

# Annual Progress Report 2022



Larry Lage

## Introduction

The City of Eureka 2040 General Plan establishes the fundamental policy framework to guide decisions related to land use and development, public services and facilities, public safety, resource management, recreation, culture, and the overall health and quality of life in the community. The General Plan presents a vision for the City's future, and embodies goals, policies, and strategies to turn that vision into a reality. The City of Eureka adopted the 2040 General Plan on October 18, 2018 after an extensive community participation effort. The General Plan includes seven mandatory elements: land use, housing, open space, conservation, safety, circulation, and noise. A jurisdiction may also choose to include optional elements which speak to other topics of local interest. Additionally, the General Plan compiles the activities, programs, and policies of the City to promote healthy living. The 2040 General Plan's required and optional elements are presented in five sections:



- **Our Community.** Land Use, Housing (under separate cover), Economy, and Historic and Cultural Preservation
- **Our Environment.** Natural Resources and Open Space, Agriculture and Timberlands, and Air Quality and Climate Change
- **Our Civic Resources.** Arts and Culture, Parks and Recreation, and Community Services
- **Our Infrastructure.** Mobility and Utilities
- **Our Well-Being.** Health and Safety, and Noise

The Eureka 2040 General Plan contains an integrated and internally consistent set of goals, policies, and implementation programs which will achieve the community’s shared vision, and address those issues of greatest importance to Eureka. The General Plan provides the framework to ensure specific land use and development proposals are in harmony with Eureka’s unique objectives, and provides decision makers with guidance in setting priorities for the conservation of resources, provision of services and infrastructure, and allocation of public expenditures. To achieve its purpose, the General Plan has been structured to be flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions, while specific enough to provide predictability and consistency in guiding day-to-day decision making. All development projects, subdivisions, zoning regulations, specific plans, capital improvements, and other related plans, regulations, and actions are required to be consistent with the General Plan.



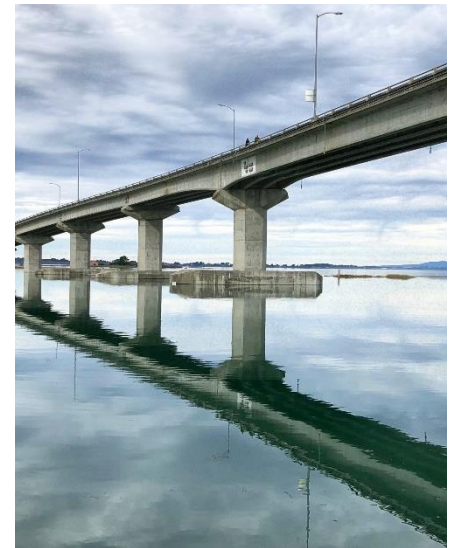
Ian Dagnall

## *Statutory Requirements and Purpose*

California Government Code Section 65400 mandates cities and counties submit an annual progress report (APR) on the General Plan and its implementation to City Council, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). This document fulfills that mandate, and will be received by the City Council at its meeting on April 4, 2023. The main purpose of the APR is to provide the City Council and the public with an update of the City’s progress in implementing its General Plan vision. This annual assessment provides the City Council an opportunity to direct Staff to adjust or modify Council’s policies or approach to implementation to ensure the City meets its stated vision.

## Updating the General Plan

The City of Eureka adopted its first General Plan in 1965, with major updates in 1977 and 1997. The 2040 General Plan represents the first comprehensive update since 1997. While many of the issues facing Eureka remain constant, various conditions, challenges, opportunities, and legal requirements have changed since the last update. The 2040 General Plan responded to these changes, allowing today’s residents, businesses and decision makers to express their thoughts, ideas and aspirations for the future. Integrated throughout the 2040 General Plan update process was an outreach program to educate, inform and solicit input from the community. Key components of the outreach program included stakeholder interviews, community workshops, web-based virtual town halls, economic development and homelessness focus groups, landowner requests, City Council and Planning Commission check-in sessions, an EIR scoping meeting, General Plan update website, flyers, media releases, and public hearings. The input received significantly influenced the overall shape and direction of the 2040 General Plan.



