



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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October 24, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

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

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

**DATE:** October 18, 2023

**TITLE:** **Consider the Planning Commission's Recommendation on the General Plan 2045.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Council consider the Planning Commission's recommendations on the General Plan with the Commissioners through a facilitated discussion.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Commission reviewed the Draft General Plan 2045 Elements over the course of several meetings during 2021 and 2022. The Commission received public comment and recommendations from the various Committees and finalized a recommendation on July 11, 2023. The Council and Commission should discuss any Elements that are of interest to them, with an emphasis on the Growth Management, Land Use, and new Health Elements, which will have the largest impact on development patterns and social justice and racial equity.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City has conducted extensive outreach through the entire General Plan 2045 drafting process. The Community Engagement Report (Report) is a working draft document that is updated as engagement continues. This Report includes engagements starting in December of 2020 and was last updated in the summer of 2022. Staff are working on the next version that will include events through 2023.

The engagement website, which contains several other resources and reports documenting engagement on the General Plan, including written public comment, is <https://www.cityofarcata.org/940/Engagement-Information>. The Report is at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/DocumentCenter/View/13260/SIRP-Engagement-Rpt-060722>. This report documents the majority of the efforts the City has made to broaden engagement and make it as inclusive as possible. While the thousands of people we've engaged in this work are not routinely showing up for Council meetings (or showing up at all), their input is reflected in this report and, in part, informed the draft GP 2045 edits.

In addition to the broad engagement to increase access to marginalized community members, the City contracted with Equity Partners to hold a focus group outreach to more deeply address racial equity and social justice. The stakeholder group had an emphasis on diverse perspectives in our community. Specifically, the stakeholders were community members representing multiple identities across race, culture, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, ability, and family makeup. The Equity Partners report is at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/DocumentCenter/View/13259/Revised-Final-Report-42423>. This report documents the stakeholder engagement with an emphasis on inclusion. This engagement directly informed several policies in the Draft General Plan 2045.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Land Use and Growth Management General Plan Elements will have the most direct impact on growth and development patterns in the City over the plan period. The Health Element is a new element of the General Plan 2045. And while a racial equity lens was brought to the entire General Plan, the Health Element includes policy that was specifically designed with social justice and racial equity in mind.

The Elements can be found at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/974/General-Plan-Updates>. And the three Elements described above can be found at:

1. Growth Management Element clean <https://www.cityofarcata.org/976/Growth-Management-Element>
2. Land Use Element clean [https://www.cityofarcata.org/DocumentCenter/View/13280/Land-Use-Element-2045-PC-rec-711\\_clean](https://www.cityofarcata.org/DocumentCenter/View/13280/Land-Use-Element-2045-PC-rec-711_clean)
3. Health Element clean <https://www.cityofarcata.org/1032/Health-Element>

**Councilmembers and Commissioners are encouraged to discuss these and other Elements of interest.**