



Trinidad LCP Update

About the Project

The City has received a grant from the CA Coastal Commission for \$80,000 to complete the update of the City's LCP over the next two years. The grant consists of six main tasks: (1) Stakeholder coordination and consultation; (2) Conduct climate change planning; (3) Needs assessment for the Implementation Plan; (4) Tribal consultation and incorporation of the Tsurai Management Plan into the LCP; (5) Development of policies and regulations for the Trinidad Harbor Area of Deferred Certification; and (6) Update the LCP.

What is a Local Coastal Program (LCP)

LCPs are planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission. The City's LCP contains the ground rules for future development and protection of coastal resources in the City. LCPs specify the appropriate location, type, and scale of new or changed uses of land and water. Each LCP includes a land use plan and measures to implement the plan (such as zoning ordinances). In Trinidad, the LCP consists of portions of the General Plan along with the Zoning, Building, Grading and Subdivision ordinances. These programs govern decisions that determine the short- and long-term conservation and use of coastal resources. While each LCP reflects unique characteristics of individual local coastal communities, regional and statewide interests and concerns must also be addressed in conformity with the Coastal Act. Following adoption by the City Council, the LCP is submitted to the Coastal Commission for review and certification for consistency with the Coastal Act.

What is a General Plan?

A General Plan is a long-term policy document that establishes a community's goals and guiding principals for land use, housing, transportation, conservation, open space, safety, noise and other important issue areas. The document's purpose is to help the community plan for future growth, housing needs, public services, infrastructure and environmental protection. All cities and counties in California are required by law to have general plans. A General Plan is closely analogous to the Land Use Plan portion of the LCP.

What have we done so far?

The General Plan update process was (re)started in 2007 as part of a regional watershed planning effort funded by a Prop 50 grant. This grant funded, among other things, the Trinidad-Westhaven Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan. It also funded several background reports and the initiation of a comprehensive update of the General Plan. Updates to the seven state required elements of the General Plan have been drafted and reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council. These include: Land Use, Conservation, Open Space, Circulation, Noise, Safety and Housing. Other optional elements will also be prepared that include Community Design, Historic Resources and Cultural Resource Protection. No part of the update has been adopted yet, so there is still plenty of opportunity for public input.



Vision Statement

The vision statement sets the stage for where the City wants to be in the next 20 years. The policies of the General Plan are intended to help the community reach this vision. The following vision statement has been drafted with input from the Public, Planning Commission and City Council:



“Trinidad is a coastal community nestled in the redwood forests overlooking the rugged Pacific Ocean coast. It is a small town with active community members.

The entrance to Trinidad, town hall, school, local residences, surrounding beaches and trails are clean, well maintained, quiet and safe. The City honors and protects its cultural and historic heritage.

The citizens of Trinidad envision the future with clear views of the coastline enjoyed throughout the community. The view from the Memorial Lighthouse includes many boats in the harbor. There is a viable commercial and recreational fishing industry. In addition, there are small shops in a quaint mixed-use business district that includes locally made products, bookstores, restaurants, clothing and gift shops, and other local and visitor related businesses.

Trinidad intends to maintain the existing small town atmosphere. Scenic and environmental protection are essential to Trinidad’s quality of life and economy. Town Hall is a vibrant center for community activities. We take pride in our City and community services including a community park, library, museum and convenient, safe and accessible transportation options. Trinidad Elementary School remains an anchor for both education and community-based gatherings. Citizens are enthusiastic and informed participants in City Government.

Sustainability is a keystone for all development and a hallmark for daily life and City functions in Trinidad. New environmental technologies are embraced that further protect Trinidad’s scenic, natural and cultural resources. Trinidad’s water resources, including the Bay and streams are unpolluted. Trinidad maintains a working relationship with the County of Humboldt to monitor and comment on activities within our watershed planning area.”

How to Get Involved

Stakeholder Meetings: A series of targeted stakeholder meetings will be held to get specific input from critical stakeholders for certain parts of the LPC update such as for cultural resources and the harbor area.

Public Meetings: A number of public community meetings will also be held, including the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council, Planning Commission and others. Formal public hearings before the City Council will also be held near the end of the process.

Website: Updates, including upcoming meetings and links to current document drafts can be found on the City’s website at: <http://www.trinidad.ca.gov/departments-a-services/planning-a-building-services.html>

Email Newsletter: Updates will also be provided via the City’s Email Newsletter. You can sign up for that list by sending an email request to the City Clerk at: cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov.