit corridors so that appropriate planning can be concentrated on these corridors. The plan(s) shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.	An update to the Fresno Area Express Transit Long Range Master Plan was completed and accepted by the COFCG in June 2002. The Long Range Master Plan is based on anticipated land uses as designated in the (draft) Fresno 2002 General Plan.		The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area Public Transportation Strategic Service Evaluation project was completed by Fresno COG on May 28, 2014. Fresno COG continues to prepare, adopt, and implement long-range strategic transit master plans for the County or sub-areas of the County.
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#### 50 PROGRAM TR-B.C

Through its representation on the COFCG Board and the FCRTA (a joint powers agency), the County shall work with these	Ongoing		Fresno County continues to work with Fresno COG to identify and pursue funding for transit.
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agencies to identify and pursue funding for transit.			
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## 51 PROGRAM TR-B.D

The County shall work with the COFCG and other agencies to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors and to acquire needed rights-of-way, including abandoned rights-of-way and track structures.	Preservation of existing transportation corridors designated for potential mass transit use will be evaluated and pursued cooperatively with other agencies as opportunities arise.		Fresno County continues to work with Fresno COG to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors and to acquire needed rights-of-way, including abandoned rights-of-way and track structures.
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## 52 PROGRAM TR-B.E

The County shall work with the cities in the county to prepare and adopt land use and design standards for areas within designated urban transit corridors to promote transit accessibility and use.	There has been no activity to date. This can best be reviewed in conjunction with community plan updates in the FCMA unless otherwise directed by the Board.		In 2011, Fresno COG prepared the Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS). The PTIS makes recommendations for investments, the timing of those investments, and funding sources augmenting Measure C sales tax revenue to pay for them. In addition, the PTIS makes policy recommendations that will be important to be adopted by City- and County-elected officials and implemented by planning department and public works administrators in order to shape future growth in such a way that it supports the transit investments. Fresno County continues to work with Fresno COG to promote transit accessibility and use.
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## 53 PROGRAM TR-B.F

The County shall work with Caltrans and other agencies to determine the need for additional or expanded park-and-ride lots and to identify additional sites for such lots.	Caltrans is the primary provider of Park and Ride lots on State highways. The San Joaquin River Conservancy is developing the Friant Cove river access park project, at the northwest corner of Millerton Road and North Fork Road, that includes a Park and		Caltrans is the primary provider of Park and Ride lots on State highways. Fresno County continues to work with Caltrans and Fresno COG to determine the need for additional or
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	Ride lot (the project is in the environmental analysis phase). The Park and Ride component derived from a separately funded Fresno County Park and Ride project Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality grant for a Friant Park and Ride, which was later transferred to the Conservancy for consolidation into their larger recreational project, to better utilize available public parking space through shared uses. The County will continue to work with Caltrans and COFCG through its transportation planning processes to identify regional needs for Park and Ride lots, and work with appropriate agencies on appropriate location and funding.		expanded park-and-ride lots and to identify additional sites for such lots.	
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#### 54 PROGRAM TR-D.A

The County shall work with the Council of Fresno County Governments, Caltrans, and cities within the county to update the Regional Bikeways Plan to ensure consistency with the Circulation Diagram and Standards section.	Completed. The Regional Bikeways Plan was updated as part of the Regional Transportation Plan, adopted by the COFCG on November 29, 2001. The Regional Bikeways Plan is consistent with the County's Rural Bikeways Plan (figure TR-2).		The Regional Bikeways Plan was updated as part of the non-motorized section of the Regional Transportation Plan that was last updated by Fresno COG on June 26, 2014. The Regional Bikeways Plan is consistent with the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.	
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#### 55 PROGRAM TR-D.B

The County shall encourage implementation and use of bikeways by use of transportation Development Act Article III bicycle and pedestrian funds to implement and maintain bikeways or bike trails. The County shall continue to identify and pursue appropriate new funding sources for bikeway implementation. Grant funds from regional, State, and Federal agencies should be	Ongoing. County staff is developing a draft Bicycle Transportation Plan, to meet eligibility requirements for competitive State Bicycle Lane Account funds. The Plan is expected to be presented to the Board in 2003.		The County continues to encourage implementation and use of bikeways by implementing the goals and policies in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.	
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pursued and utilized when compatible with the General Plan policies and long-term local funding capabilities.			
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## 56 PROGRAM TR-D.C

The County shall require that sufficient pavement width for bikeways shown on the Regional Bikeway Plan be constructed in conjunction with road construction projects, and that adequate right-of-way and/or pavement width for bicycle facilities be included in frontage improvements required of new development. Implementation through signing and striping is an operational decision, and may not coincide with initial construction.	Conditions of approval on development projects require the provision of street right-of-way widths in accordance with General Plan policies and standards. Where applicable, improvements include the provision of bikeway signing and striping. On County-maintained roadways, signing and striping of bikeways is maintained by Department of Public Works and Planning field personnel.		The County requires sufficient pavement width for bikeways shown on the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
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## 57 PROGRAM TR-D.D

The County shall use California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) bikeway design standards as guidelines for construction of Class I, II, III bicycle facilities.	Ongoing. Caltrans standard bikeways have been planned for Friant Road and Academy Avenue projects.		The Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 specifies California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) bikeway design standards as guidelines for the construction of Class I, II, and III bicycle facilities.
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## 58 PROGRAM TR-D.E

The County shall work with other agencies to provide facilities that help link bicycles to other modes, including provision of bike racks or space on buses and parking or lockers for bicycles at transportation terminals.	Both Fresno Area Express (FAX) and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, which provide County-reimbursed transit services to unincorporated area residents, outfit buses with bicycle racks. Ongoing.		The Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 provides information on facilities that help link bicycle riders to other modes, including the provision of bike racks
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			or space on buses and parking or lockers for bicycles at transportation terminals.	
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## 59 PROGRAM TR-E.A

The County shall work with other agencies to plan line-designated railroad corridors to facilitate the preservation of important railroad rights-of-way for future rail expansion or other appropriate transportation facilities.	No action in this review period. Preservation of at-risk rail corridors for transportation purposes will be evaluated and pursued cooperatively with other agencies as opportunities arise.		The County continues to work with other agencies including the California High Speed Rail Authority for rail expansion to facilitate the railroad rights-of-way for railroads and other transportation facilities.	
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## 60 PROGRAM TR-E.B

The County shall use appropriate zoning in designated rail corridors to ensure preservation of rail facilities for future local rail use.	The only related activity during the reporting period has been that the groundwork for the Golden State Corridor study was initiated and railroad representatives will be included in the process toward development of a specific plan for the area west of the Union Pacific mainline.		The County continues to use appropriate zoning classifications in designated rail corridors.	
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## 61 PROGRAM TR-E.C

The County shall participate in the Council of Fresno County Governments Rail Committee to support improvement, development, and expansion of rail service in Fresno County.	Ongoing. The Board of Supervisors provides elected official representation on the COG Rail Committee and the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee. In addition, Public Works and Planning staff attend and/or monitor rail issues of the above committees, the [Fresno] Mayor's Consolidation Task Force, the High Speed Rail Authority, Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation, and participated on the Steering Committee for the Fresno Rail Consolidation Study Update, completed in 2001.		The Fresno COG Rail Committee was dissolved in 2012 when the San Joaquin Valley Joint Powers Authority (SJVJPA) was formed. A Board of Supervisors member represents Fresno County by participating in the SJVJPA.	
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# COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

## DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN



## STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR



## STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



### 62 PROGRAM PF-A.A

<p>The County shall ensure that infrastructure plans or area facilities plans are prepared in conjunction with any new or expanded community or specific plans and are reviewed and updated as needed. Such plans shall contain phasing and facility improvement time lines.</p>	<p>An analysis of infrastructure improvements and requirements is performed for all development projects. Where specific plan amendments or updates are required, analysis is performed on the adequacy of existing master plans, and master plan updates and implementation schedules are required when applicable.</p>	<p>Where specific plan amendments or updates are required as part of a proposed development project, analysis is performed on the adequacy of existing plans to ensure adequacy of infrastructure to accommodate the proposed development.</p>
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### 63 PROGRAM PF-B.A

<p>The County shall prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for designing and constructing County facilities. Roadways shall be included in the separate Roadway Improvement Plan (RIP). The CIP should be updated at least every five (5) years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant amendments to the General Plan.</p>	<p>The County's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for County facilities was approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 2000 and has been modified on several occasions since then to include updates of facilities and financing plans. Currently, County staff from the General Services Department and the County Administrative Office is crafting a Facilities Master Plan that will be used to develop a new Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for County facilities. All infrastructure-related planning for development in the unincorporated areas of the County is managed through the Public Works and Planning Department. The County's Road Improvement Program is under review and will be revised by January 2003.</p>	<p>The CIP was last updated in 2006. However, updates of the CIP have been suspended by the Board with the suspension of impact fees until November 9, 2017 based on Board action which occurred February 2, 2015.</p>
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**64 PROGRAM PF-B.B**

<p>The County shall develop and adopt ordinances specifying acceptable methods for new development to pay for new capital facilities and expanded services. Possible mechanisms include development fees, assessment districts, land/facility dedications, county service areas, and community facilities districts.</p>	<p>Work on this program will appropriately proceed after the Facilities Master Plan and new Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan are adopted.</p>	<p>On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected, unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions. The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and, 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI Fees and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP and refund fees collected to the property owners of record. On February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees until November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.</p>
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**65 PROGRAM PF-C.A**

<p>The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified.</p>	<p>No Progress. This program will not likely be addressed for two to three years. Recommend the timeframe be changed to FY 05-06.</p>	<p>The Water Geology Section of the Department of Public Works and Planning reviews all discretionary permits and provides recommendation for requirements and mitigation measures as necessary. The</p>
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			County, prior to consideration of any discretionary project related to land use, requires a water supply evaluation as outlined in General Plan Policy PF-C.17. In addition, the County is currently working to implement the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which will further address the resolution of water supply problems. In 2015, six SGMA working group meetings were held, which were co-chaired by members of the Board of Supervisors. The working group is also comprised of key County and Irrigation District staff and includes representation from other interested and affected Communities.	
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## 66 PROGRAM PF-C.B

The County shall adopt a well construction and destruction ordinance that will include among other requirements the mapping of location information on abandoned wells in the County GIS database and which includes a procedure for ensuring that abandoned wells are properly destroyed.	<p>The Department has acquired the field instrumentation for obtaining the coordinates that will be used to plot the water well sites on a geographical map. As the coordinates for each well are obtained, they are being logged into our water well database.</p> <p>The existing Fresno County Ordinance chapters addressing well construction and destruction will be evaluated and updated as necessary to address new procedures and fees recently adopted by the Board.</p>		The County Environmental Health Division has developed a procedure to ensure the abandoned wells are properly destroyed.	
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## 67 PROGRAM PF-C.C

The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared water master plans for water delivery systems for areas undergoing urban growth. The County shall have approved such plans prior to implementation.	Updates of water master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Development Engineering is responsible for infrastructure plans. Areas of concern that		Updates of water master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Millerton Specific Plan area, Shaver Lake area and Friant Specific Plan area have	
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	are currently being explored include the Millerton New Town area and Shaver Lake area, which have previously approved plans. The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is responsible for area wide water plans. No progress has been made in the development of these plans.		approved plans. As an example, in 2010, a Water Supply Assessment was completed for the Millerton Specific Plan as part of the approval process for Tentative Tract Map No. 5430.	
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## 68 PROGRAM PF-C.D

The County shall develop and implement a tiered water pricing structure for County Service Areas and Waterworks Districts.	Tiered water rate structures have been implemented through CSA actions in recent developments as a means of encouraging water conservation, especially in water deficient areas. Developers are required to submit a tiered water rate structure, which is prepared by an engineer, for new subdivisions. The County is currently selecting a consultant to recommend tiered water pricing for CSAs 34 and 49. This program is an ongoing practice.		Tiered water rate structures have been implemented in recent developments. Due to recent drought conditions, CSA and WWD water rate structures are being modified to a flat rate (operational costs) plus a consumption rate (cost of water). Tiered consumption rates are being utilized in CSAs and WWDs where the supply or treatment of water is limited. All new developments are required to provide water rate structures prepared by an engineer and comprised of a flat rate and consumption rate.	
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## 69 PROGRAM PF-C.E

The County shall establish water demand standards based on types and sizes of uses to serve as a basis for determining the adequacy of a proposed water supply for new development.	Water demand standard is part of County Improvement Standards currently under revision and review. Coordination and compliance with State Department of Health Services Drinking Water Division standards have been instituted in areas where the County's standards have been reduced, e.g. in the Shaver Lake area.		Although specific standards have not been established, water supply and proposed water use are evaluated on a per-project basis by Public Works and Planning staff to determine adequate water supply. Further, in regards to landscaping, the County is implementing the State required Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) which applies to both residential and commercial projects. MWELO was part of the Governor's Drought Executive Order of April 1, 2015. The revised ordinance was approved on July 15, 2015.	
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## 70 PROGRAM PF-C.F

The County shall establish a review and/or regulatory process for proposed transfers of surface water to areas outside of the county and for substitution of groundwater for transferred surface water.	Completed in 2000 with the adoption of the Groundwater Transfer Ordinance.		This program has been implemented with the adoption of the Groundwater Transfer Ordinance.	
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## 71 PROGRAM PF-C.G

The County shall develop a list of water conservation technologies, methods, and practices that maximize the beneficial use of water resources. The County shall review and update the list periodically to eliminate practices that no longer prove beneficial and add new technologies that become available.	Development of a list of water conservation technologies, methods and practices planned for FY 02-03.		The County enforces the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance as a means to promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to invest water and other resources as efficiently as possible, to establish a structure for planning, designing, installing maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated projects, to establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention for established landscapes, and to use water efficiently without waste by setting a Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) as an upper limit for water use and reduce water use to the lowest practical amount. These standards are enforced for any residential, commercial, or industrial projects that require a permit, plan check or design review and that have a 500 square-foot or more landscaping area.	
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## 72 PROGRAM PF-D.A

The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a sewer master plan for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth. The County shall	Development Engineering updates of sewer master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Areas of concern that are currently being explored include the Millerton New Town area and		Areas that experience urban growth are required to prepare a sewer master plan or update the current master plan. The Public Works and Planning Department is responsible for implementing the policies	
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have approved such plans prior to implementation.	Shaver Lake area, which have previously approved plans. The Resources Division is responsible for implementing the policies and implementation programs in the plan. This program is implemented as needed.		and implementation programs in the plan. This program is implemented as needed.	
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### 73 PROGRAM PF-E.A

