

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: David A. Bobardt, Community Development Director
By: Joseph R. Vacca, Principal Planner



DATE: April 4, 2013 (CC Meeting of 4/17/2013)

SUBJECT: Consider the City of Moorpark 2012 General Plan Annual Report Including the Housing Element Progress Report

BACKGROUND

Government Code Section 65400 requires the planning agency of each local government to provide an annual report on the status of the General Plan and its implementation, including progress in meeting the community's share of regional housing needs, with information concerning City efforts to remove local governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing. This annual report, covering activities in the prior calendar year, must be provided to the City Council, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by April 1st of each year, while the City is technically three weeks late there is no penalty.

DISCUSSION

STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Land Use Element

A comprehensive update to the Land Use Element was adopted in May 1992. A number of substantial amendments have been made to this element since that time. These include the conversion of about 1,000 acres of rural residential designated land to higher residential densities and open space, the adoption or substantial amendment of three (3) Specific Plans (Carlsberg, Downtown, and Moorpark Highlands), and the approval of a voter-initiated City Urban Restriction Boundary (CURB). The Community Development Department has been working on a comprehensive update to this element, along with the Circulation Element, with hearings now expected in 2013.

Amendments to the Land Use Element Approved in 2012

- None.

Land Use Element Amendment Applications in Process in 2012 that have Completed Pre-Screening

- General Plan Amendment No. 2005-02 – This request from John C. Chiu is to add a new residential density category to the General Plan which would allow up to 25 units per acre. This density is not currently allowed by the General Plan, as the highest planned density currently allows up to 20 units per acre. This request is part of a request to construct 60 condominium units on a 2.4-acre site in downtown Moorpark. The application is currently incomplete.
- General Plan Amendment No. 2010-01 – On November 20, 2009, Pacific Communities filed an application to change the planned use of approximately 37 acres on the south side of Los Angeles Avenue between Leta Yancy Road and Maureen Lane from 32 acres “High Density Residential” and 5 acres “Very High Density Residential” to 24 Acres “High Density Residential” and 13 Acres “Very High Density Residential” to allow for a proposed residential development of 157 single-family detached homes and 300 condominium homes. The application was considered by the City Council on February 17, 2010, and was allowed to proceed with the filing of a General Plan Amendment application. An application has been filed but it is incomplete.
- General Plan Amendment No. 2012-01 – On October 20, 1993, Dennis Hardgrave, on behalf of Hitch Ranch, filed an application on approximately 283 acres located north of the Union Pacific Railroad, west of Walnut Canyon Road (Highway 23), and east and west of Gabbert Road, for the development of Specific Plan No. 1 (Hitch Ranch), for development of up to 620 dwelling units, three (3) acres of institutional use, and open space. On June 3, 2009, the City Council, to assist in meeting state goals for affordable housing required in the City’s Housing Element Update, authorized the processing of an alternative with 755 units, up from 620 units identified as the maximum in the Land Use Element of the General Plan. This General Plan Amendment application was updated on January 3, 2012, for the development of up to 755 units. Preliminary draft working documents for the Specific Plan and EIR have been submitted to staff for internal review, which is underway. An updated Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released on May 8, 2012, with public comments due by June 11, 2012. Comments were received and are being reviewed while the Draft EIR is being completed.

Pre-Screening Applications for Land Use Element Amendments

City Council Resolution No. 99-1578 (updated by Resolution No. 2008-2672 subsequent to the timeframe of this report) requires pre-screening of requests for General Plan amendments, based on adopted criteria, prior to submittal of formal General Plan amendment applications. The following pre-screening applications were on file with the City during the timeframe of this report:

- PS 2008-02 – On May 29, 2008, A-B Properties filed a pre-screening application to change the land use designation on 88.2 acres at the northerly terminus of Gabbert Road from “Rural Low Density Residential” to “Light Industrial”, “Rural High Density Residential”, and “Medium Low Density Residential” to develop an industrial technology park and two gated residential neighborhoods. This application has since been amended, eliminating the proposed industrial designation. The application was considered by the City Council on February 17, 2010, and was allowed to proceed with the filing of a General Plan Amendment application; however, an application has not been filed to date.
- PS 2010-01 - On May 20, 2010, James Rasmussen, Moorpark Property 67 LLC, filed an application to amend the “Rural Low Density Residential” land use designation on 67 acres west of Gabbert Road to allow for higher density residential uses. The application includes requests to provide “Rural Low Density Residential”, “High Density Residential”, “Very High Density Residential” and “Open Space” land uses, to allow construction of 271 total dwelling units (150 senior apartments, 36 attached condominiums, 66 single family detached units, and 5 large lot custom home lots). This proposal was considered by the Community and Economic Development Committee on August 24, 2011. The Committee directed removal of the very high density uses and replacement with high density uses before this application is considered by the City Council. Staff is working with the applicant on various options for design, uses, and density and expects to take a revised plan to the Community and Economic Development Committee on April 17, 2013.
- PS 2012-01 - On May 30, 2012, 1 Moorpark, LLC, (c/o Ernie Mansi), filed an application for a General Plan Amendment (GPA) Pre-Screening to change the land use designation on 49.52 Acres at the Northwest corner of Casey Road and Walnut Canyon Road from Rural Low (RL) to Very High (VH) Density Residential Planned Development (RPD), to allow for the filing of a GPA application along with other entitlement applications for a proposed 390 unit Senior Continuing Care Retirement Community. This application was deemed complete on December 1, 2012. On March 20, 2013 the Community and Economic Development Committee recommended that the City Council authorize submittal of a General Plan Amendment, Development Agreement and other applicable applications. This proposal will be scheduled for a public hearing before the City Council in the near future.
- PS 2012-02 - On October 26, 2012, Residential Strategies, LLC filed an application for a General Plan Amendment Pre-screening proposing to expand the City’s corporate boundaries and CURB to develop between 552 and 765 homes of various densities on 665.9 acres of a 3,805.7 acre site north of Moorpark College on land currently outside the City corporate boundaries. General Plan Pre-Screening application for a proposed 552-766

home development outside of the City limits and outside of the City Urban Restriction Boundary (Moorpark CURB) on approximately 510 acres of a 3,844-acre site north of Moorpark College. On February 27, 2013, a workshop was held at the Moorpark City Hall, to consider this General Plan Pre-Screening application and this item is pending further action by either the City's Community and Economic Development Committee or the City Council, on whether or not to allow an application for a General Plan Amendment to proceed through the review process.

Circulation Element

An updated General Plan Circulation Element was adopted in May 1992. Further analysis of circulation system alternatives continued in 1999 with the approval of Specific Plan No. 2. The adoption of Specific Plan No. 2 included a circulation system amendment to allow for the construction of an extension of Spring Road, to function as a connecting arterial between Los Angeles Avenue and Walnut Canyon Road, through the central portion of the City, establishing an additional north/south corridor. Specific Plan No. 2 also includes right-of-way reservations for the SR-23 and SR-118 arterials across the project site.

The city-wide equestrian and bicycle trails were expanded by the adoption of a Class 1 and Class 2 bicycle trail within Specific Plan No. 2, and the addition of a segment of the city-wide and regional connection of equestrian trails to serve the northern portion of the community. Modification No. 2 to Tract 4928 (Toll Brothers), approved in 1999, included an alignment alteration to provide an expanded "C" Street (now Championship Drive) right-of-way which includes an equestrian/multi-use trail alignment.

Measure "S", adopted by the voters of the City of Moorpark in January 1999, restricted the future eastern extension of Broadway to serve circulation needs of potential agricultural, open space, or recreational uses in the portion of the planning area northeast of the City limits.

City staff is currently studying potential future alignments and appropriate improvements for the SR-23 Bypass and SR-118 Bypass currently included on the Highway Network map in the Circulation Element. These are being considered in a comprehensive update to Circulation Element currently under preparation.

Amendments to the Circulation Element Approved in 2012

None.

Circulation Element Amendment Applications in Process in 2012 that have Completed Pre-Screening

None.

Pre-Screening Applications for Circulation Element Amendments

None.

Noise Element

The Noise Element was amended in 1998, satisfying Implementation Measure No. 2 in the Land Use Element that required an update of the Noise Element to reflect the City's land use and circulation plans. A Noise Ordinance was also adopted.

Amendments to the Noise Element Approved in 2012

None.

