

9. CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION..... 180

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS 181

GOAL CO 1 181

GOAL CO 2 182

GOAL CO 3 184

GOAL CO 4 185

GOAL CO 5 187

GOAL CO 6 187

GOAL CO 7 188

GOAL CO 8 189

GOAL CO 9 189

GOAL CO 10 191

INTRODUCTION

The Conservation Element is a mandatory element of the General Plan, required by California Government Code Section 65302(d). It describes water, forests, soils, rivers, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, cultural resources, and other natural resources. This element provides direction regarding the protection, management, and careful utilization of natural resources within a community and surrounding area.

The Conservation element addresses the following aspects of Clearlake: water quality and supply, air quality, biological resources, agriculture, climate change, and regional coordination on conservation issues.

The following section outlines the goals, objectives, polices, and programs the City can implement to protect natural resources and improve the environmental quality within Clearlake.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

GOAL CO 1

Clean and safe lake conditions for wildlife, swimming, fishing, and boating.

Objective CO 1.1

Protect the quality of surface and groundwater resources.

Policy CO 1.1.1

Meet local, state, and federal standards for water quality.

Program CO 1.1.1.1

Continue to participate in the Clear Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Objective CO 1.2

Prevent sediment erosion and nutrient loading of Clear Lake.

Policy CO 1.2.1

Conform to the requirements for allowable levels of loading.

Program CO 1.2.1.1

Implement policies and programs established in the Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation and Monitoring Plan.

Objective CO 1.3

The City will support efforts to eliminate invasive aquatic species from Clear Lake by 2040.

Policy CO 1.3.1

Support maintenance of Clear Lake in a pristine condition

Program CO 1.3.1.1

Monitor occurrence of invasive species.

Program CO 1.3.1.2

Develop an awareness and monitoring program to inform all Clear Lake users of invasive mussel species.

GOAL CO 2

A city with an adequate supply of clean drinking water.

Objective CO 2.1

Maintain water resources to meet the projected growth outlined in the City General Plan by 2040.

Policy CO 2.1.1

The City will approve proposed development based on availability of water supply.

Program CO 2.1.1.1

Monitor water use and match supply with potential demand.

Objective CO 2.2

Reduce citywide water consumption.

Policy CO 2.2.1

Promote native landscaping for municipal, residential, and commercial properties.

Program CO 2.2.1.1

Develop a set of approved water conservation techniques and best management practices to guide streamlined approval of development projects.

Program CO 2.2.1.2

Convert to native landscaping for all municipally owned properties.

Program CO 2.2.1.3

Utilize state assistance for funding and design of native landscapes.

Policy CO 2.2.2

Promote the conversion of water intensive agricultural practices to less intensive agricultural uses.

Program CO 2.2.2.1

Develop a marketing campaign to promote the viticulture industry as beneficial to economic development and water conservation.

Objective CO 2.3

Reduce surface and groundwater contamination from storm water runoff and wastewater.

Policy CO 2.3.1

The City will maintain compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits and Waste Discharge Requirements for sewage treatment, collection, and disposal.

Program CO 2.3.1.1

Conduct periodic checks of wastewater treatment facilities and pollutant levels of effluent.

Program CO 2.3.1.2

Establish City protocol for monitoring and enforcing compliance with water treatment procedures.

Policy CO 2.3.2

Promote use of low impact development (LID) practices.

Program CO 2.3.2.1

Develop a comprehensive database of affordable LID standards for new development projects.

Program CO 2.3.2.2

Provide incentives for developers to utilize City approved LID methods for new development projects.

Policy CO 2.3.3

The City will give priority to approving new development that can connect to existing central sewer system.

Program CO 2.3.3.1

Establish requirements under the development review process for new development and connection to an existing central sewer system.

Policy CO 2.3.4

Promote proper maintenance of septic tanks.

Program CO 2.3.4.1

Develop residential awareness campaign to inform residents of proper septic tank maintenance procedures and resources.

Program CO 2.3.4.2

Establish a Citywide inspection system to monitor resident compliance with minimum septic tank standards.

GOAL CO 3

Clean and clear air for all residents and visitors.

Objective CO 3.1

Support the County in maintaining attainment status for all state and federally mandated air quality standards through 2040.

Policy CO 3.1.1

The City will continue to comply with standards for state and federal air quality.

Program CO 3.1.1.1

Fire Department to review and revise as necessary allowed Citywide burning dates to control and reduce air pollution from agricultural and other burning operations.

Program CO 3.1.1.2

Utilize the California Air Resource Board handbook in the development review process to ensure new development meets state air quality standards and whenever possible is located at a safe distance from sensitive receptors.

Objective CO 3.2

Support the County in Reducing PM 10 emissions.

Policy CO 3.2.1

Support paving of dirt roads to reduce dust particulate matter.

Program CO 3.2.1.1

Maintain an up-to-date map of existing road conditions.

Program CO 3.2.1.2

Identify sensitive receptors to particulate matter and prioritize road improvements in identified areas.

Program CO 3.2.1.3

Establish mandatory mitigation measures to be used in development and environmental review procedures in order to minimize ambient dust emissions during construction phases of new development.

