



Setting the Stage – General Plan Implementation

2025-27 Financial Plan

The City's General Plan is the blueprint for growth in the City that addresses all City programs and services. The General Plan has 396 programs that are contained within the eight elements, or chapters, of the General Plan. Summaries of each element are provided below. Each year, the City of San Luis Obispo reports progress on General Plan (including Housing Element) implementation to the State of California, as required. The General Plan annual report that was presented to City Council last spring, [can be found here](#). The full General Plan [can be found here](#).

It should be noted that the implementation of the General Plan, including carrying out the programs in the General Plan require a significant amount of staff time each year, as the programs in the General Plan represent both ongoing core activities as well as one-time programs and projects that help move the City toward its goals. The only element that is required to be periodically updated is the Housing Element, which must be updated every eight years, per state law. In addition, the State closely monitors the City's progress toward successful completion of the programs in the Housing Element. Information on the status of these programs can be found in the annual report noted above. Staff anticipates that planning for the update of this element will begin toward the end of the 2025-27 financial plan. In addition to the programs included in each of the general plan elements, City staff will also be working on implementing a number of other plans throughout the 2025-2027 budget cycle. These plans include, but are not limited to:

- Climate Action Plan
- Active Transportation Plan
- Economic Development Strategic Plan
- DEI Strategic Plan
- Homelessness Response Strategic Plan
- Parks and Recreation Blueprint for the Future
- Police Department Strategic Plan
- Fire Department Strategic Plan
- Vision Zero Action Plan
- Wastewater Collections Infrastructure Renewal Strategy
- Water Treatment Infrastructure Renewal Plan Strategy

General Plan Elements

Land Use Element: There are 73 programs in the Land Use Element. These programs set forth a pattern for the orderly development of land within the City's planning area. This pattern should be based on residents' preference and on protection of natural assets unique to the planning area. The Element also describes the expected level of population growth resulting from construction of the kinds of housing units included in the plan, as well as the kinds of new commercial and industrial development that are responsive to the City's economic needs.

Circulation Element: There are 69 programs in the Circulation Element. These programs recognize implications of land use policy on all modes of movement and sets up policies, standards, and implementation measures that work with the Land Use Element update and address both existing and potential circulation opportunities and deficiencies.

Housing Element: There are 65 programs in the Housing Element. The City updated the Housing Element in December 2020. The changes to housing policies and programs reflect the changing needs, resources, and conditions in the community, and respond to changes in state and federal housing law.

Noise Element: There are 8 programs in the Noise Element. These policies supply the proper protections needed to allow development and mixture of compatible uses while protecting residents and land uses from noise impacts.

Conservation / Open Space: There are 68 programs in the Conservation/Open Space Element. These programs address protection of open space amenities and resources in detail. The Land Use Element works with this element and incorporates concepts such as clustering and buffering open space areas to enhance their protection.

Safety Element: There are 34 programs in the Safety Element. These programs find hazards that influence the locations and types of land uses proposed. The Land Use and Safety Elements share several safety topics. The Land Use Element update adds to the Safety Element through the inclusion of safety through environmental design concepts and to airport safety policies and programs.

Parks & Recreation Element: There are 41 programs in the Parks & Recreation Element. This program supplies active recreation areas and facilities that are essential to neighborhoods. The Land Use Element works to incorporate parks and recreation into the larger land use alternative sites and enhance integration of these resources into neighborhoods.

Water & Wastewater Element: There are 38 programs in the Water & Wastewater Element. These programs supply policies and programs to support adequate services to the community. The Land Use Element includes alternatives that are in keeping with the services available and ensures that infrastructure is sized appropriately to serve future service needs and planning.