Noise Element Amendment Applications in Process in 2012 that have Completed Pre-Screening

None.

Pre-Screening Applications for Noise Element Amendments

None.

Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) Element

The OSCAR Element is a combined element, meeting State mandates for an Open Space Element and Conservation Element, and providing an optional Recreation Element. The City adopted the OSCAR Element in August 1986.

In 1996, the City Council approved a contract with a consultant to prepare an updated OSCAR Element. A final draft was prepared, received staff review and was anticipated to go to public hearing late in 1999. However, due to the adoption of a Voter Initiative Measure "S", several provisions of the OSCAR Element require revision. The Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission held a joint workshop on the draft element in May 2000. The Parks and Recreation Commission gave further review to the document in July 2000. The rewritten element was discussed at public workshops before the Planning Commission in June and August 2001. Hearings were held by the Planning Commission in September 2001. In October 2001, the City Council considered the draft element and referred it to an ad-hoc committee for further study. In 2007, this assignment was transferred to the Community and Economic Development (standing) Committee. The Element is presently being redrafted by staff. The update will include goals and policies on stormwater quality to address National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) issues, as well as goals and policies related to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Amendments to the Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element Approved in 2012

None.

Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element Amendment Applications in Process in 2012 that have Completed Pre-Screening

None.

Pre-Screening Applications for Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element Amendments

None.

Safety Element

The Safety Element was approved in April 2001. This update includes information and environmental studies related to the West Simi Valley Alquist-Priolo Zone. The adopted Safety Element includes the most recent information on earthquake faults, including identification of active faults and policies on setbacks and development constraints.

Amendments to the Safety Element Approved in 2012

None.

Safety Element Amendment Applications in Process in 2012 that have Completed Pre-Screening

None.

Pre-Screening Applications for Safety Element Amendments

None.

Housing Element

The current Housing Element was approved by the City On May 16, 2012, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2012-3105, approving the 2006-2014 Housing Element Update, and it was subsequently certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The City's progress to date in implementing the Housing Element is discussed below. The City is preparing an updated Housing Element to meet new housing needs targets for 2014-2021.

Amendments to the Housing Element Approved in 2012

None.

Housing Element Amendment Applications in Process in 2012 that have Completed Pre-Screening

None.

Pre-Screening Applications for Housing Element Amendments

None.

Progress in Implementing the Housing Element, Including Meeting the Local Share of the Regional Housing Needs

Share of Regional Housing Needs - The City's fair share for affordable housing units under the 2006-2014 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: LOCAL SHARE OF REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS

| | 2006-2014 RHNA | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Income Group | Number | Percentage |
| Very Low | 363 | 22.4% |
| Low | 292 | 18.1% |
| Moderate | 335 | 20.7% |
| High | 627 | 38.8% |
| TOTAL | 1,617 | 100.0% |

Progress in Meeting Local Share - Table 2 shows new housing units completed since January 1, 2006. This table includes the number of units affordable by households with incomes categorized as Very Low (less than 50 percent of County median income), Low (50-80 percent of County median income), Moderate (80-120 percent of County median income), or High (greater than 120 percent of County median income), based on estimated original sales or rental price. Units affordable to very-low and low-income residents were all secured through development agreements with the City. Moderate income units include both market rate units and units with rents or sales prices restricted by development agreements. It should be noted that in this RHNA reporting period, the City lost 37 rental units affordable to very low income households as the terms of the bond financing for an apartment project allowed these units to convert to market rate in September 2007. In addition, there have been additional constraints in meeting the General Plan Housing goals for development of affordable housing projects and units, due to the termination of redevelopment activities as a result of court decisions on AB1X 26 and AB1X 27.

