



## Chapter 2: Function of Community Plan

# **Chapter II**

## **FUNCTION OF COMMUNITY PLAN**

### **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

California State Law (Government Code Section 65300) requires that each city prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for its development. It must contain seven mandatory elements including land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety. In the City of Los Angeles, thirty-five Community Plans comprise the City's Land Use Element.

California State law requires that the Land Use Element be prepared as part of the City's General Plan, and that the Land Use Element be correlated with the Circulation Element.

The Land Use Element has the broadest scope of the General Plan elements required by the State. Since it regulates how land is to be utilized, many of the issues and policies contained in all other plan elements are impacted and/or impact this element.

Government Code Section 65302(a) requires the land use element which designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, including agriculture, natural resources, recreation and enjoyment of scenic beauty, education, public buildings and grounds, solid waste disposal facilities, and other categories of public and private uses of land. The land use element shall include a statement of the standards of population density and building intensity recommended for the various districts and other territory covered by the plan.

The Central City Community Plan consists of this text and the accompanying map. The Community Plan text states the goals, objectives, policies and programs. The Community Plan map, footnotes and legend outline the arrangement and intensities of land uses, the street system, and the locations and characteristics of public service facilities.

### **ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN**

The General Plan is the fundamental policy document of the City of Los Angeles. It defines the framework by which the City's physical and economic resources are to be managed and utilized over time. Decisions by the City with regard to the use of its land; design and character of buildings and open spaces, conservation of existing and provision of new housing, provision of supporting infrastructure and public and human services, protection of environmental resources, protection of residents from natural and people-caused hazards, and allocation of fiscal resources are guided by the Plan.

The Community Plans are intended to promote an arrangement of land uses, streets and services which will encourage and contribute to the health, safety, welfare and convenience of the people who live and work in the Community. The plans are also intended to guide development in order to create a healthful and pleasant environment. The plans are intended to coordinate development among the various parts of the City of Los Angeles and adjacent municipalities in a fashion both beneficial and desirable to the residents of the community.

The General Plan and the Community Plans clarify and articulate the City's intentions with respect to the rights and expectations of the general public, property owners, and prospective investors and business interests. Through the Community Plan, the City can inform these groups of its goals, policies and development standards, thereby communicating what is expected of the City Government and private sector, to meets its objectives.

The Community Plan ensures that sufficient land is designated which provides for the housing, commercial, industrial, employment, educational, recreational, cultural, social and aesthetic needs of the residents of the Community. The Plan identifies and provides for the maintenance of any significant environmental resources within the community. The Plan seeks to enhance community identity and recognizes unique neighborhoods within the Community.

## PURPOSE OF THE CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY PLAN

The last update of the Central City Community Plan was the AB283 Plan Consistency program completed in 1988. Since that time, considerable growth has occurred, new issues have emerged and new community objectives regarding the management of new development and community preservation have evolved. Consequently, it is necessary to update the Community Plan to not only reflect current conditions, but to accurately reflect the prevailing visions and objectives of the area's residents and property and business owners.

This Community Plan was developed in the context of promoting a vision of the Central City area as a community that:

- Creates residential neighborhoods; while providing a variety of housing opportunities with compatible new housing.
- Improves the function, design and economic vitality of the commercial districts.
- Preserves and enhances the positive characteristics of existing uses which provide the foundation for community identity, such as scale, height, bulk, setbacks and appearance.
- Maximizes the development opportunities of the future rail transit system while minimizing adverse impacts.
- Plans the remaining commercial and industrial development opportunity

sites for needed job producing uses that improve the economic and physical condition of the Central City Community.

## ORGANIZATION AND CONTEXT OF THE CENTRAL CITY PLAN

This Plan sets forth goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs that pertain to the Central City. Broader issues, goals, objectives and policies are provided by the Citywide General Plan Framework.

The Plan is organized and formatted to facilitate periodic updates. The State recommends that the entire plan be comprehensively reviewed every five years to reflect new conditions, local attitudes, and technological advances.