The County shall work with responsible flood control agencies to pursue adoption of appropriate regulations and programs as necessary and appropriate to implement required actions under State and Federal stormwater quality programs.	Requirements for setbacks, easements, and/or covenants are imposed on entitlement projects to preserve natural stream areas. Some minor small streams are permitted for relocation through coordination with the Department of Fish and Game and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. Staff is consulting with applicable agencies to formulate checklists and pertinent requirements. The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section assists Development Engineering in this Program. Development Engineering and the Design Division work with the FMFCD and other agencies on NPDES permits.		The County coordinates with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) who is the Lead Agency for the Municipal Storm Water Permit held by FMFCD, the cities of Fresno and Clovis, Fresno County, and California State University Fresno. The County also requires development to file storm water permits with the State Water Resources Control Board when the project meets the minimum threshold for permitting.	
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### 74 PROGRAM PF-F.A

The County shall require new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses to provide adequate areas on-site to accommodate the collection and storage of recyclable materials.	Resources Division staff review and comment on Initial Studies/Environmental Assessments and, when appropriate, provide comments recommending that new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses provide adequate areas on site for the collection and storage of recyclable materials. This program is an ongoing practice.		Public Works and Planning staff review and comment on Initial Studies/Environmental Assessments and, when appropriate, provide comments recommending that new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses provide adequate areas on site for the collection and storage of recyclable materials. The County implemented a mandatory hauler program in the mid-2000s to mandate refuse and recycling collection for all unincorporated areas.	
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## 75 PROGRAM PF-G.A

<p>The County shall prepare and adopt a master plan to identify locations for sheriff substations and community offices. The County should further evaluate these locations in the regional and unincorporated community plan updates.</p>	<p>Within the past calendar year the Sheriff's Department has completed and put into operation substations in the rural communities of Squaw Valley and Auberry. These substations not only provide facilities and office space for Deputies assigned to this area but also a convenient location for both formal and informal community contact.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Department continues to pursue the relocation of its Area 2 substation from Clovis and Shields to the Temperance and Belmont area. This project would provide a more centralized location for the citizens served in this part of the county. It would also provide space for equipment, property and evidence storage. If the right location is acquired, additional facilities could be relocated to provide for the department's future training facilities needs.</p> <p>Regional and community plan updates will have input from the Sheriff's Department under the Public Facilities section.</p>	<p>Sheriff's Department has established substations in unincorporated County areas to be able to provide faster response to service calls. Although no master plan has been prepared, when Community Plans are updated, a location is identified for a Sheriff's substation. Further, the Sheriff's Department actively works with Public Works and Planning staff on land use matters pertinent to their facilities.</p> <p>As an example, during the Laton Community Plan Update, Public Works and Planning Department staff worked with Sheriff's Department staff to identify a potential location for a future Sheriff's substation.</p>
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## 76 PROGRAM PF-H.A

<p>If a Fire Protection Master Plan has not been prepared for the area and the County Director of Planning &amp; Resource Management Department determines that additional fire protection facilities are needed, the County shall not approve discretionary development until such time as a Master Plan has been adopted or other facilities acceptable to the Director are provided, with appeal rights as provided by</p>	<p>The Current Planning Unit routes all projects to the appropriate fire district for review and comment. The District then identifies appropriate fire protection measures to accommodate the project.</p> <p>Upon consultation with the District, Staff will include the conditions for each project.</p>	<p>The Public Works and Planning staff routes all projects to the appropriate fire district for review and comment. The District then identifies appropriate fire protection measures to accommodate the project. Upon consultation with the District, Staff will include the conditions for each project.</p>
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County Ordinance. The Fire Protection Master Plan must contain the following information: identification of water supply; delineation of the service area boundary; designation of an appropriate fire protection entity; determination of structural, equipment, and personnel needs and costs; and a financing plan based on shared benefit.			
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## 77 PROGRAM PF-H.B

The County shall work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, and city fire departments to maximize the use of resources to develop functional and/or operational consolidations and Standardization of services and to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources.	Fresno County initiated a study of countywide fire protection services during July 2002 with a final report due in January 2003. The study includes participation by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, and city fire departments and will recommend methods to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources.		The County works cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Cal Fire on various land use and permit matters. The County contracts with the California Department of Forestry/Cal Fire for the Amador Plan during the non-fire season to provide additional protection.
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## 78 PROGRAM PF-I.A

The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable school districts to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded school facilities.	This program will be a part of the planned update of each regional, community and specific plan, under service characteristic studies and in the preparation of the public facilities and services section of each plan.		The County involves the respective school district in the update of each regional, community and specific plan to identify the need for and potential location of new or expansion of existing facilities. Further, through the General Plan Conformity (GPC) findings process, potential school site acquisitions are evaluated for consistency with the General Plan. This is required per Public Resources Code 21151 .2 and Government Code 65402. No GPC requests were processed for school sites in 2015.
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**79 PROGRAM PF-I.B**

<p>The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable library districts and library interest groups to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded library facilities.</p>	<p>This program will be a part of the planned update of each regional, community and specific plan, under service characteristic studies and in the preparation of the public facilities and services section of each plan.</p>	<p>The County involves library administration in the update of each regional, community and specific plan to identify the need for and potential location of new or expansion of existing facilities.</p>
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# COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



## 80 PROGRAM OS-A.A

<p>The County shall develop, implement and maintain a water sustainability plan.</p>	<p>The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is gathering data for development of a water sustainability plan.</p>	<p>In June 2006 the County adopted a Fresno Area Regional Groundwater Management Plan. Also with the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, local agencies within the Kings, Westside, and Delta Mendota basins in the County will be required to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies that will in turn create Groundwater Sustainability Plans. The plans are required to be adopted by January 31, 2020.</p>
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## 81 PROGRAM OS-A.B

<p>The County shall establish and maintain a centralized water resource database for surface and groundwater that includes the water budget, groundwater monitoring data, and the groundwater recharge site inventory.</p>	<p>The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is gathering data for the database.</p>	<p>Water budget development and maintenance will be required through the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in areas with aquifers identified as being in a condition of critical overdraft. The County has completed a study through the AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding, to identify potential recharge sites northeast of the City of Fresno and City of Clovis. As development occurs, the County will use this information to attempt to preserve those areas identified as prime recharge.</p>
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## 82 PROGRAM OS-A.C

The County shall develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Information from this program shall be provided to the Board of Supervisors during the annual General Plan review.	The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is gathering data for a groundwater monitoring program.		Groundwater monitoring and reporting will be a key component of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. By January 31, 2020, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the County will be required to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for implementation.
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## 83 PROGRAM OS-A.D

The County shall develop, implement, and maintain land use plans to preserve for recharge purpose those lands identified as suitable for groundwater recharge in the water resource database inventory.	No progress, propose to delay Program activity to FY 03-04		The County has completed a study through the AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding to identify potential recharge sites northeast of the City of Fresno and City of Clovis. As development occurs, the County will use this information in efforts to preserve those areas identified as prime recharge.
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## 84 PROGRAM OS-B.A

The County, in consultation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall conduct a careful evaluation of the Forest Practice Rules with regard to: clearcutting and other forest management practices with potential visual impacts; use of prescribed burning; protection of biological, soil, and water resources; and protection of old growth forest in Fresno County. If the Forest Practice Rules are determined to be inadequate, a compilation of Special Forest Practice Rules for Fresno County shall be proposed to the Board of Forestry to address those inadequacies.	Future FY		The Department of Forestry and Fire Protections enforcement authority granted under the Forest Practice Act and Rules is only applicable when conversion of land from a use other than growing a commercial crop of trees, or commercialization of forest products occurs and is only applicable on private land. Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.
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**85 PROGRAM OS-B.B**

<p>The County shall encourage the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to complete an inventory of existing and residual stands of ancient and old growth forest on private timberlands in Fresno County. The results of this inventory shall be incorporated into the County's biological resources database for use in future land use planning decisions.</p>	<p>Future FY</p>	<p>The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has no mandate or authority to enter private timber lands unless enforcement of the Forest Practice Act and rules have been triggered.</p> <p>Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p>
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**86 PROGRAM OS-B.C**

