OPR General Plan Guidelines

SB 1000, Environmental Justice, and the General Plan

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Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
Background

- Every city and county in California is required to have a General Plan— a long term vision for their future growth and development.
- The Office of Planning and Research provides guidelines for cities and counties on general plans, including statutory and non-statutory requirement.
- The last update to the General Plan Guidelines was in 2003, and there have been numerous new laws, requirements, resources, and research that affect general planning.
- Incorporate State planning priorities with local needs.
  - Promote infill, protect natural and working lands, develop in an efficient manner.
A General Plan is a local government’s long term blueprint for the community’s vision of future growth.

Consistency is required between other planning activities and General Plan (specific plans, area plans, etc).

**Required Elements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land use</th>
<th>Open Space</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>Noise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Air Quality (in San Joaquin Valley)</td>
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Environmental Justice (in areas with disadvantaged communities)
Vision for the GPG - A Suite of Tools

1. Policy Document: General Plan Guidelines
2. Online Data Mapping Tool
3. Updated Website
SB 1000 (Leyva, 2016): General Plans: safety and environmental justice

- Requires cities and counties with any disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice related goals, policies, and objectives into their general plans.
- Can be a separate element or integrated into other elements.
- Must happen upon adoption or revision of 2 or more elements on or after January 1, 2018.
SB 1000 DAC Definition

For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms shall apply:

(A) “Disadvantaged communities” means an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

(B) “Public facilities” includes public improvements, public services, and community amenities, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 66000.

(C) “Low-income area” means an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093.
SB 1000 requirements

- (A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.

- (B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process.

- (C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.
Introduction

- Many Leg updates
- Live links to tools
- Example Policies
- Data and data tool
- Coordination with other state work
  - Cal Adapt
  - Scoping Plan
- Statutory and extra
A Vision For Long-Range Planning

- Start with a vision
- Local plans and statewide goals
- GP basics
- Expanded Chapter on Community Engagement
Community Engagement and Outreach

- Design process from beginning
- Advisory boards and novel ways to integrate partners
- Culture and equity considerations
- Data
- Tools
Levels of Community Engagement

- Traditional planning engagement falls on the **consult and involve** spectrum.

- **Principles:**
  - Inclusion
  - Transparency
  - Democratic participation
Environmental Justice

- Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include but are not limited to:
  - Reducing pollution exposure, including improving air quality → near roadway siting
  - Promoting public facilities
  - Promoting food access
  - Promoting safe and sanitary homes
  - Promoting physical activity

- Identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision making process

- Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities
Equitable & Resilient Communities

- Definitions of social equity
- Incorporating social equity
- Data, mapping, example local areas
- Resilience screen
Social equity definitions

The National Academy of Public Administration defines social equity as:

“The fair, just, and equitable management of all institutions serving the public directly or by contract; the fair, just and equitable distribution of public services and implementation of public policy; and the commitment to promote fairness, justice, and equity in the formation of public policy.

The American Planning Association defines social equity as:

"The expansion of opportunities for betterment that are available to those communities most in need, creating more choices for those who have few."

The California Planning Roundtable states that social equity:

“Ensures that all groups enjoy the benefits of a healthy and prosperous community, with access to housing, transportation, jobs and commerce. It enables a variety of businesses to flourish.”

Sources:
https://planning.org/policy/guides/adopter/development.htm
http://reinventingthegeneralplan.org/principles/
Healthy Communities

- Innovative Partnerships
- Health Considerations
  - In addition to EJ section
  - Health & Economics
  - A Changing Climate & Resilience
  - Social Connection & Safety
  - Health & Human Services
- Data & Policies
Community Benefit and Other Data

- **Community Health Needs Assessment**: This free web-based platform was created to assist community hospitals doing their needs assessment and provides census level data for health, economic, social, environmental, and behavioral data.

- **California Environmental Health Tracking Program**: This program is hosted by the CDPH. The data is more focused on environmental health impacts such as air quality, health, climate change related outcomes, water quality, and cancer prevalence.

- **Envirostor**: the Department of Toxic Substances Control hosts this program. It is a database that provides data in a GIS form to identify contaminated sites as well as facilities that deal with hazardous waste. This resource is important for remediation and siting.

- **CalEnviroScreen**: The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the California Environmental Protection Agency created this online mapping tool. It is a tool that can help identify communities that are burdened with high levels of pollution and/or are highly vulnerable to its effects. The tool also contains socioeconomic data.

