

Executive Summary

The unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County are comprised of approximately 2,650 square miles, and over one million people. The Los Angeles County General Plan provides the policy framework and establishes the long range vision for how and where the unincorporated areas will grow, and establishes goals, policies, and programs to foster healthy, livable, and sustainable communities. This document represents a comprehensive effort to update the County's 1980 General Plan.

I. Guiding Principles

The following five guiding principles work to emphasize the concept of sustainability throughout the General Plan.

1. Employ Smart Growth: Shape new communities to align housing with jobs and services; and protect and conserve the County's natural and cultural resources, including the character of rural communities.

2. Ensure community services and infrastructure are sufficient to accommodate growth: Coordinate an equitable sharing of public and private costs associated with providing appropriate community services and infrastructure to meet growth needs.

3. Provide the foundation for a strong and diverse economy: Protect areas that generate employment and promote programs that support a stable and well educated workforce. This will provide a foundation for a jobs-housing balance and a vital and competitive economy in the unincorporated areas.

4. Promote excellence in environmental resource management: Carefully manage the County's natural resources, such as air, water, wildlife habitats, mineral resources, agricultural land, forests, and open space in an integrated way that is both feasible and sustainable.

5. Provide healthy, livable and equitable communities: Design communities that incorporate their cultural and historic surroundings, are not overburdened by nuisance and negative environmental factors, and provide reasonable access to food systems. These factors have a measureable effect on public well-being.

II. Planning Areas Framework

The Los Angeles County General Plan is the foundational document for all community-based plans that serve the unincorporated areas. The General Plan identifies 11 Area Plans. The purpose of the Planning Areas Framework is to provide a mechanism for local communities to work with the County to develop plans that respond to their unique and diverse character. The 11 Planning Areas are:

- Antelope Valley Planning Area
- Coastal Islands Planning Area
- East San Gabriel Valley Planning Area
- Gateway Planning Area

- Metro Planning Area
- San Fernando Valley Planning Area
- Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area
- Santa Monica Mountains Planning Area
- South Bay Planning Area
- West San Gabriel Valley Planning Area
- Westside Planning Area

III. General Plan Elements

The General Plan is comprised of the following elements:

Land Use Element

The Land Use Element designates land uses, and provides strategies and planning tools to facilitate and guide future development and revitalization efforts.

Mobility Element

The Mobility Element provides an overview of the transportation infrastructure and strategies for developing an efficient and multimodal transportation network. The Highway Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan are sub-components of the Mobility Element.

Air Quality Element

The Air Quality Element summarizes air quality issues and outlines the goals and policies that will improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Community Climate Action Plan is a sub-component of the Air Quality Element.

Conservation and Natural Resources Element

The Conservation and Natural Resources Element guides the long-term conservation of natural resources and preservation of available open space areas.

Parks and Recreation Element

The Parks and Recreation Element plans and provides for an integrated parks and recreation system that meets the needs of residents.

Noise Element

The Noise Element reduces and limits the exposure of the general public to excessive noise levels. The Noise Element sets the goals and policy direction for the management of noise.

Safety Element

The purpose of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made hazards.

Public Services and Facilities Element

The Public Services and Facilities Element promotes the orderly and efficient planning of public services and facilities and infrastructure in conjunction with development and growth.

Economic Development Element

The Economic Development Element outlines economic development goals, and provides strategies that contribute to economic well-being.

Housing Element

The Housing Element analyzes and plans for existing and future housing needs. The Housing Element addresses the housing needs of all income levels and accommodates a diversity of housing types and special needs.

IV. General Plan Implementation

The General Plan Implementation section describes the ordinances, programs and tasks that will implement the General Plan. The section describes which County departments and agencies are responsible for implementation programs and sets a timeframe for completion of those programs.