



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

March 24, 2020
Agenda Item No. 14

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: 2019 General Plan Progress Report and Housing Element Progress
Report (PA2007-195)

ABSTRACT:

State Government Code Section 65400 mandates that the City prepare and submit an annual report on the status of the City's General Plan and progress in its implementation. The primary purpose of placing this item on the City Council agenda is to give the City Council and members of the public an opportunity to review and comment on the document.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Find the preparation, review, and submission of the 2019 General Plan Progress Report is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the actions are not a project as defined by Section 15378(b)(2) of the Public Resources Code;
- b) Review and comment on the 2019 General Plan Progress Report, including the Housing Element Annual Progress Report; and
- c) Authorize the Community Development Director to submit the 2019 General Plan Progress Report to the California Office of Planning and Research and the submittal of the Housing Element Annual Progress Report to the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

2019 General Plan Annual Progress Report

Government Code Section 65400 and the City's General Plan Implementation Program Imp 1.3 requires the preparation of an annual report on the status and progress of the General Plan implementation. Following City Council review, the report will be sent to the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as required by State law. There is no standardized form or format for the preparation of the General Plan Annual Progress Report ("Report"); however, for 2019, staff updated the report format and content to more closely follow the guidance provided by the 2019 Annual Progress Report Memorandum (Attachment A) issued by OPR on March 4, 2020.

The Report reflects the status of the implementation measures between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019 ("Reporting Period"), and does not reflect changes or updates which were directed in 2020. The Newport Beach General Plan was adopted in November 2006 pursuant to guidelines provided in Government Code Section 65040.2 and consistent with Section 65400(a)(2). The Report (Attachment B) includes a discussion of the status of each General Plan Implementation Program (Appendix A), a comprehensive status on each Housing Element Implementation Program (Appendix B), and an analysis on the degree to which the City's existing General Plan complies with criteria identified in OPR's General Plan Guidelines (Appendix C). Staff believes the City has achieved substantial progress in the implementation of the General Plan. Some of the progress is evident in completed tasks such as the comprehensive Zoning Code Update in 2010; however, most progress is illustrated through ongoing tasks and long-term coordination efforts, with updates highlighted for 2019. The Report also summarizes identified priorities for land use decision making for the Reporting Period.

General Plan Update

On January 22, 2019, the City Council initiated a General Plan review and update process. The City Council created and appointed a seven-member resident Steering Committee that oversaw the preparation of a request for proposals for the selection of a consultant to assist the City in providing visioning and outreach. The Steering Committee guided an open, transparent and inclusive public outreach "Listen and Learn" process during the latter part of 2019. However, during this outreach effort, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) was conducting the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation process. The process resulted in 4,832 new housing units allocated to the City for the 6th RHNA cycle, an unprecedented amount compared to past RHNA cycles.

On January 14, 2020, City staff reviewed the progress of the update with the City Council given that much of the context surrounding the potential comprehensive update of the General Plan had changed due to the exceptionally high RHNA numbers.

The City Council immediately directed staff to focus all available resource efforts on addressing the RHNA numbers and updating the Housing Element for submittal to HCD by October 2021. The City Council dissolved the Steering Committee while creating a new Housing Element Update Advisory Committee. Staff released a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant services to prepare the refocused updates in December 2019 and those proposals are currently under review. A housing consultant will be proposed to the City Council for their consideration at the April 14, 2020 City Council meeting. All information regarding the General Plan update efforts including the initiation, evaluation and process can be found on the City webpage at <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/gpupdate>.

2019 Housing Element Annual Progress Report

Government Code Section 65400 requires that each city, including charter cities, provide an annual progress report on the status of the Housing Element of its General Plan. HCD has provided mandatory forms (Excel spreadsheets) and definitions for the housing portion of the Report. The forms include six large tables (Tables A through F), but due to the large size and format, only a summary of the contents of each table is provided in the attached Report. The complete forms are available online at the following link: www.newportbeachca.gov/APR and they will be submitted to HCD in electronic format.

Planning Commission

On March 5, 2020, the 2019 General Plan Annual Progress Report was presented to the Planning Commission. The Commission asked for staff to elaborate on the process of the future General Plan and Housing Element update. The Commission recommended that the report be forwarded to the City Council for review and to authorize submittal to the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The General Plan Progress Report, including the Housing Element Progress Report, is not subject to CEQA, as the actions are not a project as defined in Section 15378(b)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – 2019 Annual Progress Report Memorandum
Attachment B – General Plan Annual Progress Report of 2019