



**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

**2025  
GENERAL PLAN  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by Humboldt County Planning and Building Department March 23, 2026

Board of Supervisors Reviewed and Accepted, \_\_, 2026

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## Introduction

Government Code Section 65400 et seq. requires planning agencies to provide an annual report on the status of the jurisdiction's general plan implementation and the progress made toward meeting the jurisdiction's regional housing needs allocation. Planning agencies are required to provide the annual progress report ("APR") to the legislative body, California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD"), and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation ("LCI") by April 1 of each year. The statute does not specify in which order they be provided, nor do LCI or HCD require the report to be submitted to the legislative body prior to submittal. While the reports have the same filing deadline, there are only consequences for delayed filing of the APR to HCD.

The purpose of this General Plan APR is to inform the Board of Supervisors and the residents of Humboldt County on the implementation status of the General Plan for the time period from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Reporting the implementation status of the General Plan includes reviewing major land use activities undertaken during the reporting period. The APR process provides information that may surface the need to consider "course adjustments" or modifications to the general plan and any methods to improve implementation. Essentially, the APR provides accountability and transparency to the Board and the community on the progress made on the General Plan during the previous year.

GOVERNMENT CODE Section 65400(a)(2) itemizes the mandatory content requirements for the general plan APR and are detailed below. While there is no standardized form or format for the general plan APR, the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation does provide guidance. The annual reporting requirements for the housing element, on the other hand, are prescribed by statute and are highly detailed. For the housing element APR there is a mandatory reporting form prepared by HCD that all jurisdictions must use.

Humboldt County's 2025 annual progress reports for both the General Plan and 2019 Housing Element were filed with the appropriate State agencies before the April 1, 2026, statutory deadline. The Governance Implementation Measure G-IM1 of the Humboldt County General Plan specifies the County's General Plan APRs are to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in a public hearing and copied to the Planning Commission. The public hearing requirement specified in G-IM1 establishes a higher bar for consideration of the APR than statute mandates, indicating accountability and transparency are local priorities.

The Board of Supervisor's consideration and acceptance of the 2025 annual progress report for the General Plan and 2019 Housing Element is informational in nature, does not create or alter policy, and is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15306.

## 1.0 General Plan Annual Progress Report Content and the State General Plan Guidelines

The content of general plan APRs is specified in Government Code § 65400(a)(2) and is as follows:

- The date of the last revision to the jurisdiction’s general plan.
- The status of the general plan and progress in its implementation.
- The degree to which the jurisdiction’s approved general plan complies with the general plan guidelines developed and adopted by the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, in accordance with Government Code § 65040.2.

Specific to the jurisdiction’s housing element, document in the APR:

- The jurisdiction’s progress in meeting its share of regional housing needs allocation, referred to as “RHNA”.
- Local efforts to remove governmental and nongovernmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing, including housing for all income levels and housing for persons with disabilities. The program shall remove constraints to, and provide reasonable accommodations for housing designed for, intended for occupancy by, or with supportive services for, persons with disabilities.
- Compile and report housing data using the State-prepared forms. Reporting is on an individual application, entitlement, and permit basis. Reporting includes:
  - Building permits applied for and/or issued in the reporting year.
  - Planning entitlements and permits for the construction of a housing unit applied and/or issued in the reporting year. For Humboldt County, design review, Coastal Development Permits and Special Permits are the most common planning entitlements and permits that are reported in the APR.
  - Readiness: reporting issued certificates of occupancy or finals. This reporting may expand over multiple years as associated building permits were issued in a prior year.
  - For all of the above: the number of housing units; the type of housing unit; housing unit tenancy; estimated affordability, etc.
  - The number of housing units demolished or destroyed that are not replaced in the same reporting year.

As stated above, Government Code § 65400(a)(2)(F) requires jurisdictions to report the degree to which the jurisdiction’s approved general plan complies with the general plan guidelines (“GPG”) prepared and adopted by LCI. The GPG are prepared and periodically updated by LCI. The purpose of the GPG is to assist local governments in preparing general plans and the public in participating in that process. While the GPG provides an authoritative interpretation of state statutes and case law as they relate to planning, the GPG are advisory rather than prescriptive.

As such, jurisdictions can address contemporary planning topics in a locally appropriate manner.