<p>The County shall encourage the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify potential impacts on, and the need for preservation of, old growth forest in Fresno County.</p>	<p>Future FY</p>	<p>The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is required by law to identify potential impacts to a wide variety of natural and cultural resources when engaging in a discretionary project that warrants compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</p> <p>Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p>
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**87 PROGRAM OS-B.D**

<p>The County shall formally request that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection include educational materials for residents in its Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber. Such materials should include information concerning the Forest Practice Act, Forest Practice Rules, and Department</p>	<p>Future FY</p>	<p>A "Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber" (NOI) is a specific requirement of the Forest Practice Act and Rules and is required for a wide variety of timber harvest documents. A modification of the NOI would require rule change by the Board of Forestry (BOF).</p>
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of Forestry and Fire Protection Timber Harvest Plan review process.			
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## 88 PROGRAM OS-D.A

The County shall work toward the acquisition by public agencies or private non-profit conservation organizations of creek corridors, wetlands, and areas rich in wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature as public open space where such areas cannot be effectively preserved through the regulatory process. Such protection may take the form of fee acquisition or protective easements and may be carried out in cooperation with other local, State, and Federal agencies and private entities. Acquisition shall include provisions for maintenance and management in perpetuity.	No activity during the review period. The preservation of vernal pools in the Millerton New Town Area consistent with the mitigation measures of the project and provision for on-going monitoring through CSA 34 is anticipated in fiscal year 02-03.		The County continues to coordinate with the San Joaquin River Conservancy for projects in the vicinity of their resources. Further, through discretionary land use permits, the County will review requests by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for offsetting habitats, consider mitigation and review and formal proposal for mitigation banking to CDFW.
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## 89 PROGRAM OS-D.B

The County shall adopt an ordinance for riparian protection zones identifying allowable activities in riparian protection zones and allowable mitigation techniques.	No progress to date. Implementation planned for FY 03-04.		Due to budgetary constraints, a specific ordinance has not been adopted. The County continues to coordinate with resource agencies for projects located within sensitive habitat and applies policies for those proposals within river influence areas.
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## 90 PROGRAM OS-E.A

The County shall compile inventories of ecologically significant resource areas, including unique natural areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and habitats for special-status plants and animals from existing data sources. The inventories shall be presented when area plans, specific plans, or other project development proposals are	The Environmental Analysis Unit of the Development Services Division is compiling, reviewing and updating in-house data. The Unit is also working with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to determine the data they routinely review when a project is submitted to them for		Development projects that may have a potential impact on wetlands, riparian areas and habitats for special-status plants and animals are referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comments. Recommended mitigation measures proposed by these agencies will
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considered by the County. The classification system shall be based on the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships (WHR) system and shall identify appropriate buffer zones around the identified resource areas in order to account for periodic, seasonal, or ecological changes. The maps shall be revised on a regular basis to reflect the availability of new information from other agencies, changes in definition, or any other changes.	review and what information Fresno County needs to develop to cooperatively facilitate project review.  Significant resources areas will be addressed in plan updates under the discussion of characteristics of the plan area.		be considered during the environmental review of development projects.
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## 91 PROGRAM OS-E.B

The County shall maintain current maps that indicate the extent of significant habitat for important fish and game species, as these maps are made available by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The relative importance of these game species shall be determined by the County, in consultation with CDFG, based on relevant ecological, recreational, and economic considerations. These maps shall be used by the <i>Fresno</i> County to evaluate proposed area plans, specific plans, and any other project development proposals to determine the compatibility of development with maintenance and enhancement of important fish and game species.	The Environmental Analysis Unit is compiling, reviewing and updating in-house data. The Unit is working with US Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFG to determine the data they routinely review when a project is submitted to them for review and what information Fresno County needs to develop to cooperatively facilitate project review.		The County refers development projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and comment as to any potential impact on sensitive species of plants or animals. County staff also has access to State-maintained software which provides updated maps containing biological data in an electronic mapping database (Rare Final 5, etc.).
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## 92 PROGRAM OS-F.A

The County shall prepare and maintain an updated list of State and Federal rare, threatened, and endangered plant species known or suspected to occur in the county. The following other uncommon or special-status species which occur or may occur in the County should also be included on the	The Environmental Analysis Unit is compiling, reviewing and updating in-house data. The Unit is working with California Native Plant Society and CDFG to verify existence and to review listings of Plant species included in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and		The County refers development projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and comment as to any potential impact on sensitive species of plants or animals. County staff also has access to State-maintained software which provides
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list: 1) plant species included in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California; and 2) species of special concern as designated by California Department of Fish and Game. In addition to updating the list as new information becomes available, the list should be reviewed and amended at least once every two years.	Endangered Vascular Plants of California and listings of species of special concern as designated by the CDFG. The Unit will research procedures other agencies utilize for identifying and preserving rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may be adversely affected by development projects and provisions for incorporating a biological resources evaluation into the environmental review process.		updated maps containing sensitive species of plants and animal data in an electronic mapping database (Rare Final 5, etc.).
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### 93 PROGRAM OS-F.B

The County shall make the Fresno County Oak Management Guidelines and other educational resources available to landowners located in oak woodland habitat.	Work on a brochure is anticipated to be initiated in this Fiscal Year 02-03. The boundaries of the oak woodland habitat area have yet to be established, when they are, the handout will be completed and distributed with every permit that is issued within these areas.		The boundaries of the oak woodland habitat area have yet to be established; when they are, a handout will be prepared and distributed with every permit that is issued within these areas. Individual projects in oak woodland areas are evaluated for buffering or tree preservation requirements depending on the sensitivity of the habitat and relative health of tree growth as indicated by independent studies provided by project applicants. Further, Policy OS-F .11 which contains the County's Oak Woodlands Management Guidelines is considered.
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### 94 PROGRAM OS-G.A

The County shall review the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts published by the SJVUAPCD and adopt procedures for performing air quality impact analysis and mitigation measures with any modifications deemed appropriate.	The Environmental Analysis Unit is working with the SJVUAPCD to review existing standard methods or procedures for determining and mitigating project air quality impacts and possible revisions, as necessary, for use in environmental documents.		The County refers development projects to the SJVAPCD for review and comment on potential air quality impacts and requires development projects to comply with SJVAPCD rules to mitigate any impact on air quality. For Discretionary projects, County staff will review SJVAPCD comments and require district requirements as warranted
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(i.e., indirect source review, etc.) as part of the CEQA review process.

## 95 PROGRAM OS-G.B

The County shall adopt a package of programs to reduce its employees' work-related vehicular trips.

The County has begun to use video conferencing for both inter-County and intra-county meetings, with the resultant reduction in employee work-related vehicular trips. The County is also in the planning and development stages of countywide e-government programs that will impact the number of vehicular trips required to conduct business.

The County commonly promotes and utilizes telephone conference calling in lieu of physical meetings so as to minimize travel-related impacts. The County has begun to use video conferencing for both inter-County and intra-County meetings, with the resultant reduction in employee work-related vehicular trips. The County is also in the planning and development stages of Countywide e-government programs that will impact the number of vehicular trips required to conduct business. Additionally, given the increasing quality of current aerial photos and the available historical imagery which allows comparative analysis, County staff can in some instances use aerial information rather than conducting field visits.

The County encourages employee participation in Fresno COG's car and van pool program.

## 96 PROGRAM OS-G.C

The County shall amend its Subdivision and Grading Ordinances and Development Standards to address dust control measures for new development, access roads, and parking areas.

