

A

Acres (Gross). The total area of a site, including those areas that cannot be built upon.

Acres (Net). The portion of a site that can actually be built upon. The following generally are not included in the net acreage of a site: public or private rights-of-way, public open space, and flood ways.

Annex. To incorporate a land area into an existing district or municipality, with a resulting change in the boundaries of the annexing jurisdiction.

Affordable Housing. Housing capable of being purchased or rented by a household with very low, low, or moderate income, based on a household's ability to make monthly payments necessary to obtain housing. Housing is generally considered affordable when a household pays less than 30 percent of its gross monthly income (GMI) for housing including utilities.

Agency. The governmental entity, department, office, or administrative unit responsible for carrying out regulations.

Air Pollution. Concentrations of substances found in the atmosphere that exceed naturally occurring quantities and are undesirable or harmful in some way.

Alquist-Priolo Act, Seismic Hazard Zone. A seismic hazard zone designated by the State of California within which specialized geologic investigations must be prepared prior to approval of certain new development.

Ambient. Background noise level which surrounds a listener.

Arterial. Medium-speed (30-40 mph), medium-capacity (10,000-35,000 average daily trips) roadway which provides intra-community travel and access to the countywide highway system. Access to community arterials should be provided at collector roads and local streets, but direct access from parcels to existing arterials is community.

Average Daily Trips (ADT). Indicating the total volume of traffic on a roadway section.

B

Base Flood. In any given year, a 100-year flood that has 1 percent likelihood of occurring, and is recognized as a standard for acceptable risk.

Basic Routes (Measure C). All local roads not designated as Routes of Regional Significance; Level of Service standards apply to all signalized intersections on Basic Routes.

GLOSSARY

Bicycle Lane (Class II facility). A corridor expressly reserved for bicycles, existing on a street or roadway in addition to any lanes for use by motorized vehicles.

Bicycle Path (Class I facility). A paved route not on a street or roadway and expressly reserved for bicycles traversing an otherwise unpaved area. Bicycle paths may parallel roads but typically are separated from them by landscaping.

Bicycle Route (Class III facility). A facility shared with motorists and identified only by signs. A bicycle route has no pavement markings or lane stripes.

Bikeways. A term that encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and bicycle routes.

Buffer. An area designed to provide a separation between two, sometimes incompatible, land uses.

Buildout; Build-out. Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations

C

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A State law requiring State and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. General Plans require the preparation of a "program EIR."

Capital Improvement Program. A capital improvement program is a multi-year budgeting tool which programs capital facilities for construction or acquisition.

Climate Change. Climate change refers to a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer). Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.

Clustered Development. Development in which a number of dwelling units are placed in closer proximity than usual, or are attached, with the purpose of retaining open space area

Collector. Relatively low speed (25-30 mph), relatively low volume (5,000-20,000 average daily trips) street which provides circulation within and between neighborhoods. Collectors usually serve short trips and are intended for collecting trips from local streets and distributing them to the arterial network.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). A grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a formula basis for entitlement communities, and by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for non-entitled jurisdictions. This grant allots money to cities and counties for housing rehabilitation and community development, including public facilities and economic development.

Community Park. Land with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks.

Congestion Management Plan (CMP). A mechanism employing growth management techniques, including traffic level of service requirements, development mitigation programs, transportation systems management, and capital improvement programming, for the purpose of controlling and/or reducing the cumulative regional traffic impacts of development. AB 1791, effective August 1, 1990, requires all cities, and counties that include urbanized areas, to adopt and annually update a Congestion Management Plan. Compliance by jurisdictions allows for increased gas tax funding.

Conservation. The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction, or degradation.

Creek/Stream. A creek or stream, as defined by California Code of Regulations, is a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic wildlife. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation.

Critical Facility. Facilities housing or serving many people which are necessary in the event of an earthquake or flood, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility "lifeline" facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities.

Cumulative Impact. As used in CEQA, the total impact resulting from the accumulated impacts of individual projects or programs over time.

D

Decibel (dB). A unit of measurement of the intensity of sound. The decibel scale is logarithmic; with each increase often decibels equaling ten times the intensity of sound.

dBA. The abbreviation for the "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels which weights or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies to better simulate the range of human hearing.