## Amending the 2040 General Plan

State law allows the General Plan to be amended four times annually. This allows the General Plan to remain a current document responsive to the community’s needs. Requests for amendments may be submitted by individuals or initiated by the City. Since the adoption of the 2040 General Plan, three amendments have been adopted during 2022:

1. Amendment to 2019-2027 Housing Element
2. Medium Density Residential MDR to General Commercial GC  
APN 008-052-011 Fairfield and Harris
3. Professional Office PO to Neighborhood Commercial NC  
APN 013-191-026 Harris and Harrison

## Housing Element Progress

State law requires each jurisdiction in California include a Housing Element in its General Plan which establishes specific actions, objectives, and timelines for meeting its State mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for each income level. The RHNA is provided to jurisdictions in eight year cycles. The current cycle is Cycle 6, which covers the time period of 2019 through 2027. Every year the City prepares an annual Housing Element Progress Report for submittal to HCD and OPR by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Housing Element Annual Progress Report is being prepared as a separate document.



## Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan

Under the California Coastal Act, each local jurisdiction lying partly or wholly within the coastal zone is required to prepare a Local Coastal Program (LCP). An LCP is comprised of a Land Use Plan (LUP) and Implementation Plan (IP). The Eureka LUP contains land uses, goals, policies and programs to guide conservation and development decisions within the coastal zone, augmenting applicable General Plan requirements. The IP consists of the zoning regulations required to implement the LUP. Within the Coastal Zone both the LCP and General Plan apply. While the LUP was integrated in the last General Plan, there is no requirement for the LUP and General Plan to be included as one document. Therefore, the City is currently updating the LUP consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act, and when complete, will be provided under separate cover.

## Implementation Programs

The General Plan sets the foundation and policy framework for future growth and development. It addresses a range of issues and policies which directly affect every aspect of community life. The City implements its General Plan vision, goals, and policies through the use of many programs, projects, and tools. These implementation measures ensure the overall direction set forth in the General Plan is translated from general ideas into action, and the City's vision for its future is met. The City has made progress in completing the implementation measures as shown on the following pages.



Aldaron Laird

EUREKA 2040 GENERAL PLAN Implementation Programs				
Implementation Programs		Responsible Departments	Timing	Progress during 2022
Imp LU-1A	Conduct a study to review locations of grocery stores and other fresh food sources to ensure all neighborhoods in the City have equal access.	Development Services	*TBD	*TBD
Imp LU-1B	Consider using parking funds for facilities and services that encourage people to use non-single occupancy vehicles to travel to the Core Area (e.g., public transit, shuttles, bikeshare, walking, carshare).	Development Services, Public Works	Ongoing	The City of Eureka was awarded SB2 grant funding to perform a parking study for the downtown core which was completed in June, 2022 and explored these concepts.
Imp E-1	Maintain an up-to-date Economic Development Strategic Plan to guide near term (i.e., 0-5 years) economic development activities and decision making.	Development Services	Ongoing	The City of Eureka completed an update to our Economic Development Strategic Plan which was originally adopted in March of 2015. The Update was adopted by the City Council in October, 2021 and contains one overarching goal with four sub-goals, 17 strategies, and 32 action items.
Imp E-2	Allocate staff resources to economic development activities based upon available funding.	Development Services	Ongoing	The City of Eureka adopted an Economic Development Strategic Plan Update in October, 2021. The updated plan outlines goals, strategies, and action items that will govern economic development staff resourcing for the next five years.
Imp E-3	Review and update, as appropriate, the City’s fees, user charges, utility rates, special assessments and taxes, and other exactions to ensure they are adequate, equitable, and competitive. Develop and maintain an up-to-date development impact fee program to ensure that new development contributes equitably to the development of necessary public facilities.	Development Services, Finance and Public Works	Ongoing	The City’s Fee Schedule is comprehensively reviewed and adopted by Council at least once at the beginning of each fiscal year. For 2022, the fee schedule was reviewed and updated in March, July and November, 2022.
Imp E-4	Identify and pursue federal, state, and local funding sources, as well as other alternative financing tools and mechanisms, to support economic development planning, programs, and projects.	Development Services	Ongoing	The City has and is continuing to pursue CDBG grants. The City also has been successful in securing grant funding for workforce development programs with our Uplift Team and will continue to pursue those opportunities. The City recently used CARES Act and ARPA funds for business support programs and is potentially a partner for an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District.
Imp E-5	Review and update, as appropriate, the City’s policies, programs, and procedures to ensure they are adequate, equitable, consistent, helpful and responsive to the needs of residents, property owners and businesses.	Development Services, City Manager	Ongoing	Ongoing

\* TBD - Timing to be established by City Council as funding and staffing becomes available.