- **Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI)**: the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) hosts HCI. This indicator list provides evidence for links to health outcomes, data sources, and provides the ability to create maps.

- **California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)**: The largest state health survey in the nation, CHIS is a random phone interview administered by the UCLA Center for Health Policy in conjunction with the State Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services. CHIS recently added new functions, available at the neighborhood level in certain jurisdictions, on health behaviors and conditions of relevance to planning for healthy communities.
OPR Guidelines - Data

SAMPLE OF OPR RECOMMENDED DATA FOR CONSIDERATION IN ANALYSIS OF THIS ELEMENT

The health data resources listed above have some of the recommended data below. Other more granular data might be available through the local department of public health, the local air district, the metropolitan planning organization, water district, or business association.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intent of Analysis</th>
<th>Recommended Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy can be a good proxy for general health and well-being in the</td>
<td>Life Expectancy at Birth</td>
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<td>community. Many low-income areas suffer from early mortality and morbidity.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Asthma can be worsened by environmental triggers such as poor air quality, poor</td>
<td>Asthma (Prevalence, ED visits, hospitalizations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>housing quality, and climate change, examining baseline conditions can help inform</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>siting decisions.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity is caused by many factors, but lack of access to healthy foods and</td>
<td>Obesity (child and adult) prevalence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>physical activity are significant contributors. Examining baseline status can help</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with policy decisions around active transportation, recreation priorities, and food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system policies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These diseases, also caused by many factors, are often associated with obesity.</td>
<td>Secondary diseases from obesity (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examining baseline status can help with policy decisions around active</td>
<td>disease, type 2 diabetes prevalence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transportation, recreation priorities, and food system policies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many accidents involving pedestrians and bicycles could be improved through</td>
<td>Unintentional injury such as pedestrian and bicycle accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infrastructure, design, and signage. Examining a baseline can inform policy and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>planning for transit routes, active transportation, and safety.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk trips is a behavior that benefits health and is influenced by the environment.</td>
<td>Walk trips per capita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examining a baseline number can help inform active transportation and for climate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>change and resiliency policy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children walking, biking, or rolling to school is a behavior that can improve</td>
<td>Percent of children who walk, bike, roll to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health and is influenced by the environmental conditions such as distance to school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and safety. Examining the baseline condition can inform policy priorities around</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>active transportation, active design, school siting, and housing siting.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
**OPR Recommended Policies**

As is the case throughout the entire general plan, many of the policies have relation to other elements. This is particularly true with the health-related policies, as shown in the recommended policies below. These policies are an example of recommended policies adopted by varying jurisdictions, to be modified and used as appropriate. A larger list of recommended policies can be found here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Relation to other elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote uses that address daily needs within the City and close to neighborhoods, reducing the need for residents to travel long distances to access jobs, goods and services.</td>
<td>City of Arvin</td>
<td>Circulation, land use, housing, economic development, equitable and resilient communities, climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage development that reduces VMT, decreases distances between jobs and housing, reduces traffic impacts, and improves housing affordability.</td>
<td>County of Sonoma</td>
<td>Economic development, equitable and resilient communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan for Climate Change. Plan for the public health implications of climate change, including disease and temperature effects.</td>
<td>County of Marin</td>
<td>climate change, EJ, equitable and resilient communities, land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage the development of complete neighborhoods that provide for the basic needs of daily life and for the health, safety, and mental well-being of residents.</td>
<td>County of Riverside</td>
<td>Circulation, land use, equitable and resilient communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling and Walking. Implement policies and programs that encourage bicycling and walking as alternatives to driving and as a means of increasing levels of physical activity. Encourage bicycle and pedestrian safety through education and incentive programs.</td>
<td>City of El Monte</td>
<td>Circulation, land use, housing, economic development, climate change, EJ, equitable and resilient communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in community planning efforts that aim to reverse trends of community deterioration and blight which lead toward the decline of personal and property safety within the County’s community districts.</td>
<td>County of Kings</td>
<td>economic development, equitable and resilient communities, land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The attraction and retention of high quality grocery stores and other healthy food purveyors should be pursued as an economic development strategy for the City. Healthy food outlets include full-service grocery stores, regularly-held farmer’s markets, fruit and vegetable markets, and convenience stores or corner stores that sell a significant proportion of healthy food.</td>
<td>The City of South Gate</td>
<td>economic development, EJ, equitable and resilient communities, land use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

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