

General Plan Amendments (Underline/Strikethrough)

Chapter 1: Introduction, pp. 1-19, Section Title “Other County Planning Initiatives”

OTHER COUNTY PLANNING INITIATIVES

Aside from this General Plan/LCP, the County has undertaken several planning initiatives to address current and future challenges. Development of the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan in 2014 followed development of the Climate Action Strategy (2013) to address the County’s response to long-term climate change. The County has since developed the latest Climate Action and Adaption Plan (CAAP) in place of the 2013 Climate Action Strategy (CAS). In the past several years, the County has focused on the need for quality economic development, and in 2013 began the development of an Economic Vitality Study. The results of the study supported the development of an Economic Development Vision and Strategy, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2014. That document presents a vision for economic development centered around seven goals that address sustainable development, key economic sectors, public investment and infrastructure, community development, and promotion of the County’s economic strengths. The General Plan/LCP furthers the goals of the Economic Development Vision and Strategy.

In 2017 and 2018, the County embarked upon a public process to develop a County Strategic Plan for the County organization. The County Strategic Plan (2018) sets goals in six focus areas: Attainable Housing, Comprehensive Health and Safety, Dynamic Economy, Sustainable Environment, Reliable Transportation, and County Operational Excellence. The Santa Cruz County General Plan/LCP relates to each of these goals. In June 2019, the County also adopted an Operational Plan, with objectives and key steps identified that would implement the six County Strategic Plan goals. The 2018 County Strategic Plan and the 2019 Operational Plan efforts involved extensive public participation, and those plans have also informed development of the Santa Cruz County General Plan/LCP.

In 2018, the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Department (Parks Department) adopted a Santa Cruz County Parks Strategic Plan reflecting public input and a 10-year roadmap for improvement of County parks. The County Health Services Agency’s Community Health Improvement Plan (2018-2023) addresses quality of life and public health concerns in the community. The Santa Cruz County General Plan/LCP supports the policies and programs in these two documents. The plan also informs and coordinates with the Community Development and Infrastructure Department ~~of Public Works~~ plans such as the Capital Improvement Plan and Public Works Design Criteria.

Finally, in December 2018 the County Board of Supervisors accepted the Pleasure Point Commercial Corridor Vision and Guiding Principles for public and private improvements along Portola Drive and 41st Avenue in Pleasure Point. This document was accompanied by the Portola Drive Streetscape Concepts, which reimagines the way Portola Drive functions. The

General Plan Amendments (Underline/Strikethrough)

goals and standards of these documents are included within the General Plan/LCP and implementing codes and design guidelines.

Chapter 2: Built Environment Element, pp. 2-2, Section Title “Relationship to Other Plans + Regulations”

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS + REGULATIONS

Santa Cruz County’s built environment is governed by the land use policies and implementation strategies in the text of this General Plan/Local Coastal Program (LCP) Land Use Plan, as well as land use and facilities maps and diagrams (Appendix B), resources and constraints maps (Appendix F), the ordinances contained in the Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC), and the Santa Cruz County Design Guidelines. There are also several adopted plans that provide more detailed guidelines, site-specific policies, and development standards for historic town centers and unique coastal neighborhoods. Together, these documents define where and how development should and should not occur; thereby regulating the quality of development, controlling the pace of development consistent with the availability of public facilities and services, and protecting the County’s natural resources and agricultural lands.

The Built Environment Element policies and implementation strategies are also aligned with other County and regional plans. For instance, this element implements the conceptual plans and strategies developed in the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan. This element also implements the County’s ~~Climate Action Strategy~~Climate Action and Adaptation policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to energy use and transportation. The element includes commercial and mixed-use design and use policies and implementation measures that advance the County’s Economic Development Vision and Strategy and Economic Vitality Study. The element takes into account the public health goals of the County’s Community Health Improvement Plan, and furthers the County Strategic Plan, especially the goals for Attainable Housing, Sustainable Environment, and Dynamic Economy.

Chapter 2: Built Environment Element, pp. 2-76, Policy “BE-4.2.1”

BE-4.2.1 (LCP) ~~Climate Action Strategy (CAS)~~Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Coordination. Ensure that land use plans and development projects are aligned with the Santa Cruz County ~~CAAP~~CAS policies and priorities.