The principal method for the implementation of the Land Use Map is the Zoning Ordinance. The City's Zoning Map must be updated to remain consistent with the adopted Land Use Map. The Zoning Map identifies specific types of land use and development standards applicable to specific areas and parcels of land within the community.

## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The City of Los Angeles has the responsibility to revise and implement the City's General Plan. Since State law requires that the General Plan have internal consistency, the Central City Community Plan, which is a portion of the City's Land Use Element, must be consistent with the other Elements and components of the General Plan.

The Citywide General Plan Framework is the umbrella concept of the General Plan which will provide the overall guiding vision for Los Angeles into the 21st Century. It is based on a directed growth strategy which targets residential and commercial growth along boulevards and corridors and clustered around community centers and high activity centers. The directed growth strategy expands the Centers concept, which was adopted by the City Council in 1974 as the City's long-range development strategy.

The General Plan Framework provides the following projections to the year 2010 for the Central City Plan area:

Population (2010) Projection	27,029 Persons
Housing (2010) Projection	16,457 households
Employment (2010) Projection	61,500 additional jobs

The above population, employment and housing numbers are provided as reference during the Community Plan revision. It needs to be recognized, however, that these figures are only best estimates and are derived from regional data which are disaggregated to the City and the community level. Population, jobs and housing could grow more quickly, or slowly, than

anticipated depending on economic trends. Regional forecasts do not always reflect the adopted community plan land use capacity or buildout and is also an estimate based on specific assumptions about future density of development and household size. It should also be noted that the community plan capacity does not include housing in commercial districts nor the current residential vacancy rate.

In addition to the seven state mandated elements, the City's General Plan includes a service system element, a cultural element and a major public facilities area element. All the provisions and requirements of the General Plan elements apply to the Central City Community Plan.

Neighborhood Plans involve the preparation of specific plans which blend both policy and implementation functions for unique neighborhoods within a community or district plan area. In addition to these specific plans, overlay zones also combine policy and implementation functions to address issues peculiar to a specific neighborhood.

## **PLAN MONITORING**

The Plan has a land use capacity greater than the projected development likely to occur during the Plan period. During the life of the Plan, growth will be monitored and reported in the City's Annual report on Growth and Infrastructure, which will be submitted to the City Planning Commission, Mayor, and City Council. In the fifth year following the Plan adoption ( and every five years thereafter), the Director shall report to the Commission on the relationship between the population, employment and housing growth and plan capacities. If growth has occurred faster than projected, a revised environmental analysis will be prepared and appropriate changes recommended to the Community Plan and zoning. These Plan and zoning changes, and any related moratoria or interim control ordinances, shall be submitted to the Planning Commission, Mayor, and City Council as specified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

## **PLAN CONSISTENCY**

Each Plan category indicates the corresponding zones permitted by the Plan unless further restricted by the Plan text, footnotes, adopted Specific Plans or other specific limitations on discretionary approvals. The Plan recognizes that the residential densities and the commercial and industrial intensities depicted on the Plan map are theoretical and will not occur due to Plan zone regulations, economic limitations and design limitations.

For each plan category, the Plan permits all identified corresponding zones, as well as those zones which are more restrictive as referenced 12.23 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). Any subsequent action that modified the Plan or any monitoring review that results in changes to the Plan must make new Plan consistency findings at the time of that decision.

City actions on most discretionary projects require a finding that the action is consistent or in conformance with the General Plan. In addition to the required general finding, decision makers acting on certain projects in the Central City Community Plan area shall refer to each of the applicable additional findings that the Plan identifies as programs in Chapter III of the Plan which are underlined for ease of reference. To further substantiate the consistency findings, decision makers may cite other programs, policies or objectives which would be furthered by the proposed project. In addition, Chapter V of the Plan requires a decision maker to make a finding of conformance with applicable design standards for discretionary projects.