



Planning Commission Staff Report

Date: February 22, 2006
Item 6.b.

SUBJECT: General Plan Update – Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element

PURPOSE: Review and consider the Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element; provide input prior to City Council review

I. BACKGROUND

General Plans may include a Public Facilities Element as an optional element that addresses capital improvements and public facilities needed to service the community as development occurs. The 1996 General Plan Public Facilities Element includes background information as well as goals, policies and programs related to wastewater, water, storm drainage, stormwater runoff, flood control, solid waste, gas and electric utilities, schools, library facilities, community facilities, and human services. The proposed revisions to the General Plan Public Facilities Element (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 2) are the result of review of the 1996 element by staff in Planning, Public Works, Library, and Parks and Community Service departments, and by several City commissions that discussed specific topics within their purview. The following commissions discussed sections of this element and recommended amendments:

- Civic Arts Commission (meeting of June 6, 2005)
- Human Services Commission (meeting of August 3, 2005)
- Library Commission (meeting of August 11, 2005)
- Youth Commission (meeting of December 14, 2005)
- Park and Recreation Commission (meeting of February 9, 2006)

Following preliminary Planning Commission and City Council review of the revised and reorganized Public Facilities and Community Programs Element including background material and Goals, Policies and Programs, the Planning Department staff will supplement the Draft with additional tables.

II. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 1996 PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element (Attachment 1) uses strikeout and underline to show changes to the 1996 text. In summary, the proposed changes to the background text include:

- General editing, updating and reorganizing of background material from the 1996 General Plan.
- Renaming the Element from “Public Facilities” to “Public Facilities and Community Programs,” to reflect discussion of community programs that is included in the element.
- Updating the collection system, treatment plant, and export system discussions in the “Wastewater” topic including information about recent expansions of the Dublin-San Ramon Services District sewage treatment plant and the Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency pipeline. The City’s current treatment and disposal capacities are adequate to accommodate growth until the year 2025.
- Updating the “Water” topic including new discussion of the “Chain of Lakes,” and revisions to water supply, water storage, and water distribution. The City will need to obtain additional water supply and water storage facilities by about the year 2013.
- Reorganizing storm drainage and flood control into a new “Stormwater Facilities” topic within this Element, and moving stormwater runoff into the “Water Quality” topic of the Conservation & Open Space Element.
- Updating the “Solid Waste” topic.
- Moving gas and electric utilities into the proposed Energy Element.
- A discussion of substantial public school enrollment increases since the 1996 General Plan, and the anticipated slight enrollment decrease by the year 2015.
- Discussing changed demographics as the student population becomes older (more high-school and fewer elementary-school students).
- Adding a discussion of education for adults.
- Updating library information.
- Consolidating, moving and updating recreational facilities from the Land Use and Conservation & Open Space elements, and from “Community Facilities” of this Element into a new “Parks and Recreation” topic.
- Updating “Community Facilities” and renaming it “Community Facilities and Cultural Arts.” As discussed above, information about parks and recreation will be moved into the new “Parks and Recreation” topic.
- Updating the “Human Services” topic.

Attachments 1 and 2 incorporate the following recommended changes to the Goals, Policies and Programs in the Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element:

- Rewriting the first goal, adding a general goal on sustainability, and adding a new or revised goal for each topic.
- A new topic called “Capital Improvements and Financing” that consolidates “Capital Improvements,” “Municipal Facilities” and a policy and its programs from the “Sewer” topic.
- A new Policy 4 promoting new facility construction consistent with community character, and editing and adding Programs 4.1 and 4.2 (former Programs 9.4 and 9.5).
- Under “Wastewater,” adding more detail to Program 7.1 (former Program 3.1) about wastewater reuse.
- Under “Water,” expanding Programs 8.5 and 8.8 (former Program 4.5) to add more detail regarding water conservation and reuse, adding Programs 8.6 and 8.7 to encourage water efficiency, and also adding Program 8.13 to improve water taste and decrease water hardness.
- Consolidating “Stormwater Drainage” and “Flood Control” into “Stormwater Facilities.”
- Under “Solid Waste” adding Policy 11 and programs to model best practices in recycling; amending Programs 12.1 and 12.3, 12.10, and 12.11 (former Programs 7.1, 7.3, 7.8 and 7.9); adding Program 12.7 to require more participation in recycling, Program 12.12 to provide disposal containers for recyclables, Program 12.13 to continue support of the Go Green Initiative, and Program 12.14 to assist e-waste collection; and deleting former Program 7.10 to establish a composting facility.
- Removing Gas and Electric policies and programs as these are now addressed in the proposed Energy Element.
- Changing “Schools” to “Schools and Education;” expanding the educational policy and adding Program 13.3 to include education for all ages; and adding Policy 14 and its programs to maintain new elementary schools within student walking distance, and allowing other community-related activities within these facilities.
- Adding a new “Library Facilities and Programs” topic with a new Policy 15 and its programs for library facilities and programs, including library expansion, and moving Program 15.1 (former 9.3) from the former “Municipal Facilities” topic.
- Moving and updating Goal 10 (former Goal 4), Policy 15 (former Policy 11) and its programs from the Conservation & Open Space Element into the revised “Parks and Recreation” topic of this Element. The main policy and program changes include: deleting reference to a new golf course (former Policy 14); deleting programs to discourage charging park access fees (former Program 11.10) and to “Adopt a Park” (former Program 11.14); adding programs to support non-traditional recreational opportunities (Program 16.10), to expand recreational opportunities (Programs 16.14-16), to include a park standard of 5 acres per 1,000 people (Program 16.17), to integrate recreational uses

(Program 16.18), to increase flexibility to sports fields (Program 16.19), and to promote youth use of the Callippe Preserve Golf Course (Program 16.20).

- Adding additional policies and programs to the “Cultural Arts” topic and revising some programs. New policies and their programs include supporting the Civic Arts Commission and a city cultural plan; maintaining, improving and expanding art and cultural programs; using public art; and supporting cultural and arts interests (Policies 17-20).
- Under Human Services, revised Policy 21, adding additional programs for people of all ages. It also includes adding new policies and programs to provide health and mental health facilities and services; providing safe, affordable, high quality child-care facilities and services; and providing safe, accessible senior activities, facilities and services (Policies 22-24). This topic also includes a new policy and programs related to youth/teens (Policy 25 and programs following).
- Deleting policy and programs for the Clean Water program. These are being relocated to the Conservation & Open Space Element, as they are relevant to water quality not facilities.

General Plan Process: As the Commission is aware, the General Plan Update has been proceeding in two ways. First, staff has held workshops with the Planning Commission and City Council on the complex issues of traffic/circulation and land use in order to fully present the issues, receive public input, and receive comments and direction from the Commission and Council. Second, regarding the less complicated, less controversial General Plan elements, staff has been working extensively with the appropriate City commissions/committees to receive their input in developing draft elements. These elements are then being brought to the Planning Commission for review and comment, after which they will be forwarded to the City Council for its review and direction. Staff will use the resulting draft elements to produce a Draft General Plan document which will be analyzed in the EIR and reviewed by the public and City commissions/committees. Finally, the Planning Commission will review the Draft EIR and General Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council, which will then take action on those documents.

Staff would like to complete the Draft General Plan by the end of this year in order to meet the project schedule of adoption of a new General Plan by Summer of 2007. Thus, in order to meet this schedule, staff suggests that the Planning Commission review the Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element at this one meeting, providing comments and direction so that staff may bring this Draft Element directly to the City Council for its review and direction. Staff will forward the Commission’s comments to the Council for its consideration of the draft element. Staff notes that the Commission will have future opportunities to review all of the elements when they return as part of the Draft General Plan document.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Review and consider the Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2); provide input prior to City Council review.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element (underline and strikeout)
2. Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element (clean copy with tables and figures)

Staff Planner: Janice Stern/Principal Planner/925.931.5606/jstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

X:\JaniceS\General Plan 2025\Public Facilities\PCSR 022206.doc