Dedication. The turning over by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the public function for which it will be used. Dedications for roads, parks, school sites, or other public uses often are made conditions for approval of a development by a city.

Dedication (In lieu of). Cash payments which may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land, usually calculated in dollars per lot, and referred to as in lieu fees or in lieu contributions.

Density (Residential). The number of permanent residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in the General Plan may be expressed in units per gross acre or per net developable acre. Density can be controlled through zoning in the following ways: use restrictions, minimum lot-size requirements, floor area ratios, land use-intensity ratios, setback and yard requirements, minimum house-size requirements, ratios comparing number and types of housing units to land area, limits on units per acre, and other means. Allowable density often serves as the major distinction between residential districts. (See "Acres, Gross," and "Developable Acres, Net.").

Density Bonus. The allocation of development rights that allow a parcel to accommodate additional square footage or additional residential units beyond the maximum for which the parcel is zoned, usually in exchange for the provision or preservation of an amenity at the same site or at another location. Under California law, a housing development that provides 20 percent of its units for lower income households, or 10 percent of its units for very low-income households or 50 percent of its units for seniors is entitled to a density bonus. (See "Development Rights, Transfer of.")

Density Transfer. A way of retaining open space by concentrating densities, usually in compact areas adjacent to existing urbanization and utilities, while leaving unchanged historic, sensitive, or hazardous areas. In some jurisdictions, for example, developers can buy development rights of properties targeted for public open space and transfer the additional density to the base number of units permitted in the zone in which they propose to develop.

Design Review; Design Control. The comprehensive evaluation of a development and its impact on neighboring properties and the community as a whole, from the standpoint of site and landscape design, architecture, materials, colors, lighting, and signs, in accordance with a set of adopted criteria and standards. "Design Control" requires that certain specific things be done and that other things not be done. Design Control language is most often found within a zoning ordinance. "Design Review" usually refers to a system set up outside of the zoning ordinance, whereby projects are reviewed against certain standards and criteria by a specially established design review board or committee.

Duplex. A detached building under single ownership which is designed for occupation as the residence of two families living independently of each other.

Dwelling Unit. A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen), which constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long-term basis.

E

Elderly Housing. Typically one- and two-bedroom apartments or condominiums designed to meet the needs of persons 62 years of age and older or, if more than 150 units, persons 55 years of age and older, and restricted to occupancy by them.

Emergency Shelter. A facility which provides immediate and short-term housing and supplemental services for the homeless. Shelters come in many sizes, but an optimum size is considered to be 20 to 40 beds. Supplemental services may include food, counseling, and access to other social programs.

Emission Standard. The maximum amount of pollutant legally permitted to be discharged from a single source, either mobile or stationary.

Endangered Species. A species of animal or plant whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A report required of general plans by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and which assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action.

Exaction. A contribution or payment required as an authorized precondition for receiving a development permit; usually refers to mandatory dedication (or fee in lieu of dedication) requirements found in many subdivision regulations.

Expressway. A divided multi-lane major arterial street for through traffic with partial control of access and with grade separations at major intersections.

F

Fiscal Impact Analysis. A projection of the direct public costs and revenues resulting from population or employment change to the local jurisdiction(s) in which the change is taking place. Enables local governments to evaluate relative fiscal merits of general plans, specific plans, or projects.

Flood, 100-Year. The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.

Flood Plain. The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding. That part of the flood plain subject to a one percent chance of flooding in any given year is designated as an "area of special flood hazard" by the Federal Insurance Administration.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The gross floor area permitted on a site divided by the total net area of the site, expressed in decimals to one or two places. For example, on a site with 10,000 net sq. ft. of land area, a floor Area Ratio of 1.0 will allow a maximum of 10,000 gross sq. ft. of building floor area to be built. On the same site, an FAR of 1.5 would allow 15,000 sq. ft. of floor area; an FAR of 2.0 would allow 20,000 sq. ft.; and an FAR of 0.5 would allow only 5,000 sq. ft.

