

GENERAL PLAN OVERVIEW

California Government Code Section 65300 requires that each city adopt a General Plan to guide the long-term physical development of the city. A General Plan reflects the community's intentions about land use and its relationship to vehicular and pedestrian circulation, housing, open space and recreation, noise, public safety and resource conservation, and environmental protection.

Adoption of the General Plan is particularly important for the City of Laguna Woods as a newly incorporated City. The General Plan will allow the City to function as a distinct and unique community within Orange County and independent of the County of Orange development standards that shaped the community from inception until incorporation in 1999.

Primary among objectives of the City of Laguna Woods General Plan is development of a self-sustaining community affording goods, services, housing, employment, and recreation opportunities appropriate to the needs of current and future residents. The General Plan will inform the public and decision makers about trade-offs that may be required in achieving a balance among land uses for a self-sustaining community consistent with the infrastructure and municipal services capabilities of the City.

The General Plan includes descriptions of conditions existing at the time the General Plan was prepared within each of the seven General Plan components mandated for inclusion by State law: the Land Use Element; the Housing Element; the Circulation Element; the Open Space Element; the Conservation Element; the Safety Element; the Noise Element. Future physical development of the City, as well as the formulation of municipal programs and services needed to support such development, will be guided through Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures set forth in each of the General Plan Elements.

Preparation of the General Plan began with a series of community workshops held throughout the City in early 2001. Perspectives and issues represented to City staff by members of the community set the course for the future envisioned in the new General Plan. The General Plan Coordinating Committee, appointed by City Council, considered each draft component of the new General Plan and provided input at monthly meetings from February 2001 through June 2002. The City of Laguna Woods Community Services

Commission provided input on the draft document at public meetings in March and August 2002. In September 2002, the City of Laguna Woods Planning Advisory Committee considered the draft General Plan and recommended that the City Council certify the Environmental Impact Report prepared in conjunction with the General Plan and adopt the General Plan.

The City Council of the City of Laguna Woods held a public hearing on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the General Plan on September 18, 2002, and certified the EIR and adopted the City of Laguna Woods General Plan on October 16, 2002.