

# Soledad General Plan 2045

*Siempre Soledad*

## General Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting #1: General Plan Kickoff

April 24, 2023



# Agenda

- **Call to Order**

- » Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda under GPAC purview
- » Overview of Meeting Procedures
- » GPAC Introductions

- **New Business**

- » General Plan Overview
- » Update Process
- » GPAC Role
- » GPAC Chair and Vice-chair Election

- **Public Comment and GPAC Discussion**



# Public Comment: Items Not on the Agenda



# Meeting Procedures

- **Meetings are recorded**
- **Meetings begin with roll call and brief overview**
- **Public comment periods**
  - » Items not on the agenda
  - » Agenda items
  - » Speakers will have time limits
  - » Public comment protocol:
    - Online: Zoom (raise hand or chat box) or email the City
    - In-Person: complete a speaker card and provide it to Staff at the meeting
- **GPAC comments and discussion**
  - » Only on agendized items



# Introductions

- **General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)**

## **Member Introductions**

- » Short personal introduction
- » Affiliation with other City governing bodies
- » Hopes for the General Plan



# General Plan Overview

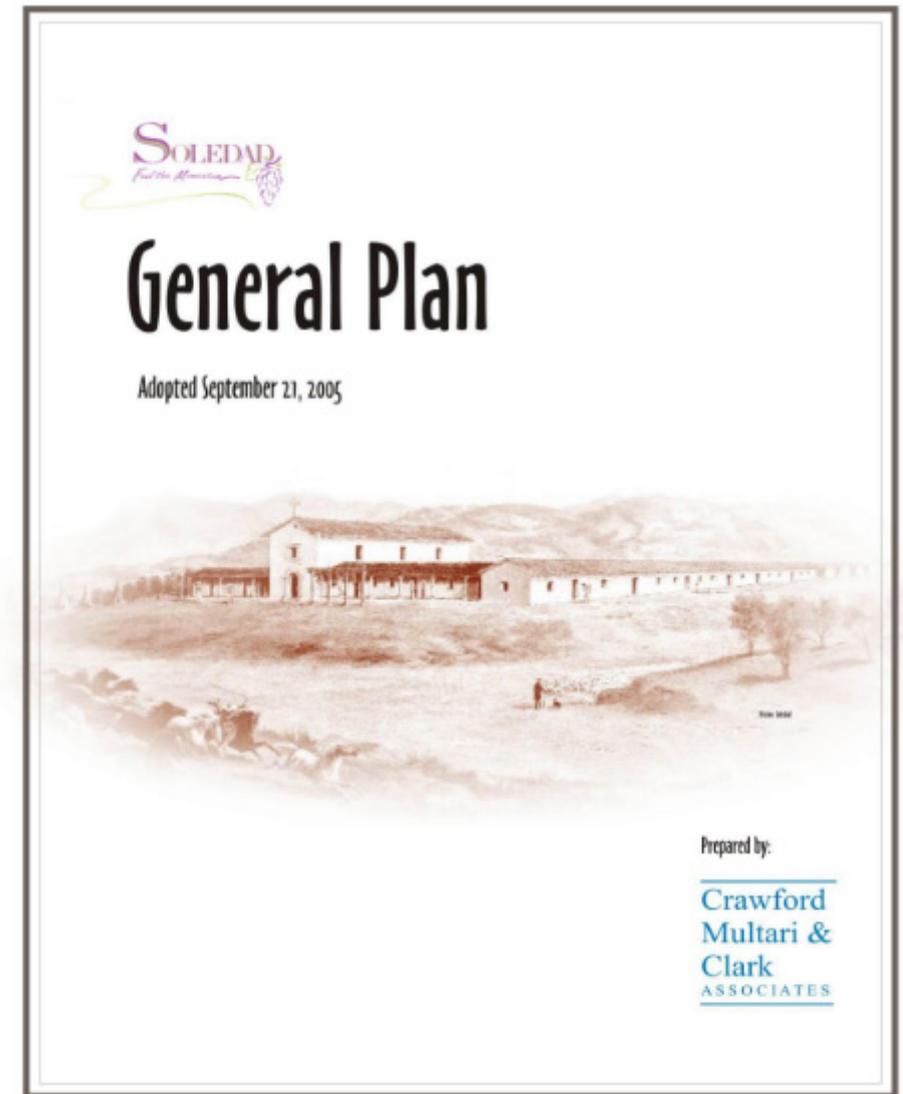


# Why is the General Plan important?

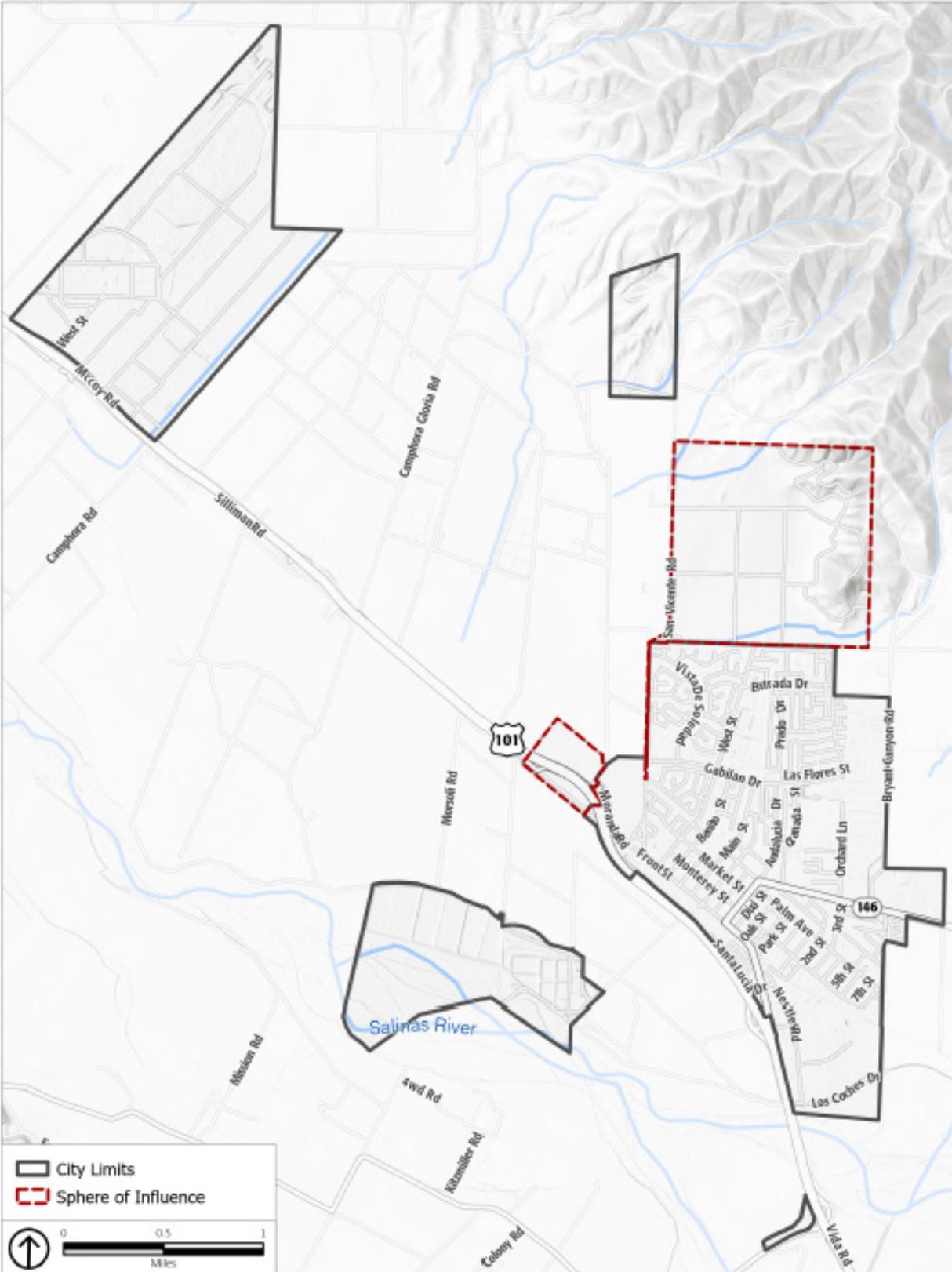
*The General Plan is YOUR  
chance to imagine what  
Soledad will be like in 2045*

# What is the General Plan?

- Required by State Law
- Fundamental land use and development policy document
- Shows how the City will grow and conserve resources
- Establishes community vision for the physical form of the city
- Identifies important community issues
- Basis for fair and consistent local land use decisions and other policies



# General Plan Boundaries



Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2023; PlaceWorks, 2023

# General Plan “Elements”

- **Required:**

- » Land Use
- » Circulation
- » Housing (on a faster schedule due to state law)
- » Open Space and Conservation (includes Parks & Recreation)
- » Noise
- » Safety
- » Environmental Justice

