



County of Riverside General Plan - *Hearing Draft*

Administration Element

6. Avoid erosion of the foundation components upon which the General Plan is structured by requiring consideration of any changes to them to be conducted in a comprehensive manner.
7. Provide for extraordinary and unpredictable circumstances.
8. Establish clarity in assessing proposed amendments at the earliest possible time in the process.
9. Clarify the findings appropriate to each amendment category.
10. Monitor progress in implementing the General Plan and correct its direction where necessary.
11. Promote coordinated long-range planning and implementation between the Cities and the County.
12. Strike a sustainable balance between certainty in critical aspects of the General Plan, and flexibility in response to changing conditions and opportunities where such flexibility contributes to achieving the Vision.

Amendment Categories

Three amendment categories are part of the system:

1. Technical Amendment - involves changes in the General Plan of a technical nature, including technical corrections discovered in the process of implementing the General Plan. Some Entitlement Amendments may occur under this category if they are required to correct a documentable error in the General Plan. They may include:
 - a. Corrections to statistics;
 - b. Mapping error corrections;
 - c. Changes in spheres of influence and city boundaries;
 - d. Changes in Unincorporated Communities or Communities of Interest;
 - e. Editorial clarifications that do not change the intent of the General Plan;
 - or
 - f. Appendix information useful in interpreting the General Plan but which does not change the General Plan's intent.
2. Entitlement/Policy Amendment - involves changes in land use designations or policies that involve land located entirely within a General Plan Foundation Component but that do not change the boundaries of that component. This type of amendment may also involve changes in General Plan policy as long as it does not change the Riverside County Vision, Foundation Component, or a General Plan Principle. It may be proposed by:
 - a. The Board of Supervisors;
 - b. The Planning Commission;
 - c. A private property owner; or
 - d. An individual or organization with an interest in the General Plan.
3. Foundation Amendment - involves changes in:
 - a. The Riverside County Vision
 - b. The General Plan Planning Principles
 - c. A Foundation Component of the General Plan. These include any change to or from:
 - (1) Open space conservation or open space designated as a result of the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) or previously established open space policy.



- (2) Community Development: areas slated for development.
- (3) Agriculture: property designated in the General Plan as Agriculture.
- (4) Rural development designations that are not included as an integral part of Community Development: country towns/villages and rural services, with a clear intent to maintain a rural character, and are so designated on the General Plan Land Use Map.

Note that a special rule applies to eastern portions of the County not covered by an Area Plan. Four land use designations are used in these areas as indicated in Chapter 3, Land Use Element: Open Space - Rural, Open Space-Conservation Habitat, Open Space-Water, and Rural Residential. A proposed change in these designations shall be considered a Foundation Component amendment. This is in contrast to the general rule which provides that designation changes within a Foundation Component may be proposed on the standard annual amendment schedule. This rule shall not apply for property where, as a result of a General Plan Amendment, a new or expanded area plan is enacted where before it did not.

Required and Optional Findings

Findings must be commensurate with the significance of the amendment decision sought. In addition to information submitted by applicants or initiators of proposed amendments, findings will be informed by information generated by the General Plan Monitoring Program. This data will be updated periodically with the intent of enabling decision-makers to understand the status of the General Plan and the implications of proposed changes to it. The following findings are associated with the proposed amendment categories.

1. Technical Amendment Findings. The first finding and any one or more of the subsequent findings would justify a technical amendment:
 - a. The proposed amendment would not change any policy direction or intent of the General Plan.
 - b. An error or omission needs to be corrected.
 - c. A land use designation was based on inaccurate or misleading information and should therefore be changed to properly reflect the policy intent of the General Plan.
 - d. A point of clarification is needed to more accurately express the General Plan's meaning or eliminate a source of confusion.
 - e. A minor change in boundary will more accurately reflect geological or topographic features, or legal or jurisdictional boundaries.
2. Entitlement/Policy Amendment Findings. The first two findings and any one or more of the subsequent findings would justify an entitlement/policy amendment:
 - a. The proposed change does not involve a change in or conflict with:
 - (1) The Riverside County Vision;
 - (2) Any General Plan Principle; or
 - (3) Any Foundation Component designation in the General Plan.