



General Plan Steering Committee Shared Commitments

Every member of this Committee is dedicated to the City of Salinas and the success of this update to the City General Plan. This document sets out the Committee's expectations for how the Committee will work with itself, the public and staff.

Conduct

The Steering Committee will discuss many subjects on which all members may not share the same opinion. All members should participate in good faith, and show respect to other members, staff, consultants, and the general public. Members are expected to participate in a professional manner and engage with the subject matter and conversation in a constructive and collaborative way. Examples of the following behavior are encouraged:

- Paying full attention to the meeting and current speaker, whether member, staff, consultant, or the public.
- Ensuring all members of the Steering Committee have the chance to express their point of view.
- Silencing phones and other devices during meetings and avoiding side conversations.
- Representing or raising the views, concerns, or other points of your constituency or agencies.
- Showing understanding of and respect for differing viewpoints, and making a best effort to reach a consensus.

Debate is welcome, but disruptive behavior during meetings will not be tolerated.

Steering Committee members must follow regulations prohibiting participation when they have conflicts of interest. If a member has a potential conflict please inform staff, if possible before the day of the meeting, then identify the particular conflict at the meeting, and leave the room when that subject is being discussed and do not participate in, or attempt to influence, discussion/decision-making on that subject. If a member is concerned about a potential conflict of interest or if the potential conflict raises complex issues, staff and or the member should contact the City Attorney's office.

Consensus-Based Decision Making

The Steering Committee will operate primarily by consensus to facilitate the creation of a General Plan and policies with broad community support. Through discussion and compromise, on most issues all members should support, or at least be content to live with the actions and recommendations by the Steering Committee. However, with a diverse range of opinions and voices, it is understood that the Steering Committee, like the community, will not always be in complete agreement.

In order to inform the Planning Commission and City Council of those issues on which the Steering Committee had the most spirited debate and difficulty in reaching consensus, staff will make note of and inform the Planning Commission and City Council on any Item on which a vote of the Steering Committee failed to receive 75% support.

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

- The Chair and Vice Chair will be selected through an annual election process each July, or at its first meeting thereafter. Interested Steering Committee members shall submit a brief written statement describing why they wish to be Chair or Vice Chair (or either) which will be shared with the other members and the public. At the meeting where the statements are shared, the Steering Committee shall vote on both offices.
- For the sake of continuity, City staff and the Committee might consider requesting that the Council allow the Chair and Vice Chair to serve through the conclusion of the Steering Committee's work, anticipated in 2023.