Staff is drafting revised improvement standards to update the 1966 document. It is anticipated a draft document will be circulated in fiscal year '02-'03. In the interim, fugitive dust control measures are included as conditions of approval or mitigation measures as applicable for the specific entitlement project. Compliance is monitored through periodic inspection.

All development projects must comply with the SJVAPCD regulations for dust control and project conditions or mitigation for discretionary land use permits may require additional levels of dust control.

## 97 PROGRAM OS-H.A

<p>The County shall work with local, State, and Federal agencies to complete a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and services in the county and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development as funds permit. The County shall consider preparation of a County park and recreation master plan to provide a policy framework for independent implementation by the cooperating agencies.</p>	<p>At the present time, funds are not available for the necessary consultant services to prepare a comprehensive Parks Master Plan, to include surveys of all existing regional facilities.</p> <p>Due to uncertain fiscal constraints, it is unknown when such funds will become available.</p>		<p>Funds have not been available to prepare a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development.</p>
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## 98 PROGRAM OS-H.B

<p>As new development occurs, the County shall consider contracting with existing entities or forming county service areas (CSAs) that have the authority to receive dedications or grants of land or funds, plus the ability to charge fees for acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks, open space, and riding, hiking, and bicycle trails.</p>	<p>Current Planning considers the need for an entity to hold and maintain parkland, open space, and trails as a part of the project review. The Resources Division considers these service needs when a CSA is being formed or expanded.</p>		<p>Public Works and Planning staff considers the need for an entity to hold and maintain parkland, open space, and trails as a part of the project review. The Department considers these service needs when a CSA is being formed or expanded. It should be noted that due to limitations of the Proposition 218 process, which allows residents within a CSA to vote on or consider discontinuation of service, the use of CSAs for Services beyond basic services (i.e., sewer and water) can become problematic and has limited the use of CSAs in more recent developments.</p>
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## 99 PROGRAM OS-I.A

<p>The County shall prepare a Recreational Trails Master Plan for a countywide trail system that identifies appropriate corridors and the design of the trails in the corridors based on the criteria listed in the policies of this section. The Recreational Trail Corridor Map (Figure OS-1) and Conceptual</p>	<p>At the County's request, the Council of Fresno County Governments has funded an update of the Regional Trails Plan in the 2002/2003 fiscal year. The COFCG has initiated creation of the Project Development Team and meetings are expected to begin in October 2002. Public</p>		<p>This program has been implemented; the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan was adopted by Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.</p>
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Recreational Trail List shall be used as a starting point for the master plan process.	Works and Planning staff will participate in the Project Development Team. The Plan is expected to be completed in the 2002/03 fiscal year.		
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#### 100 PROGRAM OS-I.B

The County shall investigate the potential of various land use controls for reserving areas for trails such as the acquisition of easements, open space and floodplain zoning, and subdivision control.	No action.		This program has been implemented. It is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
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#### 101 PROGRAM OS-I.C

The County shall enact an ordinance to prohibit the use of recreational trails by all motorized vehicles except maintenance vehicles, regulate users on multiple purpose paths, and protect the interests of property adjacent to trails.	No action.		This program has been implemented. It is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011. The County uses the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) approved sign R44A on Class I bike paths.
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#### 102 PROGRAM OS-J.A

The County shall adopt and implement an ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical, and geological resources. The ordinance shall provide for implementation of applicable development conditions, open space easements, tax incentives, related code revisions and other measures as needed.	The Environmental Analysis Unit is discussing with State Historic Preservation Officer, the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission and the Fresno County Historical Society the feasibility and possible format and content of a Fresno County ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical, and geological resources in Fresno County. The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section will assist the Environmental Analysis Unit relative to geologic resources.		Development projects are referred to the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission and the Fresno County Historical Society for potential impact on significant archeological and historical and geological resources. However, no ordinance has been developed.
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### 103 PROGRAM OS-L.A

<p>The County, in cooperation with the Council of Fresno County Governments and the Association for the Beautification of Highway 99, shall participate in establishing a landscape master plan and design guidelines for the Highway 99 corridor. The plan and guidelines shall unify the design features of the Highway 99 corridor while recognizing the individuality of each community.</p>	<p>The landscape master plan has been developed and adopted by the Association for the Beautification of Highway 99 and its member agencies. Draft design guidelines for the Highway 99 corridor have been approved by the Association and are being reviewed by the member agencies. The existence of the master plan was instrumental in the allocation of Caltrans funding of a Highway 99 beautification pilot project. The master plan is also being considered as the County and the Cities of Fowler, Kingsburg and Selma pursue joint planning along the Golden State Corridor.</p>	<p>This program has been implemented via adoption of Amendment to Text (AT) No. 361 on July 8, 2008, and has been incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance.</p>
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### 104 PROGRAM OS-L.B

<p>The County shall work with the California Department of Transportation to apply for scenic highway designation for the State highway segments eligible for such designation, and take necessary steps for approval, including adoption of scenic corridor protection programs for eligible segments.</p>	<p>Future FY.</p>	<p>County staff collaborated with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. and Caltrans in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for segments of SR 180. Staff of the County and Caltrans with the Sierra Gateway Trust have worked together to complete the proposed Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program in support of a State Official Scenic Highway designation status for approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180. On October 15, 2015, the Caltrans Director approved designation of the two sections of eastern SR 180 from the Alta Main Canal near Minkler to near the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park, and the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park to Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove as a State Scenic Highway.</p>
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# COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

## DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN



## STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR



## STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



### 105 PROGRAM HS-A.A

The County shall maintain agreements with other local, State, and Federal agencies to provide coordinated disaster response.

The County, through its County OES, has been participating in ongoing meetings. County OES has been participating in ongoing meetings including the quarterly Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC), the biannual Region V FBI/OES Counter Terrorism Preparedness Committee, and the annual flood preparedness conference for the purpose of ensuring understanding and multi-agency response coordination in disasters. County OES is also a participant in the development of the federally funded Metropolitan Medical Response System in cooperation with the City of Fresno, and administered by the US Public Health Service. County OES is assisting the Dept. of Community Health, Environmental Health System's Emergency Response Team in the updating and revision of the County's Hazardous Materials Incident Response plan to include response to weapons of mass destruction.

County OES continues to operate and coordinate with other agencies under the principles of the State's Standardized Emergency Mgmt. System (SEMS) and the State's Master Mutual Aid Agreement as adopted by the State and the Board of Supervisors.

On November 14, 1995, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), established the geographic area of the County of Fresno as the Fresno County Operational Area, and designated Fresno County as the Operational Area Lead Agency. In the County's role as the Operational Area lead agency, County OES maintains ongoing communication with local government agencies (County Departments, Incorporated Cities, Special Districts, and Public School Districts), as well as many State and Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to maintain and enhance the communities capability to respond to and recover from disasters.

