



**ITEM #1**

**DATE:** September 25, 2024

**TO:** Orange County Planning Commission

**FROM:** OC Development Services /Planning

**SUBJECT:** Status update of Comprehensive General Plan Update (GPA 24-01)

**PROPOSAL:** Staff is providing a status update on the progress of the Comprehensive General Plan Update (GPA 24-01)

**ZONING/GENERAL PLAN:** N/A

**LOCATION:** Unincorporated Areas of Orange County

**APPLICANT:** OC Development Services/Planning

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

OC Development Services/Planning recommends the Planning Commission:

- a. Receive staff report and public testimony.
- b. Provide feedback to staff as appropriate.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County is undergoing a Comprehensive General Plan (GP) update. This process formally began with the authorization of Planning Commission to initiate Comprehensive General Plan Update (GPA 24-01) on February 14, 2024.

The GP Update include public outreach, examining GP goals, objectives, and policies to ensure that a high quality of life is maintained as the community matures and evolves; incorporating changes required by state law; updating language to reflect current plans and projects; and reformatting the document to be user-friendly.

**DISCUSSION:**

The County has focused on collecting and analyzing existing conditions and evaluating its current General Plan document. During the Spring and Summer of 2024, the focus of the project has been on educating the community regarding the GP Update and soliciting initial public input through an initial round of public outreach (future rounds of outreach are expected at subsequent stages of the project). The County has implemented a multilingual public outreach campaign as part of the work program. This includes the following outreach and education strategies:

- Direct mailer sent to every property in an unincorporated County of Orange area
- Advertisements on the County’s website: <https://ocds.ocpublicworks.com/>
- Dedicated project website <https://planoc.generalplan.org/>
- Online community “vision and values” survey in six languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional)
- Phone calls to local organizations and stakeholder groups
- Emails blasts to the project listserv and interested stakeholders
- General Plan Update educational video
- Consultation to other agencies, utilities, and stakeholders

The County conducted briefings to provide project background information and solicit feedback from the County’s Advisory Committees including, but not limited to the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan Review Board, Orange Park Acres, and Development Processing review Committee. In addition, the County hosted a series of communitywide workshops open to anyone interested in attending. The workshops were held in Midway City, West Anaheim, Rancho Mission Viejo, and Costa Mesa/Newport Beach.

In general, the County has heard the following common themes from the community as part of this outreach effort:

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural open space</li> <li>• Parks and recreation</li> <li>• Sense of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of open space areas</li> <li>• Sustainable development</li> <li>• Quiet and safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• More ways to get around (car, bike, walking, transit)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing growth</li> <li>• Infrastructure needs</li> </ul>


In Fall of 2024, the County will review all the information collected through this initial round of public outreach and prepare a draft Vision Statement that will guide development of the General Plan document. The updated General Plan will customize goals, policies, and programs for the different types of communities throughout the County’s unincorporated areas. Throughout 2025, the County will prepare the General Plan policy document and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which will analyze the potential impacts of the project. An additional round of outreach is expected. These documents will be circulated for public review and comment in the Fall of 2025, and public hearings with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are expected to occur in early 2026.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

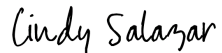
This action is not a project within the meaning of CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and is therefore not subject to CEQA, since it does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The approval of this item does not commit the County to a definite course of action regarding a project since the action is a status update of the Comprehensive GP Update. This proposed activity is therefore not subject to CEQA. Any future action connected to this approval that constitutes a project will be reviewed in compliance with CEQA.

Submitted by:

Concurred by:

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