



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MARCH 3, 2020**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: PLANNING CASE PSP20-0003 – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S GENERAL PLAN 2025 IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65400 (A)(2)

ISSUE:

Receive and file an Annual Progress Report on the status of the City's General Plan 2025 and submit it to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65400 (a)(2).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Receive and file the 2019 Annual Progress Report for the City of Riverside's General Plan 2025; and
2. Direct staff to submit the Annual Progress Report for the City of Riverside's General Plan 2025 to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the California Department of Housing and Community Development, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65400 (a)(2).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

In California, all jurisdictions must submit an Annual Progress Report (APR) containing data on local General Plan implementation, including the number of project applications and approvals, processing times, and approval processes. Government Code Section 65400 requires that the APR be presented to City Council and submitted to the Office of Planning and Research, and Department of Housing and Community Development by April 1 of each year and include the following:

1. The status of the General Plan and progress in its implementation.
2. The degree to which an approved General Plan complies with the State's General Plan guidelines, and the date of the last revision to the General Plan.
3. The progress in meeting its share of regional housing needs assessment (RHNA), and local efforts to remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing.
4. A list of sites rezoned to accommodate that portion of the City's share of the RHNA.

5. The number of housing development applications received in the prior year.
6. The number of units included in all development applications in the prior year.
7. The number of units approved and disapproved in the prior year.
8. Within the Housing Element cycle, the number of net new units of housing, including rental and for-sale, issued a completed entitlement, building permit, or certificate of occupancy, and the income category, by area median income category, for each.
9. The number of affordable housing projects that requested processing under the State's streamlining process (Government Code Section 65913.4(a)); and the number of units approved under the streamlining process, including those that conflicted with the State's objective planning standards.

BACKGROUND:

The City's General Plan 2025 Program (General Plan 2025) was adopted in November of 2007 and includes the General Plan, Riverside Municipal Code Title 19 - Zoning Code, RMC Title 18 – Subdivision Code, RMC Title 7 – Noise Control, and Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines. The objectives and policies in the General Plan provide the City's vision for growth based on input from residents throughout the City.

The General Plan 2025 includes 12 elements: State-required General Plan Elements (some of which have been combined) and optional Elements including Arts and Culture, Education, Air Quality, Public Facilities and Infrastructure, Parks and Recreation, and Historic Preservation. General Plan 2025 includes an Implementation Plan, which contains Implementation Tools with specific actions, responsible entities and timelines. The Implementation Tools show how the Objectives and Policies of the General Plan will be implemented.

Since 2007, updates have been made to a number of General Plan Elements with the most recent significant update being the 5th Cycle Housing Element, which was adopted by the City in October 2017 and determined by Department of Housing and Community Development to be in full compliance with State Housing Element law in June 2018.

The Annual Progress Report (APR) reflects the City's progress and fulfilling general plan objectives and policies in the 2019 calendar year. State law requires the APR be presented to the City Council for review to ensure they are informed of the progress toward meeting mandated housing obligations. The APR also provides the public an opportunity to give oral testimony and written comment.

DISCUSSION:

The City's Annual Progress Report (APR) for calendar year 2019 was coordinated with all City Departments to verify progress in the General Plan's Implementation Program and includes General Plan implementation, General Plan course adjustments to improve implementation, correlation of land use decisions with the General Plan and progress in meeting the City's share of regional housing needs and removing governmental constraints to the development of housing.

Highlights of the General Plan Progress, by City Department, include the following:

