



HOW DO THE ELEMENTS WORK TOGETHER?

In order for General Plans to function effectively, the elements must be consistent with one another. This means the goals, policies, and implementation measures cannot conflict with one another and no particular element should be given priority over another. For example, if the Land Use element identifies an increase in development potential, the Circulation element must provide a plan to accommodate increased traffic associated with this growth. This ensures that the goals and policies of each element complement rather than hinder one another.

- State law enables local jurisdictions to determine the structure of their General Plans, as long as all content of the mandated elements are fully addressed. The elements being updated through this process may be structured differently than the City's current General Plan and may further reorganized throughout the planning process.
- To ensure "internal consistency" throughout the General Plan, the California Office of Planning and Research mandates that: "In general terms, an action, program or project is consistent with the General Plan if, considering all its aspects, it will further the objectives and policies of the General Plan and not obstruct their attainment."
- The General Plan should also be reviewed by other departments to determine if efforts such as public works projects or public land acquisition or sale are consistent with the goals and policies identified in the General Plan.
- The City utilizes several other planning tools such as a zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, and specific plans, which must be consistent with the provisions of the General Plan. If they are determined to be inconsistent, they cannot be approved.