- **Custom for Soledad:**

- » Community & Economic Development
- » Climate Change (will be integrated into multiple elements)

- **Last Full Update 2005**

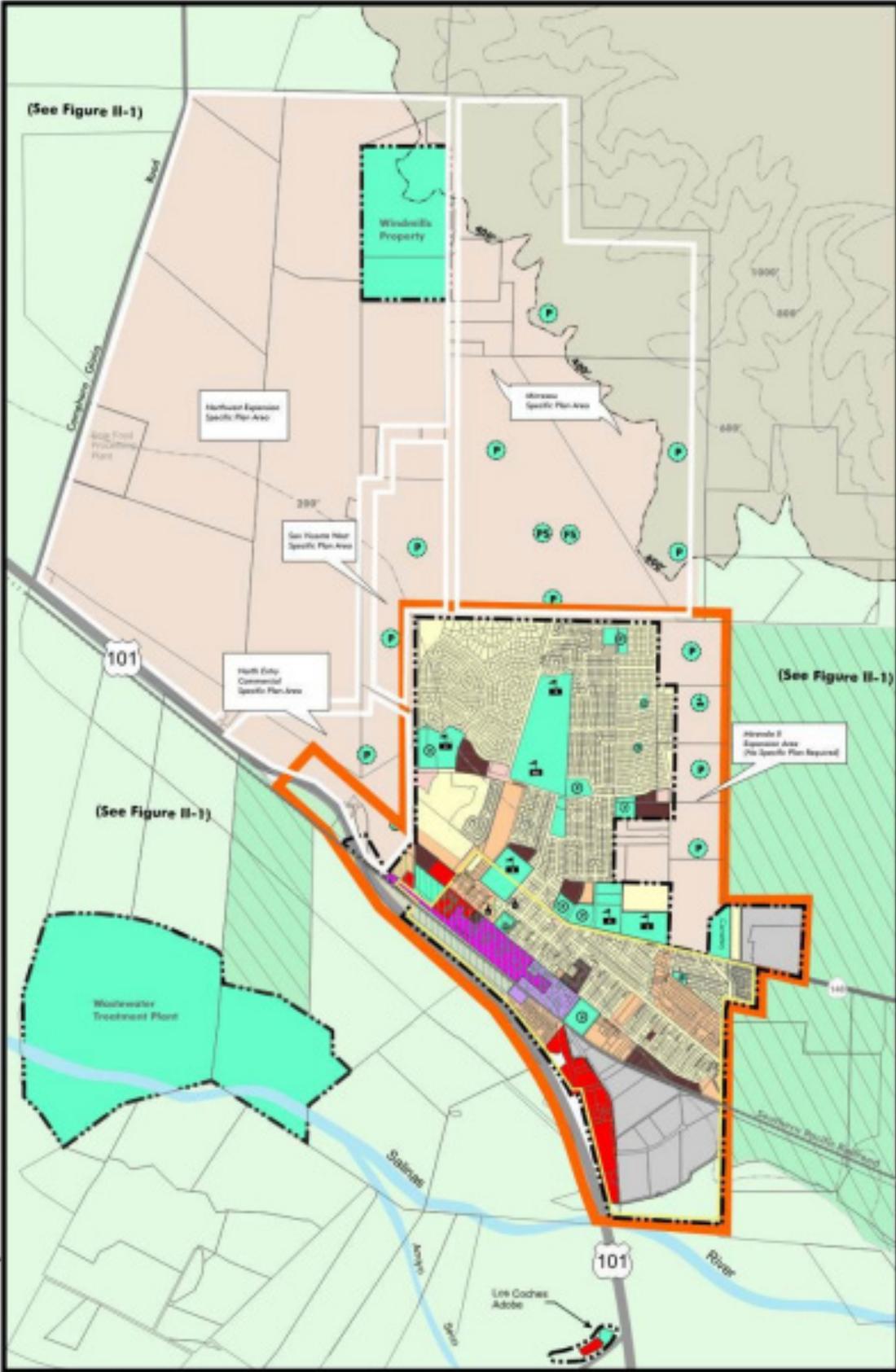


# Land Use

**The Land Use Element plans for and shapes the future physical development of Soledad to preserve and enhance Soledad's current quality of life.**



# Land Use Map



# Community and Economic Development

**The Community and Economic Development Element reflects Soledad's desire to maintain a balanced mix of economic activities and opportunities, as well as fiscal vitality and stability for residents, employers, employees, and visitors.**



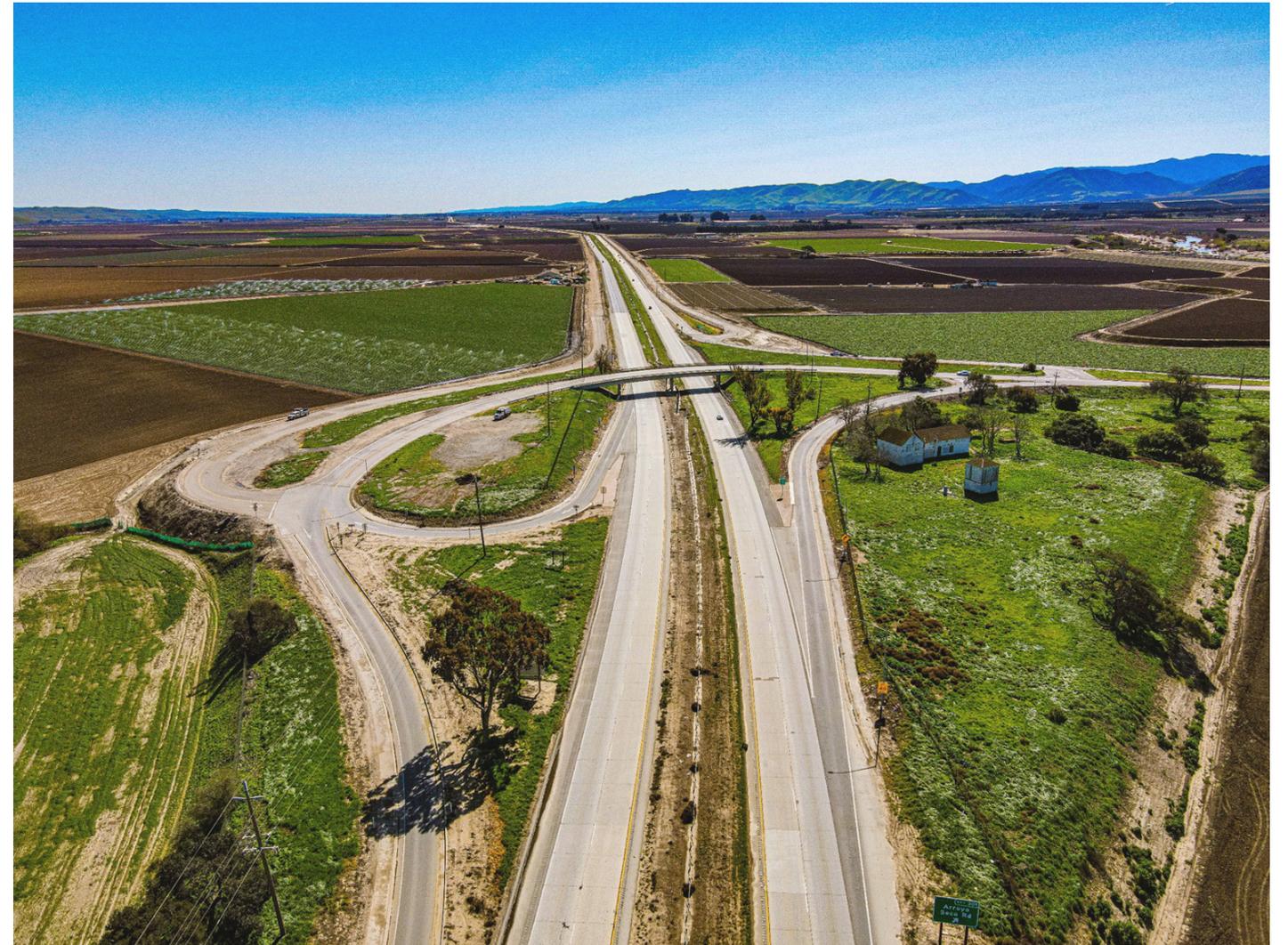
# Housing

**The Housing Element addresses one of the most basic human needs for shelter. The Housing Element is intended to assist Soledad in identifying housing needs for residents of all income levels and developing an action program to meet those needs.**



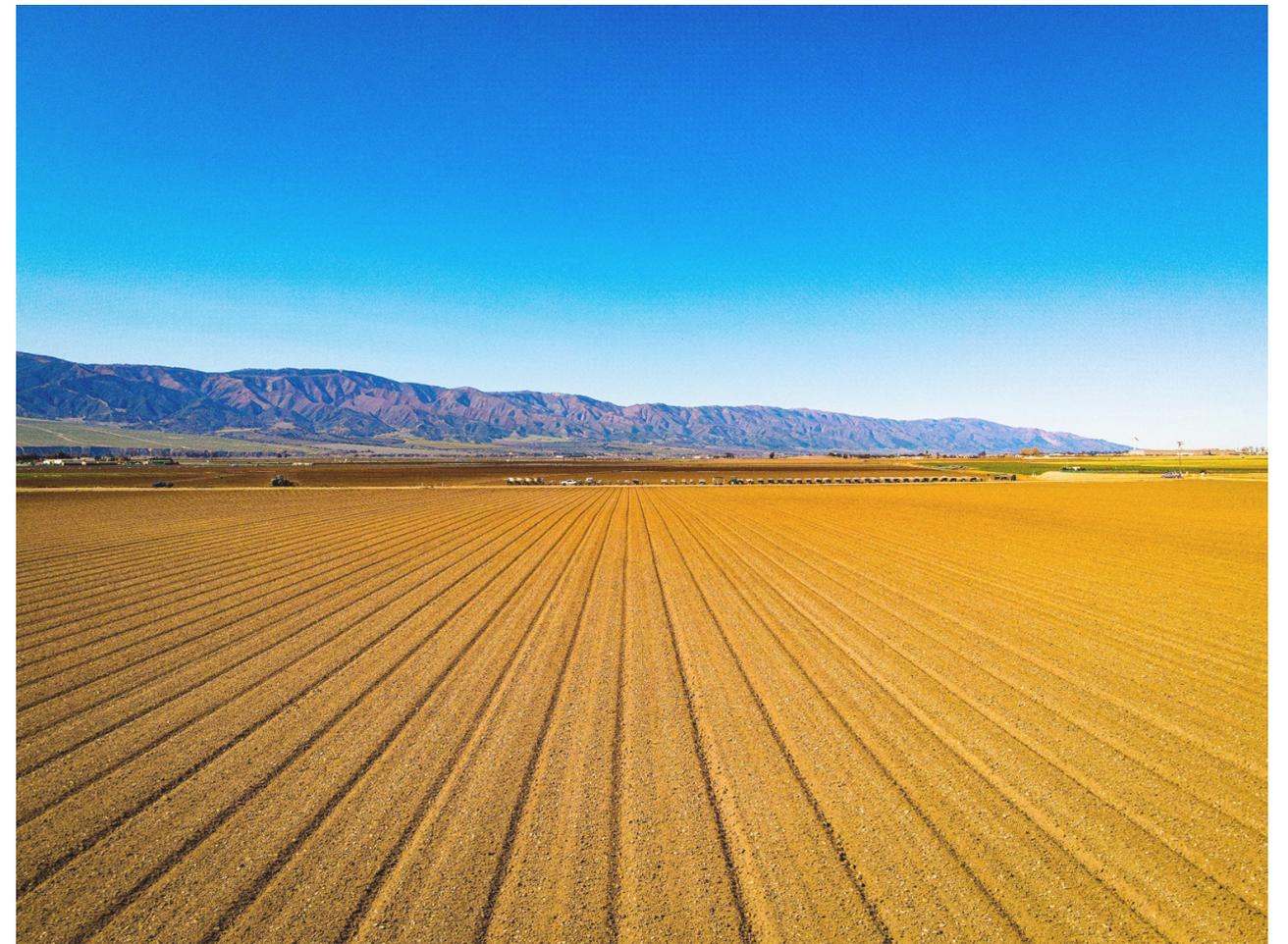
# Circulation

**The purpose of the Circulation Element is to provide the policy framework for regulation and development of the transportation systems in Soledad.**



# Open Space and Conservation

**The Open Space and Conservation Element plans for comprehensive and long-range preservation and management of open space land, agricultural land, and for parks and associated resources for the use and enjoyment of the community.**



# Safety

**The Safety Element provides information about risks in Soledad due to natural and created hazards. Its policies are designed to protect the community as much as possible from seismic, flood, geologic, and wildfire hazards.**



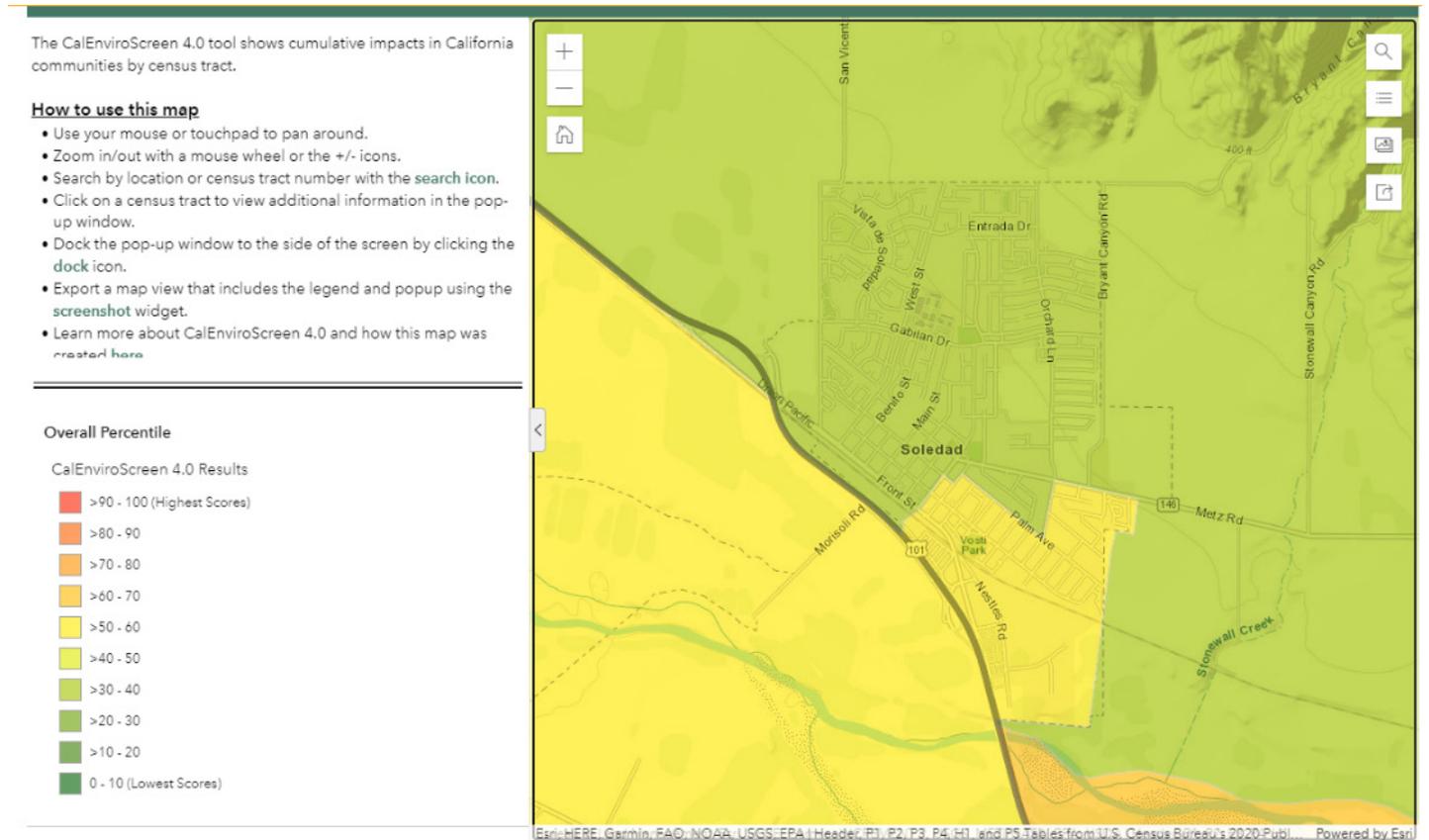
# Noise

**The purpose of the Noise Element is to identify and appraise noise generation in the community in order to minimize problems from intrusive sound and to ensure that new development does not expose people to unacceptable noise levels.**

# Environmental Justice

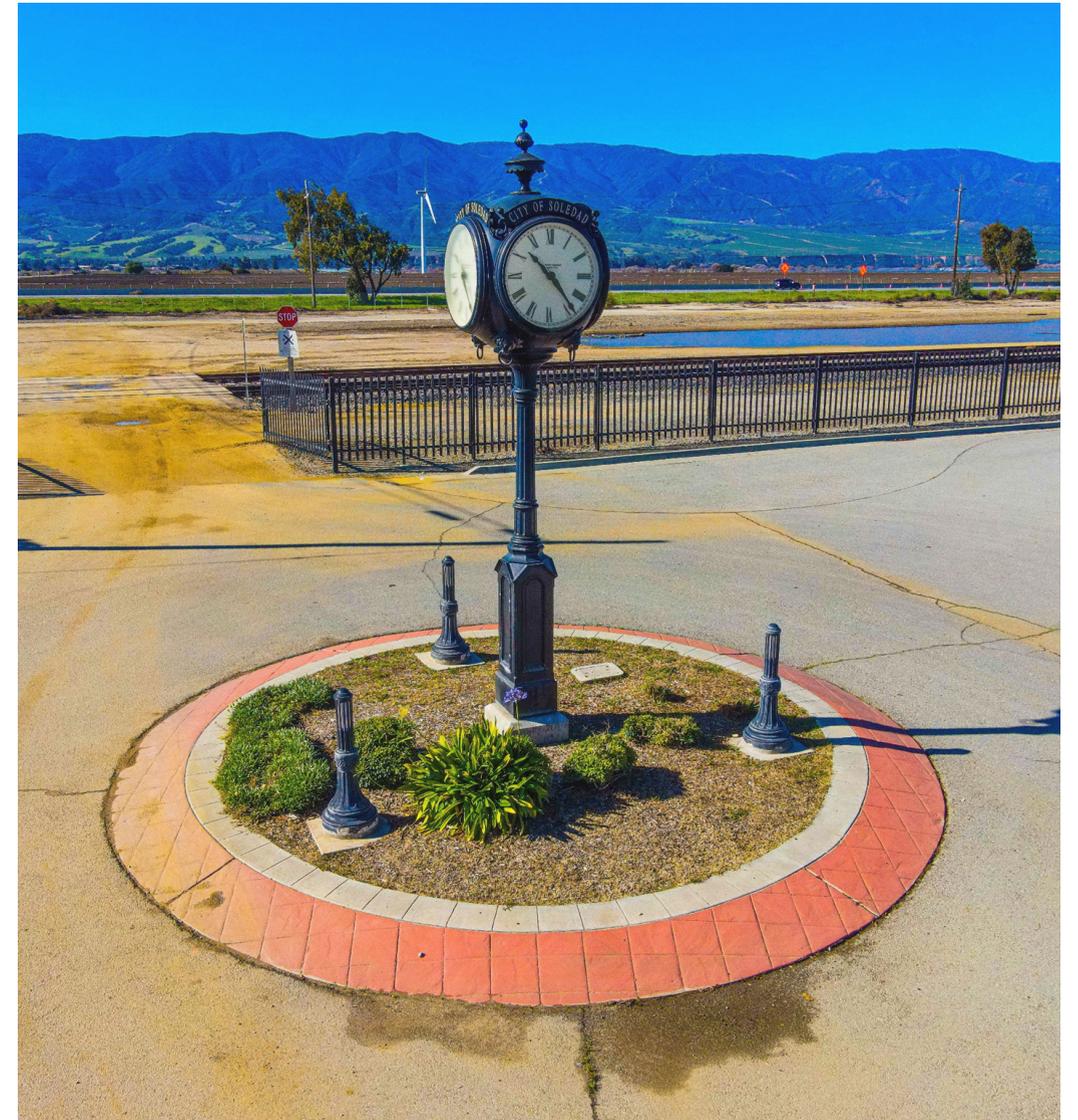
The State of California provides guidance to:

- Identify “disadvantaged communities” based on several indicators related to **Pollution Burdens Environmental Effects, Sensitive Populations, and Socioeconomic Factors**
- Engage the community in decision-making
- Prioritize improvements and programs that address needs in disadvantaged communities



# Climate Change

- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Water Efficiency
- Energy
- Open Space/Conservation
- Waste Reduction



# Implementation through Other Plans

- **Specific Plans**
- **Zoning Ordinance**
- **Capital Improvement Plan**
- **Active Transportation Plan**
- **Utility Master Plans**
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**





# Siempre Soledad Process

# Opportunities for Public Involvement

- **Communitywide Events (4)**
- **General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings (6)**
- **Planning Commission and City Council Meetings (8)**
- **Economic Development Stakeholder Interviews & Focus Group**
- **Online Activities/Project Website**



# Recent Community Events



# Outreach to Diverse Groups

- **Connect with community leaders**
- **Translate outreach materials**
- **Meet people where they are**
- **Build on existing contacts**
- **GPAC ideas and support**



