

Los Gatos Draft 2040 General Plan Comments from Commissioner Clark

Below are some changes I would like to see made to the Draft 2040 General Plan in the Planning Commission's recommendation to Town Council, as well as some comments and topics for conversation. They are sorted as (A) Wording Changes; (B) Broader Changes; and (C) Topics for Discussion.

A. Wording Changes: Below are recommended wording changes. Some are more substantive than others.

1. 1-15 *Cross-cutting Topic Icons*

Items marked with this icon are designed to identify goals **and policies**, ~~policies, and policies~~ that affect and promote overall community health.

2. 2-3 *Key Terms*

Equality. ~~The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.~~ **Equal opportunity, levels of support, and allocation of resources, regardless of different circumstances.**

Equity. ~~Fairness or justice in the way people are treated.~~ **Differing allocation of opportunities, levels of support, and resources based on each person or group's circumstances and needs, thereby reaching an equal outcome.**

3. 2-4 *RSEJ-2.7 Cultural Proficiency and Anti-Bias Training for Town Staff*

Develop and implement **engaging, substantive, and interactive** cultural proficiency and anti-bias training for all Town employees and support similar training efforts undertaken by the business community.

4. 2-7 *RSEJ-6.6 Accessibility to Town Events*

Schedule Town events using different days, times, and formats (i.e., virtual and digital accessibility) to encourage and facilitate participation among community members with work, school, and other obligations that conflict with more traditionally scheduling.

5. 2-8 *2.4 Implementation Programs. H Career and Job Training*

Coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, **including local nonprofits**, to organize an annual career and job fair with local employers to highlight local employment and employment training opportunities for Los Gatos residents.

6. 3-35 *LU Implementation Program M (Distribute Neighborhood Meeting Guidelines)*

Prepare and distribute information describing guidelines for conducting neighborhood meetings and criteria for reporting the results of neighborhood meetings with project applications. **A neighborhood meeting can take the form of an informal gathering between neighbors to review and discuss a project, an open house put on by a property owner or developer, or any convening of those who live in proximity to a proposed project with the purpose of discussing the project.**

7. 4-5 CD-1.4 *Memorable Places Through Infill Development*
Promote infill development projects that create memorable places throughout the Town through high-quality architecture, pedestrian oriented streetscapes, and age-friendly designed public spaces. **Memorable places, while hard to define, are structures, landscapes, amenities, and other features that stand out compared to sometimes monotonous streets, making these locations more “memorable.”**
8. 8-17 ENV-13.8 *Increase Historical and Cultural Awareness*
Support a community sense of stewardship for historic and cultural resources both through supporting talks, tours, and other programs that increase awareness and promote Los Gatos as a destination with historic cultural resources **and through including Ohlone people in the conversation and planning.**
9. 8-17 8.8 *Tribal Cultural Resources*
Los Gatos is in an area once occupied by the Ohlone (or Costanoan) people, which extends from the point where the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers flow into the San Francisco Bay to Point Sur, with the interior Coastal Ranges most likely constituting the inland boundary. Before **colonization-outside contact**, Ohlone lived in base camps of tulereed houses and seasonal specialized camps. Ohlone ate food gained by hunting, gathering, and fishing. Mussels were particularly important to their diet, as well as sea mammals and acorns.

Seven Franciscan missions were built in Ohlone territory in the late 1700s, and all members of the Ohlone group were eventually **forced brought** into the mission system. After the establishment of the missions, the Ohlone population **dwindled was decimated** from roughly 10,000 people in 1770 to 1,300 in 1814. In 1973, the population of people with Ohlone descent was estimated at fewer than 300 **after what is widely cited as a genocide**. The descendants of the Ohlone united in 1971 and have since arranged political and cultural organizations to revitalize, **maintain, and pass on** ~~aspects of~~ their culture.

B. Broader Changes: Below are some changes I recommend that do not warrant specific wording changes at this time or are not wording-related changes.

1. 1-6 1.5 *The Los Gatos Community*
In the three-paragraph history and context of Los Gatos, the only mention of the Ohlone people is “The Ohlone lived sustainably in the area rich with fertile soils, abundant wildlife, and other natural resources.” Provide direction for staff and Council to include additional information about the Ohlone in relation to the land that the Town of Los Gatos now occupies and the cultural history of the land, rather than only the topographical history.
2. 2-9 *Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Element Implementation Programs*
Add an implementation program after Program K (Community Engagement) to Implement Policy RSEJ-4.1 Acceptance of Government Issued Vouchers. The program should be implemented between 2020-2025 and include Cross-cutting Topic Icons EJ and HC.
3. 4-2 *Community Design Element Key Terms*

Add a definition of “rafters” to the Key Terms. Rafters are referenced in the definition of “Eave” with no definition of rafters the reader can refer to.

4. 4.6 *Implementation Programs. B Commercial Design Guidelines Update (and 4-10 CD-2.26)*

Include implementation of CD-2.26 (Climate Considerations in Site Design) to Implementation Program B and consider strengthening the language of CD-2.26. CD-2.26 plans to “Encourage applicants to consider the Mediterranean climate in Los Gatos and plan for sustainable site design to address adequate solar access, water conservation and retention, and wind conditions.” This will increase the likelihood that this component of the General Plan is implemented, as the policy will be considered during updates to the Commercial Design Guidelines. Additionally, consider strengthening the language of CD-2.26 by adding a formal incentive to encourage applicants or requiring applicants to take measures to accommodate the Town’s Mediterranean climate.

5. 5-9 *Implementation Programs. D Community Shuttle System*

Change the implementation timeline of Program D Community Shuttle System from 2026-2040 to 2020-2025. While this program may not be fully implemented before 2026, the Town should begin work on this during the period of 2020-2025. A community shuttle system is an important option to consider, particularly given current and upcoming struggles with parking, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

6. 8-17 8.8 *Tribal Cultural Resources*

In addition to the recommended wording changes listed above, add a third paragraph focusing on what Ohlone people do today. Many of the cultural practices referenced as historical are still taking place, and Ohlone culture is still very much alive. Additionally, work with Native people to ensure use of the term “Ohlone” is correct (rather than “Tamien,” for example).

C. Topics for Discussion: Below is one topic I think we should consider during our discussion at the meeting.

1. (No page number) *Clarification of “Encourage”*

- a. The word “encourage” is used consistently throughout the document in descriptions of policies and how they will be implemented. While this is necessary because this word can hold many definitions and varies between topics and elements, it is also important to ensure we all understand what “encourage” means in the context of the General Plan. Because a very significant number of policies plan to “encourage” a course of action, we need to ensure this encouragement can/will have an impact and that there are tangible examples of “encouragement.” The Commission should discuss this potential challenge and determine whether there does appear to be a need for clarification.

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