Community & Economic Development Department

- The One Stop Shop initiated the first phase of its new permit tracking software, which enhances permit processing, plan review, and inspection services. Over 2,500 permits have been processed since its launch on July 15, 2019.
- The Planning Division amended the General Plan and Zoning Code to create better consistency, bringing the City into compliance with Senate Bill 1333.
- Updates to the General Plan included an amendment to the Land Use and Urban Design Element to revise Table LU-5 – Zoning/General Plan Consistency Matrix and add Table LU-6 – Consistency Quick Check, and LU-7 – Consistency Criteria and five project specific changes to Land Use designations within the Land Use and Urban Design Element.
- The One Stop Shop served over 100,000 customers since inception on June 1, 2017 and maintained an average satisfaction rating of 96% throughout 2019.
- The City received applications to develop more than one-thousand housing units, while maintaining a Regional Housing Needs Assessment surplus of zoning that can accommodate approximately 700 affordable housing units.
- Code Enforcement received and investigated approximately 12,000 complaints; and partnered with the City Attorney's Office and Police Department to create the Public Safety Engagement Team to address public safety, health and welfare problems associated with homeless encampments.
- The Arts and Cultural Affairs Division reviewed and issued over 120 special event permits, partnered with local education institutions to promote student development in the arts, held many successful community events, and installed Public Art throughout the City.
- The City submitted and was awarded a \$625,000 grant under the Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Program to streamline housing production.
- The Neighborhood Engagement Division connected with 110,825 residents; held one Neighbor Fest event with over 200 residents participating in a visioning and strategy process; and had 516 volunteers assist with programming, logging over 4,000 volunteer hours.
- The Housing Authority had 584 affordable housing units in the pipeline for development, of which 273 are permanent supportive services.
- The Housing Authority assisted approximately 140 households through the family reunification program and rental assistance program.

Office of Homeless Solutions

- The City applied for a State Homeless Emergency Aid Program grant and was awarded \$606,575 to rehabilitate 2881 Hulen Place.
- The City placed 39 individuals into permanent supportive housing.

Fire Department

- The Fire Department purchased new emergency response apparatus.
- The Fire Department received an ISO Rating as a Class 1 Department, exceeding the policy in the General Plan of a Class 2 Department. Few fire agencies in the United States receive a Class 1 ISO rating.

Police Department

- The Police Department collaborated with the City Attorney's Office, the Planning Division, and community stakeholders to create an Entertainment Permit system, update the City's

Noise Ordinance, and develop regulations for street performers and loud/unruly gatherings.

- Three Crime Fee Multi-Housing program classes were held with over 50 property owners attending and 107 properties currently part of the program.
- The Department participated in citizen-oriented programs and events, including:
 - a. Citizens Academy, a 10-week program to educate citizens on police divisions and bureaus, was offered twice with a total of 61 attendees.
 - b. Teen Academy, an 8-week program, was offered in the summer and had 27 youth in attendance.
 - c. SWAT team participated in 15 community events in 2019.
 - d. Police Department conducted 11 “Know Your Limits” deployments in the Downtown Entertainment District, to provide education on alcohol and getting home safe. 367 patrons volunteered to have their blood alcohol level screened.
 - e. The Police Department wrote 19,441 vehicle citations; 4,878 of which were speeding violations.

Information Technology Department

- Technology projects initiated or completed included:
 - a. Installation of new Panasonic CF-33 Toughbook Mobile Data Computers (MDC) in police and fire vehicles, to better track and connect emergency response vehicles.
 - b. Joined the Urban Areas Security Initiative Regional Task Force to improve regional cyber security.
 - c. Completed the online Alarm Management System for the Police Department, allowing citizens to manage false alarm citations and pay fees online.
 - d. Upgraded 900 City owned lines of services to AT&T FireNet Public Safety Cellular Priority Services, to provide priority and pre-emption capabilities for first responders.
- Received the Future Communities Pilot Program grant award in the amount of \$499,700 from the Southern California Association of Governments to reduce vehicle miles traveled with new technology and data solutions.

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU)

- At the end of FY 2018/19, 3,746 solar interconnections were installed with a total capacity of 30.2 Mega Watts (MWs).
- The recycled water system was expanded with the completion of 18,600 feet of new recycled water pipeline (Jacking Street – Phase 1). Customer site conversion work is anticipated in 2020.
- In August, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was approved with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District to work collaboratively to develop a regional plan for the use of recycled water.
- The total number of publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging stations citywide is 104 Level 2 chargers, and 37 DC Fast Chargers including 24 port EV charging stations installed by Tesla at the RPU owned Mission Square Building Parking Garage; and 12 Level 1 chargers and 1 DC Fast Charger installed by the City and RPU.

Public Works Department

- Completed the Magnolia Fiber Optic Interconnect project, which provides traffic signals with high-speed connectivity from Downtown through the City’s western boundary. The City acquired new closed-circuit television (CCT) cameras for deployment along the network.
- The City applied for a Cal Recycle Grant to fund improvements to the Riverside Water Quality Control Plan allowing organics treatment and increasing biomethane for energy production.

