



SAN BENITO COUNTY **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN?

California State law requires each county to adopt a general plan for the physical development of the county. Typically a general plan is designed to address the issues facing the county for the next 15-20 years. Once adopted, the general plan acts as the "constitution" for making decisions regarding a county's long-term physical development, agricultural preservation, and environmental protection.

WHY IS THE COUNTY UPDATING THE GENERAL PLAN?

The County is comprehensively updating its 1995 General Plan to meet the changing housing, environmental, economic, and growth needs of San Benito County and to incorporate the community's vision for the future in the new General Plan. The update will serve several purposes:

- Provide a description of the current conditions in the county;
- Identify planning issues, opportunities, and challenges;
- Provide information to the public on important policy issues;
- Provide a platform for meaningful public participation in the planning and decision-making process;
- Ensure the General Plan is current and internally consistent;
- Create a systematic and integrated framework for implementation of the plan;
- Improve coordination with cities in the county, and other local, regional, State, and Federal agencies and organizations; and

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The General Plan Update is scheduled to take 36 months (February 2009—January 2012).

PUBLIC INPUT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The County is committed to reaching a broad spectrum of the community, including residents, landowners, businesses, service groups, ethnic groups, youth, seniors, and various stakeholders groups. There are several ways interested parties can follow or participate in the General Plan Update. This includes reviewing documents and newsletters, attending General Plan Advisory Committee meetings, attending community workshops and open houses, receiving email updates, attending Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission joint study sessions, and attending adoption hearings. The County and Consultants have developed a General Plan Update website that provides project information, meeting announcements, and published documents. The website address is: www.sanbenitogpu.com

PROJECT CONTACTS

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