Objective CO 3.3

Support the County Air Quality in reducing exposure to harmful organic and reactive gases (TOG and ROG) 20% by 2025.

Policy CO 3.3.1

Monitor air quality levels and provide the public with up-to-date air quality information.

Program CO 3.3.1.1

Establish early warning system to alert public to remain indoors on poor air quality days.

Program CO 3.3.1.2

Develop air quality ordinance to allow flexible work and school week/day to accommodate changing air quality.

Policy CO 3.3.2

The City will promote the use of non-motorized transportation to reduce carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide levels.

Program CO 3.3.2.1

Expand infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation, including walking, cycling, and public transportation.

Program CO 3.3.2.2

Work with the Lake County Transit and other regional public transportation agencies to increase the frequency and reliability of public transit services in Clearlake.

GOAL CO 4

A diverse landscape where plant and wildlife habitats, open space, and natural resources are preserved and protected.

Objective CO 4.1

Protect all state and federally listed endangered and threatened species.

Policy CO 4.1.1

The City will adhere to all federal and state requirements regarding the protection of endangered species.

Program CO 4.1.1.1

Include in the development review process the potential impact on endangered or threatened plant and animal species.

Objective CO 4.2

Prevent conversion of wildlife habitat into other land uses.

Policy CO 4.2.1

The City will conserve existing open space and prevent wildlife habitat loss resulting from new development.

Program CO 4.2.1.1

Establish protected areas to remain as passive open space.

Objective CO 4.3

Minimize impact of new development on natural resources.

Policy CO 4.3.1

All proposed development will follow CEQA requirements.

Program CO 4.3.1.1

Review and base development approval on environmental impacts.

Policy CO 4.3.2

Subject new proposals for development in protected areas to scrutiny.

Program CO 4.3.2.1

Establish and enforce development standards for areas near or adjacent to protected areas.

Policy CO 4.3.3

Promote clustered development in lieu of low-density dispersed development.

Program CO 4.3.3.1

During the development review process, enforce clustered and infill development when building in or near environmentally sensitive areas or habitats.

Objective CO 4.4

Maintain a diverse and natural landscape to preserve the visual integrity of the landscape, provide habitat conditions suitable for native vegetation, and ensure that a maximum number and variety of well-adapted plants are maintained.

Policy CO 4.4.1

Require the Lake County list of native vegetation be included among the City's approved list of plants.

Program CO 4.4.1.1

Provide list of approved plants to all residents and developers.

GOAL CO 5

Agricultural land is protected from conversion into other uses.

Objective CO 5.1

Maintain existing quantity of agricultural land.

Policy CO 5.1.1

Owners of agricultural land shall be required to meet development standards for agricultural zones.

Program CO 5.1.1.1

Create development standards for properties within land zoned agricultural.

Program CO 5.1.1.2

Create monitoring program to enforce agricultural land development standards.

Policy CO 5.1.2

The City shall discourage conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural uses.

Program CO 5.1.2.1

Establish a reserve fund to acquire fee simple or easements of agricultural properties threatened for conversion to other uses.

GOAL CO 6

An energy efficient community.

Objective CO 6.1

Decrease energy consumption from new buildings and development.

Policy CO 6.1.1

City shall require the use of energy conservation features and clean alternative energy use in new construction and renovation of existing structures in accordance with state law.

Program CO 6.1.1.1

Develop green building standards for streamlined development review.

Program CO 6.1.1.2

Provide incentives for development proposals that exceed Title 24 by 15%.

Program CO 6.1.1.3

Gather and disseminate information on energy saving measures to residents and businesses.

Policy CO 6.1.2

Educate and promote energy efficiency for existing buildings and City activities.

Program CO 6.1.2.1

The City shall coordinate with Lake County, local utility providers, and educational institutions to provide public education on energy conservation and retrofit/upgrade rebate programs and subsidies.

Program CO 6.1.2.2

Utilize strategic planting of trees and vegetation to reduce heating and cooling costs by providing shade and minimizing draft near windows.

GOAL CO 7

A City that actively addresses global climate change.

Objective CO 7.1

Meet the requirements of State legislation regarding climate change.

Policy CO 7.1.1

The City will conform to the goals, objectives, policies, and programs outlined in a Climate Action Plan to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions.

Program CO 7.1.1.1

Perform a communitywide greenhouse gas inventory to establish baseline greenhouse gas emissions.

Program CO 7.1.1.2

Prepare and adopt a Climate Action Plan that provides goals, objectives, policies, and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to State AB 32.

Objective CO 7.2

Develop a climate change adaptation plan by 2020.

Policy CO 7.2.1

Climate adaptation will be as important as greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Program CO 7.2.1.1

Perform a climate change adaptation assessment to identify vulnerable populations and potential impacts utilizing State CAL-adapt software and research on historic hazards.

Program CO 7.2.1.2

Prepare and adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Plan utilizing the State of California Adaptation Planning Guide as a template.

GOAL CO 8

Enhanced intergovernmental coordination on conservation issues in Lake County.

Objective CO 8.1

Coordinate with regional agencies on management and protection of County resources.

