



# STAFF REPORT – PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

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**TO:** Honorable Chair and Commissioners

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

**PREPARER:** Jennifer Dart, Community Development Deputy Director

**DATE:** March 11, 2025

**TITLE:** **Adopt Resolution PC-25-02 Recommending the City Council Accept the 2024 General Plan Annual Progress Report**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend the Commission Review the 2024 General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR), provide comments, and Adopt Resolution PC-25-02 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 1st of each year. The legislature has identified specific reporting requirements for the Housing Element of the General Plan, and the reports are submitted separately.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The General Plan serves as the long-term blueprint for a city or county’s growth, guiding land use, housing, transportation, environmental conservation, and economic development policies. California law requires that each jurisdiction maintain and implement its General Plan to ensure orderly growth and alignment with State objectives, including housing production and climate resilience.

Arcata’s General Plan 2045 adopted July 17, 2024, establishes policies to accommodate projected population growth, support sustainable land use patterns, and enhance the quality of life for residents. The plan’s implementation is an ongoing process, requiring coordination among various City departments, regional agencies, and community stakeholders.

The Annual Progress Report (APR) provides an opportunity to evaluate the City's progress in implementing the General Plan, track key policy initiatives, and identify areas where adjustments may be needed. In particular, the APR informs decision-makers about progress toward housing goals outlined in the Housing Element, including the City's share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Purpose of the General Plan APR**

The General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR) serves as a critical tool for tracking the implementation of Arcata's General Plan 2045. It provides local legislative bodies and the public with a transparent assessment of how General Plan policies were implemented over the past year. The APR also helps decision-makers evaluate progress toward community goals, including housing, sustainability, and infrastructure development.

### **State Oversight & Housing Element Compliance**

The APR informs OPR, now called the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), about the City's progress on General Plan implementation, ensuring consistency with State planning goals. Additionally, the Housing Element APR, submitted separately, allows the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to track the City's compliance with housing policies, particularly progress toward meeting Arcata's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) targets. Submitting this report is also a requirement for eligibility in several State housing grant programs.

### **Format Guidance for the General Plan APR**

There is no standardized format for General Plan APRs. However, LCI recommends that cities leverage existing reports—such as budget documents, annual performance reports, and State of the City updates—to provide a comprehensive overview of implementation efforts. Arcata's APR follows this guidance by incorporating data from [mention relevant local reports], offering a broad perspective on how the General Plan is being put into action.

## **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:**

This report will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the City Council.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

The General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report do not qualify as a project as defined in the California Code of Regulations Section 15378(a). The reports are administrative activities conducted by the City that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

## **BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with City Council review and City submission of these annual reports with HCD and LCI.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

A. Reso. No. PC-25-02