



GPAC Prioritized General Plan Guiding Principles – January 14, 2015

The top eight Guiding Principles as voted by the GPAC are listed below. They will be used by the GPAC in the preparation of the Preferred Land Use Alternative.

Priority Guiding Principle

1. **Foster Economic Growth.** Promote a strong local economy by fostering the growth and expansion of a diversified business community. Support businesses that create good jobs for Gilroy’s resident workforce. Attract visitors to Gilroy’s many destinations.

2. **Cultivate a Downtown Renaissance.** Restore downtown to a vibrant destination with unique retail, entertainment, arts, and dining options. Support and attract businesses. Provide the infrastructure and amenities needed for the growth of downtown. Preserve the historic character while supporting new development, including commercial, housing, and mixed-use projects.

3. **Balance Growth and Open Space.** Focus growth in areas that are already serviced by roads, sewers, and infrastructure. Support a balanced growth management strategy that protects productive agricultural lands and sensitive wildlife habitats while allowing for new economic opportunities. Ensure Gilroy retains its “small-town feel.”

4. **Promote Fiscal Strength.** Plan land uses, their intensities, and their locations to provide the right balance of revenues and costs to allow the City to deliver high-quality services expected by the community. Manage fiscal resources in a responsible and efficient manner.

5. **Foster a sustainable community.** Balance resource conservation with economic growth. Ensure today’s needs are met without jeopardizing the community’s ability to meet future needs. Promote high-quality, long-lasting development that allows residents to meet daily needs, such as shopping, employment, and recreation, in close proximity to their homes. Promote efficient use of energy, support alternative energy use, and protect natural resources.

6. **Ensure Public Safety.** Provide public safety services at a level that will keep the community safe, even as Gilroy grows. Manage growth to ensure that it does not create new threats to public safety, exacerbate existing hazards, or place undue strain on public safety services.

7. **Offer Recreation Opportunities.** Ensure all residents have easy access to high quality City parks and recreation opportunities. Expand park land and recreational programs to ensure high levels of use by both residents and visitors. Provide a variety of sports and activities for Gilroyans of all ages.

8. **Support Housing Options.** Encourage a mix of housing types to create diverse neighborhoods that meet the needs of all Gilroyans. Promote the building, retention, and renovation of quality housing for all incomes, ages, and abilities.