- The initial project study phase for the Adams Street/SR-91 interchange project was completed and a consultant has been contracted to complete the project approval and environmental document phase of the project.
- The City received funding through the Active Transportation Program for the installation of five neighborhood traffic circles in the Eastside Neighborhood. These improvements are anticipated to improve walkability and reduce vehicle speeds at intersections.
- The City partnered with the University of California – Riverside's (UCR's) Center for Environmental Research and Technology (Ce-CERT) and submitted a request to Caltrans to move forward a grant project to retime traffic signals in the Downtown, replace traffic signals, and install new traffic signal monitoring cameras.
- For a 2018/19 reporting period, Public Works improved progression speeds along seven key signalized corridors by an average of 3.6 miles per hour (MPH).
- The City obtained a Caltrans permit to install the only regional lighted freeway underpass using colorful decorative lights at Mission Inn Avenue.
- In coordination with Wakeland Housing Development, Riverside Transit Agency, and the Housing Authority, the Public Works Department was successful in obtaining an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program grant to a pedestrian connectivity project within the Eastside Neighborhood to construct art alleyways, bikeways, and new sidewalks to improve access to transit on University Avenue.
- Environmental and preliminary design work has commenced for the Third Street grade separation project.
- Completed an on-site safety assessment with the Federal Rail Administration for the Third Street and Spruce Street Quite Zones.
- The City received a citywide grant through the Office of Traffic Safety to install new or enhanced school crossings, and pedestrian activated crossing signage.

Museum Department

- The Museum Department renewed and refined its policy for repository collections and is transitioning to collections management software to improve documentation and record sharing.
- The Riverside Cultural Directors' Consortium is moving toward effective citywide arts marketing and collaborative programming opportunities.
- Phase I design for the Museum Expansion and Rehabilitation project resulted in three potential project directions.

Library Services Department

- The City began construction of the new Main Library, with an anticipated completion date in the third quarter of 2020.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

- The City completed the Parks System Master Plan Update with City Council approval anticipated in 2020.
- Received a \$3,700,000 Green Grant to improve two miles of trail along the Gage Canal and a \$2,000,000 grant for acquisition of 4-acres of open space along the Santa Ana River and 9 park sites along the River.
- City park irrigation systems are being installed with CalSense Controllers and "purple pipe" to facilitate future use of non-potable water.

General Services Department

- RPU and City Departments have installed electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 8 facilities including replacement of 2 chargers with upgraded systems. Of these, 13 are available to the public.

Housing Permitted Units

The City's housing obligation, per the 5th Cycle 2013-2021 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), is 8,283 total units. These units encompass all of the defined categories of affordability, from very low-income households up through above moderate-income households. Since 2017, 1,346 units have been permitted in the City reducing Riverside's obligation to 6,937 units.

For calendar year 2019, the building permits issued include: 496 apartments units; 135 single-family residences; and 28 accessory dwelling units. No affordability covenants were put in place for these units, so they serve moderate or above-moderate income households. For 2020, the City expects an increase in the production of lower-income households, as the Housing Authority had 548 affordable housing units in the pipeline. The most significant increase from 2018 in permitted units were accessory dwelling units (2 issued in 2018; 28 issued in 2019).

Housing production is expected to be steady in Riverside, but units for families with moderate and lower incomes may remain below the City's obligation. The City is considering several actions to streamline and increase housing production, including affordable housing, that could include:

1. Streamline the production of accessory dwelling units;
2. Form a Community Revitalization and Investment Authority to promote affordable housing;
3. Update the City's density bonus regulations;
4. Entitle Housing Authority properties;
5. Prepare a small lot/infill ordinance;
6. Create a publicly viewable dashboard of developable housing sites; and
7. Prepare a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) mitigation program.
8. Prepare a comprehensive update to the City's current General Plan that will include:
 - a. A comprehensive update of the Housing Element;
 - b. Revision of the Zoning Code and Specific Plans;
 - c. An evaluation of, and revisions to, the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines and the Citywide Residential Historic District Design Guidelines;
 - d. A Program Environmental Impact Report; and
 - e. Strategic guidance on sustainability and resilience issues.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: David Welch, Community & Economic Development Director
 Certified as to availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
 Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
 Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Annual General Plan Progress Report for Calendar Year 2019
2. Presentation