DATE: MARCH 18, 2025

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FROM: LISA BRINTON, DIRECTOR

THROUGH: GRANT LEONARD, PLANNING MANAGER

BY: MONICA GURMILAN, SENIOR PLANNER

TITLE: 2024 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

A motion to support the approval of a resolution accepting the 2024 General Plan Annual Progress Report (GP APR) and authorizing its submittal to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The General Plan Annual Progress Report covers Salinas General Plan (2002) implementation activities during the calendar year 2024. Accomplishment highlights include supporting significant construction projects through over 2,900 permits and 17,800 inspections; entitling a new Hebbron Family Center and improvements to Closter Park; upstaffing of the Fire Department with new recruits; adopting a permanent Mills Act Ordinance to support historic preservation; and the continuation of significant work on Ensen Community Park by the Big Sur Land Trust. The General Plan Update continued in 2024 with the preparation of administrative drafts of General Plan chapters and targeted engagement. Staff is continuing to work toward a Public Review Draft General Plan.

BACKGROUND:

General Plan Annual Progress Report Requirements

Under California Government Code Section 65400, staff is required to prepare a General Plan Annual Progress Report (GP APR) for review by the City Council and submittal to HCD and LCI by April 1st of each year. The GP APR provides the City's legislative bodies and the state with information regarding the implementation of the current General Plan and informs the public of the progress in meeting the community's goals. The 2024 GP APR is provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

There is no standardized form or format for the preparation of the General Plan APR. The GP APR is to provide enough information for decision makers to assess how the General Plan was implemented during the reporting period and should provide enough information to identify necessary "course adjustments" or modifications to the General Plan and means to improve local implementation. The GP APR is not required to incorporate all General Plan elements. For example, the Housing Element has its own Annual Progress Report that is overseen by HCD and prepared by the Housing Division.

2025 General Plan Update Efforts and Next Steps

In the first quarter of 2025, staff conducted another General Plan Update Study Session, this one focused on the Economic Development Element. Staff also met with Business Stakeholder group again on February 14 and March 21 on the Economic Development Element and related efforts. On the General Plan consultant side, PlaceWorks completed consistency and voice edits to the Administrative Draft General Plan and started greenhouse gas emission reduction calculations on draft Climate Action Plan policies, which will also support the Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan. Staff is reviewing PlaceWorks' edits and completing final administrative drafts of the Circulation and Economic Development Elements, so that PlaceWorks can produce a complete Public Review Draft General Plan by late spring.

Future engagement will include a Climate Action Plan webinar and workshops/open houses and other events for the Public Review Draft. The Draft Environmental Impact Report and Climate Action Plan are expected to follow in August 2025.