



Siskiyou County Planning Commission Staff Report March 5, 2025

New Business Agenda Item No. 1 General Plan Update Revised Visioning and Guiding Principles

Project Summary: Presentation of two versions of the General Plan Visioning and Guiding Principles for consideration and possible approval by the Planning Commission.

- Attachments:**
1. **Draft Visioning and Guiding Principles (Option 1)**, as modified by the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission at the joint general plan workshop held on October 15, 2024.
 2. **Draft Visioning and Guiding Principles (Option 2)**, as modified at the joint general plan workshop and incorporating changes proposed by the Karuk Tribe during the SB 18 consultation process.

Background

The General Plan Visioning and Guiding Principles were developed from community feedback received at workshops held in June and July 2024. The initial draft was presented to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission at a joint workshop held on October 15, 2024. After receiving feedback from the Board and Commission, staff revised the visioning and guiding principles and presented the changes to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on December 30, 2024.

On January 15, 2025, at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission, a special meeting was set for March 5, 2025, to discuss the proposed draft visioning and guiding principles.

For the March 5, 2025, special meeting, staff has created two versions of the draft visioning and guiding principles for consideration and possible approval by the Planning Commission.

Comments

A Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Siskiyou Daily News on February 12, 2025. One public comment was received from the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center which expressed support for the county's ongoing efforts to update the General Plan.

Environmental Review

The General Plan Visioning and Guiding Principles recommendation is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines under the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Because it can be seen with certainty that there is no potential for the proposed recommendation to have a significant effect on the environment, staff is recommending the "common sense exemption" be adopted in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Planning Staff Recommendations

- **Option 1:**

1. Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the draft Visioning and Guiding Principles (Attachment 1) as amended by the Planning Commission on March 5, 2025; and
2. Recommend the Board of Supervisors determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

or

- **Option 2:**

1. Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the draft Visioning and Guiding Principles (Attachment 2), which incorporates recommended changes requested by the Karuk Tribe, as amended by the Planning Commission on March 5, 2025; and
2. Recommend the Board of Supervisors determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Preparation

Prepared by the Siskiyou County Planning Division.

For project specific information or to obtain copies for your review, please contact:

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Siskiyou County General Plan Update

Vision and Guiding Principles

Revised Administrative Draft

Before Incorporating Karuk Tribe Comments

December 2024

Countywide Vision Options

Option 1:

Siskiyou County is a vibrant and close-knit local community, where everyone has the opportunity to be safe, healthy, and successful. We are a friendly, family-oriented community, with thriving schools and abundant recreational, business, and industry opportunities. Local neighborhoods continue to grow while keeping that small-town feel, with homes that are well-maintained and cared for. The county supports and advocates for the private property rights of local residents. The economy is diverse with quality employment opportunities in fields such as agriculture, technology, and renewable resources. Agricultural land continues to be conserved, the county's rural heritage remains strong, and there is an emphasis on common-sense stewardship of the environment and adaptive management of natural resources.

Option 2:

To build a sustainable prosperous future for all, Siskiyou County strives to improve the lives of workers, visitors, and residents alike by focusing on the following priorities:

- Continuing to support local schools and students.
- Strengthening community resiliency.
- Encouraging new business opportunities.
- Upholding the County's rural heritage.
- Emphasizing private property rights.
- Exercising sound stewardship of natural resources.
- Prioritizing local community interests.
- Promoting sustainable adaptive management practices.
- Providing efficient cost-effective government services.

Guiding Principles

1. Hazards, Safety, and Wildfire Preparedness

- Protecting communities from natural hazards.
- Maintaining community health and safety through disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation.
- Implementation of practical climate adaptation strategies.

2. Natural Resources and Scenery

- Responsibly managing natural resources and open spaces.
- Maintaining public access to recreational opportunities.
- Promoting thoughtful and sound stewardship.
- Securing water for agriculture purposes.

3. Economic Development

- Incentivizing economic development.
- Expanding employment opportunities.
- Boosting local tourism.
- Supporting renewable energy.
- Expanding the natural resource economy.
- Encouraging locally owned businesses.