Freeway. A high-speed, high-capacity, limited-access transportation facility serving regional and countywide travel. Such roads are free of tolls, as contrasted with "turnpikes" or other "toll roads" which have been introduced into Southern California. Freeways generally are used for long trips between major land use generators. At Level of Service "E," they carry approximately 1,875 vehicles per lane per hour, in both directions. Major streets cross at a different grade level.

G

Goals. Goals are the ideals to strive for, or the desired state of things.

Geologic Review. The analysis of geologic hazards, including all potential seismic hazards, surface ruptures, liquefaction, land sliding, mud sliding, and the potential for erosion and sedimentation

Global Warming. Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans in recent decades and its projected continuation.

Greenhouse Gases. Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere, and clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄), and ozone (O₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Moreover there are a number of entirely human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as the halocarbons and other chlorine- and bromine-containing substances, dealt with under the Montreal Protocol. Besides CO₂, N₂O, and CH₄, the Kyoto Protocol deals with the greenhouse gases sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

Ground Failure. Ground movement or rupture caused by strong shaking during an earthquake. Includes landslide, lateral spreading, liquefaction, and subsidence.

Growth Management. The use by a community of a wide range of techniques in combination to determine the amount, type, and rate of development desired by the community and to channel that growth into designated areas. Growth management policies can be implemented through growth rates, zoning, capital improvement programs, public facilities ordinances, urban limit lines, standards for levels of service, and other programs.

Guidelines. General statements of policy direction around which specific details may be later established.

H

Habitat. The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

Hazardous Material. Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.

Historic; Historical. An historic building or site is one, which is noteworthy for its significance in local, state, or national history or culture, its architecture or design, or its works of art, memorabilia, or artifacts.

Historic Preservation. The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV). Any vehicle other than a driver-only automobile (*e.g.*, a vanpool, a bus, or two or more persons to a car).

Highway. High-speed, high-capacity, limited-access transportation facility serving regional and county-wide travel. Highways may cross at a different grade level.

Hillsides. Land that has an average percent of slope equal to or exceeding fifteen percent.

Homeless. Persons and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Includes those staying in temporary or emergency shelters or who are accommodated with friends or others with the understanding that shelter is being provided as a last resort. California Housing Element law, Section 65583(c)(1) requires all cities and counties to address the housing needs of the homeless.

Household. All those persons – related or unrelated – who occupy a single housing unit.

Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California (HCD). The State agency that has principal responsibility for assessing, planning for, and assisting communities to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households.

Housing Unit. The place of permanent or customary abode of a person or family. A housing unit may be a single-family dwelling, a multi-family dwelling, a condominium, a modular home, a mobile home, a cooperative, or any other residential unit considered real property under State law. A housing unit has, at least, cooking facilities, a bathroom, and a place to sleep. It is a dwelling that cannot be moved without substantial damage or unreasonable cost.

I

Identity. A consistent quality that makes a city, place, area, or building unique and gives it a distinguishing character.

Image. The mental picture or impression of a city or place taken from memory and held in common by members of the community.

Impact. The effect of any direct man-made actions or indirect repercussions of man-made actions on existing physical, social, or economic conditions.

Impact Fee. A fee, also called a development fee, levied on the developer of a project by a city, county, or other public agency as compensation for otherwise-unmitigated impacts the project will produce. California Government Code Section 66000 *et seq.* specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions on use of the fund.

Impervious Surface. Surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as roof, road, sidewalk, and paved parking lot. The amount of impervious surface increases with development and establishes the need for drainage facilities to carry the increased runoff.

Implementation. Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

Infill Development. Development of vacant land (usually individual lots or left-over properties) within areas that are already largely developed.

Infrastructure. Infrastructure means capital facilities (usually publicly owned) which provide for transportation and utility services. Infrastructure includes streets, highways, water lines, and storm and sanitary sewer lines.

Issues. Important unsettled community matters or problems that are identified in a community's general plan and dealt with by the plan's goals, objectives, policies, plan proposals, and implementation program

J

Jobs/Housing Balance. For purposes of the General Plan, jobs/housing balance is defined as the reasonable opportunity for people to live and work within a defined area which generally encompasses the Town's sphere of influence (SOI). The ratio of jobs to housing units in a community or the reasonable opportunity for people to live and work within the Town's Sphere of Influence.

