

General Plan Update



PINOLE
California

Pinole City Hall
2131 Pear Street
Pinole, CA 94564

JOIN THE DISCUSSION! COME TO A WORKSHOP!

- Workshop #1: Thursday, May 10th, 7 PM Youth Center
- Workshop #2: Thursday, June 28th, 7 PM Senior Center
- Workshop #3: Thursday, September 6th, 7 PM Youth Center
- Workshop #4: Thursday, September 27th, 7 PM Senior Center
- Workshop #5: Thursday, October 25th, 7 PM Youth Center
- Workshop #6: Thursday, November 29th, 7 PM Senior Center



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Spring 2007



CITY OF PINOLE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

City Council

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2007 General Plan Update Web site:
www.pinolegeneralplan.com
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Public Input is Important to the General Plan Update

A Message from City Staff

By Elizabeth Dunn, AICP, City Planner

Updating the General Plan is an important part of preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Pinole. The City wants to know how you envision Pinole's future. As part of the beginning stages of General Plan review process, we are asking the public to participate in six community workshops. Information gathered at these workshops will assist City staff in developing a General Plan that reflects the goals of the people of Pinole.

The first public workshop, planned for early May, will solicit input from the public on the Community Character Element of the General Plan. This element is the guiding vision for the community's future and sets the tone for all other elements of the General Plan. Community input here will be especially important.

The second public workshop will solicit input on land use designations along San Pablo Avenue and in the Old Town Pinole area. The first workshop will provide overarching guidelines as to how land in these areas should be designated and how it should be developed. The second workshop will allow for more specific feedback.

The other workshops will focus on other elements and issues that are important to Pinole. After all five workshops, the City will create a Draft General Plan which will be circulated for public review and then discussed in a sixth public workshop. Then the City Council will review and adopt our new General Plan.

We encourage Pinole residents to attend all public workshops, and fill out an online survey that you will soon find on www.pinolegeneralplan.com. Your input and involvement over the next year is crucial to the success of the General Plan Update. We are counting on you to get involved! So share your ideas, speak up, and stay tuned.

The entire staff here at the City of Pinole is excited to be working with you to shape the future of our City. We believe that together we can preserve and enhance the character of Pinole that we treasure. And create opportunity for our residents now and in the future.

General Plan Update Reflects Changes, Plans for Future

In the fall of 2006, the Pinole City Council approved a work program to update the City's General Plan. This update, scheduled to conclude in 2008, will provide many opportunities for public input in the shaping of the final plan. The 2007 General Plan update focuses on community-building and identity while recognizing the importance and opportunity to enhance sustainability and manage growth.

What is a General Plan?

A General Plan is a blueprint that guides both the physical development of Pinole and any land outside its boundaries that relates to its planning. It provides for human, economic and environmental viability and harmony, which enables an ecologically and socially thriving community.

The City of Pinole's General Plan Update will provide a vision and framework for the future growth of Pinole. As part of that process, it will also ensure that the General Plan is current, internally consistent, and easy to use; provide guidance in land use decisions, including future land

and resource evaluation and ensure provision of infrastructure services and facilities supporting future development.

It will also address several current components of City development, including describing current conditions and trends impacting the City, identifying planning issues, opportunities, and challenges and exploring land use and policy alternatives.

All General Plan Updates provide opportunities for meaningful public participation in the planning and decision-making process as well.

General Plan Elements Address Many Aspects of Pinole

The Pinole General Plan will be organized into the following categories, called Elements: Land Use and Economic Development; Community Services and Facilities; Circulation; Housing; Natural Resources and Open Space; Health and Safety; Growth Management and Community Character.

All of these Elements provide goals and policies that relate to sustainable development and aim to achieve one overriding vision that includes consideration of protecting open space (decreasing urban sprawl); creating strong local and regional economies; promoting equitable development and energy and resource efficiency. Other elements or focus areas may be added, depending on community input.

The General Plan process involves several workshops and public hearings designed to give the community the lead role in defining Pinole's General Plan. This process is your chance to participate and help frame the future vision of Pinole.

Community Character Element Shapes the Identity of Pinole

The Community Character Element of the General Plan is best defined as an element that will preserve, enhance, and strengthen Pinole's unique identity for future generations. It is an integral component of the General Plan and is essential in achieving the community's vision for the future.

The City of Pinole has included this Element to address the wide range of aspects that contribute to local character, including design and green building concepts, in a more unified and coherent manner than would be possible if these topics were scattered throughout the General Plan.

What is Community Character?

Community character can be described as: the constructed and natural landmarks and social and economic surroundings that, when combined, cause someone to identify with a community. Pinole's identity, or sense of place, is created and conveyed by physical characteristics such as landmarks, gateways, entryways, streets, buildings, parks and open space. These expressions of physical and natural features convey a certain quality of life and community goals, they define a neighborhood.

The neighborhoods, buildings, natural environment, and the perceptions and experiences of both residents and visitors all contribute to a community's character.

Planning for the Future with Sustainable Development

The image of Pinole will change as the community grows. Due to that, it's important that the Community Character Element consider the future identity of Pinole. One way

the City is planning for the future is by incorporating sustainable development practices into the General Plan.

Sustainable development practices are the use of architectural and planning methods to address present needs, while ensuring the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Specific examples may include the use of solar panels for energy conservation, placing jobs near housing to reduce vehicle trips, making the City more walkable, and infill development to reduce the consumption of land.

Sustainable development goals, policies and programs promote land uses, design guidelines, and services and facilities that enhance quality of life and promote a vibrant community.

Community Character Addressed in Many Areas of General Plan

Although issues of community identity are primarily addressed in this Element, these principles are woven throughout the General Plan, particularly in the Land Use and Economic Development, Circulation, Housing, Natural Resources and Open Space elements.

For example, policies within the Circulation Element addressing pedestrian and bicycle transportation modes, choices and facilities, support community livability principles, as do Land Use Element policies encouraging mixed uses and compact development. The policies and programs within the Housing Element promote community identity by encouraging housing options that support economic diversity. Natural Resources and Open Space Element policies addressing natural and historic resource preservation and enhancement, energy conservation, provision and maintenance of open space and recreational facilities, also promote local and regional livability.



Make Your Voice Heard

The only people who can truly create the vision for Pinole are the residents. Contribute and have an impact in shaping the future of Pinole by taking out online survey on Community Character. Join us at one or more of our public workshops. Or email your ideas to info@pinolegeneralplan.com.