



MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Brian Pedrotti, Community Development Director

BY: Andrew Perez, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report

DATE: February 20, 2024

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

The General Plan Annual Report is an informational document identifying work completed in the previous year to implement the City's General Plan. It is an informational document only, and once received and filed by the City Council is filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and California Department of Housing and Community Development.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

No financial impact is projected.

RECOMMENDATION:

1) Receive and file the 2023 General Plan Annual Report (the "Annual Report" or "Report") for final acceptance by the City Council and 2) Find that the preparation and submission of the report is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it has no potential to result in either a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.)

BACKGROUND:

California Government Code Section 65400 requires all cities to file a General Plan Annual Report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). The purpose of the Report is to monitor the City's implementation of the General Plan over time, to help identify statewide trends, document progress in meeting the City's share of regional housing needs, and inform local decision makers. Prior to submittal to the state, the Annual Report must be presented to the City Council for review and acceptance. As a procedural matter, the Annual Report is being brought to the Planning Commission for receipt and acceptance prior to the Council given the role of the Commission as one of the "keepers" of the General Plan.

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The City's General Plan was adopted in October 2001. A number of activities have been undertaken that implement the goals and policies of the General Plan since that time, including the optional elements adopted by the City.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The Annual Report provides an overview of the activities completed or currently being undertaken during 2023 to implement or update the General Plan. No updates to any elements of the General Plan were completed during the 2023 calendar year; however, efforts to comprehensively update the General Plan are underway. On March 28, 2023, the City entered into an agreement with Mintier Harnish, a land use and planning consultant, to assist City staff with the Update. During the remainder of 2023, City staff conducted extensive project outreach to solicit community comments and participation. Project branding was developed, a project website was developed, and newsletters were posted to the website. Study sessions with City Council and Planning Commission were held in August and September to communicate the process, establish a project schedule, and obtain feedback from the community. The City held the first of several planned workshops on October 5, 2023 to identify existing assets, issues, and opportunities in the community. An online survey was also available as an alternative means for the community to provide feedback. The responses from both the workshop and the online survey were used to inform a Community Engagement Summary Report.

Meeting the housing goals established by the City's Housing Element relies on the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Housing Element Program A.2-1 encourages ADU development through updates to the ADU ordinance and execution of the pre-approved ADU plan program. Plans for the pre-designed ADU plan program, a regional effort with the cities of Atascadero, Grover Beach, and Morro Bay, are complete and are now available for public use.

The City's Annual Report is formatted into two (2) sections:

- Section 1: Introduction, including the legal requirements of the Annual Report and status of the adopted Elements of the General Plan; and
- Section 2: Community Development Department Summary of Activity for 2023

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Commission's consideration:

1. Receive and file the General Plan Annual Report for final acceptance by the City Council; or
2. Provide comments for Council's consideration.

ADVANTAGES:

The City will be providing the State with data in compliance with the California Government Code. The information contained in the report provide provides valuable insights about the effectiveness of housing policies and programs.

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DISADVANTAGES:

There are no disadvantages identified with filing the Annual Progress Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The preparation and filing of the General Plan Annual Progress Report is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it has no potential to result in either a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.)

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Attachments:

1. 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report