

MEMORANDUM

DATE April 22, 2021
TO Hollister General Plan Advisory Committee
FROM David Early and Carey Stone
SUBJECT Policy Options Public Input for April 27 GPAC Meeting

In preparation for the GPAC meeting on April 27, this memorandum summarizes the public input from both the online survey and the Tuesday, March 9, 2021 and Wednesday, March 10, 2021 General Plan Policy Options Workshops for the following topics:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Natural Hazards and Climate Change Susceptibility

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) is reviewing these policy topics and other items at a series of five meetings. As part of the meeting packet for each meeting, PlaceWorks is releasing a summary of the public feedback relevant to the meeting topics to be discussed at each individual meeting.

Additional information regarding the policy topics and options is contained in the *General Plan Policy Issues Memorandum* which can be reviewed at www.Hollister2040.org.

The GPAC meeting dates and topics are as follows:

» March 23, 2021

- Parks and Recreation
- New School Funding
- Farmland Mitigation
- Sensitive Habitats
- Heritage Trees
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Coordination with Local Tribes
- Environmental Justice

» March 30, 2021

- Economic Development
 - Retail Leakage
 - Job Creation

- Tourism
- Industrial Uses
- Airport
- Cannabis
- Circulation
 - Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School
 - Level of Service
 - Roundabouts
- Inclusionary Housing

» April 6, 2021

- Growth Management
- Special Planning Areas
- Residential Land Use Designations

» April 13, 2021: Arts and Culture

» April 27, 2021

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Natural Hazards
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Sustainability

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS AND ONLINE SURVEY

Approximately 16 people attended the first workshops, and 20 attended the second one. Each workshop included three rounds of small group discussion with three to five small groups per round of discussion. Participants pre-registered for the top three topics they wanted to discuss. Table 1 identifies the topics discussed by the small groups.

TABLE 1 POLICY OPTIONS SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

Small Group Policy Topics	March 9 Workshop (# of Small Groups)	March 10 Workshop (# of Small Groups)
Arts and Culture	1	1
Environmental Justice/Climate Change	1	1
Farmland Mitigation/ Sensitive Habitats/Heritage Trees	1	1
Growth Management	2	1
Housing	2	1
Parks/New School Funding	2	2
Retail Leakage/Job Creation/Tourism	2	2
Special Planning Areas	1	1
Circulation	1	1

Source: PlaceWorks, 2021.

The City is also collecting public input on the policy issues through an online survey available on www.Hollister2040.org. As of April 19, 2021, approximately six respondents provided feedback on greenhouse gas emissions and five provided feedback on natural hazards and climate change susceptibility. This feedback is reflected in the summary of public input below. All feedback from the online survey will be summarized and presented to the Planning Commission and City Council in May and June 2021 (respectively).

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Workshop participants support all proposed strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).
- All online respondents support policies to create local jobs and reduce water use by encouraging low water landscaping, installing water-efficient appliances, and encouraging conservation efforts.
- The majority of online survey respondents support policies to meet the State’s GHG reduction goals, reduce energy use, increase local renewable energy, and become a zero-waste community.
- Some online survey respondents recommend the City add a policy that encourages a plastic/Styrofoam ordinance to get rid of plastic bags and make all single-use food ware compostable or biodegradable.

- Some online survey respondents support becoming a carbon neutral community before 2045, transitioning to carbon free energy sources in new and existing developments, and transitioning to low or no-carbon transportation.
- A few online survey respondents support efforts to promote sustainable infill and mixed-use development.
- Additional comments from online survey respondents:
 - Adopt a zero waste plan for the City and work with the Regional Agency Integrated Waste Management division on several of the waste reduction efforts.
 - Create a position at the City or County level to manage the Climate Action Plan and coordinate with agencies to achieve the goals and report on progress. Funding opportunities should be available to support this position.
 - Include policies to improve recycling at construction and demolition sites and also improve the permitting processes. This could contribute greatly to waste reduction countywide.
 - Some of the policies for greenhouse gas reductions are already in place.
 - The City should exceed the State's GHG reduction goals and become a carbon neutral community by 2035.
- Other comments from workshop participants:
 - Use a regional approach to meet the State's GHG reduction goals beyond the local and county level.
 - Congestion on Highway 25 contributes to GHGs, planning should address this issue.
 - Increase job opportunities for local Hollister residents.
 - Plan for power outages and heat waves. New communities should be designed to be more resilient to power outages and heat waves.
 - The City should create their own goals and implementation strategies rather than being reactive to State laws.
 - Include a policy that allows residents to build their own windmills/wind turbines.
 - Increase the amount of LED lights in the City.

NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE SUSCEPTIBILITY

- Workshop participants support incorporating all proposed policies on natural hazards and climate change susceptibility in the General Plan.

- All online respondents support policies to encourage existing residences and businesses to transition to drought-resistant plants and advertise water conservation efforts year-round.
- The majority of online survey respondents support efforts to promote tree shading, provide disaster preparedness education, promote vegetation management, and establish a network of equitably located Community Resilience Hubs.
- A few survey respondents support coordinating with local medical providers to ensure that low-cost medical and emergency medical services are available to all residents in the city.