A General Plan impacts your daily life

Here are some examples...
A General Plan identifies what land uses go where. Land uses include:

- Residential development
- Commercial, industrial and agricultural land
- Recreation areas and parks
- Water and solid waste facilities

Land use decisions directly impact our quality of life.
A General Plan impacts how people get around within the County.

- Location of major thoroughfares and regional roads
- Bicycle paths
- Congestion management and parking demand

Transportation decisions directly impact our quality of life.
A General Plan address housing needs:

- Multifamily housing
- Emergency shelters
- Farmworker housing
- Senior housing
- Second dwelling units

Housing options and availability directly impact our quality of life.
All of these issues (and more!) can be addressed in a General Plan

- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Airports
- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources
- Economic Development
- Flooding
- Food Access
- Health
- Housing
- Mineral Development
- Military Installations
- Noise
- Railways
- Recreation
- Scenic Resources
- Seismic Hazards
- Transit
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources
- Utilities
- Waste Facilities
- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Wildlife
WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

• Every city and county in California must have a general plan
• Requires seven topical elements
• Long-term framework for future growth, change, and resource management
• Addresses County priorities, such as sustainability, healthy living, quality of life, and education
• Guides budget decisions and priorities
WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

- Long-term
- General Plan and Area Plans
- Master Plans and Specific Plans
- County Codes and Zoning Ordinance
- Specific
Countywide Goals, Policies, and Programs

Four Technical Appendices
- Resources
- Hazards
- Land Use
- Public Facilities and Services

Ten Area Plans
WHY UPDATE THE GENERAL PLAN?

Existing General Plan expires in 2020

- Reflects policy priorities established between 20-30 years ago

Provides opportunity to incorporate new local and statewide policy priorities

- County “Health in all Policies” Resolution
- State laws related to “Complete Streets” and climate change
WHAT WILL THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE INCLUDE?

• Update existing conditions information
• Identify assets, issues, and opportunities
• Affirm the countywide vision and guiding principles
• Evaluate growth alternatives and policy options
• Prepare a Program EIR
• Incorporate Area Plans
• Prepare contemporary, web-based and user-friendly Plan
• Conduct robust community engagement program
WHAT WILL THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE INCLUDE?

Additional Elements
• Agriculture
• Water
• Economic Development

Additional Topics
• Healthy Communities
• Climate Action Plan
• Sustainability/Resiliency
CONCURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS

Planning Tasks to be Coordinated with General Plan Update

- Concurrent Zoning Code Update
- Concurrent Housing Element Update
- Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone
**General Plan Update Project Phases and Milestones**

1. **Initiate Project**  
   Winter 2015 to Spring 2016

2. **Prepare the Background Report**  
   Winter 2015 to Summer 2016

3. **Affirm the Vision and Guiding Principles**  
   Summer 2016 to Winter 2016

4. **Evaluate Alternatives**  
   Winter 2016 to Fall 2017

5. **Prepare the General Plan**  
   Winter 2017 to Winter 2018

6. **Conduct Environmental Review**  
   Spring 2018 to Winter 2019

7. **Prepare Final Documents and Adoption**  
   Winter 2019 to Spring 2020
Advisors and Decision-makers

- Decisions/Direction
  - Board of Supervisors

- Advisory/Guidance
  - Planning Commission

- Technical Assistance
  - Technical Advisory Committee
  - APAC
  - Focus Groups
  - Municipal Advisory Councils

Public Input
**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- **Technical Advisory Committee**
  - 6 Points of Engagement
  - Ventura County Senior Staff and Directors

- **Municipal Advisory Councils**
  - 4 Rounds of Community Workshops
  - Community Members

- **Focus Groups**
  - 7 Focus Groups
  - 5 Points of Engagement
  - Subject Matter Experts

- **Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee**
  - 5 Points of Engagement
  - Board of Supervisors Appointees

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PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS
WHAT WILL THE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCILS Do?

Roles and Responsibilities
• Host community workshops
• Provide input to County staff and decision-makers
• Inform and engage colleagues and constituents

Points of Engagement
• Identify Assets, Issues, and Opportunities
• Affirm Vision and Guiding Principles
• Evaluate Alternatives
• Review the Public Review Draft General Plan

Communities without MACs will also have workshops
WHAT WILL THE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCILS DO?

General Plan Public Comment

- Draft Background Report
- Draft Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Report
- Draft Vision and Guiding Principles
- Alternatives Report
- Draft General Plan
- Environmental Impact Report

The general public will also have the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft General Plan Documents
Opportunities for Public Input

Engagement and Interaction
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

VALIDATION AND DIRECTION
WHAT WILL THE PLANNING COMMISSION DO?

Roles and Responsibilities
- Advisory body for the General Plan Update
- Review public draft reports and public input
- Build community ownership of the process
- Provide direction to staff and consultants
- Provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors
- Recommend approval of the draft General Plan and certification of the PEIR

Points of Engagement
- Project Initiation
- Draft Background Report and Draft Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Report
- Draft Confirmed Vision and Guiding Principles (x2)
- Alternatives Concepts and Report (x3)
- General Plan Policy Document (x6)
- Adoption Hearings (x3)
**WHAT WILL THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DO?**

**Roles and Responsibilities**
- Provide overall Project direction
- Review public draft reports and public input
- Consider recommendations from the Planning Commission
- Approve the draft General Plan and certify the PEIR

**Points of Engagement**
- Draft Confirmed Vision and Guiding Principles (x1)
- Alternatives Concepts and Report (x1)
- General Plan Policy Document (x1)
- Adoption Hearings (x3)
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION
Join our Interested Parties List by emailing clay.downing@ventura.org