	<p>During the upcoming year, County OES intends to review and update the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Planning will compile and maintain an active list of, and develop agreements with, area contractors and equipment suppliers having key, specific equipment which would prove beneficial to a disaster response and post disaster debris clearing effort.</p> <p>Additionally, the Department of Public Works and Planning will seek to institute mutual aid agreements with other key agencies (local, State and Federal) to facilitate funding and implementation of the necessary disaster response and post disaster clearing efforts. As these documents are developed and finalized through County Counsel and any ancillary County Departments they will brought before the Board of Supervisors for approval.</p>		
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#### 106 PROGRAM HS-A.B

<p>The County shall continue to monitor and periodically evaluate County emergency planning, operations, and training capabilities.</p>	<p>OES has been involved in the review, update and development of several aspects of emergency planning, operations and response. OES has worked with Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Environmental Health, Public Health, Public Works and Agriculture, to evaluate the County's vulnerability, capabilities and needs related to responding to a terrorist act. OES routinely participates in planning and training activities regarding emergency communications, terrorism preparedness, mass care and shelter, disaster mitigation,</p>		<p>The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) implements this program on an ongoing basis. OES is located within the Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division and coordinates planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for disasters occurring within the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. Fresno County OES coordinates the development and maintenance of the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, which is updated periodically.</p>
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	<p>and flood preparedness. OES regularly receives and distributes a variety of planning documents and training opportunity announcements concerning disaster preparedness, mitigation, assistance and emergency management.</p> <p>OES is working with other agencies to update and enhance the County's Hazardous Materials Incident Response Plan and the Metropolitan Medical Response System Plan. OES is also facilitating the development of a public health preparedness plan to enhance the County's capacity to respond to bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, OES will continue to participate in local, regional and State planning, preparedness and training activities.</p>		
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#### 107 PROGRAM HS-A.C

<p>The County shall continue to periodically evaluate County-owned safety and emergency management facilities and public utility systems for susceptibility to damage due to flood inundation or seismic or geologic hazards and implement corrective actions should problems be identified.</p>	<p>OES has purchased portable generation equipment to provide temporary electrical power to essential County services in the event commercial electrical power is lost due to floods, seismic events, or other emergency conditions.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, OES will continue to take steps to ensure and enhance the flexibility of Emergency Operation Center capabilities in the event the primary EOC becomes inaccessible due to disaster events.</p> <p>The Maintenance and Operations Division of the Department of Public Works and</p>		<p>The County Department of Internal Services will evaluate County facilities in conjunction with concerns raised by the occupying department. Facility issues or damage resulting from events are inspected with the assistance of Risk Management staff and qualified consultants or sub-consultants. Modifications, improvements or construction of new structures to replace existing facilities are also evaluated with the assistance of staff from the Department of Public Works and Planning (Capital Projects Division). A more comprehensive inventory of existing facilities is targeted as budgeting and staffing permit.</p>
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	Planning continues to evaluate its Road Maintenance Area Yards for susceptibility to damage from the noted natural hazards. Any deficiencies that may be identified that would impact the use of these facilities in an emergency will be noted and corrective actions identified.		
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## 108 PROGRAM HS-A.D

The County shall continue to conduct programs to inform the general public of emergency preparedness and disaster response procedures.	<p>In the 2001 calendar year, OES conducted a broad-scale radio and television public information campaign to inform the public about general emergency preparedness including power outages and energy conservation. OES along with County Adult Protective Services, American Red Cross, California Department of Forestry and the Sierra National Forest worked with interested residents in the Pinehurst/Shaver Lake area to develop an updated plan for evacuation and sheltering during wild land fires. OES provides current disaster information and links to emergency planning and preparedness resources to the general public through the Human Services System web site. OES has provided press releases, press conferences, media interviews, and participated in public forums to provide information to the public on local terrorism preparedness.</p> <p>During the upcoming year OES plans to continue to seek out appropriate opportunities to provide the public with information related to general emergency preparedness as well as disaster specific information.</p>		The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) implements this program on an ongoing basis. The County OES maintains contact and emergency information on the County's website. The Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan provides additional details regarding County hazards and responses to mitigate damage or injury. In addition, the Public is also encouraged to obtain family and business preparedness information at websites maintained by The American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
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## 109 PROGRAM HS-B.A

<p>The County shall review the design of all buildings and structures to ensure they are designed and constructed to State and local regulations and standards as part of the building permit plan check process.</p>	<p>The recent adoption of Fresno County Ordinance Code Title 15 included adoption of the California State Building Codes. The requirement from these codes provides the minimum standards for life safety in construction. These requirements are enforced by the Development Services Division through the plan check and building inspection processes.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning continues to review all proposed development to ensure it is designed and constructed to State and local regulations as part of the building permit and plan check process.</p>
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## 110 PROGRAM HS-C.A

<p>The County shall continue to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. The County shall maintain flood hazard maps and other relevant floodplain data and shall revise or update this information as new information becomes available. In the County's review of applications for building permits and discretionary permits and proposals for capital improvement projects, the County shall determine whether the proposed project is within the 100-year floodplain based on these maps.</p>	<p>The Development Engineering Section of the Maintenance &amp; Operations Division maintains the most current FEMA flood hazard maps and updates the information as necessary or as new data/maps are released by FEMA. All submitted projects are reviewed for conformance to floodplain requirements and encroachment through an engineering review and grading permit review. The Division provides updated copies of the FEMA flood hazard maps to the local engineering community, developers and other public. This program continues to be ongoing in conformance with General Plan requirements. In the recent adoption of Title 15, the County updated its Ordinance Code to comply with the current FEMA/ISO requirements for construction within the designated flood areas. All building permits are reviewed by the Development Services Division to verify that construction conforms to these standards.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Work and Planning maintains the most current FEMA flood hazard maps and updates the information as necessary or as new data/maps are released by FEMA. All submitted projects are reviewed to determine proximity to the 100-year floodplain during the grading permit process.</p>
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## 111 PROGRAM HS-C.B

<p>The County shall continue to implement and enforce its Floodplain Management Ordinance.</p>	<p>The Development Engineering Section of the Maintenance &amp; Operations Division enforces the Floodplain Management Ordinance through the review of all submitted projects for conformance to floodplain requirements and encroachment. An engineering review through the grading permit process or other land use submittals determines conformance with the Floodplain Ordinance. This program continues to be ongoing in conformance with the General Plan. During the plan check process the Development Services Division reviews projects to determine inclusion in the flood prone areas and the conditions to be applied to proposed construction. The inspection process verifies construction compliance with the determined conditions.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning reviews all submitted projects for conformance with floodplain requirements through the grading permit process.</p>
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## 112 PROGRAM HS-C.C

<p>The County shall continue to develop and review relevant dam failure evacuation plans and continue to provide public information on dam failure preparedness.</p>	<p>OES has reviewed and discussed the draft Fresno County Operational Area Dam Failure Evacuation Plan Element with several agencies and discussed ideas for future inclusion in the plan.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, OES will renew work toward the completion of the draft Fresno County Operational Area Dam Failure Evacuation Plan Element. Staff from the Maintenance &amp; Operations Division of the Department of Public Works and Planning participates in the County's Emergency Services plan in cooperation with the County Office of Emergency Services. Work has been completed for the dam failure evacuation plan for Friant Dam</p>	<p>There are 23 dams within Fresno County that pose a significant risk to people and/or property. The Fresno County Office of Emergency Services has developed dam failure evacuation plans for each of these 23 dams. The Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2009) Section 4.2.9 evaluates dam failure in Fresno County. According to this document, there were 14 dam failures between 1976 and 1983, but all were earthen dams on private property. Although there remains a risk of dam failure in Fresno County, there have not been any failures of major dams.</p>
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	and public preparedness. The next plan to be prepared will be for the Pine Flat Dam. This program continues to be ongoing in conformance with the General Plan.		
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### 113 PROGRAM HS-D.A

The County shall regularly review readily available information published by the California Division of Mines and Geology and other agencies and use the information to update County maps and the General Plan Background Report.	On-going. The Water, Geology, and Natural Resources Unit regularly reviews the State Mines and Geology website as well as industry newsletters and journals to remain current. No mapping changes were required during this review period.		The County reviews material published by the California Division of Mines and Geology and updates the maps and the General Plan Background Report as necessary. Further, County staff actively engages with and discusses proposed mining projects with State Mining and Geology Board staff.
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### 114 PROGRAM HS-D.B

