



## Newport Beach General Plan Update Program May 2017

### Background

The City last comprehensively updated its General Plan in 2006 which was a multi-year effort that included a very extensive community engagement and visioning process. Due to the extent of building intensity and residential changes that were proposed at various locations throughout the community, voter approval of the new General Plan was also required pursuant to the City's charter, and that occurred in November 2006.

The City's General Plan serves as the overarching framework for development and includes the following ten elements:

- Land Use Element\*
- Harbor and Bay Element
- Housing Element\*
- Historical Resources Element
- Circulation Element\*
- Recreation Element
- Arts and Cultural Element
- Natural Resources Element\*
- Safety Element\*
- Noise Element\*

*will look at all elements*

\* State Law mandated elements

The General Plan also includes a Vision Statement and Implementation Program.

Since 2006, there have been numerous amendments to the Land Use Element, primarily to a specific property's designation on the Land Use Map, as well as comprehensive amendments to the Housing Element as mandated by State law. The Housing Element was most recently amended (5<sup>th</sup> Cycle 2013-2021) and found in compliance with State law in October 2013. The next mandated update to the Housing Element will occur in 2021.

### Proposed Program

State law encourages cities and counties to comprehensively review the various elements of their general plans every ten years to ensure that elements are both current and reflect the community's vision and goals. Furthermore there have been changes in State law in respect to the mandated Circulation and Safety Elements which Newport Beach needs to address, and new "environmental justice" provisions that are required.

Staff also recommends reviewing the General Plan Vision Statement which establishes the City's ultimate development goals and what is hoped to be accomplished over the next 20 years. While the visioning process may be lengthy and intense, over ten years has lapsed since the current vision was created. Revisiting the community's desire for the future will be an important starting point for the update process.

The Program may include the following:

1. Appoint a **General Plan Update Advisory Committee** to advise staff and the consultant team in the review and update process.
2. **Land Use Element** Policy Review and Update: As part of the 2013/2014 effort to amend the Land Use Element, all of the policies were comprehensively reviewed with many revisions proposed to reflect current community conditions; these policy revisions should be reviewed for potential inclusion in this update. Un-built development potential should also be evaluated to ensure it reflects the community's current vision.
3. **Circulation Element** Update: Review the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (e.g., deletion of the 19th Street bridge), Master Plan of Bikeways, and consistency with the new "Complete Streets" requirements of the Government Code.
4. **Sustainability Policies**: The community has expressed interest in adding a Sustainability Element to the General Plan or it could be incorporated into other General Plan elements.
5. **Safety Element** Update: Required by State Law in conjunction with Round 6 for the Housing Element (in 2021).
6. **Harbor and Bay, Historical Resources, Recreation, Arts and Cultural, Natural Resources, Noise Elements**, and the Implementation Program: Review policies and programs and update as appropriate to reflect existing efforts and consistency among policies.
7. Address **Environmental Justice**: Under SB 1000, local governments must either adopt an environmental justice element or include environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in appropriate General Plan elements.
8. **Evaluate vision** for focused areas within the city: Community comments related to recent development applications indicate the need to review the City's vision for the Airport area and Newport Center. This may include a market and fiscal analysis.

#### **Preliminary Timeframe**

- **July – November 2017 (6 months)**: Request for Proposals for Consultant Services; City Council appointment of Advisory Committee, and Professional Services Agreement award.
- **January 2018 – September 2019 (21 months)**: Committee meetings; community outreach; visioning process; draft General Plan Amendments preparation; draft Environmental Impact Report preparation.
- **October – December 2019 (3 months)**: draft Environmental Impact Report public review
- **January – February 2020 (2 months)**: Planning Commission public hearings
- **March – April 2020 (2 months)**: City Council public hearings and plan adoption