## **2.0 General Plan Status**

On October 23, 2017, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved the comprehensive update of the Humboldt County General Plan by Resolutions 17-94, 17-95, and 17-96. Prior to approval of the Humboldt County General Plan, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2007012089) prepared for the General Plan update. The General Plan was approved after 66 public hearings by the Board of Supervisors beginning in 2000 and more than 100 public hearings by the Planning Commission.

The General Plan establishes the kinds, locations, and intensities of land uses as well as applicable resource protection and development policies. Land use maps are used to show land use plan designations, constraints, and public facilities. Section 4.0 of this report discusses amendments to the General Plan that were approved in 2025, and planning activities that advanced implementation of the General Plan. General plans are to be updated periodically, however, there is no statutory requirement for how often to update the general plan. The planning period for general plans is typically 15-20 years.

Table D of the Housing Element Annual Progress Report (APR) form includes an update on the Housing Element.

## **3.0 Overview of Consistency with State General Plan Guidelines**

The Humboldt County General Plan used the GPG published in 2003 to guide the preparation of the update because the planning effort began in the early 2000s. While LCI published revised GPG guidelines August 2017, this iteration of the GPG was not used to guide the General Plan update as the County's update process was in its final stages. At the time of the August 2017 GPG release, the Draft Environmental Report for the General Plan update had been prepared, circulated, and public comments received and responded to; numerous public workshops and hearings had already been held to capture the community's visions and priorities. When staff prepared Humboldt County's 2019 General Plan APR, Planning staff reviewed the August 2017 GPG and determined that the County's General Plan meets the mandatory requirements described therein with incorporation of the work program contained in Table 2. The below discussion reviews how the County's General Plan meets the State's current GPG published in August 2017.

The approved General Plan contains eight of the nine mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and air quality. The ninth element is the Environmental Justice Element. The Humboldt County General Plan was approved in October 2017 which was prior to the effective date of Government Code § 65302(h)(2) that directs cities and counties to prepare an Environmental Justice Element. As described above, Humboldt County has not met the state's threshold requirements, so an Environment Justice Element has not been added to the County's General Plan yet.

Tribal consultation in accordance with SB 18 and AB 52 was undertaken and completed as part of the General Plan update process. On a project-by-project basis, local tribes are consulted pursuant to AB 52 and SB 18.

The General Plan Guidelines recommend General Plan APRs report collaborative planning with the military lands and facilities. The only military installation in the region is the Eureka Armory located entirely within the boundaries of the City of Eureka. The Department of the Navy operates Military Training Routes (MTR) or Military Operating Areas (MOA) that traverse the central parts of the County. The Military Training Routes comprised a three-dimensional airspace designated for military training and transport activities that have a defined floor (minimum altitude) and ceiling (maximum altitude). The MTR and MOA have been mapped and continue to be available to the public through the County's web-based geographic information system ([WebGIS](#)). Potential impacts of new development on military readiness are considered for discretionary projects, and notice is provided pursuant to the Government Code Section 65944(d).

The General Plan and its regulatory context are not static as amendments are made periodically to the governing statutes. Amendments legislated by the State may trigger the need to amend the County's General Plan. Planning staff regularly review legislative updates, cataloguing needed changes to the General Plan and developing work programs to amend the General Plan to ensure ongoing compliance with State law. Outstanding updates to the land use element triggered by the 2019 adoption of the Housing Element and flagged by HCD during their Housing Element certification review is an example.

In response to HCD, Planning staff developed work programs and timelines to complete outstanding updates, which are outlined in Table 2 below. These outstanding updates and the associated work programs have been incorporated into the Department's overall work program for Long Range Planning, and progress is reported in this General Plan APR even though they may not be itemized in Appendix A of the Humboldt County General Plan - the Implementation Action Plan. Planning staff reviewed the GPG and determined that the County's General Plan meets the mandatory requirements described therein with incorporation of the work program contained in Table 2.