The County shall inventory unreinforced masonry structures, including emergency facilities and other critical facilities constructed prior to 1948, used for human occupancy (excluding single-family residential structures), and evaluate the facilities for seismic safety. If found below acceptable standards, the County shall implement a program to mitigate potential hazards.	Upon further research it was found that a survey was conducted in 1991 to identify all unreinforced masonry building in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. The survey did not identify any building in this category, therefore, no implementation program has been developed to mitigate potential hazards in unreinforced masonry building within the unincorporated areas.		A survey was conducted in 1991 to identify all unreinforced masonry buildings in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. The survey did not identify any building to be below acceptable standards. Since unreinforced masonry buildings are not allowed within the unincorporated areas, this program will be deleted as part of the ongoing General Plan Review process.
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### 115 PROGRAM HS-D.C

The County shall develop a public awareness program to aid in the identification and mitigation of unreinforced masonry structures.	Since no unreinforced masonry buildings have been located within the unincorporated areas of the County a public awareness program has been not been developed.		Because no unreinforced masonry buildings have been located within the unincorporated areas of the County, a public awareness program has not been developed.
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## 116 PROGRAM HS-E.A

<p>The County shall refer to the Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission for review projects within the Airport Review Area requiring amendments of general, community and specific plans, airport master plans, rezoning applications, zoning ordinance text amendments, and building code amendments for consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan.</p>	<p>All applicable plan amendments and rezonings continue to be referred to the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) for evaluation of consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan. Recommendations of the ALUC are incorporated into staff's evaluation and forwarded to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on those discretionary applications subject to ALUC review.</p>	<p>All applicable land use applications are referred to the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) that is administered by Fresno COG for evaluation of consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan. Recommendations of the ALUC are incorporated into staff's evaluation and forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.</p>
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## 117 PROGRAM HS-F.A

<p>The County shall review discretionary uses which involve use of hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes in regulated quantities.</p>	<p>Applications for Site Plan Reviews for all new multi-family residential, commercial and industrial projects are routed to the Health Department for comment, and conditions of approval are incorporated into the Site Plan Review approval letter.</p> <p>The County conducted an assessment of the facilities that would be regulated under Policy HS-F.2. Businesses regulated and inspected for hazardous materials handling and hazardous waste generation were evaluated for their numbers and size.</p> <p>County staff conducted numerous area surveys to calculate the number of businesses affected under this policy. A time task analysis was created to estimate the amount of staff time needed to properly implement the programs. The FY 02-03 budget provided for addition staff positions to address the increased demand in services.</p> <p>The County is continuing a program of industry education explaining the</p>	<p>The County Department of Public Health continues to review discretionary uses that generate hazardous materials. The Department of Public Works and Planning routes discretionary permit applications to the Health Department for review and comment. Any proposed project that may generate hazardous material will be required to comply with the recommended conditions or mitigation measures.</p>
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	implementation of the program. As land use projects from various County and City planning departments are reviewed, new businesses that will be regulated are identified and advised of their regulatory oversight.		
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#### 118 PROGRAM HS-F.B

The County shall investigate funding alternatives for site acquisition, development, and operation for a permanent household waste facility.	The Resources Division has secured a \$300,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for the siting of a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility. Work on acquiring the site and developing the facility is ongoing.		On March 14, 2013 the County received Planning Commission approval to permit the establishment of a 15,000 square-foot household hazardous waste facility at the American Avenue Landfill. This Facility has since been constructed and is operational.
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#### 119 PROGRAM HS-F.C

The County shall review the plans to mitigate soil or groundwater contamination for redevelopment or infill projects.	<p>The County has continued with the implementation of the Contaminated Site Oversight Program for the remediation of contaminated properties due to the use of underground storage tanks. Additionally, the County has also continued to coordinate with appropriate State and Federal agencies for those sites which have contaminated the ground water. These activities are planned to continue into the upcoming year.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, the County will be assessing the draft Response Action Regulations developed for the remediation of contamination from activities other than underground storage tanks. The contamination may be due to the illegal manufacturing of narcotics, hazardous waste spills or hazardous materials releases.</p>		Development projects are referred to Environmental Health for review and comments. If the subject site is identified as a contaminated site, Environmental Health recommends mitigation measures to address soil or groundwater contamination. Further, as part of the environmental review process, staff has the ability to access State and Federal databases for contaminated sites and can apply appropriate mitigation to discretionary land use projects via comments from State, Federal or local agencies.
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	Development Services assists in avoidance of future problems by verifying the required horizontal separation between onsite sewage disposal system and the source of the domestic water supply through the plan check and inspection processes. The proper construction of disposal system also protects the underground water table by verifying the required vertical separation between the disposal field and the water table.		
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## 120 PROGRAM HS-G.A

<p>The County shall amend and enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance as necessary consistent with the policies and standards within this element.</p>	<p>An amendment to the County's Noise Ordinance, proposed by County Counsel, was approved by the Board of Supervisors. This amendment clarified that property owners are liable for violations of the noise ordinance occurring on their property. The amendment further defined "any person" to include an owner of a property, whether through the owner or the owner's agent, lessee, sublessor, sublessee or occupant. The County's intent is to hold landlords liable for knowing violations of the Noise Ordinance by their tenants.</p> <p>The County's Noise Ordinance will be further evaluated to determine if additional amendments will be necessary to be consistent with the current Noise Element of the General Plan.</p> <p>The noise ordinance was addressed in the adoption of Title 15. A map identifying the noise impact areas in the vicinity of the Fresno Yosemite International Airport has been created and Development Services applies the requirements of Title 15 through the plan check and inspection processes.</p>		<p>The County Environmental Health Division will continue to enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance and amend its policies as necessary. Discretionary land use permits which may generate excessive noise levels are often required to complete a noise analysis, and proposals within designated noise areas of airports are evaluated or limited to avoid conflicts with General Plan noise standards.</p>
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## 121 PROGRAM HS-G.B

<p>The County shall develop an effective noise control program that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An ordinance (1) defining acceptable noise levels based on land use, (2) setting forth monitoring methodology and determination of violations, (3) defining exemptions and variance procedures, and (4) delineating enforcement and abatement procedures; and</li> <li>b. A public information program to inform county residents of the impact of noise on their lives.</li> </ul>	<p>An ordinance as described in item #1 is currently in place. During the past eighteen months, the County has received six complaints relative to noise in the unincorporated area which were addressed by the Environmental Health System. Of those six, two were invalid, one was withdrawn, two were valid and abated, and one is currently being addressed by this Department.</p> <p>Additionally, all land use projects are evaluated for potential noise impacts and appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated as necessary.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, the Environmental Health System intends to work with the Department of Public Works and Planning to update the HSS website to include information relative to community noise.</p> <p>The acceptable noise levels referenced in A1 were addressed in the adoption of Title 15. A map identifying the noise impact areas has yet to be created in the County's GIS system so that applicability determinations can be made during the plan check process. Once applicability has been made, Development Services will apply the requirements of Title 15 through the plan check and inspection processes.</p>	<p>All land use projects are evaluated for potential noise impacts as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated as necessary. As stated in response to HS-G.A above, staff coordinates with the Health Department regarding discretionary land use permits, and additional evaluation may be required for excessive noise generating uses. However, a noise control program that addresses all components of this implementation Program has not been developed.</p>
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## EXHIBIT F

April 13, 2017

Re: Item #4 on today's agenda: 2016 General Plan Progress Report

Dear Planning Commissioners,

It's time for all of us to be honest and to state what is true. The County's 2000 General Plan is not being implemented as written – far from it. And the Draft 2016 Annual Progress Report (APR) you have before you veils this fact and does not explain whether deviations from the General Plan are legal, ethical or effectual. The APR does not demonstrate that the County is meeting its General Plan goals. In short, it is not a “progress” report at all.

