The 2007 General Plan contains over 400 goals and 1,700 policies. This is an incredibly large number of goals and policies for members of the public, County staff, and decision makers to review when evaluating potential projects and other changes. In addition, it creates potential problems when trying to maintain consistency between and avoid redundancy among the General Plan and other policy documents.

The Draft County Policy Plan updates and consolidates goals and policies from both the overall 2007 General Plan and the 2007/2013 Community Plans into a single source of policy direction called the County Policy Plan.

**STREAMLINING**

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**NEW REGIONAL SERVICE TOPICS**

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**NEW STATE LAWS**

Since the 2007 General Plan was adopted, laws were enacted that directly or indirectly affect general plans. Some requirements are only triggered when a jurisdiction updates a specific element while other laws take effect in a specific year, impact non-general plan regulations, or alter day-to-day activities. The following are the most substantial and relevant changes in law since 2007.

**Floodways and Groundwater Recharging**

- AB 1241, 2012 | Requires jurisdictions to address the risk of fire in state responsibility areas.
- AB 162, 2007 | Requires additional mapping and policy direction on flood risk.
- AB 1117, 2011 | Requires additional policy direction on stormwater management.
- SB 1263, 2016 | Prohibits a jurisdiction from issuing a building permit for the construction of new development in a very high fire severity zone.
- SB 1000, 2016 | Requires the adoption of goals and policies to reduce unique or compound health risks, prioritize civil engagement, and prioritize improvements to programs for people in disadvantaged communities.

**Wildfire Assessment and State Review**

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**CEQA Traffic Thresholds | VMT vs LOS**

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**Tribal Consultation**

- AB 375, 2008 | Requires regional planning organizations (e.g., SCAG) to integrate the consultation process into their planning processes.
- AB 52, 2014 | Expands the consultation process that lead agencies (like the County) are required to undertake with California Native American Tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission list for projects subject to CEQA analysis.
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Changes from the 2007 General Plan can be broken down into four categories:

- **STREAMLINING.** Make the Policy Plan easier for all interested parties to read, understand, and implement.
- **NEW STATE LAWS.** Laws that were triggered by the update effort and/or passed after the adoption of the 2007 General Plan.
- **REGIONAL SERVICE TOPICS.** An expansion of the Policy Plan to address regional services for incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- **SHIFTS IN, OR EXPANSION OF POLICIES.** Existing policies have been refocused or expanded to reflect changing conditions, laws, priorities, and desires since 2007.

## IMPORTANT SHIFTS IN POLICIES, OR EXPANSION OF POLICIES

The Draft Policy Plan addresses dozens of topics to guide future decision-making on a wide range of local and regional issues and services. This board highlights eight topics and presents draft policy examples to illustrate existing policies with proposed updates and refinements, as well as new proposed policies that could be adopted. Additionally, while the Renewable Energy & Conservation Element was adopted in 2017 and is not being updated as part of the Countywide Plan, this board also includes the pending County Planning Commission’s recommended revisions regarding the location of utility-scale renewable energy systems (RE Policy 4.10).

### LAND USE

- **Fiscal sustainability, with new development that pays its fair share**
  - Policy LU-2.1.1 Equity-reducing development. We support growth and development that is fiscally sustainable for the County. We ensure reasonable densities and setbacks are consistent with local neighborhood and community desires.
  - Policy LU-2.1.2 Fiscal sustainability. We support growth and development that is fiscally sustainable for the County. We ensure reasonable densities and setbacks are consistent with local neighborhood and community desires.

- **Land use compatibility / context-sensitive development**
  - Policy LU-2.4.1 Compatibility with existing area. We require that new development be located, shaped, and designed to fit within the existing area. This includes industrial and commercial areas, as well as residential areas.

- **Pending revision to limit location of utility-scale renewable energy systems**
  - Policy RE 2.6.3. Pending revision to limit location of utility-scale renewable energy systems.

### MILITARY

- **Safeguard military mission and avoid encroachment on protected civilian / military area**
  - Policy MIL-2.2.1. Military mission. We ensure that activities are conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts to military mission.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Comprehensive, landscape-scale planning and conservation of land with viable mineral and agricultural resources**
  - Policy NR-3.1.1 Conservation of land and surface water. We ensure that land and surface water are conserved for future generations.

- **Maintain/improve regional parks & Santa Ana River Trail**
  - Policy NR-3.9. Community-funded local parks, trails, recreation.

- **Protect land with viable mineral and agricultural resources**
  - Policy NR-6.1. Mineral resource areas. We require that new development be located outside of such hazard areas, we require adequate mitigation, including designs that allow occupants to shelter in place.

### NATURAL HAZARDS

- **Further reduce risk to life, property, and public costs that come with flood, fire, and geologic hazard areas**
  - Policy LU-3.1.1 Flood hazard area. We ensure that land use proposals within hazard areas are compatible with the hazard category.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Regional roles and activities**
  - Policy ED 1.1.1. Community economic development. We support economic development that supports jobs and businesses in the region.

- **Countywide business and employment growth**
  - Policy ED-2.3. Industry-driven workforce training. We require that new development include opportunities for education and training to support the workforce.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

  - Policy RE 4.10. Pending revision to limit location of utility-scale renewable energy systems.

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