EUREKA 2040 GENERAL PLAN Implementation Programs				
Implementation Programs		Responsible Departments	Timing	Progress during 2022
Imp E-6	Prioritize project review and permitting for key economic development projects and designate an economic development coordinator.	Development Services	Ongoing	The City is working to transition to an on-line application and permitting system, with the idea of transitioning from paper to electronic processes wherever possible. Anticipated go-live will be in early 2023.
Imp HCP-1	Pursue grant funding to periodically update the City’s existing inventory of existing cultural and historic resources (Eureka, An Architectural Review; also known as the “Green Book”).	Development Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp HCP-2	Develop interpretive programs, such as street signage and walking tours, as historic districts and historic structures are listed.	Development Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp HCP-3	Provide training to City staff on State Historic Building Code and other available preservation incentives and regulations.	Development Services, Public Works (Building)	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp HCP-4	Establish procedures for the creation of Historic Recognition Areas, which identify, highlight, and promote areas of historic, architectural, and/or cultural significance, but do not require design standards or guidelines.	Development Services	*TBD	Ongoing
Imp HCP-5	Establish procedures for the creation of Designated Historic Districts, which shall include design standards or design guidelines.	Development Services	*TBD	Ongoing
Imp HCP-6	Prepare, adopt, and implement procedures for review and approval of all discretionary projects involving ground disturbance and all building and/or demolition permits that will affect buildings, structures, or objects identified as historically significant.	Development Services	*TBD	Ongoing
Imp HCP-7	Develop and promote other incentives for restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic resources that include fee reductions and low interest, revolving loan funds for preservation and maintenance of properties on the Local Register of Historic Places.	Development Services	*TBD	Ongoing

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EUREKA 2040 GENERAL PLAN Implementation Programs				
Implementation Programs		Responsible Departments	Timing	Progress during 2022
Imp HCP-8	Apply for CLG grant funds and pursue other public and private grants to support preservation programs, rehabilitation efforts, and heritage tourism activities.	Development Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp HCP-9	Work with community groups and other local governments to organize preservation-related trainings and workshops. Identify preservation resources, and inform property owners and developers about the benefits of designation and rehabilitation of historic resources.	Development Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp HCP-10	Work with the building industry, Humboldt Waste Management Authority and preservation groups to create a program for effectively, salvaging, storing and recycling historic building materials and architectural elements obtained from demolished or altered historic buildings.	Development Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp HCP-11	Continue cooperative process with the Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe and other interested groups to protect and preserve archaeological and cultural sites.	Development Services	Ongoing	The City of Eureka also continues to work closely with the three local Native American Tribes to protect and preserve cultural resources and sites through consultation for both private and public development projects.
Imp NR-1	Support and promote acquisition of fee title and/or easements for wetland protection from willing property owners.	Development Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
Imp NR-2	Prepare and implement a vegetative maintenance plan for City-owned properties to maintain views into and through vegetated areas, and to remove invasive species.	Development Services, Community Services	*TBD	*TBD
Imp AQ-1	Prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP) that provides the framework for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the State targets identified for 2040 through City operations, and existing and future development. Greenhouse gas emission reductions related to land use, mobility, energy, and solid waste will be addressed in the CAP.	Development Services in collaboration with Redwood Coast Energy Authority	2019-2022	Work on a Regional Climate Action Plan has been underway since November 2018. Slowed by Covid-19, the plan is anticipated to be adopted early 2024.

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EUREKA 2040 GENERAL PLAN Implementation Programs				
Implementation Programs		Responsible Departments	Timing	Progress during 2022
Imp SL-1	Promote low-cost educational opportunities to inform the Eureka community about sea-level rise hazards through City website updates, newsletter updates, informational handouts, and partnerships with real estate and building trade industry groups, neighborhood organizations, and the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce.	Development Services, Community Services	*TBD	*TBD
Imp SL-2	Create and maintain a citywide sea level rise adaptation strategy to ensure the resiliency of Eureka in the future. The strategy will lay out a long-term plan for the City’s critical assets that are vulnerable to climate change now and in the future. The plan will also identify areas in which the City will continue to dike tidally-influenced water as the City has done for the past 100+ years.	Development Services	Per California Government Code Section 65302 (g)(4)	*TBD
Imp CC-1	Prepare a long-term climate change adaptation and resilience plan to address climate change-related hazards.	Development Services	Per California Government Code Section 65302 (g)(4)	*TBD
Imp M-1	Adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines that set forth appropriate configurations and geometrics to accommodate all modes, including number of lanes and their widths, inclusion of bicycle facilities, sidewalk widths, bus stop amenities and other street furniture as appropriate for the intended use and character of each street type. Include guidance on appropriate treatments to support safe crossings for pedestrians.	Development Services, Public Works	*TBD	Ongoing
Imp M-2	Develop traffic calming guidelines that provide a toolbox of measures designed to reduce traffic speeds and limit diversion of traffic together with policies providing guidance on determining what measures are most appropriate for specific conditions. The guidelines should provide a method for residents to request measures that meet traffic calming criterion.	Public Works	*TBD	This is substantially complete and included in the Transportation Safety Action Plan - Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.
Imp M-3	Develop a Master Plan to evaluate feasibility of limiting access in specific areas to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists only. The impacts on all modes of transportation should be evaluated	Development Services, Public Works	*TBD	Ongoing

