



CITY OF SALINAS PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE: MARCH 6, 2024

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: LISA BRINTON, DIRECTOR

THROUGH: GRANT LEONARD, PLANNING MANAGER

BY: JONATHAN MOORE, SENIOR PLANNER

TITLE: DRAFT 2023 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
AND VISIÓN SALINAS 2040 UPDATE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Motion to adopt a resolution recommending that City Council accept the 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report and authorize its submittal to the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The General Plan Annual Progress Report covers Salinas General Plan (2002) implementation activities during the calendar year 2023. Accomplishment highlights include updating the Housing Element, completing \$4.5 million in sidewalk repairs and the Bardin Safe Routes to School project, and completing additional community engagement/design work for the Hebbbron Family Center and Closter Park. The complete draft GP APR is provided as an attachment to this report. General Plan Update engagement continued in 2023 with six (6) workshops, eight (8) Steering Committee meetings, transportation, and Climate Action Plan surveys, eleven (11) pop-up activities and direct farmworker engagement with the Center for Community Advocacy (CCA). Future engagement will include a Climate Action Plan webinar and an Open House to support the public review of the draft goals, policies, and actions. A Draft General Plan document is expected to be released for public review in June 2024. The Draft Environmental Impact Report and Climate Action Plan are expected to follow in August 2024.

BACKGROUND:

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 OPR and HCD 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 Draft GP APR for 2023 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.

2023 General Plan Accomplishments

In 2023, the City continued to upzone sites to encourage housing opportunities, rezoning a site north of downtown from Medium Density to High Density Residential. While the Housing Element is covered under its own separate report, the City did adopt a 2023-2031 Housing Element in December of 2023, which the State found in substantial compliance in February 2024. In addition to its continuing General Plan Update, the City also started an Active Transportation Plan, Alisal District Identity Masterplan, and Alisal Streetscape Masterplan. Multiple park and recreation center improvements and maintenance projects were finished in 2023, including new playgrounds and HVAC systems. Design work was also completed for a new Hebbbron Family Center and improvements to Closter Park. Public Works completed \$4.5 million in sidewalk repairs and the construction of the Bardin Safe Routes to School project. The complete draft GP APR is provided as an attachment to this report.

2023 Community Engagement

In 2023 General Plan engagement covered a variety of topics in multiple formats. The topics of public safety, housing, and active transportation and circulation were covered in six (6) community workshops. The City also conducted eleven (11) pop-up activities covering the Public Safety Element and Climate Action Plan. Pop-up activities and two online surveys (public safety/climate action) helped to reach over one thousand (1,000) Salinas community members. Through the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation (SALC) Planning Grant, farmworker outreach continued with the support of the Center for Community Advocacy. In 2023, CCA General Plan Ambassadors led ninety-five (95) house meetings reaching over three hundred forty (340) community members. Nineteen (19) meetings were held in Mixteco, one (1) in Triqui and the rest in Spanish. Lastly, the Visión Salinas 2040 Steering Committee continued to meet and completed the review of all the draft goals, policies and actions. Outreach continued to agriculture industry stakeholders on draft economic policy and potential improvements.

Next Steps

Engagement in early 2024 has focused on land use and circulation. The City held a Transportation Workshop on February 1, 2024, that combined materials from the Circulation Element, Active Transportation Plan, and Streetscape Masterplan. Additional engagement was done in commercial areas that may experience land use changes in the General Plan Update. On February 14, staff mailed over 1,300 postcards to businesses and owners in identified proposed areas of land use change. Staff also sent more detailed letters to over 100 businesses on February 7 that may become legal nonconforming uses based on the proposed land use changes and followed up with direct canvassing. These mailers also invited recipients to three virtual information sessions to discuss changes, held February 27-29, at 7 AM, 11 AM, and 6 PM respectively. A reporting of participation and topics of conversation will be provided as part of staff's presentation to the Planning Commission.

Future engagement will include a Climate Action Plan webinar and an Open House to support the public review of the draft goals, policies, and actions. The first quarter will be wrapped up with the development of the Draft General Plan document with an expected release for public review in June 2024. The Draft Environmental Impact Report and Climate Action Plan are expected to follow in August 2024.

The General Plan APR must be submitted within sixty (60) days of the April 1st deadline. Failure to submit the APR on time could make the City ineligible for certain State grant programs. Planning Commission comments will be incorporated into the GP APR prior to City Council consideration of authorization to submit at its March 19th. meeting.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action of accepting the GP APR and the administrative report on the GPU is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Guidelines Section 15378. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability. An Environmental Impact Report is being prepared for the General Plan Update.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Planning Commission Resolution Recommending Acceptance and Submittal of 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report
2. 2023 Draft General Plan Annual Progress Report