



Summary of GPAC Feedback on the Open Space and Natural Resources and Safety Policy Options

At the September 11, 2024, General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting, the project team gave an overview of policy options for some topics that will be addressed in the Open Space and Natural Resources Element and Safety Element. The policy options do not represent the complete set of topics that will be covered in these Elements but focus on topics that the GPAC has previously discussed and indicated interest in. The community and GPAC will have the opportunity to review and comment on the complete draft Open Space and Natural Resources Element and Safety Element as part of the Draft General Plan, which is anticipated to be published in Summer 2025.

A summary of the GPAC feedback on the policy options is below. The policy option topics included:

- Open Space and Natural Resources Element
 - Establishment of Greenbelts and Urban Separations
 - Equitable Park and Open Space Access
- Safety Element
 - Emergency Notification
 - Drought
 - Energy Resilience
 - Flooding
 - Agricultural Resilience

Establishment of Greenbelts and Urban Separations

- The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is one reference point when planning for a greenbelt but is not the only possible reference point.
- Preserve open space between Livermore and Dublin and prioritize protecting open space in northwest Livermore.
- Support for policy options that would increase and encourage use of easements and purchase of development rights to preserve open space.
- Plan ahead for open space acquisition before the threat of development is imminent. Land will likely only be more expensive in the future.

- Define the different types of open space in the Element and be clear that open space and/or a greenbelt can include untouched habitat areas, land for parks and recreation, active agriculture, and other possible uses, and may or may not allow public access.
- Support for the policy option calling for a wildlife linkage between East of Greenville Road to Northfront Road across I-580; this is a high priority for the Tri Valley Conservancy.
- Change this policy option as follows:
 - ~~Educate~~ Inform landowners about the value and resources available to place land outside the urban growth boundary into a conservation easement.
- Where possible, consider acquiring contiguous open space on both sides of the UGB; some of our most sensitive habitat is on the former BART lands inside the UGB.

Equitable Park and Open Space Access

- Clarify the policy about ensuring all neighborhoods are “within a 10-minute walk” by adding distance in parentheses and/or adding “of an average person.”
- Add a policy about ensuring park maintenance.
- Add a policy about increasing shade in parks.
- Plan for transit service to parks.
- Promote water conservation by recommending future parks or park renovations use less grass.

Emergency Notification

- Specify all the types of disasters that the city wants to prepare for.
- Clarify that the emergency notification system is for notifying the public in addition to first responders.

Drought

- Balance the tourism economy that the city wants to grow with the water demand from potential new businesses. Consider allowing or not allowing new uses based on water consumption.
- Balance the environmental benefits of urban landscaping and vegetation with water conservation measures that reduce irrigation.
- Plan for outreach programs that more directly provide education on water rebates and other conservation efforts.

Energy Resilience

- Address ways to reduce barriers to microgrids e.g. lobbying and working with state regulators.
- Include an action to explore the feasibility of the City establishing a Municipal Utility District.
- Coordinate with PG&E to secure the electrical grid against cyber-attacks.

Flooding

- Clarify Policy Option A: Explain what and how many properties would be affected. Specify what it would mean to encourage people to convert properties in the floodplain.
- Explore an incentive program for converting properties in the floodplain and check if other jurisdictions have implemented similar programs successfully.
- Specify the location of the “100-year flood zone.”
- Consider installing retention ponds and other methods to address flooding around the airport area.
- Emphasize the proactive mitigation of floodplains and stream courses in collaboration with regulatory agencies, in addition to imposing regulation on future development.

Agricultural Resilience

- Remove the following policy options since they are covered by State laws:
 - Work with members of the agricultural community to develop specialized agricultural worker evacuation plans.
 - Work with the agricultural community, landscaping companies, building and trade companies and organizations with outdoor workers, delivery workers, and providers of outdoor recreation to reduce worker exposure to extreme heat and provide heat-related health and safety services to workers.
- Ensure housing for agricultural workers.
 - Include a policy about streamlining permitting for farmworker housing.
- Explore the feasibility of subsidizing the cost of shade equipment or other equipment or requirements imposed on farmers by State regulations.
- Include context in the background section of this element to acknowledge what the City is already doing to improve sewer infrastructure.
- Continue to work with PG&E and Alameda County to pursue undergrounding of power lines along Tesla Road.
- Return with additional policy options for resilient agriculture as part of the discussion of the Economic Development Element.