Chapter 2: Built Environment Element, pp. 2-76, Text Bubble “Climate Action Strategy”

~~Climate Action Strategy~~

~~The County’s Climate Action Strategy (CAS) was initially approved in 2013 by the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the CAS is to measure and mitigate the County’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over time. The CAS also includes an assessment of the County’s vulnerability to climate change impacts such as rising sea level and changing weather. The CAS provides~~

General Plan Amendments (Underline/Strikethrough)

~~GHG reduction strategies and implementation measures for the three sectors with the highest emissions: energy, transportation, and solid waste. Energy efficiency and land use planning account for over 10 percent of planned GHG emissions reduction, so sustainable development of the built environment is a key part of CAS implementation. Coordination between the General Plan/LCP, County Code, and CAS is essential for CAS success.~~

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

In order to address climate change, the County of Santa Cruz has adopted the 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), which was developed by an interdepartmental working group. The 2022 CAAP includes the most current data on climate impacts for unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The 2022 CAAP is comprised of actionable steps towards reducing the causes of global warming, adapting our communities to climate hazards, and ensuring the safety and well-being of those most vulnerable to climate change.

Chapter 2: Built Environment Element, pp. 2-78, Implementation Strategy “BE-4.2b (LCP)”

BE-4.2b (LCP) Implement policies and priorities identified in the ~~Climate Action Strategy~~Climate Action and Adaption Plan related to building design and construction.

Periodically review the ~~Climate Action Strategy~~ Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and revise as needed considering changes in state and federal laws and regulations. (Responsibility: Office of Response, Recovery + Resilience, CDID, Board of Supervisors)

Chapter 2: Built Environment Element, pp. 2-86, Text Bubble “Local Coastal Program”

Local Coastal Program

Santa Cruz County’s Local Coastal Program includes:

1. A “Land Use Plan” that consists of selected General Plan policies, land use maps and tables that are marked “(LCP).”
2. A “Local Coastal Implementation Program” that consists of chapters in Santa Cruz County Code Titles 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

The LCP scope is described in County Code Chapter ~~13.03~~18.60

Chapter 3: Access + Mobility Element, pp. 3-28, Policy “AM-1.1.10”

AM-1.1.10 Demonstrate County Leadership in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policies.

Implement recommendations in the ~~Climate Action Strategy~~Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and transportation demand management best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the County vehicle fleet and from employee travel.

General Plan Amendments (Underline/Strikethrough)

Chapter 5: Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element, pp. 5-4, Section Title “Relationship to Other Plans + Regulations”

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS + REGULATIONS

This chapter of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program (GP/LCP) combines two required elements: Conservation and Open Space. The chapter also includes Agriculture as an optional component of the Open Space Element. The conservation and management of agricultural land, natural and cultural resources, and open space are interrelated: natural resource areas and agricultural land, along with parks addressed in Chapter 7: Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities, comprise most of the open space in the County. Therefore, policies for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and agricultural land are essential to the conservation of open space, and policies protecting open space also reinforce the protection of natural resources.

This element also implements California Coastal Act regulations pertaining to the management of coastal resources, including marine resources, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, coastal waters, agricultural land, and scenic and visual resources. Policies that are part of the LCP are identified with the letters “LCP.”

The policy framework provided in this element of the General Plan/LCP for the conservation and sustainable management of agricultural land, natural and cultural resources, and open space is implemented primarily through the Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC). Title 16, Environmental and Resource Protection, provides a comprehensive set of regulations protecting natural and cultural resources. The preservation of agricultural land and support for the local agricultural economy is also addressed comprehensively in the Zoning Ordinance and in the Agricultural Land Preservation and Protection Ordinance. Open space is also protected through the Zoning Ordinance. The Rural Density Matrix of the SCCC implements policies in this element that limit development density and subdivisions to protect open space and natural resources. The countywide Geographic Information System (GIS) identifies known locations of resources, constraints, and land use designations addressed in this chapter (see Appendix F: Natural Resource and Environmental Hazard Areas: Maps and Development Constraints). The official adopted General Plan/LCP maps are the most current versions residing in the County’s GIS system. The Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element policies and implementation strategies are also coordinated with other County plans. This element implements objectives of the County’s ~~Climate Action Strategy (CAS)~~Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to increase energy efficiency and strategies for natural systems and agriculture that foster adaption to climate change. The element also furthers the County Strategic Plan and vision for a sustainable environment, with policies and strategies to protect and restore natural resources, forests, coastlines, and agricultural land. Strategic Plan objectives to protect water quality and sustainably manage water resources, and promote renewable energy are also supported by policies of this element.

General Plan Amendments (Underline/Strikethrough)

Implementation of the policies in the Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element requires close coordination and cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies, including local water and sewage disposal agencies, the Resource Conservation District, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Coastal Commission, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Forestry. Details are provided in the policies and implementation strategies.