



STAFF REPORT

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

March 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Chair and Commissioners

FROM: David Loya, Director of Community Development

PREPARER: Jennifer Dart, Deputy Director of Community Development

DATE: March 18, 2024

TITLE: **Recommend Approval of the 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission: Review the 2023 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report, provide comments, and Adopt Resolution PC-24-01 Recommending the Report to the City Council.

INTRODUCTION:

Government Code Section 65400 and 65700 mandates that all cities and counties submit an annual report on the status of the General Plan and progress in its implementation to their legislative bodies, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Housing and Community Development (HCD) by April 1 of each year. The legislature has identified specific reporting requirements for the Housing Element of the General Plan, and the reports are submitted separately. Effective 2019, all jurisdictions, including charter cities must submit a General Plan APR and Housing Element APR.

BACKGROUND: The APR provides local legislative bodies and the public with information regarding the implementation of the General Plan for their city or county. APRs also inform the public of the progress in meeting the community's goals. APRs must be presented to the local legislative body for its review and acceptance, usually as a consent or discussion item on a regular meeting agenda. Therefore, the APR should provide enough information for decision makers to assess how the General Plan was implemented during the 12-month reporting period, either calendar year or fiscal year. More specifically, APRs should explain how land use decisions relate to adopted goals, policies, and implementation measures of the General Plan. The APRs should provide enough information to identify necessary "course adjustments" or modifications to the General Plan and means to improve local implementation.

DISCUSSION:

How the State Uses the APRs

The General Plan APR gives the Office of Planning and Research the opportunity to identify statewide trends in land use decision-making and how local planning and development activities

relate to statewide planning goals and policies. APRs may also inform future modifications to the Office of Planning and Research's General Plan Guidelines. In addition,

The Office of Planning and Research is able to track progress on a local jurisdiction's comprehensive General Plan update using information provided in the APR. Similarly, the Housing Element APR allows HCD to track the progress of the implementation of a jurisdiction's Housing Element and requires its submission as a threshold requirement for several State housing funding programs.

Format Guidance for the General Plan APR

There is no standardized form or format for the preparation of the General Plan APR. The Office of Planning and Research suggests that the APR make use of available sources of information that may contain information pertinent to General Plan annual reporting such as: "annual reports," "performance reports," "budget reports," or "state of the city/county reports." This approach enables General Plan implementation to be discussed in the broader context of the jurisdiction's overall programs and activities, including redevelopment, economic development, and other topics.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW: This report will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, and forward to the City Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA): This report is not a project pursuant to CEQA.

ATTACHMENTS:

2023 City of Arcata General Plan Annual Progress Report (PDF)