



TITLE

Ratifying 2040 General Plan (Nov. 2025)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the 2040 General Plan (dated November 2025).

CONTACT

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BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

On May 20, 2025, the City Council adopted the 2040 General Plan (Resolution 2025-38). A copy of this document is on file with the City Clerk and available for review at City Hall.

The 2040 General Plan is the City's blueprint for achieving a shared vision of a Healthy, Sustainable, Equitable, Resilient, and Economically Vibrant community through 2040 and beyond. According to the California Supreme Court, the 2040 General Plan is "the constitution for all future development."

The May 2025 version of the 2040 General Plan includes "redlines" reflecting public input prior to and during the Council meeting. In addition, the Council directed staff to consolidate key sustainability policies.

Presented tonight is a more readable version of the 2040 General Plan with enhanced graphics. This "November 2025 version" is free from red-lines and incorporates prior Council direction - including organizing "sustainability" policies in a new "Culture, Environment & Sustainability" Element. The reformatted "2040 General Plan (dated November 2025)" does not alter any policies of its May 2025 predecessor; instead, it simply provides a camera-ready format that consolidates certain sustainability policies into a single element. A Resolution affirming the Council's concurrence with this final November 2025 version is included as Attachment 1.

During the reformatting process, staff observed numerous General Plan policies that could be construed as "sustainable"— meaning they benefit the present and future generations. These include traditional sustainability measures such as reducing carbon emissions, preserving open

space, and saving energy, but also include environmental justice policies that improve quality of life for future generations.

Unfortunately, it would be counterproductive to consolidate all of these policies into a single element; instead, policies that advance sustainability are marked with a "green leaf icon". An example of this icon is shown on Page M-33 for "Policy M 2.8: Bicycle Friendly Community: Obtain resources to assist with improving bicycle facilities and education for people of all ages and abilities by securing and maintaining status as a Bicycle Friendly Community awarded by the National League of American Bicyclists." A more complete list of these policies is shown in Attachment 2.

Staff recommends the Council ratify the the reformatted 2040 General Plan (dated November 2025) as shown in Attachment 1, Exhibit A. The General Plan appendices, consisting of the Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and Napa County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan are included as Attachment 1, Exhibit B. There are no changes proposed for the appendices and they are provided as disclosure of the entire General Plan document.

OSATS Commission Work Plan

On November 5, 2025, staff discussed the sustainability policies with the Open Space, Active Transportation, and Sustainability (OSATS) Commission. This discussion fulfills Item #5 of the FY 25/26 OSATS Work Plan that calls for mapping sustainability initiatives within the General Plan. To assist the Commission, staff identified sustainable policies in the General Plan as shown in the matrix Attachment 2.

Important Sustainable Efforts Currently Underway

Given its strong connection to quality of life, sustainability becomes part of nearly everything the City does. Here are examples of significant sustainability initiatives currently underway:

- Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP)
- Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTa) Active Transportation Plan
- The Napa River Ecological Center and Wetlands Outdoor Education Center
- Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan
- Highway 29 Project Initiation Document

Tracking Sustainability Progress

California law requires planning agencies to submit an annual report to both the City Council and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) on the status of the General Plan and its implementation. This report provides critical information on:

- How the General Plan has been implemented,
- Potential policy changes, and
- How land use decisions reflect the Plan's goals, policies, and implementation measures.

Next year's report could highlight sustainability accomplishments and link them directly to the corresponding General Plan policies and implementation actions. A copy of the last year's Annual Report is included as Attachment 3.

Conclusion

Moving forward, the General Plan provides a sustainability framework for concrete actions and measurable outcomes. This framework is balanced with other General Plan policies within the City's broader responsibilities, including fiscal constraints and essential services. By prioritizing projects that advance climate resilience, resource efficiency, and community health, the City can turn vision into reality.

COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Organizational Effectiveness: "Deliver exemplary government services."

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The City prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that evaluates the 2040 General Plan Update Project at a program level of analysis (SCH #2022070038) and includes required mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). The 2040 General Plan Update is a contemplated "Project Approval" under the Program EIR. The Council certified the Final EIR as adequate to address environmental impacts associated with the 2040 General Plan and adopted the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Resolution 2025-37) on May 20, 2025.

The 2040 General Plan (dated November 2025) contains only formatting changes from its May 2025 predecessor and the ratification of the 2040 General Plan (dated November 2025) is not a "Project" under CEQA because the formatting changes are intended solely to improve readability and understanding of 2040 General Plan policies (CCR Title 14 Section 15378.(b).(2): Continuing administrative or maintenance activities" are not a "Project".)

COMMUNICATION

Level 1: Minimal Communication

The 2040 General Plan (dated November 2025) will be made available at the City's Virtual City Hall.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution Ratifying the 2040 General Plan \(Dated November 2025\)](#)
1. [Exhibit A: 2040 General Plan Update \(dated November 2025\)](#)
1. [Exhibit B: General Plan Appendices](#)
2. [Sustainable Policies by Element Matrix](#)
3. [General Plan Annual Progress Report](#)