Joint Powers Authority (JPA). A legal arrangement that enables two or more units of government to share authority in order to plan and carry out a specific program or set of programs that serves both units.

K

Knolls. Smaller hills of visual significance that are not considered minor or major ridgelines.

L

Landmark. (1) A building, site, object, structure, or significant tree, having historical, architectural, social, or cultural significance and marked for preservation by the local, state, or federal government. (2) A visually prominent or outstanding structure or natural feature that functions as a point of orientation or identification.

Landscaping. Planting—including trees, shrubs, and ground covers—suitably designed, selected, installed, and maintained as to enhance a site or roadway permanently.

Ldn. An abbreviation for average day-night sound level, which places greater emphasis on noise, generated between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Level of Service (Transportation). Level of Service (LOS) is a qualitative measurement of the degree of congestion of a roadway or intersection. LOS is described by a letter scale from A to F. "A" represents the best service and "F" represents the worst service. LOS E occurs when the volume of traffic approaches the capacity of the road or intersection. LOS E is characterized by low operating speeds and numerous delays with congestion. LOS F represents a forced flow situation with more traffic attempting to use a road than it can handle. LOS F is characterized by stop-and-go traffic with numerous lengthy delays. Definitions are as follows:

Level of Service A: Indicates a relatively free flow of traffic, with little or no limitation on vehicle movement or speed.

Level of Service B: Describes a steady flow of traffic, with only slight delays in vehicle movement and speed. All queues clear in a single signal cycle.

GLOSSARY

Level of Service C: Denotes a reasonably steady, high-volume flow of traffic, with some limitations on movement and speed, and occasional backups on critical approaches.

Level of Service D: Denotes the level where traffic nears an unstable flow. Intersections still function, but short queues develop and cars may have to wait through one cycle during short peaks.

Level of Service E: Describes traffic characterized by slow movement and frequent (although momentary) stoppages. This type of congestion is considered severe, but is not uncommon at peak traffic hours, with frequent stopping, long-standing queues, and blocked intersections

Level of Service F: Describes stop-and-go traffic characterized by “traffic jams” and stoppages of long duration. Vehicles at signalized intersections usually have to wait through one or more signal changes, and “upstream” intersections may be blocked by the long queues.

Liquefaction. The transformation of loose, wet soil from a solid to a liquid state, often as a result of ground shaking during an earthquake.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). A seven-member commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts, and merger of districts with cities. Each county’s LAFCO is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals. The seven LAFCO members generally include two county supervisors, two city council members, two members of special districts and one member representing the general public.

M

Mandatory Element. A component of the General Plan mandated by State Law. California State law requires that a General Plan include elements dealing with seven subjects--circulation, conservation, housing, land use, noise, open space and safety--and specifies to various degrees the information to be incorporated in each element.

Mitigation. An action which reduces the impact or effect of a development or capital project.

Mixed-use. Properties on which various uses, such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential, are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A “single site” may include contiguous properties.

Multiple Family Building. A detached building designed and used exclusively as a dwelling by three or more families occupying separate suites.

Municipal Services. Services traditionally provided by local government, including water and sewer, roads, parks, schools, and police and fire protection.

N

National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

National Historic Preservation Act. A 1966 federal law that established a National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and that authorized grants-in-aid for preserving historic properties.

National Register of Historic Places. The official list established by the National Historic Preservation Act, of sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects significant in the nation's history or whose artistic or architectural value is unique.

Neighborhood Park. City- or County-owned land intended to serve the recreation needs of people living or working within one-half mile radius of the park.

Noise. Any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing, or is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise, simply, is "unwanted sound."

Noise Contour. A line indicated on a map, which connects points of equal noise level.

Notice (of Hearing). A legal document announcing the opportunity for the public to present their views to an official representative or board of a public agency concerning an official action pending before the agency

O

Objective. A specific statement of desired future condition toward which the Town will expend effort in the context of striving to achieve a broader goal. An objective should be achievable and, where possible, should be measurable and time-specific. The State Government Code (Section 65302) requires that general plans spell out the "objectives," principles, standards, and proposals of the general plan.

