

## IV. General Plan Elements

## IV. GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

This General Plan consists of the following Elements presented in this Chapter:

- Land Use Element
- Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element
- Circulation Element
- Community Safety Element
- Noise Element
- Public Services and Facilities Element

The Housing Element is a part of the General Plan, but because of frequent update requirements in accordance with state law, it is not included in this chapter and has been prepared and adopted as a separately bound document.

Section 65302 of the California Government Code provides as follows:

The general plan shall consist of a statement of development policies and shall include a diagram or diagrams and text setting forth objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals.

The policy statements included in the Rocklin General Plan consist of goals and policies. Some elements also include objectives (the Housing Element), standards (the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element, Land Use Element), and programs (the Housing Element). These terms are defined as follows, as excerpted from the State General Plan Guidelines:

**Goal:** A goal is a general expression of community values that sets a direction or ideal future end, condition, or state.

**Policy:** A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making. It indicates a commitment of the local legislative body to a particular course of action. A policy is based on and helps implement a general plan's objectives. For a policy to be useful as a guide to action it must be clear and unambiguous.

**Standard:** A standard is a rule or measure establishing a level of quality or quantity that must be complied with or satisfied. Standards define the abstract terms of objectives and policies with concrete specifications. For example, Table 2-1 in the Noise Element presents exterior noise level design standards for new projects affected by or including stationary noise sources.

**Action Steps:** An action step is an implementation measure, procedure, program or technique that carries out General Plan policies.

All of the goals and policies are intended to be a clear, unequivocal commitment of the City of Rocklin to the objectives stated. The strength of the commitment is expressed through the use of words such as “shall” or “should,” “require” or “encourage”. The words “shall” or “require” indicate a strong commitment to action and an unequivocal directive. “Should” or “encourage” expresses a less rigid directive. The use of the words “should” or “encourage” may indicate a need to balance the policy with other complementary or countervailing policies or may indicate a situation that requires cooperative action the part of several governmental or private agencies where the City is not fully in control of the outcome.

State Housing Element law requires that the Housing Element contain “Objectives” and “Programs.” In this General Plan, these terms are used exclusively in the Housing Element and are defined below:

**Objective:** The Housing Element must include quantified objectives which specify the maximum numbers of housing units that can be constructed, rehabilitated, and conserved by income level within a five-year time frame.

**Program:** To meet needs and implement policies, the Housing Element must also include a five-year schedule of current and proposed implementation measures and identify the agencies or officials responsible for implementation. Program actions should describe the specific action steps the locality will take to implement its policies and achieve its objectives. Programs should include a time frame for implementing each program action.