#### **4.0 General Plan Amendments and Other Major Land Use Accomplishments in 2025**

This section presents information concerning changes made to the General Plan, other significant land use actions that made progress on implementation, and other priorities for land use decision making established by the Board of Supervisors during 2025. Details on the implementation of the 2019 Housing Element are contained in Section 6.0 below. General Plan Appendix A, Implementation Action Plan, is a comprehensive list of the General Plan implementation measures and is available at:

<https://humboldt.gov.org/DocumentCenter/View/62006/Appendix-A-Implementation-Plan-PDF>



## General Plan Amendments in 2025

### Approved–Completed

*Applicant Initiated.* The following changes were made to the General Plan and Zoning Code in 2025:

2025 Amendments		
Date Approved	Project	Subject
11/5/2025	<b>PLN-2024-19011</b>	A General Plan Amendment (GPA) and Zone Reclassification (ZR) to facilitate a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) between two parcels resulting in two parcels. The LLA will adjust the boundary between APNs 500-071-012 and 500-081-002 such that additional lands will be added from the Green Diamond parcel to the Stander parcel to accommodate existing historic encroachments. The Stander parcel (500-071-012) is developed with a single-family residence and accessory structures, with a land use designation of Residential Estates (RE) and zoned Agriculture General (AG) and is served with on-site water and an on-site wastewater treatment system. The Green Diamond parcel (500-081-012) is vacant, with a land use designation of Timberland (T) and zoning of Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and Timber Production (TPZ). A petition to change the General Plan designation and Zone classification (PLN-2024-18909) was accepted by the Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2024. The PC recommended approval May 15, 2025. No development is proposed.

*Department Initiated.*

None.

### Ongoing and In Progress

#### *Humboldt Bay Area Plan.*

The County is continuing work on an update of the Humboldt Bay Area Plan (HBAP). A major component of the update is the addition of sea level rise background information and policies to the Plan. Other significant components of the update include modification of the tsunami safety background information and policies, and a potential change in land use for some of the Coastal-Dependent Industrial lands on Humboldt Bay. Additionally, edits are being made to text and mapping throughout the HBAP to update it to be consistent with present circumstances and legal requirements, and to provide clarity. This HBAP update work was assisted with funding from two LCP grants totaling \$499,746. This ongoing staff work implements Land Use Element Implementation Measure GP-IM6, to maintain consistency of Ordinances and Plan Amendments with the General Plan and Local Coastal Programs.

### *Regional Sea Level Rise.*

The County is continuing to meet with regional partners and will be pursuing other grant opportunities to continue working on regional sea level rise planning.

### *Coastal Resilience Planning for Frontline Communities- Fields Landing & King Salmon.*

The project is funded by the State Coastal Conservancy and is to address flooding and sea level rise issues in the frontline communities of King Salmon and Fields Landing. The Grantee is Humboldt County Planning & Building Department and Sub awardees are Public Works and Cal Poly Humboldt. The project is continuing to develop a planning framework, conduct community and tribal engagement, complete sea level rise and flood vulnerability assessment and adaptation feasibility analysis, and prepare conceptual designs and preliminary engineering plans for future sea level rise adaptation projects.

### *McKinleyville Town Center.*

The McKinleyville Town Center ordinance was approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 20, 2025. The McKinleyville Town Center zoning (MU-1) creates a mixed-use, walkable hub allowing for "by right" high-density, multi-family housing (minimum 16 units/acre) alongside commercial, retail, and civic uses. Approved in 2025, it features allowance of 4-story buildings, public spaces, and pedestrian-focused design, excluding large "big-box" stores and drive-thrus.

Key aspects of the McKinleyville Town Center ordinance include:

- **Development Density:** Enables up to 2,650 multi-family housing units and 900,000 square feet of retail/office space.
- **Mixed-Use Design:** Requires a blend of uses, with residential units permitted on upper floors or behind ground-floor commercial spaces.
- **Restrictions:** Prohibits drive-thru operations, large "big-box" department stores, and auto repair/filling stations.
- **Building Standards:** Sets a maximum height of four stories. The zoning includes 0-foot front and side yard setbacks to encourage building close to the street.
- **Infrastructure:** Focuses on pedestrian and cyclist amenities, including "road diet" changes to Central Avenue (reducing lanes to three with bike lanes) and new public gathering areas.
- **Open Space:** Incorporates a 14-acre wetland reserve and requires 20,000 square feet of public open space.

Development is permitted through a [Zoning Clearance Certification](#) to ensure alignment with the overall plan.

### *Regional Climate Action Plan.*

The Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December

16, 2025. This effort involved collaboration and coordination with all seven cities in the County to create a regional climate action plan.