TABLE 2: NEW HOUSING UNITS COMPLETED JANUARY 2006 – DECEMBER 2012

| Tract Map No./(Project Name) | Affordability | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Very Low | Low | Mod. | High | Total |
| Tr. 4928 (Country Club Est.) | - | - | - | 49 | 49 |
| Tr. 5045 (Moorpark Highlands) | - | 28 | 74 | 294 | 396 |
| Tr. 5187/5405 (Meridian Hills) | - | - | - | 65 | 65 |
| Tr. 5133 (Canterbury Lane) | - | 7 | 31 | 37 | 75 |
| Area Housing Authority of VC | 16 | 4 | - | - | 20 |
| Miscellaneous Units (Including 2 nd Dwellings) | - | - | 12 | 11 | 22 |
| Units Lost (Demolished or Destroyed) | - | - | (-24) | - | (-24) |
| Total Units Completed | 16 | 39 | 93 | 456 | 603 |
| 2006-2014 Draft RHNA Share | 363 | 292 | 335 | 627 | 1,617 |
| (% Draft RHNA Share Met) | (0.4%) | (13.3%) | (27.7%) | (72.7%) | (37.3%) |

Table 3 shows units in various stages of construction (from site grading to final details) at the end of the reporting year. William Lyon Homes has stopped construction on Tract 5187/5405 and sold the unbuilt graded lots.

TABLE 3: NEW HOUSING UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION DECEMBER 31, 2012

| Tract Map No./(Project Name) | Expected Affordability | | | | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | Very Low | Low | Mod. | High | |
| Tr. 5045 (Moorpark Highlands) | - | | | 177 | 177 |
| Tr. 5187/5405 (Meridian Hills) | 4 | 4 | 9 | 183 | 200 |
| Tr. 5425 (Ivy Lane) | 6 | 9 | 5 | 79 | 99 |
| Tr. 5860 (Pardee Homes) | - | 7 | - | 126 | 133 |
| Total Units to be Built | 10 | 20 | 14 | 565 | 609 |

Table 4 shows residential projects that have been approved but are not yet under construction, with expected affordability by household income.

TABLE 4: APPROVED RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS NOT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

| Tract | Units | Applicant | Expected Inc. Category Served |
|----------------|------------|------------------------|--|
| 5053 and 5204* | 284 | Pacific Communities | 262 High (Market Rate) plus 22 Low plus fee for 15 Very Low |
| 5130 | 110 | Moorpark 150 LLC | 110 High (Market Rate) plus 7 Low and 5 Very Low off-site |
| 5347 | 21 | Birdsall | High (Market Rate) plus 1 Low and 1 Very Low off-site |
| 5463 | 49 | Toll Brothers | 49 High (Market Rate) plus 4 Low and 4 Very Low off-site |
| - | 200 | Essex Property Trust** | 160 Moderate (Market and Restricted) plus 24 Low and 16 Very Low |
| Total | 664 | - | - |

* Pacific Communities is working on a redesign to Tentative Tracts 5053 and 5204 that would increase the number of homes and change the type of project.

** Essex Property Trust is proposing a redesigned project with the same number of units. It is currently under review.

City Efforts to Remove Governmental Constraints to the Maintenance, Improvement, and Development of Housing Units - The City of Moorpark has taken the following steps in recent years to remove governmental constraints that hinder the development of affordable housing units:

1. Continued implementation of the City's General Plan, as discussed previously in this report.

2. Continued processing of development agreements and other entitlements with inclusionary affordable housing components.
3. Continued revisions to the Zoning Ordinance to allow more flexibility in affordable housing projects.
4. Compliance with the affordable housing provisions of the Community Redevelopment Law.
5. Use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for housing services in lower income neighborhoods.
6. Provision of priority processing to projects that include affordability components.
7. Support of changes in planned land uses from non-residential to residential uses with high to very-high densities to provide affordable housing.
8. Support of upzoning of land planned for lower residential densities to provide affordable housing.
9. Support of density bonuses for residential projects that provide an affordability component within the project.
10. Amendment of density bonus provisions in General Plan and Zoning Ordinance to allow for up to 100% density bonus for qualifying affordable housing projects.
11. Amendment of Second Unit Ordinance to make permits for second units ministerial in compliance with AB 1866.
12. Participation in mobile home park revenue bond financing to provide for reserved spaces and affordable rents for very low income households.
13. Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2010-01 (Emergency Shelters, Transitional and Supportive Housing, Farm Worker housing and Single Room Occupancy Units, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act – City Initiated): included a request to amend Chapter 17.20 (Uses by Zone) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow Emergency Shelters, and Transitional and Supportive Housing, and addressed Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act to ensure consistency with changes in Federal and State law. Ordinance adopted by City Council October 3, 2012.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive and file the report.
2. Direct staff to forward a copy of this report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the California Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Ventura County Planning Division.