



# STAFF REPORT

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

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February 13, 2024

**TO:** Honorable Chair and Commissioners

**FROM:** David Loya, Director of Community Development

**PREPARER:** David Loya, Director of Community Development

**DATE:** February 01, 2024

**TITLE:** **Consider Outstanding General Plan Recommendations**

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission consider several outstanding recommendations that may be incorporated into the final General Plan; open public comment, and provide direction as necessary.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Planning Commission and Council will be considering refining the December 12, 2023, version of the General Plan over the coming months. The Commission will make a formal recommendation to the Council in April or May based on their discussions held since January. Staff is tracking the changes recommended by the Council and Commission and will provide an analysis of the CEQA implications. This item continues this ongoing review.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Planning Commission should consider the topics that were raised by Commissioners (Attachment A) and the public (Attachment B). The recommendations are included in the staff report and are summarized in the tracking sheet (Attachment C).

The December 12, 2023, version of the General Plan is available at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/974/General-Plan-Updates>.

### General Plan EIR

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) (SCH# 2022020107) for the Arcata General Plan Comprehensive Update, including the Gateway Area Plan, and the Gateway Code is now available for review. Public comment on this document is invited for a 45-day period extending from January 31, 2024, through March 18, 2024, at 5 p.m.

*Anticipated Significant Environmental Impacts.* The DEIR identifies significant impacts to the following California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental issue areas: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, noise. As described in the DEIR, many of these impacts can be fully mitigated, but some cannot. The Project would result in significant unavoidable impacts to air quality and cultural resources. All other impacts can be fully mitigated to a less-than-significant impact.

*Public Review Process for the Draft EIR.* One purpose of CEQA is to inform the public of the likely environmental consequences of public and private projects such as the proposed General Plan Comprehensive Update. The purpose of this Notice, consistent with Sections 15086 and 15087 of the State CEQA Guidelines is to consult with and request comments on the DEIR's environmental analyses from responsible agencies, organizations, and interested parties.

*Document Availability.* The Draft EIR and other project materials will be available for review and download on the City of Arcata website on the Strategic Infill Redevelopment Program webpage at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/896/Strategic-Infill-Redevelopment-Program> on January 31, 2024.

Printed copies of the documents are available for public review at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Arcata City Hall, Community Development Department, 736 F Street, Arcata, California
- Arcata Public Library, 500 7th Street, Arcata, California

The review period for the DEIR ends at the end of the first business day after 45 days have lapsed. The public review period will start on January 31, 2024, and will run through 5 p.m., March 18, 2024.

*Public Comment.* The purpose of public review of the DEIR includes: sharing expertise, disclosing agency analysis, checking for accuracy, detecting omissions, discovering public concerns, and soliciting counter proposals (CEQA Guidelines Sec 15200). Comments received on the DEIR during the review period will be addressed in the Final EIR. Comments may be mailed to:

David Loya, Director

General Plan EIR

736 F Street

Arcata, CA 95521

or emailed to:

[dloya@cityofarcata.org](mailto:dloya@cityofarcata.org) with subject line "General Plan EIR".

*Draft EIR Public Hearing.* A public hearing is scheduled for the Arcata Planning Commission meeting on March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit input and comments from public agencies and the public on the DEIR for the General Plan Comprehensive Update. This hearing will be held at:

Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission

City Council Chambers - Arcata City Hall

736 F Street, Arcata, CA 95521.

There will be no transcription of oral comments at this public hearing or any subsequent hearings. Comments received will be summarized by staff for inclusion in the Final EIR. Those who wish to have their verbatim comments incorporated in the Final EIR must submit their comments in writing.

The meeting facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. If special translation or signing services or other special accommodations are needed, please contact Bridget Dory, City Clerk, at 707-825-2103 or [bdory@cityofarcata.org](mailto:bdory@cityofarcata.org) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Community Development Director David Loya at [dloya@cityofarcata.org](mailto:dloya@cityofarcata.org).

*Final EIR.* Following the close of the public review period for the DEIR, the City will prepare a final EIR, incorporating all comments received during the public comment period, for consideration by the Planning Commission, at a date for which notice shall be provided. As required by CEQA (Section 21092.5), the final EIR, including written responses to the comments submitted by public agencies, will be available at least 10 days prior to certification.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Commissioner Comment (PDF)
- B. Public-Comment (PDF)
- C. GP Amends Post Dec 12 (PDF)