This effort implements goals, policies, and implementation measures in the General Plan:

**G-G2 Community Plans.** Coordinated regional plans that include more than one incorporated city, community, special district, and/or unincorporated area.

**G-P13 City-State-County Coordination.** Promote coordination between city, state, and County planning efforts through consistent communication.

**AQ-G4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Successful mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with this Plan to levels of non-significance as established by the Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementation of legislation and regulations.

**AQ-PI Reduce Length and Frequency of Vehicle Trips.**

Reduce the length and frequency of vehicle trips through land use and transportation policies by encouraging mixed use development, compact development patterns in areas served by public transit, and active modes of travel.

**AQ-P9. County Climate Action Plan.** Through public input and review, develop and implement a multi- jurisdictional Climate Action Plan to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.

**AQ-P10. County Government Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions.** To lead by example, the County of Humboldt shall reduce its 2003 greenhouse gas emissions from governmental operations consistent with the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.

**AQ-P11. Review of Projects for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions.** The County shall evaluate the GHG emissions of new large scale residential, commercial and industrial projects for compliance with state regulations and require feasible mitigation measures to minimize GHG emissions.

**AQ-P13 Forest Sequestration and Biomass Energy.** Provide incentives for increased carbon sequestration on forest lands and encourage the reduction of smoke production through the utilization of excess forest biomass for sustainable energy generation and other uses.

**AQ-P14 Solar Electric System Capacity.** Encourage and provide incentives to increase solar-electric capacity in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

**AQ-P15 Energy Efficient Building Design.** Encourage and provide incentives for construction of buildings and energy saving measures beyond Title 24 requirements for residential and commercial projects.

**AQ-P16 Electric Vehicle Accommodations.** Encourage and provide incentives for commercial and residential design that supports the charging of electric vehicles."

**AQ-P17 Preservation and Replacement of On-site Trees.** Projects requiring discretionary review should preserve large trees, where possible, and mitigate for carbon storage losses attributable to significant removal of trees.

**AQ-IM3. County-wide Climate Action Plan.** Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan that effectively mitigates the carbon emissions attributable to this Plan, consistent with the requirements of the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.

**AQ-IM4. County Government Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions.** The County shall prepare a Climate Action Plan for its governmental operations consistent with the Countywide Climate Action Plan that seeks emission reductions in the following areas:

- A. Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- B. Green Building
- C. Waste Reduction and Recycling
- D. Climate-Friendly Purchasing
- E. Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels
- F. Efficient Transportation
- G. Offsetting Carbon Emissions
- H. Promoting Community and Individual Action

**AQ-IM5. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Update the General Plan and Land Use Ordinances, as appropriate, to reflect the adopted countywide Climate Action Plan and the new state laws and regulations for greenhouse gas emissions when they become available.

**AQ-IM6. Review of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts of New Development.** Modify the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to assess GHG emissions of discretionary large scale residential, commercial, and industrial projects, and require feasible mitigation.

**AQ-S2 Evaluate Greenhouse Gas Emission Impacts.** During environmental review of large scale residential, commercial and industrial projects, include an assessment of the project's GHG emissions and require feasible mitigation consistent with best practices documented by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in their 2008 white paper "CEQA & Climate Change" or successor documents.

**E-G1 Countywide Strategic Energy Planning.** An effective energy strategy based on self-sufficiency, development of renewable energy resources and energy conservation that is actively implemented countywide through Climate Action Plans, General Plans and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority's Comprehensive Energy Action Plan.

**E-G2 Increase Energy Efficiency and Conservation.** Decrease energy consumption through increased energy conservation and efficiency in building, transportation, business, industry, government, water and waste management.

**E-G3 Supply of Energy from Local Renewable Sources.** Increased local energy supply from a distributed and diverse array of renewable energy sources and providers available for local purchase and export.

**E-P1 Energy Conservation Standards and Incentives.** Develop incentives to encourage residential and commercial building plans that exceed California Building Standards Code requirements for energy.

**E-P3 Local Renewable Energy Supply.** The County shall support renewable energy development projects including biomass, wind, solar, "run of the river" hydroelectric, and ocean energy, consistent with this Plan that increases local energy supply.

**E-P4 Transportation Energy Conservation and Alternative Fuels Substitution.** Support revitalization and infill projects within Urban Development Areas as a means to reduce long-term vehicle miles traveled as an energy conservation strategy. Support the development and implementation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and other alternative fueling infrastructure.