Policy CO 8.1.1

Work with other government land management agencies to preserve and protect biological resources while maintaining the ability to utilize and enjoy the natural resources in the City.

Program CO 8.1.1.1

Participate in the creation of an intergovernmental management team which includes unincorporated and tribal communities.

Program CO 8.1.1.2

Develop and prioritize a list of Countywide conservation issues which are heavily reliant on public comment and participation.

GOAL CO 9

A community well informed on local and regional conservation issues.

Objective CO 9.1

Increase community awareness on conservation issues.

Policy CO 9.1.1

The City will enhance the provision of environmental information and education regarding conservation to residents of all ages.

Program CO 9.1.1.1

Work with the local school district to include conservation education as part of the curriculum for K-12 following the California Environmental Protection Agency's template, Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Curriculum.

Program CO 9.1.1.2

Develop an after school program for kids and teenagers which is centered on environmental awareness and simple at home conservation techniques.

Objective CO 9.2

Increase community involvement and engagement in environmental conservation activities and programs.

Policy CO 9.2.1

Provide adequate opportunities for public input on conservation issues.

Program CO 9.2.1.1

Establish City protocol on advertising and alerting residents and stakeholders of public comment periods for new development proposals or other environmental issues.

Program CO 9.2.1.2

Create and maintain a contact list for interested stakeholders who shall be contact in the event of a conservation issue within the City or County.

Policy CO 9.2.2

Incorporate environmental protection and conservation into citywide programs and events.

Program CO 9.2.2.1

Use city events as a means to distribute information on environmental issues within the City and County.

Program CO 9.2.2.2

Create an environmental awareness campaign which highlights current environmental concerns and provides information on low-cost family friendly methods of improving environmental quality within the City and County.

GOAL CO 10

Important cultural, historical, and archaeological sites managed and protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

Objective CO 10.1

Identify and evaluate Cultural and Archaeological Resources

Policy CO 10.1.1

The City shall identify and evaluate cultural resources during the land use planning process pursuant to CEQA and participate in and support efforts by others to identify significant cultural, historical, and archaeological resources using appropriate State and Federal standards.

Program CO 10.1.1.1

Prepare a historical resources inventory based on State and Federal Standards in evaluating historical resources for their significance.

Policy CO 10.1.2

The City shall continue to solicit views from the local Native American communities regarding cultural resources. Any changes, modifications, or additions to the Clearlake City General Plan will require consultation with local Native American representatives prior to adoption, as specified in California Senate Bill (SB) 18

Program CO 10.1.2.1

Work with the Native American Heritage Commission to identify locations of importance to Native Americans, including archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties.

Objective CO 10.2

Sites of cultural, historical, or archaeological significance are protected for present and future generations

Policy CO 10.2.1

Encourage the protection of cultural, historical, and archaeological sites

Program CO 10.2.1.1

Identify sites of statewide or local significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, or other values for potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and/or inclusion in the California Inventory of Historic Resources.

Program CO 10.2.1.2

Update the City's Grading Ordinance to be consistent California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 2501 et seq. to ensure proper grading of cultural resource sites

Policy CO 10.2.2

Development of sites of cultural significance shall be permitted based on a site-specific investigation conducted pursuant to CEQA

Program CO 10.2.2.1

Develop a set of mitigation measures to be used for any project which may impact the identified site of cultural significance

Program CO 10.2.2.2

Enforce procedures to ensuring that mitigation measures established for the protection of historical resources are carried out prior to development

Policy CO 10.2.3

The City shall adhere to construction standards for development on sites of cultural, historical, or archaeological significance.

Program CO 10.2.3.1

Establish construction standards for the protection of historic resources during development

Program CO 10.2.3.2

Use the State Historic Building Code for designated historic properties.

Policy CO 10.2.4

The City shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archaeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.

Policy CO 10.2.5

In the event that archaeological/paleontological resources are inadvertently discovered during ground disturbing activities, the City shall require that grading and construction work within 100 feet of the find be suspended until the significance of the resource can be determined by a qualified professional archaeologist/paleontologist as appropriate. The City will require that a qualified professional archaeologist/paleontologist make recommendations for measures necessary to protect the find; or to undertake data recovery, excavation, analysis, and curation of archaeological/paleontological materials as appropriate.

Policy CO 10.2.6

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.5), if human remains are discovered during project construction, it is necessary to comply with state laws relating to prohibitions on disinterring, disturbing, or removing human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5).

Policy CO 10.2.7

If human remains of Native American origin are discovered during project construction, it is necessary to comply with State laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Public Resources Code Sec. 5097).

Objective CO 10.3

Public is educated and active in protection of sites of cultural, historical, and/or archaeological significance

Policy CO 10.3.1

The City should support local, state, and national education programs on cultural, historical, and archaeological resources.

Policy CO 10.3.2

The City shall support public and private efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, and continue the use of historic structures, sites and districts.

Program CO 10.3.2.1

Adopt the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

Policy CO 10.3.3

The City should encourage the cooperation of property owners to treat cultural resources as assets rather than liabilities, and encourage public support for the preservation of these resources.