In 2000, the County adopted a new General Plan, and there was an understanding between the County and its residents that the Plan would be implemented as drafted. But that didn't happen. For reasons that are hard to fathom, County staff began to implement GP Programs and policies in ways that ran contrary to directives in the General Plan. For example, for 10 years, the County chose not to prepare annual progress reports, which was contrary to the requirement of the Plan, and recently, the County decided not to include in all staff reports for discretionary decisions an analysis of economic and fiscal impacts, which also runs contrary to the General Plan.

Besides altering the operation of General Plan programs, County staff chose not to implement some programs and policies at all, thinking they would not have to do so unless prompted by the Board.

And what has been the result? The General Plan no longer functions as adopted, and the County is unable to demonstrate that General Plan goals are being met. That is simply the truth of the matter.

My question is this: what are you going to do about it? Are you going to approve an APR that skirts this fundamental issue? And are you going to forward to the Board an APR that's inaccurate?

For example, the APR states that the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is “responsible” for implementing the programs in the General Plan's Economic Development Element, but that's simply not true. The County is responsible for doing that.

Reproduced below is a portion of the County's most resent contract with the EDC and a portion of a letter from the EDC that show clearly that the EDC is not directly involved in the County's Economic Development Element and has only agreed to provide non-specific “help” to the County. There is a huge difference between being “responsible” for program implementation and agreeing to provide assistance. Equally important is the fact that the APR does not provide any information as to whether the assistance is enabling the County to make progress in meeting its economic development goals, which are to increase job creation, diversify the County's economic base and improve labor force preparedness to meet the requirements a global economy.

And are you going to forward to the Board an inaccurate staff report as well? For example, the addendum to the staff report for today's hearing states that “delaying” implementation of certain programs (which means not doing them at all) couldn't possibly cause significant adverse impact to the environmental. Are you kidding me? Considering the horrible situation we have been facing with groundwater depletion and the County's decision not to implement General Plan programs and policies requiring the development of a water sustainability plan, a groundwater budget, a centralized water resource database, a groundwater monitoring program and a process for resolving water supply problems, I can't believe the County would try to claim that the failure to implement General Plan programs could not adversely impact the environment, especially when

some of the programs that are not being implemented or not being fully implemented were designed to implement mitigation measures adopted by the Board.

I want you to understand that the examples I've raised are indicative of problems found throughout the draft 2016 APR. They are not isolated cases. The inaccuracies and deficiencies of the APR need to be fixed before the report is forwarded to the Board. It is not the Board's job to make sure the APR is adequate. It's your job.

In closing, I'd like to point out that the draft 2016 APR is nearly identical in wording to the 2015 APR. Because of this fact, the study prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno for the 2015 APR, which is included in your staff report today, applies equally well to an understanding of the 2016 APR. In that study, the League came to the conclusion that the County is able to demonstrate successful implementation of less than half of its General Plan programs. Your APR needs to reflect that fact.

You has been given a task by the State of California and by the General Plan to produce a report that adequately and accurately describes the progress made in implementing the General Plan. The report does not do that.

Therefore, I ask that the Commission delay approval of the APR until such time as the report's inadequacies are corrected.

Below are copies of portions of documents cited above.

Thank you,

Radley Reep

[radleyreep@netzero.com](mailto:radleyreep@netzero.com)

(559) 326-6227

Portion of Agreement #16-354 between the County of Fresno and the Economic Development Corporation

5 WHEREAS, it is recognized by both the COUNTY and CONTRACTOR that effective  
6 implementation of said strategies requires a combined commitment of resources from both the  
7 private and public sectors.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms and  
9 conditions herein contained, the CONTRACTOR and COUNTY agree as follows:

10 1. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR

11 CONTRACTOR shall provide COUNTY with quarterly reports within thirty (30) days  
12 after the end of each quarter, detailing activities of the CONTRACTOR toward meeting the  
13 obligations of the CONTRACTOR under this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall expend an  
14 amount, not to exceed \$38,000, to provide the following essential services:

15 A. Performance Based Services:

16 1) The CONTRACTOR will provide site visits to businesses interested in  
17 locating in Fresno County. The Contractor will report the number of site visits including the name  
18 of the business (unless business expressly requests to remain anonymous), type of industry and  
19 location in the quarterly report to the County.

20 2) The CONTRACTOR will provide technical assistance to businesses  
21 staying in Fresno County or expanding their operations.

22 3) The CONTRACTOR will allow COUNTY access to CONTRACTOR'S  
23 industrial inventory.

24 4) The CONTRACTOR will maintain, monitor, and draft any required  
25 revisions of the COUNTY Economic Development Strategy for approval by the COUNTY; help the  
26 COUNTY achieve the progress made towards economic development objectives of the COUNTY  
27 Economic Development Strategy; evaluate the progress made towards achieving the goals and  
28 targets of the COUNTY Economic Development Strategy at least every five years and provide a

1 report to the COUNTY Board of Supervisors. The CONTRACTOR will continue to work with the  
2 COUNTY in implementing COUNTY's Economic Development Strategy in smaller cities and  
3 unincorporated areas of Fresno County, and will administer the COUNTY'S Strategy Committee.

4 5) The CONTRACTOR, in coordination with the County Administrative  
5 Office will help implement policies and programs of the Economic Development of the County  
6 General Plan.

## Portion of a 2014 Letter from the Economic Development Corporation



League of Women Voters of Fresno  
Ms. Nyla Zander, President  
1345 Bulldog Ln #4  
Fresno, CA 93710

Ms. Zander,

Thank you for your letter of February 27th with additional questions regarding the EDC's role in assisting the County of Fresno with its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

With regards to the County's Strategic Committee on Economic Development and who serves on that committee. The committee is comprised of the following individuals:

Al Solis, Principal - Sol Development Associates  
Walt Plachta, Fresno Department Leader - CEI Engineering Associates Inc.  
Paul Bauer, Attorney - Walter & Wilhelm Law Group  
Florence Dunn, President - CA Health Sciences University  
Israel Lara, President - Parlier Chamber of Commerce  
Gary Quisenberry, Senior VP of Commercial Business Banking - Central Valley Community Bank  
Tina Sumner, Community Economic Director - City of Clovis  
Mike Teixeira, Owner - H&J Chevrolet

The committee meets as needed to ensure that the CEDS update is completed. The meetings are open to the public, however, meetings may occur via teleconference. There will be a more in depth process when we undertake the 2016 CEDS five year update.

The League may contact me directly to request a review of any EDC reports that document EDC's assistance in updating the County's CEDS. As stated in our previous meeting on February 13, 2014, the CEDS is a required document in order to apply for EDA funding. Examples of EDA funding are: the water treatment facility in San Joaquin or the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce incubator building. The EDC is not directly involved in the economic development element of the County's General Plan, which we also discussed in our February meeting.

Components of the 2011 and 2013 CEDS were taken from the proposed revision of the Fresno County General Plan as they also align with the CEDS. As discussed in our previous meeting in February, the CEDS update was completed by the County through their then Economic Development Director. You will need to contact the County of Fresno for any questions regarding the CEDS and the General Plan prior to the EDC's involvement with the CEDS update. Also, the CEDS and the Fresno County General Plan are two separate documents, with two separate objectives.

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