**E-P8 Electrical Transmission.** Promote PG&E funded capacity upgrades to electric distribution lines to facilitate distributed renewable energy production and electricity export from the county.

**E-P16 Sustainable Biomass Energy Production.** Coordinate with local agencies, communities, and landowners to develop biomass energy plans that are consistent with forest management, hazardous fuels reduction, and restoration needs and priorities.

**E-IM2 Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy.** Support efforts to implement the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy.

**C-P23 Public Transit Service.** The County shall coordinate and integrate with transportation providers so that a full range of travel patterns and connectivity with other modes of transportation are provided.

**C-P24 Long Term Transit Plan.** The County shall support HCAOG's long term transit planning with the goal of increasing the percentage of public transit trips compared to automobile trips.

**C-P25 County-Wide Transportation Plan.** The County shall maintain a clear plan for development and improvement of multi-modal transportation infrastructure consistent with land use plans, intended community character and community priorities.

**C-P28 Bicycles and Pedestrian Facilities in New Subdivisions.** Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be encouraged to connect neighborhoods. Standards for urban, suburban, rural and remote contexts shall be developed.

**C-P35 Protection of Designated Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes.** New development along and adjacent to planned and designated pedestrian and bicycle routes shall consider and incorporate those routes.

**C-P36 Bicycle Facilities.** Encourage the planned placement of secure and/or weather-protected bicycle storage facilities at public buildings and bus stops, where appropriate. Incentivize placement of bicycle parking and storage at businesses, new or modified bus stops and multi family housing.

**C-P39 Encourage Bicycle and Pedestrian-Friendly Development.** Incentives should be given to developers who provide non-motorized facilities that connect neighborhoods in a design appropriate to the character of those neighborhoods.

**C-S9 Prioritization of Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities and Routes.** Objective criteria shall be used to prioritize construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and routes.

**C-IM4 Regional Coordination.** Support and participate in joint circulation system and land use planning with HCAOG, affected cities, Caltrans, and other transportation agencies and providers.

**C-IM7 Transit Infrastructure.** Work with regional transit providers to situate transit stops and hubs at locations that are convenient for transit users, and promote increased transit usage through the provision of shelters, benches, and other amenities.

**C-IM8 Park and Ride Facilities.** Support Caltrans' efforts to add park-and-ride lots at locations as appropriate.

**C-IM10 Transit Service to East, South and North County.** Pursue funding and partnerships with the Humboldt Transit Authority, Native American tribes, and non-profit transportation organizations to establish and sustain transit services to rural communities.

**WM-PI Implementation of Waste Reduction Programs.** Waste reduction, re-use and recycling programs should be implemented countywide on a continuous basis to achieve the maximum possible waste diversion rate.

**WM-IM2 Solid Waste Management Authority.** Continue the County's participation in the Humboldt Waste Management Authority, including contracting and advocacy for the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and Source Reduction and Recycling Element.

**UL-P6 Mixed-Use Zoning.** Utilize mixed-use zoning to help create town centers that are community focal points. The mixed-use zone shall promote higher density urban housing in concert with retail commercial uses, day care centers, and shopfronts, and shall include an abundance and variety of open spaces.

**IS-G3 Interagency Coordination.** Coordinated planning, prioritization, funding, and implementation of infrastructure and public service projects across jurisdictional boundaries.

**H-P17 Promote Infill, Reuse and Redevelopment.** The County shall promote infill, re-use and redevelopment of vacant and under-developed land within Urban Development Areas and Housing Opportunity Zones as a strategy to create affordable housing, provide an economic stimulus and re vitalize community investment.

**CO-P4 Support for Working Lands.** The County shall support policies that maintain profitable resource production on timber and agricultural lands as a means to secure long- term protection and sustainability of open space lands through programs such as the Williamson Act and Timber Production Zone programs.

*General Plan Elements.*

Table 1 below summarizes progress in 2025 to implement the elements of the General Plan. The Housing Element is described separately in the annual progress report.

**Table 1**

Policy, Implementation Measure	Staff Work in 2025
Telecommunications Element: T-IM1. Adopt a Communications Facilities Ordinance that ensures compatibility of communications facilities with nearby land uses and establishes clear standards for such facilities.	The Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors for the inland portion of the County in late 2022. In 2023, staff began work with the Coastal Commission to certify the ordinance in the Coastal Zone. The ordinance was certified by Coastal Commission with modifications in 2025. The certified ordinance with modifications will be going to the Board in 2026.

