

**MINUTES
OF THE
VISION SALINAS 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

November 15, 2023

WELCOME AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENT: Jose Luis Barajas, Alejandro Chavez, Dennis Donohue, Natalie Flores, Rosa Gonzalez, Xago Juarez, Robin Lee, Alexis Mendez, Salvador Munoz, Omar Perez, Larry

ABSENT:

STAFF: Grant Leonard (Planning Manager), Monica Gurmilan (Senior Planner), Jonathan Moore (Senior Planner), Donovan Arteaga (Community Outreach Assistant)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- I. Circulation and Conservation and Environmental Safety Element Goals, Policies and Actions
- II. Housing Element

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Alexis Mendez called the meeting into order. He read over the discussion items. Roll call was taken. Omar Perez motioned to approve the minutes. Robin Lee seconded. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. Alexis transitioned the meeting to the discussion items.

Circulation Element

Jonathan Moore began to discussion around the circulation item by giving a presentation on the element. Jonathan reviewed the recurring themes. Salvador Munoz mentioned that for future circulation, we need more throughways throughout the City to decrease traffic. Jon discussed the Greenhouse Gas Inventory from 2019 and pointed out transportation was the largest emitter of carbon dioxide. Jon discussed what metrics are used but the state to monitor the environmental impacts of transportation. Jon mentioned the proposed bypasses from 2002 that were meant to go

around the City and mentioned why it is likely we will not go forward with those proposals. Jon discussed projected traffic volumes without mitigation efforts and explained what those mitigation efforts could actually look like. Jon went over proposed road changes that would emphasize active transportation. Jon went over questions and considerations. Rosa asked what could possibly be developed at Carr Lake. Jon mentioned there was a proposed road.

Jonathan then went over the Circulation goals and policies. Robin asked if there was going to be mention of the train to connect to Gilroy and a possible interchange at 101/Abbott. Xago asked if the City could consider improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the City and if there was anything else to consider about the proposed road through Carr Lake. Salvador asked if there was a masterplan for an ideal development around Carr Lake. Jose Luis Barajas asked how a hard median that protects a bike lane would affect businesses on Alisal St. Alejandro Chavez asked if there was possibility to also work with Union Pacific. Alejandro asked if we could work with larger employers to work with MST to increase the number of people using public transportation through incentives. Alejandro mentioned a road through Carr Lake (including transportation elements) must be considered. Dennis mentioned the City should not lose sight of the environmental restoration of Carr Lake but the General Plan should allow for maximum flexibility with some direction. Robin mentioned she would like to see the City connect the airport to the Fort Ord. Rosa seconded Alejandro's comment about incentivizing transit use.

Conservation & Open Space

Jonathan transitioned the conversation to Conservation & Open Space. Jonathan went over the recurring themes. Jonathan also went over the goals. Robin mentioned that the aquifer on the Eastside of the city is depleted and that wastewater should be recycled to replenish the aquifer. Rosa asked if the city has looked at resilience hubs (designed by community to meet their needs) for resilience efforts, can include cooling/heating centers, could be combined with community centers/opportunity centers/libraries. Robin asked about connecting the creek to Gabilan foothills. Salvador mentioned we should encourage vertical development and sustainable housing. Robin mentioned there's a company that will build a shell over homes to make them passive housing. Robin mentioned a goal should be to improve indoor air quality.

Next Meeting

Monica then transitioned the meeting to discuss the future Steering Committee Meeting timeline and opened it up to group for suggestions regarding future review of the General Plan.

FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Additional Policy Scans
- II. Climate Action Plan

ADJOURNMENT

Alexis adjourned the meeting.