

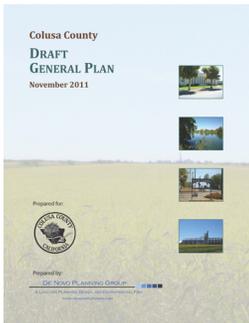


# General Plan Update

## The Draft 2030 General Plan and EIR are now available for review!

On November 17, 2011, Colusa County released the Draft 2030 General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public review and comment. The public is encouraged to review the Draft 2030 General Plan and EIR and provide written comments on these documents to the Colusa County Department of Planning and Building. Colusa County will be accepting comments and input on the Draft 2030 General Plan and EIR through January 16, 2012.

## What is a General Plan?



A general plan is designed to serve as the jurisdiction's "constitution" or "blueprint" for future decisions concerning land use, infrastructure, public services, and resource conservation. All specific plans, subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions made by the County must be consistent with the General Plan. The General Plan provides guidance on reaching a future envisioned over a 20-year time horizon, through 2030.

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## What is an EIR?

An Environmental Impact Report, or EIR, is a document that meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR provides an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Draft 2030 General Plan, and provides the Board of Supervisors and the public with a tool to use during review and consideration of the Draft 2030 General Plan.



## Newsletter Contents

- page 1: Introduction
- pages 2-3: 2030 Draft General Plan Overview
- page 4: General Plan Update Process

## Review the Draft 2030 General Plan and the Draft EIR:

The Draft 2030 General Plan and EIR are available at multiple locations:

- Online at the General Plan Update Website: [www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org](http://www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org)
- Colusa County Department of Planning and Building: 220 12th Street, Colusa, or
- At public libraries throughout Colusa County.

## Comment on the Draft 2030 General Plan and the Draft EIR:

The public is encouraged to review the available documents. Comments should be submitted in writing by January 16, 2012 to: Tana Loudon, Department of Planning and Building, 220 12th Street, Colusa, CA 95932 or via e-mail to: [tloudon@countyofcolusa.org](mailto:tloudon@countyofcolusa.org).

## General Plan Update Mailing List

To receive e-mails regarding upcoming General Plan meetings, contact Tana Loudon, Colusa County Planning Department at (530) 458-0480 or [tloudon@countyofcolusa.org](mailto:tloudon@countyofcolusa.org) or 220 12th Street, Colusa CA 95932.

**Website:** [www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org](http://www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org)



## Contents of the Draft 2030 General Plan

The Draft 2030 General Plan is organized into individual chapters, or “elements” that address the built environment and resource management. The Draft 2030 General Plan includes a Countywide Land Use Map, which identifies allowed uses on each parcel within the unincorporated areas of Colusa County.

### Key Terms

**Goal:** A description of the general desired result that the County seeks to create through the implementation of the 2030 General Plan.

**Objective:** Further refines a goal and provides additional specificity on how a goal may be achieved by the General Plan. Each goal may have one or more objectives.

**Policy:** A specific statement that guides decision-making as the County works to achieve its goals and objectives. Once adopted, policies represent statements of County regulations. The General Plan’s policies set out the standards that will be used by County staff, the Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors in its review of land development projects, resource protection activities, infrastructure improvements, and other County actions. Policies are on-going and require no specific action on behalf of the County.

**Action:** An implementation measure, procedure, technique or specific program to be undertaken by the County to help achieve a specified goal or implement an adopted policy. The County must take additional steps to implement each action item in the General Plan. An action item is something that can and will be completed.

## General Plan Elements

### Agricultural



The Agricultural Element is designed to maintain and enhance the viability of agriculture in Colusa County. Policies address issues such as accommodating a range of agricultural uses and supporting operations, the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, farmworker housing, and urban-agricultural land use conflicts.

### Circulation

The Circulation Element correlates closely with the Land Use Element, and identifies the general locations and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, and alternative transportation facilities necessary to support a multi-modal transportation system. This element is intended to facilitate mobility of people and goods throughout unincorporated Colusa County by a variety of transportation modes, including automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, air, and rail.

### Community Character

The Community Character Element addresses community form, community design, and community character for the County as a whole and individual communities within the County.



### Conservation

The Conservation Element addresses the conservation, development, and use of natural resources, riparian environments, native plant and animal species, soils, mineral deposits, cultural/historical resources, air quality, and alternative energy. It also details plans and measures for preserving open space for natural resources and the managed production of resources.

### Economic Development

The Economic Development Element is designed to support and enhance the County’s economy, through programs to create jobs and business opportunities, to help maintain the existing workforce, and to improve the business climate.



## Land Use

The Land Use Element designates the general distribution and intensity of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, open space, public/quasi-public, and other categories of public and private land uses. The element's primary focus is to guide growth within and around the existing urban centers in Colusa County and conserve agricultural, open space, and natural resource lands.

## Noise

The Noise Element establishes standards and policies to protect the community from the harmful and annoying effects of exposure to excessive noise levels. This element includes strategies to reduce land use conflicts that may result in exposure to unacceptable noise levels.