Open Space Land. Any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety.

Overlay. A land use designation on the Land Use Map, or a zoning designation on a zoning map, that modifies the basic underlying designation in some specific manner.

P

Para-transit. Refers to transportation services that operate vehicles, such as buses, jitneys, taxis, and vans for senior citizens, and/or mobility- impaired.

Peak Hour/Peak Period. For any given roadway, a daily period during which the highest number of trips occur during a single hour in the day, usually occurring in the morning and evening commute periods. Where "F" Levels of Service are encountered, the "peak hour" may stretch into a "peak period" of several hours' duration.

Planning Area. The Planning Area is the land area addressed by the General Plan. Typically, the Planning Area boundary coincides with the Sphere of Influence which encompasses land both within the City Limits and potentially annexable land.

Planning Commission. A body, usually having five or seven members, created by a city or county in compliance with California law (Section 65100) that requires the assignment of the planning functions of the city or county to a planning department, planning commission, hearing officers, and/or the legislative body itself, as deemed appropriate by the legislative body.

Policies. Policies establish a recognized community position on a particular issue. General Plan policies are set forth both as written text and as policy maps, such as the Land Use Plan. These are complimentary; written policies set forth the basic approach to be taken while the policy maps show the intended spatial application of the policies.

Pollutant. Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose

Pollution. The presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity produces undesired environmental effects.

Preservation. As used in historic preservation, the process of sustaining the form and extent of a structure essentially as it exists. Preservation aims at halting further deterioration and providing structural stability but does not contemplate significant rebuilding.

Programs. Specific actions that the Town, either alone or in coordination with other entities, will try to undertake to implement the plan. For example, the Town will under take a program to amend the zoning ordinance to make it consistent with the land use designations in the General Plan.

R

Rare Species. A plant species that exists in limited localities, small numbers, or in disappearing habitat; may become threatened or endangered.

Reclamation. The reuse of resources, usually those present in solid wastes or sewage.

Redevelop. To demolish existing buildings; or to increase the overall floor area existing on a property; or both; irrespective of whether a change occurs in land use.

Regional. Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction, and affecting a broad geographic area.

Regional Housing Needs Plan. A quantification by a COG or by HCD of existing and projected housing need, by household income group, for all localities within a region.

Regional Park. A park typically 150-500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.

Regulation. A rule or order prescribed for managing government.

Rehabilitation. The repair, preservation, and/or improvement of substandard housing.

Residential. Land designated in the City or County General Plan and zoning ordinance for buildings consisting only of dwelling units. May be improved, vacant, or unimproved.

Residential (Multiple Family). Usually three or more dwelling units on a single site, which may be in the same or separate buildings.

Residential (Single-family). A single dwelling unit on a building site.

Rezoning. An amendment to the map and/or text of a zoning ordinance to effect a change in the nature, density, or intensity of uses allowed in a zoning district and/or on a designated parcel or land area.

Ridgeline. A line connecting the highest points along a ridge and separating drainage basins or small-scale drainage systems from one another.

Riparian Habitat. Pertaining to areas adjacent to streams that support natural vegetation and wildlife.

Risk. The danger or degree of hazard or potential loss.

Runoff. That portion of rain or snow that does not percolate into the ground and is discharged into streams instead.

S

Second Unit. A self-contained living unit, either attached to or detached from, and in addition to, the primary residential unit on a single lot. Sometimes called "Granny Flat."

Seismic. Caused by or subject to earthquakes or earth vibrations.

Significance. As used in historic preservation, a term ascribed to buildings, sites, objects, or districts that possess exceptional value or quality for illustrating or interpreting the cultural heritage of the community when evaluated in relation to other properties and property types within a specific historic theme, period, and geographical setting. A principal test of significance for historic property is "integrity."

Significant Effect. A beneficial or detrimental impact on the environment. May include, but is not limited to, significant changes in an area's air, water, and land resources.

Single-family Dwelling (Attached). A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally connected with at least one other such dwelling unit.

Single-family Dwelling (Detached). A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally independent from any other such dwelling unit or structure intended for residential or other use.