4. Sense of Community and Unique Lifestyle

- Prioritizing rural communities and lifestyles.
- Collaborating and consulting with tribal partners as appropriate.
- Fostering local independence and community resilience.

5. Land Use, Housing, and Infrastructure

- Incentivizing development to meet current and future housing needs.
- Providing efficient, competent, and cost-effective government services.
- Encouraging development near cities and employment centers.
- Expanding educational opportunities.
- Investing in local infrastructure.

Siskiyou County General Plan Update

Vision and Guiding Principles

Revised Administrative Draft

Incorporating Karuk Tribe Comments

January 2025

Countywide Vision Options

Option 1:

Siskiyou County is a vibrant and close-knit community with scenic landscapes, where everyone has the opportunity to be safe, healthy, and successful. From our thriving agricultural industry to the sustainable use of our natural resources, the economy is powered by abundant natural resources, tourism, and ample recreational activities. In looking to the future, local neighborhoods will continue to grow while still retaining that small-town feel, with homes that are well-maintained and cared for. The county continues to support and advocate for the private property rights of local residents. Agricultural land is conserved and the county's rural heritage remains strong. In coordination with private, state, federal, and tribal partners, the county protects from wildfire and natural hazards by promoting sustainable and holistic stewardship of the natural environment.

Commented [KTC1]: "scenic landscapes", page 2.

Commented [KTC2]: "From the booming agriculture industry to the sustainable use of our natural resource, the economy is powered by abundant natural resources, tourism, and ample recreational activities.", page 2.

Commented [KTC3]: "sustainable and holistic stewardship", page 2.

Commented [KTC4]: "Siskiyou County values its working relationship with the Karuk Tribe. We have partnered with the Karuk Tribe to accomplish several projects.", page 2.

Option 2:

To build a sustainable prosperous future for all, Siskiyou County strives to improve the lives of workers, visitors, and residents alike by focusing on the following priorities:

- Maintaining the County's rural heritage, including the right to farm, the right to gather traditional foods, and open range.
- Expanding business opportunities based on agriculture, the natural resources economy, and local tourism.
- Emphasizing private property rights while encouraging sound stewardship of renewable resources.
- Working with tribal partners to increase regional biodiversity, by implementing sustainable forest management practices to increase habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity.
- Increasing support for local schools and creating educational opportunities for rural communities.
- Prioritizing local community interests, including wildfire and natural hazard mitigation, while providing efficient cost-effective government services.

Commented [KTC5]: "including the right to gather traditional foods", page 4.

Commented [KTC6]: " With the Karuk Tribe's invaluable Traditional Ecological Knowledge, we have partnered with Siskiyou County in order to develop a sustainable forest management plan that has increase habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity thereby promoting the overall biodiversity in our region.", page 2.

Commented [KTC7]: "Education. This section requires development. Educational services of rural communities along CA 96? Curriculum? What are the expectations for Tribal children & their families?", page 5.

Guiding Principles

1. Hazards, Safety, and Wildfire Preparedness

- Maintain countywide community health and safety through local disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation.
- Minimize the risk of wildfire and improve resilience against other climate related hazards through forest management best practices, tribal and interagency cooperation, and implementation of practical climate adaptation strategies.

Commented [KTC8]: "(including tribes)", bottom page 2.

2. Natural Resources and Scenery

- Employ sustainable landscape-scale stewardship of natural resources that incorporates Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).
- Manage natural resources to preserve clean air, soil, and water for future generations that is mindful of individual property rights, by coordinating with private, state, federal, and tribal partners to sustainably utilize natural resources.
- Emphasize and ensure continued public access to open space and nature based recreational opportunities while also protecting the natural environment and the flora and fauna that inhabit it.
- Promote sustainable water resource management practices to encourage agriculturally based economic development and preservation of fish and wildlife habitat.

Commented [KTC9]: "Employ sustainable landscape-scale stewardship of natural resources that incorporates Traditional Ecological Knowledge.", page 3.

