

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A. Policy Language in the General Plan

The policies in this General Plan Update are intended to provide clear guidance to the Town for the decision-making process. In general, policies that use the word “shall” or “require” are mandatory. Policies that use the word “should” or “explore” are not mandatory; these policies provide guidance to the Town, but the Town is not required to follow them if the Town finds that the policy is not appropriate for a particular situation or if there are other factors, such as budget limitations, that would make it difficult to follow the policy direction. Policies that use the word “encourage” or “promote” communicate to landowners, applicants, and others things that the Town supports but either does not have the authority to enforce or prefers not to make a mandatory requirement.

This General Plan is intended to meet multiple, and sometimes competing, policy objectives. Therefore, the Town may not be able to adhere to every policy in every decision that it makes to implement this General Plan. The Town Council has discretion over which policy objective will have priority in instances where there are competing policy objectives affecting a single decision.

B. Terms and Definitions

The following terms and definitions are used throughout this General Plan.

Adaptive Plant Species. Adaptive plants are non-native plant species that require low maintenance and thrive well in their environment.

Assisted Living Facilities. Assisted living facilities provide a level of care that is between independent living and nursing care homes for seniors who only need some support for daily activities. Assisted living facilities often provide assistance for daily activities of seniors in otherwise independent senior housing, including support for such activities as cooking, laundry, bathing, housekeeping, and taking medication.

Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines. The Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines, developed by Stopwaste.org of Alameda County, are guidelines focused specifically on San Francisco Bay Area green landscaping and widely recognized throughout the Bay Area. These guidelines promote a context-sensitive approach focusing on site planning, stormwater and site drainage, earthwork and soil health, materials, irrigation, planting, and maintenance.

The Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines have been adopted by many cities, counties, and regional agencies/organizations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area including, Santa Clara County, City of San Jose, City of Palo Alto, City of Walnut Creek, City of San Pablo, City and County of San Francisco, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Association of Bay Area Governments, and University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources Department. In the County of Sacramento and the Central Valley region, River-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines were developed following the successful example of the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines and are focused specifically on green landscaping in the Sacramento River Valley region.

For more information on the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines: <http://www.stopwaste.org/>

Cal-IPC. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to protect California wildlands from invasive plants through restoration, research, and education. The Cal-IPC maintains the California Invasive Plant Inventory, which is widely referenced by government agencies and private entities throughout California and is included in the GreenPoint Rated Building Guidelines and the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines.

Climate Action Plan (CAP). Climate Action Plans help jurisdictions identify and evaluate feasible and effective policies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through a combination of public and private sector policies and programs. By taking a proactive approach to planning, jurisdictions can

lower their greenhouse gas emissions, reduce their energy costs, protect air quality and public health, and improve the economy and environment.

Complete Streets. Complete Streets are streets that are designed to be shared by cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Complete Streets including facilities that provide space for all transportation modes and often include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, street trees, and landscaping.

Continuum of Care. Continuum of Care refers to the interconnected, full range of services available to seniors, which allows for ease of transfer between facilities as the needs of seniors transition from independent living facilities to nursing care homes and all services available in between.

Cool Roofs, Cool Pavement. A cool roof or pavement are generally light colored and they reflect and emit the sun's heat back to the sky instead of transferring it to the building below.

Dual Plumbing. Dual plumbing, also known as “purple pipes,” is plumbing that uses two independent piping systems that deliver potable or reclaimed water.

Energy or Water Efficiency Audit. An energy or water efficiency audit is an evaluation, by a trained professional, of the energy or water efficiency of a building often done at the point-of-sale or prior to substantial remodels.

Green Roofs. A green roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. Green roofs capture and filter stormwater as well as reduce heat loss through the roof, providing additional insulation for the building.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). Greenhouse gas emissions are gases that are emitted into the atmosphere through both natural and man-made processes and remain trapped in the atmosphere. A complete list of GHG

gasses can be found in the Existing Conditions Report for this General Plan Update.

GreenPoint Rated Building Guidelines. The GreenPoint Rated Building Guidelines, developed by Build-It-Green in partnership with Stopwaste.org of Alameda County. These guidelines are widely-recognized green building standards specific to the San Francisco Bay Area and have already been adopted by the Town of Los Gatos. These guidelines address the design, construction, and operation of new homes and remodels.

<http://www.builditgreen.org/greenpoint-rated/guidelines>

Invasive Plants. Invasive plants are plants introduced by humans into a region, often spreading aggressively and destroying wildlife habitat. Invasive plants can be native or non-native species.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). LEED is a green building certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit organization devoted to developing cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings throughout the U.S. LEED uses a point system to rate the energy-efficiency of the design, construction, and operation of new construction and the renovation of existing buildings. LEED offers four ratings for qualified buildings, from lowest to highest rating: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>

Lifecycle Cost Analysis. A lifecycle cost analysis is the comprehensive investigation and valuation of the environmental impacts of a given product or service caused or necessitated by its existence.

Multi-Use Facility. A multi-use facility is a facility shared for multiple activities and/or utilized by multiple types of users. For example, a multi-use trail can be a trail accessible to and utilized by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. A multi-use field would have facilities that could be used for

more than one sport and could be available for informal pick-up games or organized play.

Native Plant Species. Native plants are plants that occur naturally in a region without direct or indirect human interference.

Passive Solar Heating and Cooling. Passive solar heating and cooling is the most cost effective means of providing heating or cooling to buildings. Often these efficiencies are predominantly gained through proper site design and layout of a building.

Roundabout. A roundabout, often also called a traffic circle or rotary, is a circular road junction or intersection at which traffic slows and enters a one-way stream around a central median island.

Title 24. Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations establishes the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. These standards were adopted in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy usage. Energy efficiency standards for residential buildings generally relate to the building envelope, HVAC, water heating, and lighting. Standards for nonresidential buildings generally relate to the building envelope, mechanical systems, and indoor and outdoor lighting.

More info: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/>