**Table 1**

Policy, Implementation Measure	Staff Work in 2025
<p>Conservation and Open Space Elements, Scenic Resources: SR-IM2. Sign ordinance revision. Amend the sign ordinance to implement adopted policies for off-premise billboards and to consider other revisions to ensure community compatibility.</p>	<p>The Inland and Coastal Sign Ordinances were approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 9, 2024. Certified by the California Coastal Commission and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in October 2025.</p>
<p>Safety Element: S-IM4. Agency Coordination. County agencies shall continue to collaborate to develop potential short, medium, and long-term actions for a coordinated County-wide response to drought, emergency management, wildfire, and evacuation response services.</p>	<p>Ongoing. The County has an established Drought Task Force, and ad hoc committees for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet these objectives. The Drought Task Force worked with a consultant throughout 2025 to prepare a Drought Resilience Plan including a risk assessment.</p>
<p>Safety Element: S-IM5. Coordination with CAL FIRE on State Responsibility Areas (SRA) Exception Requests. The County shall maintain efficient and timely procedures for processing SRA Exception Requests to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).</p>	<p>Complete, part of standard practice, ongoing.</p>
<p>Safety Element: S-IM6. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Actively support and pursue the implementation recommendations in the CWPP. Periodically update the CWPP. The risk assessment portion of the CWPP shall be updated at least every five years.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Planning staff have been added to the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council with the objective to ensure that land use planning, in particular planning related to the Safety Element, is closely integrated with the CWPP.</p>
<p>Safety Element: S-IM18. Soils Reports Requirement for Residential Subdivision. The County shall require and review preliminary soils reports submitted by applicants for every residential subdivision and for each individual lot or project site where expansive soils have been identified or are expected to exist.</p>	<p>This practice is ongoing.</p>

**Table 1**

Policy, Implementation Measure	Staff Work in 2025
Safety Element: S-IM33. WebGIS Updates. The County shall update all hazard layer maps when new information becomes publicly available from state and federal agencies.	This practice is ongoing.
Air Quality Element: AQ-IM3. County-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP). Develop and Implement a Climate Action Plan that effectively mitigates the carbon emissions attributable to this Plan, consistent with the requirements of the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.	Completed. The RCAP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2025.

*Amendments to the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps.*

One of the follow-up actions prescribed by the General Plan is to update the County’s Zoning Regulations and associated Zoning Maps (GP-IM6). The General Plan directed the update of the Zoning Regulations and Maps to maintain consistency and to operationalize the General Plan’s goals, policies, standards, and implementation measures for everyday land use planning. Work was completed in 2018 and 2019, including conducting community workshops, and public hearings with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The Board approved the amendments to the Zoning Regulations and Maps on August 27, 2019. In 2020 work on this effort was paused pending resolution of ongoing litigation. That litigation was resolved in 2022 and final adoption of the Zoning Regulations and Maps will commence in 2026.

**5.0 Needed Action: Community Plan Policies Awaiting Implementation**

The following paragraphs describe Community Plan policies from before 2002 that were not implemented and are now incorporated into the 2017 General Plan. In 2021, measures concerning the McKinleyville Community Plan were in the process of implementation.

Avenue of the Giants Community Plan

2540.1 The County shall request that the Save-the-Redwoods-League refrain from removing prime agricultural lands from resource production by acquisition.

2540.5 The County shall request that the impacts of increasing State Park land acquisition be addressed in the Park Management Plan and EIR.

### Eureka Community Plan

5-2400 HOUSING: The County should revise the zoning ordinance to include the design review recommendations from Chapter 2403.

5-4200 CIRCULATION: After all feasible alternatives have been exhausted, the County shall adopt and periodically review a traffic impact fee ordinance that would require all new development to pay a fair share of transportation improvements.

### Garberville/Redway/Benbow/Alderpoint Community

#### Plan 5000 Implementation

1. An outline of river access opportunities and improvements, which would enhance fishing and other recreational uses along the river, should be prepared for the Plan. Standards for access dedications for subdivision of lands with river frontage should be included in the outline.
2. Adopt a parking plan for Garberville.
3. Establish a Parking Authority for the downtown commercial district of Garberville.