Solar Access. The provision of direct sunlight to an area specified for solar energy collection when the sun's azimuth is within 45 degrees of true south.

Special Concern. An animal species considered by the State to be limited in distribution and potentially threatened but not officially listed.

Sphere of Influence. The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area of a local agency (city or district) as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of the County.

Standards. (1) A rule or measure establishing a level of quality or quantity that must be complied with or satisfied. The State Government Code (Section 65302) requires that general plans spell out the objectives, principles, "standards," and proposals of the general plan. Examples of standards might include the number of acres of parkland per 1,000 population that the community will attempt to acquire and improve, or the "traffic Level of Service" (LOS) that the plan hopes to attain. (2) Requirements in a zoning ordinance that govern building and development as distinguished from use restrictions; for example, site-design regulations such as lot area, height limit, frontage, landscaping, and floor area ratio.

Street Trees. Trees strategically planted—usually in parkway strips, medians, or along streets—to enhance the visual quality of a street.

Street Tree Plan. A comprehensive plan for all city street trees which sets goals for solar access, and standards for species selection, maintenance, and replacement criteria, and for planting trees in patterns that will define neighborhood character while avoiding monotony or maintenance problems.

Subdivision. The division of a tract of land into defined lots, either improved or unimproved, which can be separately conveyed by sale or lease, and which can be altered or developed. "Subdivision" includes a condominium project as defined in Section 1350 of the California Civil Code and a community apartment project as defined in Section 11004 of the Business and Professions Code.

Subdivision Map Act. Division 2 (Sections 66410 *et seq*) of the California Government code, this act vests in local legislative bodies the regulation and control of the design and improvement of subdivisions, including the requirement for tentative and final maps. (See "Subdivision.")

Subsidence. The sudden sinking or gradual downward settling and compaction of soil and other surface material with little or no horizontal motion. Subsidence may be caused by a variety of human and natural activity, including earthquakes.

Sustainability. Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.

Sustainable Development. Development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

T

Threatened Species. A plant or animal species which is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

Townhouse; Townhome. A one-family dwelling in a row of at least three such units in which each unit has its own front and rear access to the outside, no unit is located over another unit, and each unit is separated from any other unit by one or more common and fire-resistant walls. Townhouses usually have separate utilities; however, in some condominium situations, common areas are serviced by utilities purchased by a homeowners association on behalf of all townhouse members of the association.

Transit. The conveyance of persons or goods from one place to another by means of a local, public transportation system.

Transit-dependent. Refers to persons unable to operate automobiles or other motorized vehicles, or those who do not own motorized vehicles. Transit-dependent citizens must rely on transit, para-transit, or owners of private vehicles for transportation. Transit-dependent citizens include the young, the handicapped, the elderly, the poor, and those with prior violations in motor vehicle laws.

GLOSSARY

Transit-oriented Development (TOD). A mixed-use community within an average 2,000-foot walking distance of a transit stop and core commercial area. TODs mix residential, retail, office, and public uses in a walkable environment, making it convenient for residents and employees to travel by transit, bicycle, foot, or car.

Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is a Joint Powers Agency established between the County and all cities within the County, including Corte Madera, to address Marin's unique transportation issues and to fulfill the legislative requirements of Propositions 111 and 116, approved in June 1990.

Trip. A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination via a single mode of transportation; the smallest unit of movement considered in transportation studies. Each trip has one "production end," (or origin—often from home, but not always), and one "attraction end," (destination).

Trip Generation. The dynamics that account for people making trips in automobiles or by means of public transportation. Trip generation is the basis for estimating the level of use for a transportation system and the impact of additional development or transportation facilities on an existing, local transportation system. Trip generations of households are correlated with destinations that attract household members for specific purposes.

Tsunami. A large ocean wave generated by an earthquake in or near the ocean.

U

Undevelopable. Specific areas where topographic, geologic, and/or surficial soil conditions indicate a significant danger to future occupants and a liability to the City or County are designated as "undevelopable" by the City or County.

Uniform Building Code (UBC). A national, standard building code which sets forth minimum standards for construction.