## Open Space and Recreation

The Open Space and Recreation Element addresses the preservation of open space for the managed production of resources, conservation of natural resources, and public health and safety related to open space and recreational opportunities. This element also includes provisions for improved and unimproved parks and recreational facilities throughout the County.



## Public Services and Facilities



The Public Services and Facilities Element sets forth standards for public service and utility systems including water, wastewater, solid waste, schools, medical facilities, libraries, parks, recreation, and historic preservation.

## Safety

The Safety Element establishes policies and programs to protect the community from risk associated with geologic, flood, and fire hazards, as well as setting standards for emergency preparedness.

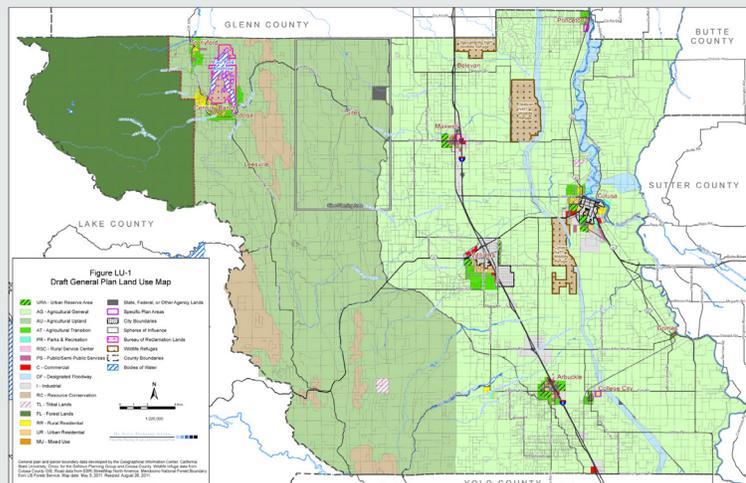


## Implementation

The Implementation Element identifies all of the action items and associated timing for implementation by various County departments or agencies during the life of the General Plan.

## Land Use Map

The Land Use Element includes the Land Use Map, which identifies land use designations for each parcel in the unincorporated County. The Land Use Map adheres to the objectives identified throughout the Visioning and Steering Committee processes to: protect agricultural lands and open space, focus urban levels of growth in and around existing communities, encourage balanced economic and residential growth, and ensure that Colusa County retains its rural character.



# Colusa County General Plan Update

## General Plan Update Process

Phases 1 through 4 are complete and 5 is under way as of December 2011.

### Existing Conditions Report

Information on current conditions and trends.

1

### Issues and Opportunities Report

Describe issues, opportunities, and land use alternatives based on community outreach and Visioning Workshops.

2

### General Plan Goals, Policies, and Programs

Develop goals, policies, and programs to address identified issues and achieve desired land uses.

3

### Draft General Plan

Design a plan to reach the preferred vision of the County's future.

4

### Environmental Impact Report

Analyze the environmental effects of implementing the General Plan.

5

### General Plan Adoption

The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will consider the General Plan at a series of public hearings.

6

## How Was the Draft 2030 General Plan Developed?

The current Colusa County General Plan was adopted in 1989 and is over 20 years old. In the summer of 2009, Colusa County began the process of preparing a comprehensive update to the General Plan. Initial steps in the General Plan update process included extensive public outreach to identify community values and priorities, and documenting existing social, economic, and environmental conditions in Colusa County.

**Visioning Workshops:** The County and the General Plan consultant team held a series of 5 Visioning Workshops between September and November 2009 to inform the public about the General Plan process, and to gather public input on the key issues, priorities, and challenges facing Colusa County.

**General Plan Steering Committee:** The Board of Supervisors appointed approximately 20 County residents and local agency representatives to the General Plan Steering Committee. The Steering Committee worked with staff and the consultant team to develop the goals, objectives, policies and action items to be included in the Draft 2030 General Plan, and also worked to develop and refine the Draft General Plan Land Use Map. The Steering Committee met a total of eight times between September 2010 and February 2011.

**Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Meetings:** Throughout the development of the Draft 2030 General Plan, County staff and the consultant team met regularly with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to provide updates on the process, receive input on policy direction, and review land use map alternatives and options.

**Property Owner Parcel Change Requests:** Between November 2009 and March 2010, property owners in Colusa County were given the opportunity to submit General Plan land use designation change requests to the Planning Department. General Plan designation changes were requested for approximately 27 sites throughout the County. These requested changes were considered by the Steering Committee, Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors during the development of the Draft 2030 General Plan Land Use Map.

### Next Steps

The public review period for the Draft 2030 General Plan and EIR ends on January 16, 2012. Following the public review period, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will each hold a series of meetings to consider certification of the EIR and adoption of the 2030 General Plan. Please contact Tana Loudon at (530) 458-0480 or [tloudon@countyofcolusa.org](mailto:tloudon@countyofcolusa.org) to be notified of upcoming meetings.