### McKinleyville Community Plan

#### 3244 Implementation for Noise Hazards

Standards shall be adopted as part of the County Building Regulations specifying sound insulation requirements which will implement the noise policies of the plan.

#### 4312 Implementation for Trails

A Trails Implementation Plan shall be prepared that includes a trail-by-trail review with recommendations for how easements could be gained and under what circumstances dedication of easements might be required.

**Table 2.** Additional General Plan Work Programs

<b>Government Code Section and Summary</b>	<b>County Response to HCD</b>	<b>Work Program</b>	<b>Completion Timeline</b>
<p>65302.10(b)(1): Land Use Element.</p> <p>(b) On or before the due date for the next adoption of its housing element pursuant to Section 65588, each city or county shall review and update the land use element of its general plan ... [to] include all of the following:</p> <p>(1) ...In the case of a county, an identification of each legacy community within the boundaries of the county that is a disadvantaged unincorporated community but not including any area within the sphere of influence of any city. This identification shall include a description of the community and a map designating its location.</p>	<p>The 2019 Housing Element includes the requisite content of GC § 65302.10(b): Table Z17 of Appendix G of the General Plan (the Housing Element Appendix) identifies the legacy communities located in the unincorporated area, and provides an updated summary of the infrastructure and service needs; Attachment J of Appendix G provides an updated detailed infrastructure analysis of these legacy communities; and Appendix F of the General Plan (the Map Book) includes maps of the unincorporated legacy communities. Policy IS-P26 of the Community Infrastructure and Services Element commits to updating the legacy community analysis with each Housing Element cycle, and H-S5 includes a standard to prioritize infrastructure funding for legacy communities.</p>	<p>During the Housing Element update cycle, the County will also amend the Land Use Element to include a reference to the discussion of Legacy Communities in the Housing Element Appendix (§8.12.23).</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Long Range Planning</p> <p>Method: General Plan Amendment</p> <p>Cost Range: &lt;\$30,000</p>	<p>By August 2027</p>

<p>65302(h): Environmental Justice Element.</p> <p>A jurisdiction must address environmental justice element in its general plan by the adoption of an environmental justice element, or by the integration of environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives into other general plan elements upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.</p>	<p>Humboldt County does have numerous low-income areas as statutorily defined. The General Plan economic development policies and the 2019 Housing Element both contain measures to better address the needs of this population, e.g., Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (H-G7), completing an Assessment of Fair Housing (H-IM25), and stronger measures for tenants and rehabilitation of housing stock (H-IM13, H-IM16, H-IM69, H-IM70). The needed updates of the land use element, safety, and conservation described above trigger the requirement for preparation of an environmental justice element.</p>	<p>Prepare an environmental justice element meeting the statutory requirements, to integrate environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives that are presently contained in other Elements, and incorporate public input.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Long Range Planning</p> <p>Method: General Plan Amendment</p> <p>Cost Range: &lt;\$100,000</p>	<p>Concurrent with the amendment of two or more General Plan Elements</p> <p>This would follow publication of the 2020 US Census and HUD acceptance for filing of the State of California's Consolidated Plan for the period of 2021-2026 for non-entitlement jurisdictions.</p>
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## **6.0 2025 Housing Element Annual Progress Report**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65400, each jurisdiction must prepare an annual progress report on the jurisdiction's status and progress in implementing its housing element. The housing element Annual Progress Report ("APR") covers the previous calendar year's housing activity. The APR must be submitted to Housing Community Development ("HCD") and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation ("LCI") by April 1 of each year. For housing element progress reports, the content requirements are prescriptive and highly detailed. Timely filing of housing element APRs is a threshold eligibility requirement for many State funding programs.

The update cycle for housing elements is statutorily mandated, with the dates for when jurisdictions are to start and complete the update process specified by housing element law. When the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle began August 31, 2019, Humboldt County and the seven cities moved from a five-year cycle to an eight-year cycle, which will end August 2027. Due to the County's 6<sup>th</sup> cycle starting August 31, 2019, only housing units that were issued a building permit on or after that date are credited as progress towards the County's 6<sup>th</sup> cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation ("RHNA"). See Attachment A for details on the 2025 Housing Element Annual Progress Report.