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EUREKA 2040 GENERAL PLAN Implementation Programs				
Implementation Programs		Responsible Departments	Timing	Progress during 2022
	to determine if the diversion of vehicle trips would significantly impact the anticipated alternative route(s).			
<b>Imp M-4</b>	Consider application of vehicle miles traveled as a metric for evaluating impacts of new development at such time as a methodology is available that is suitable for use in Eureka. Work with Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) when evaluating potential regional applications both to evaluate and to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Support HCAOG if they develop a regional methodology or program as a part of their annual Overall Work Program.	Public Works, Development Services	*TBD	Ongoing, the City is working with Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) and Caltrans to monitor and develop VMT metrics.
<b>Imp M-5</b>	Establish and maintain a traffic impact fee to assess an equitable share of costs associated with cumulative traffic impacts to all development projects on facilities for all modes of travel.	Development Services, Public Works	*TBD	The City and County have developed a joint Traffic Impact Fee for a portion of the City and are in discussions about implementation.
<b>Imp M-6</b>	Develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan that identifies the type and location of future bicycle facilities, as well as pathways for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Coordinate plan development with Humboldt County and Caltrans, where appropriate, to link the City to the surrounding region. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan shall: establish mode share targets for bicycling and walking that would be used to evaluate new and existing projects; include a level of stress analysis of existing bikeways; develop level of stress targets for all bikeways to help the City to prioritize and redesign appropriate bikeways to accommodate more bicyclists; use mode share data to evaluate the effectiveness of other activities meant to increase pedestrian or bicycle use; and develop an report that captures the activities accomplished during the year that may have affected mode share.	Public Works, Development Services	*TBD	This is ongoing in a number of avenues. City is working with Caltrans and Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) to update current Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans. Staff has presented at City Council meetings about Active Transportation Routes as well as developing new routes and expanding on current routes.
<b>Imp M-7</b>	Evaluate need for enhancements to pedestrian facilities through a study of existing crossing treatments along major routes, especially U.S. 101, and their adequacy. Implement enhanced crossing treatments where warranted, as funding becomes available.	Development Services, Public Works	*TBD	Implemented- Broadway Multimodal corridor Plan- Approved by Council in 2021. Ongoing- City is working with Caltrans to implement changes/improvements on Broadway/4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> and the outlook is promising.

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EUREKA 2040 GENERAL PLAN Implementation Programs				
Implementation Programs		Responsible Departments	Timing	Progress during 2022
<b>Imp M-8</b>	Update guidance to require new projects to analyze parking requirements for bicycles as well as automobiles and develop metrics which allow for the reduction of automobile parking spaces if certain findings are met.	Public Works, Development Services	Ongoing	The City of Eureka was awarded SB2 grant funding to perform a parking study for the Old Town and Downtown area which explored these concepts. The study was completed In June, 2022.
<b>Imp HS-1</b>	Require that if any paleontological resources are discovered during construction, all earthwork or other types of ground disturbance within 50 feet of the find stop immediately until a qualified professional paleontologist meeting the standards of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology can assess the nature and importance of the find. Based on the scientific value or uniqueness of the find, the paleontologist may record the find and allow work to continue, or recommend salvage and recovery of the fossil. If treatment and salvage is required, recommendations are to be consistent with current Society of Vertebrate Paleontology guidelines and currently accepted scientific practice. If required, treatment for fossil remains may include preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection, and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds.	Development Services, Public Works, Community Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>Imp HS-2</b>	Update the City’s Zoning Code, in consultation with area stakeholders, to require defensible space and other wildland fire mitigation strategies in fire prone areas. Explore implementation of fire resistant building codes in fire prone areas.	Development Services, Public Works, Humboldt Bay Fire	2019	Updates and refinement to the City of Eureka’s Tree Ordinance in the zoning code are ongoing, with modification of the regulations adopted in 2022.

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