



General Plan. The second is a more extensive list of actions organized by General Plan Element, derived from the policies in each element. Taken together, these commitments respond to the intent of the California Government Code that implementation is a logical and necessary obligation of public policy.

The structure of this appendix sets up a process to be expanded and maintained by the County. This process will require completion of the implementation matrices described above, dealing with target date(s) for completion, funding sources, designation of the entity with primary responsibility for carrying out the action, and identification of support responsibilities. The process also entails annually reviewing the Implementation Plan and updating it based on accomplishments achieved, work not yet completed, and new initiatives stimulated by changing conditions and circumstances.

The focus here is on initiatives to be taken by the County in creating, updating or facilitating tools needed to enable the County to achieve its Vision. This focus is predicated on the fact that most of the General Plan policies will be implemented on an incremental basis as part of the ongoing project review process for public and private development/preservation projects. In other words, these policies are designed to influence how development and preservation occur through the normal land use management procedures conducted by the County.

The Environmental Impact Report

While this document is not an integral part of the policy document, it is a valuable and critical resource in administering the General Plan. It contains a wealth of information that will help anyone proposing or reviewing a project do a better job of analysis. Moreover, it specifies an extensive list of mitigation measures and monitoring requirements that may apply to a particular project.

INTERPRETING THE GENERAL PLAN'S INTENT (DETERMINING CONSISTENCY)

Because of the straightforward structure of the General Plan, the process of interpreting its intent is relative simple. As with any general plan that encompasses a huge territory characterized by a remarkable diversity of conditions and aspirations, this document contains a great deal of information and policy direction. Despite this, the following steps are aimed at defining a path that will lead to a clear understanding of the General Plan's intent.

Note that this discussion does not address zoning. The focus here is strictly on understanding the General Plan direction. Zoning designations and regulations are required by law to be consistent with the General Plan. Determining the zoning should be a first step to see what current regulations apply, but this should always be followed up by referring to the General Plan to confirm that the zoning is consistent. If the zoning is inconsistent with the General Plan, as required, then it needs to be changed or the General Plan needs to be amended (or sometimes both, depending on the situation and the uses being proposed).