Commented [KTC10]: "Manage resources in a way to preserve the county's clean air, soil and water for future generations that is mindful of individual property rights while collaborating with Tribal, private, State, and Federal agencies to sustainably utilize resources.", page 3.

Commented [KTC11]: "Emphasize and ensure continued public access to open space and nature based recreational opportunities while also protecting the natural environment and the flora and fauna that inhabit it.", page 3.

Commented [KTC12]: "Promotion of sustainable water resource management practices to encourage agriculturally based economic development and preservation of fish and wildlife habitat", page 3.

Commented [KTC13]: "Support economic development and expand employment opportunities by leveraging the county's natural beauty and abundant resources.", page 4.

Commented [KTC14]: "Provide educational opportunities for the advancement of valuable trade skillsets that could benefit the community.", page 4.

Commented [KTC15]: "Encourage and promote local tourism while maintaining quality of life standards for local residents.", page 4.

Commented [KTC16]: "Tribal entrepreneurship is strongly encouraged within the county.", page 4.

Commented [KTC17]: "Emphasize sustainable natural resource economies, including farming, ranching, forestry and other similar industries as a cornerstone of the local economy.", page 4.

Commented [KTC18]: "Encourage and support locally owned businesses as a way to foster community independence.", page 4.

3. Economic Development

- Support economic development and expand employment opportunities by leveraging the county's natural beauty and abundant resources.
- Provide educational opportunities for the advancement of valuable trade skills that could benefit the community.
- Encourage and promote local tourism, while maintaining quality of life standards for local residents.
- Work with tribal partners to encourage local entrepreneurship.
- Emphasize sustainable natural resource economies, including farming, ranching, forestry, and other similar industries as a cornerstone of the local economy.
- Encourage and support local businesses as a way to foster community resilience and independence.

4. Sense of Community and Unique Lifestyle

- Preservation of rural communities by promoting the right to farm, including the right to gather traditional foods and open range.
- Maintaining a sense of community built on the shared love and respect of the land and acknowledging that our community is built on the common desire to maintain and better what we have for future generations.
- Continue to collaborate with tribal partners to foster local independence and resilience by drawing from residents' self-sufficient character as an asset for creating thriving active communities.

Commented [KTC19]: "Preservation of the remote, rural, uncrowded communities by lifestyle offered in Siskiyou County promoting the right to farm (including the right to gather traditional foods) and open range.", page 4.

Commented [KTC20]: "Draw from residents' self-sufficient character as an asset for creating thriving, active communities.", page 4.

5. Land Use, Housing, and Infrastructure

- Encourage sensible development to meet current and future demand for housing by streamlining the application and permitting process.
- Emphasize and reaffirm the County's commitment to the belief that all people are deserving of dignity and respect, including the right to clean and safe housing.
- Promote development that contributes to community stability while avoiding development in rural areas and areas of unreasonable wildfire risk.
- Invest in quality infrastructure and other services that meets the unique needs of rural communities, including transportation networks, water distribution and treatment systems, waste management, communications, and power distribution.
- Continue to invest in local schools and health facilities to ensure an educated, knowledgeable, and healthy community.

Commented [KTC21]: "Encourage sensible development to meet current and future demand for housing by streamlining the application and permitting process.", page 4.

"Streamline the application and permitting process.", page 4.

Commented [KTC22]: "Emphasize and reaffirm the county's commitment to the belief that all people are deserving of dignity and respect, including the right to clean and safe housing.", page 4.

Commented [KTC23]: "Promote intentional development that ensures community stability into the County's future while avoiding overdevelopment in rural areas and areas of unreasonable wildfire risk.", page 4.

Commented [KTC24]: "Invest in high quality infrastructure, including the county's transportation network and other services that meets the unique needs of residents and local businesses rural communities, including transportation networks, water distribution and treatment systems, waste management, communications, and power distribution.", page 4.

Commented [KTC25]: "Education. This section requires development. Educational services of rural communities along CA 96? Curriculum? What are the expectations for Tribal children & their families?", page 4.