Uniform Housing Code (UHC). State housing regulations governing the condition of habitable structures with regard to health and safety standards and which provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of housing in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

Urban. Of, relating to, characteristic of, or constituting a city. Urban areas are generally characterized by moderate and higher density residential development (*i.e.*, three or more dwelling units per acre), commercial development, and industrial development, and the availability of public services required for that development, specifically central water and sewer, an extensive road network, public transit, and other such services (*e.g.*, safety and emergency response). Development not providing such services may be "non-urban" or "rural."

Urban Design. The attempt to give form, in terms of both beauty and function, to selected urban areas or to whole cities. Urban design is concerned with the location, mass, and design of various urban components and combines elements of urban planning, architecture, and landscape architecture.

Urban Growth Boundary. An officially adopted and mapped line dividing land to be developed from land to be protected for natural or rural uses. Urban growth boundaries are regulatory tools, often designated for long periods of time (20 or more years) to provide greater certainty for both development and conservation goals. (*Source: Greenbelt Alliance.*)

Urban Services. Utilities (such as water, gas, electricity, and sewer) and public services (such as police, fire, schools, parks, and recreation) provided to an urbanized or urbanizing area.

Urban Sprawl. Haphazard growth or outward extension of a city resulting from uncontrolled or poorly managed development.

Use. The purpose for which a lot or structure is or may be leased, occupied, maintained, ranged, designed, intended, constructed, erected, moved, altered, and/or enlarged in accordance with the zoning ordinance and General Plan land use designations.

Use Permit. The discretionary and conditional review of an activity, function, or operation on a site or in a building or facility.

V

Vacant. Lands or buildings that are not actively used for any purpose.

Variance. A departure from any provision of the zoning requirements for a specific parcel, except use, without changing the zoning ordinance or the underlying zoning of the parcel. A variance usually is granted only upon demonstration of hardship based on the peculiarity of the property in relation to other properties in the same zone district.

View Corridor. The line of sight identified as to height, width, and distance of an observer looking toward an object of significance to the community (*e.g.*, ridgeline, river, historic building, etc.); the route that directs the viewers' attention.

Viewshed. The area within view from a defined observation point.

Volume/Capacity Ratio (V/C). V/C ratio is a quantitative estimate of the ratio of a street segment, or intersection, volume divided by its capacity. The V/C ratio can be calculated for either present or future conditions. V/C ratios can be translated into LOS standards. At a V/C ratio of 1.0, the roadway or intersection is operating at capacity. If the ratio is less than 1.0, the traffic facility has additional capacity. Although ratios slightly greater than 1.0 are possible, it is more likely that the peak hour will elongate into a "peak period."

W

Watershed. The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake, or reservoir.

Wetland. Wetlands, as defined by the Army Corps of Engineers, are those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The presence and boundaries of wetlands are determined by “wetlands delineations” approved by the Corps of Engineers.

Williamson Act. Known formally as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, it was designed as an incentive to retain prime agricultural land and open space in agricultural use, thereby slowing its conversion to urban and suburban development. The program entails a 10-year contract between the city and an owner of land whereby the land is taxed on the basis of its agricultural use rather than the market value. The land becomes subject to certain enforceable restrictions, and certain conditions need to be met prior to approval of an agreement.

Z

Zoning. The division of a city by legislative regulations into areas, or zones, which specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings within these areas; a program that implements policies of the General Plan.

Zoning, Exclusionary. Development regulations that result in the exclusion of low- and moderate-income and/or minority families from a community.

Zoning, Incentive. The awarding of bonus credits to a development in the form of allowing more intensive use of land if public benefits—such as preservation of greater than the minimum required open space, provision for low- and moderate-income housing, or plans for public plazas and courts at ground level— are included in a project.

Zoning, Inclusionary. Regulations that increase housing choice by providing the opportunity to construct more diverse and economical housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income families. Often such regulations require a minimum percentage of housing for low- and moderate- income households in new housing developments and in conversions of apartments to condominiums.

Zoning Map. Government Code Section 65851 permits a legislative body to divide a county, a city, or portions thereof, into zones of the number, shape, and area it deems best suited to carry out the purposes of the zoning ordinance. These zones are delineated on a map or maps, called the Zoning Map.