

WHAT IS A HOUSING ELEMENT?

- The “Housing Element” is a section of the City’s General Plan. State law requires it to ensure that cities adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community.
- Specifically, the Housing Element includes goals, policies and programs that address:
 - 1) Conserving and improving existing affordable housing;
 - 2) Providing adequate sites for new housing;
 - 3) Assisting in the development of affordable housing;
 - 4) Removing governmental constraints to housing development;
 - 5) Promoting equal housing opportunity for all residents.
- Recognizing that housing needs change over time, Housing Element updates are required by State law and typically done every 5 years.
- For each update cycle, the State gives each City housing goals which represent the City’s “fair share” of projected housing need for that period. Cities are then required to update the Housing Element to accommodate any new policy or program changes needed to address the State’s mandate.
- The City’s next Housing Element update is due in July 2008.

Mixed Use in the City’s 2000-2005 Housing Element

The City’s Housing Element recommends additional incentives for mixed-use development (ex: housing above retail) to achieve a diversity of housing options. Mixed-use also create pedestrian-oriented districts where residents can walk to commercial activities. Staff is currently working on the Mixed-use Overlay Zone for the City’s eastside.