

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

## Coalinga General Plan and Housing Element



**CITY OF COALINGA**  
*The Sunny Side of the Valley*

REPORTING PERIOD: Calendar Year 2020  
(In Accordance with Government Code Section 65400)

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to comply with the requirements of Government Code Section 65400 for the completion of an annual General Plan Progress Report. This report identifies the status of the City's General Plan and its progress in its implementation. This report represents the Community Development activity for planning year 2020.

The City of Coalinga City Council took action to adopt this report on March 18, 2020 at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Following the presentation of the report, the City Council accepted the report and authorized the Assistant City Manager to forward the report and minutes indicating acceptance to the Office of Planning and Research and the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

## **COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE 2025**

The City adopted its Comprehensive Update to its General Plan (2005-2025) in July of 2009. The update included a full update to the Land Use, Open Space, Safety/Noise, Circulation, and Public Facilities Elements. In 2012 the City completed its comprehensive zoning ordinance update to be in conformity with the recently adopted General Plan. In 2012 the City of Coalinga secured a Sustainable Communities Prop 84 Grant and worked in 2013 to produce an administrative draft and adopted the comprehensive update on September 5, 2014.

The City of Coalinga continues to actively implement the policies of the General Plan including the goals, policies and programs of the Housing Element. The following represents the progress the City has made towards implementing the General Plan and Housing Element during the Calendar Year 2020 reporting period. The information to follow is organized to correspond with the elements of the Coalinga General Plan.

## **LAND USE ELEMENT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

There were no amendments to the Land Use Element during Calendar Year 2020.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT**

- The City is working to secure funding to update various sections of the land use element to reflect the current policies and direction the City of Coalinga is moving.
- Staff is continuing to update zoning regulations to ensure consistency with the General Plan and its land use policies and implementation measures. The City began a 5-year zoning code amendment to review and update the City's zoning code.

## **OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

There were no amendments to the Open Space and Conservation Element during 2020.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

- The zoning codes open space regulations provide for both private and public projects (OSC1-2.2).
- The new zoning code included Development and Implementation of a Resource Extraction Overlay District (*Goal OSC-4*).

## **CIRCULATION ELEMENT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

There were no amendments to the Circulation Element during Calendar year 2020.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT**

- **Cambridge Ave Signalization - CONSTRUCTION**  
The city plans to signalize Cambridge Ave and Elm Ave through an award of a Highway Safety Improvement Grant (HSIP). This project is expected to increase safety for pedestrians as well as control congestion during peak traffic time frames. Preliminary engineering began in late 2014 and construction completion is expected in Summer of 2021.

- **Various ADA Improvements in the Downtown District – ON GOING**

The City Council has shown commitment to bi-annual ADA improvement projects in order to improve accessibility within the commercial core of the City. The improvements include new sidewalks where none exist, curb ramps and alley approaches. The council has made a commitment to the community on a bi-annual basis to budget \$100,000 towards the implementation of the City's ADA transition plan.

- **Phelps Ave Reconstruction – COMPLETE**

The City rehabilitated Phelps Ave with new paving, center median, lighting, landscaping and the first leg of the new multi-use trail. This project was completed in 2020.

- **Various Maintenance Projects – ONGOING**

The City is continuing its efforts maintain a reliable circulation system within the City by focusing efforts towards street maintenance and rehabilitation (overlay, reconstruction, sidewalks, lighting and cross walks). Sources of funding come from gas tax, local tax measures, SB1 and grants.

## **Active Transportation Plan**

In 2017 the City approved an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to further the goals, policies and implementation measures of the General Plan. The Coalinga Active Transportation Plan provides a strategy for the development of a comprehensive bicycling and walking network throughout Coalinga, as well as strategy for support facilities and education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation programs. It includes a Trails Master Plan that provides a strategy for the development of Class I shared-use paths or trails in and surrounding Coalinga. The Safe Routes to School Plan provides a strategy for the City and Coalinga-Huron School District to partner and provide safer and accessible routes to and from school for all travel modes, focusing on walking and bicycling, through a series of project and programmatic recommendations.

## **Active Transportation Projects**

- Sidewalk Gap and Safe Routes to School Project's (ATP Cycle 3). The City is currently designing various walking and biking projects to enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclist in and around the schools for kindergarten through high school. Funding has been secured from Active Transportation Program funds, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grants and Parks Grants.
- Multi-Use Trails Projects (ATP Cycle 4 & CMAQ). The City applied and was awarded funds for segments 10-14 and a portion of segments 9, 4 and 3 of the multi-use trails master plan for walking and biking to provide alternative forms of transportation and recreation for the community. These projects are funded through the State of CA Active Transportation Program and CMAQ Funds.

All of the proposed street improvements projected in the upcoming fiscal years will help meet the goal of providing a balanced, safe and efficient circulation system that includes cars, public transportation, bicycles and pedestrians with the mind set of anticipated growth (*Goal C1*).

These transportation projects also help in maintaining and improving the City's existing circulation and transportation facilities. Through the budget process and street maintenance planning, the City has been able to identify the necessary improvements within the planning area that will have the highest level of impact.

## **SAFETY, AIR QUALITY AND NOISE ELEMENT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

There were no amendments to the Safety, Air Quality and Noise Element during Calendar year 2020.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE SAFETY, AIR QUALITY, AND NOISE ELEMENT**

#### **Noise**

- Due to the nature of the guiding and implementing policies of the Noise Element, efforts to implement this Element of the General Plan are on-going in nature. Projects are reviewed on a case-by-case basis for adverse noise impacts to the environment and sensitive receptors.
- Performance Standards have been included into the new zoning ordinance to address noise related impacts due to new development such as noise or acoustical studies, sound walls, and other attenuation measures.
- When projects are brought before the City, staff carefully reviews projects for potential noise impacts to surrounding properties.

#### **Safety**

- All new construction and certain building renovations are reviewed for compliance with the Uniform Building Code for seismic safety.
- The City continues to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood insurance program.

## **PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

There were no amendments to the Public Facilities and Services Element during Calendar year 2020.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT**

#### **Schools**

- In 2020, the City continued to work with developers and property owners to ensure that adequate sites are reserved to meet the Coalinga Huron Unified School District's projected demand for future school uses. The School District has been improving school facilities based on their approved bond in 2017.
- In 2020, the City continued to collect school fees upon issuance of building permits for development projects in accordance with State law.

### Utilities

- In 2020, the City continued to work closely with project applicants and service utilities to ensure that there is adequate capacity to serve all new and existing areas of Coalinga.
- The City of Coalinga raised water and sewer rates in order to increase revenues to support the ongoing water and sewer operations of the City including the issuance of a \$6M Water and Wastewater Bond for major improvements to the City's infrastructure.
- The City has approved and maintained and implemented the following utility master plans in order to guide and ensure the capacity to serve new growth area identified by the General Plan:
  - a. Wastewater Master Plan, Water Master Plan, Storm Water Master Plan, Natural Gas Master Plan
- The City of Coalinga is currently working on several water and sewer infrastructure projects to enhance the reliability of the City's wastewater and water treatment facilities.

## **HOUSING ELEMENT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

There were no amendments to the Housing Element during Calendar Year 2020.

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT**

#### Housing Element 2015-2023 (GPA)

The City of Coalinga collaborated with (12) twelve Fresno County Jurisdictions to develop a Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element which served as the regional housing document that effectively acts as the State-mandated housing element for all participating jurisdictions. Participating jurisdictions included Fresno County, Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Huron, Kerman Kingsburg, Mendota, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, and Selma.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element was a single document, made up of two sections: 1) the main body, which described demographics, housing needs, resources, and constraints at a regional level and included goals and policies common to all

participating jurisdictions; and 2) individual appendices, which contained details for each jurisdiction (i.e., sites inventory, governmental constraints, evaluation of existing Housing Element) and individual implementation programs for Coalinga.

- In 2016, the City of Coalinga adopted its Housing Element and is currently HCD Compliant. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65400, the City Council is required to prepare an annual report on the status and progress in implementing the City's housing element using forms and definitions adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The housing report will be completed and submitted via electronic transmission at HCD's website.
- The City will be undertaking the RHNA Process in 2021 in anticipation of the next housing element cycle.