



STAFF REPORT

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

April 11, 2023

TO: Honorable Chair and Commissioners

FROM: David Loya, Director of Community Development

PREPARER: Delores Freitas, Senior Planner

DATE: February 27, 2023

TITLE: **Recommend Approval of the 2022 General Plan Annual Progress Report**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission review the 2022 General Plan Annual Progress report, provide comments and a recommendation 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) every April.

DISCUSSION

The General Plan Annual Progress Report (Progress Report) provides local legislative bodies and the public with information regarding the implementation of the General Plan for their city or county. Progress Reports also inform the public of the progress in meeting the community's goals. Progress Reports 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.

Progress Reports should explain how land use decisions relate to adopted goals, policies, and implementation measures of the General Plan. The Progress Reports should provide enough information to identify necessary "course adjustments" or modifications to the General Plan and means to improve local implementation. The 2022 Progress Report is included as Attachment B.

HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

State law requires that all General Plans include a Housing Element which provides a plan for accommodating future housing production needs. State law further requires that all cities and counties create an APR that describes that community's progress toward implementing their Housing Element. The General Plan Progress Report 12 month reporting period can be either a fiscal or calendar year, but the Housing Element Progress Report 12 month reporting period must be a calendar year. The Housing Element summary table is included in Attachment B.

The Housing Element Progress Report fulfills statutory requirements to report certain housing information, including: the local agency’s progress in meeting its share of regional housing needs (i.e., applications, entitlements, permits and certificates of occupancy), certain rezoning activities, actions taken towards completion of housing element programs, and local efforts to remove governmental constraints to the development of housing (Government Codes Section 65584.3(c) and 65584.5(b)(5)). California’s housing element law acknowledges that in order for the private market to adequately address the state’s housing needs, local governments must adopt plans and regulatory systems that provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development. As a result, housing policy rests largely on the effective implementation of local general plans and housing elements.

HOW THE STATE USES THE GENERAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT and HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The General Plan Progress Report gives OPR 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. Progress Reports may also inform future modifications to OPR’s General Plan Guidelines. In addition, OPR is able to track progress on a local jurisdiction’s comprehensive General Plan update using information provided in the Progress Report. Similarly, the Housing Element Progress Report 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 and HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

There is no standardized form or format for the preparation of the General Plan Annual Progress Report. OPR suggests that the Progress Report 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A. Res PC-23-02 (PDF)

Attachment B. 2022 City of Arcata General Plan Annual Progress Report (PDF)