# Project Components

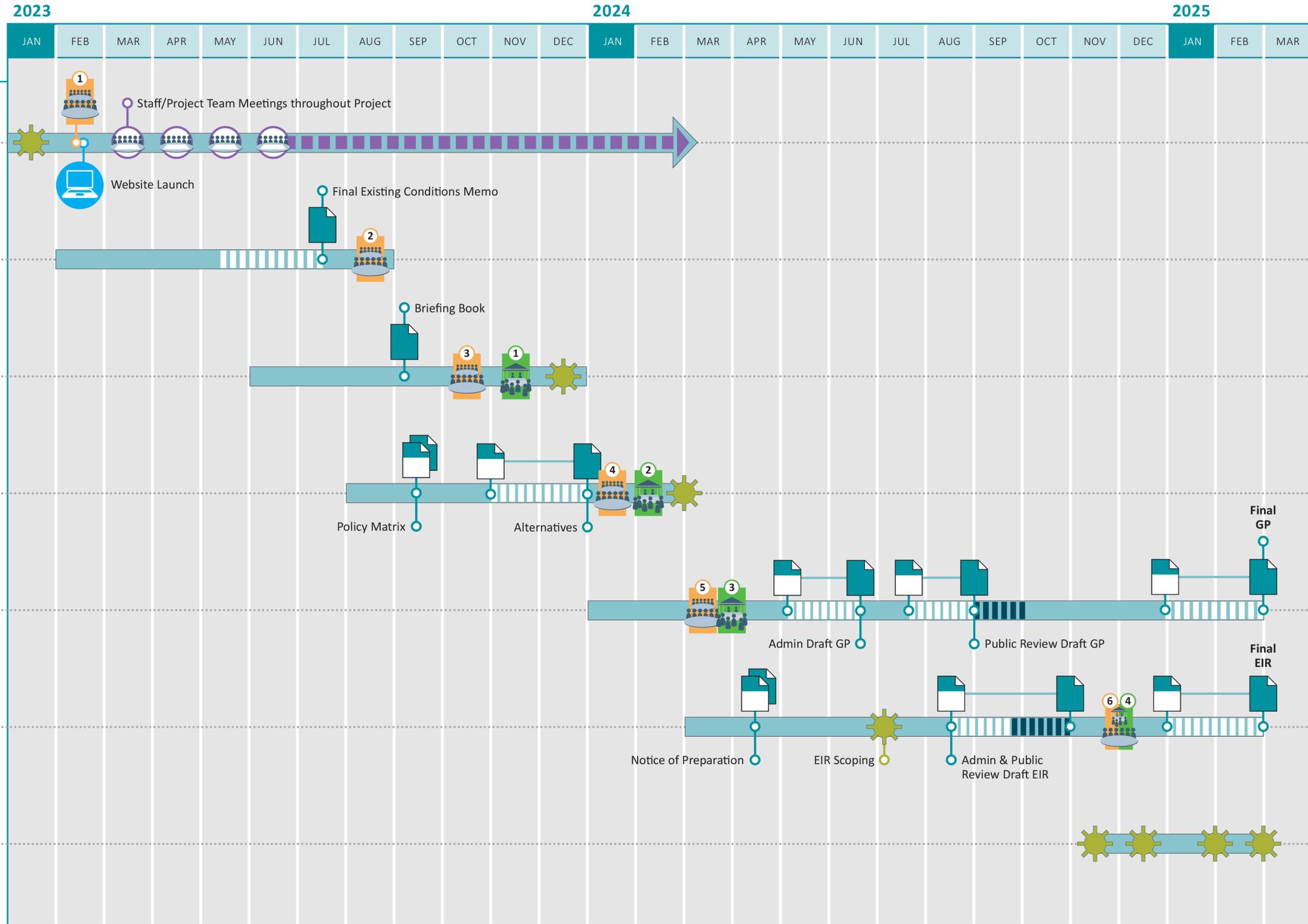
- Existing Conditions Memos and Briefing Book
- Vision and Values Statement
- Policy Development
- Draft Alternatives
- Housing Element
- Draft General Plan document
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Final General Plan and Adoption



# SOLEDAD GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### Project Tasks



# Website and Online Activities

- **Website will include:**
  - » Background information
  - » Public engagement opportunities
  - » Events calendar
  - » Links to documents
  - » Housing Element page
- **Future potential online activities**



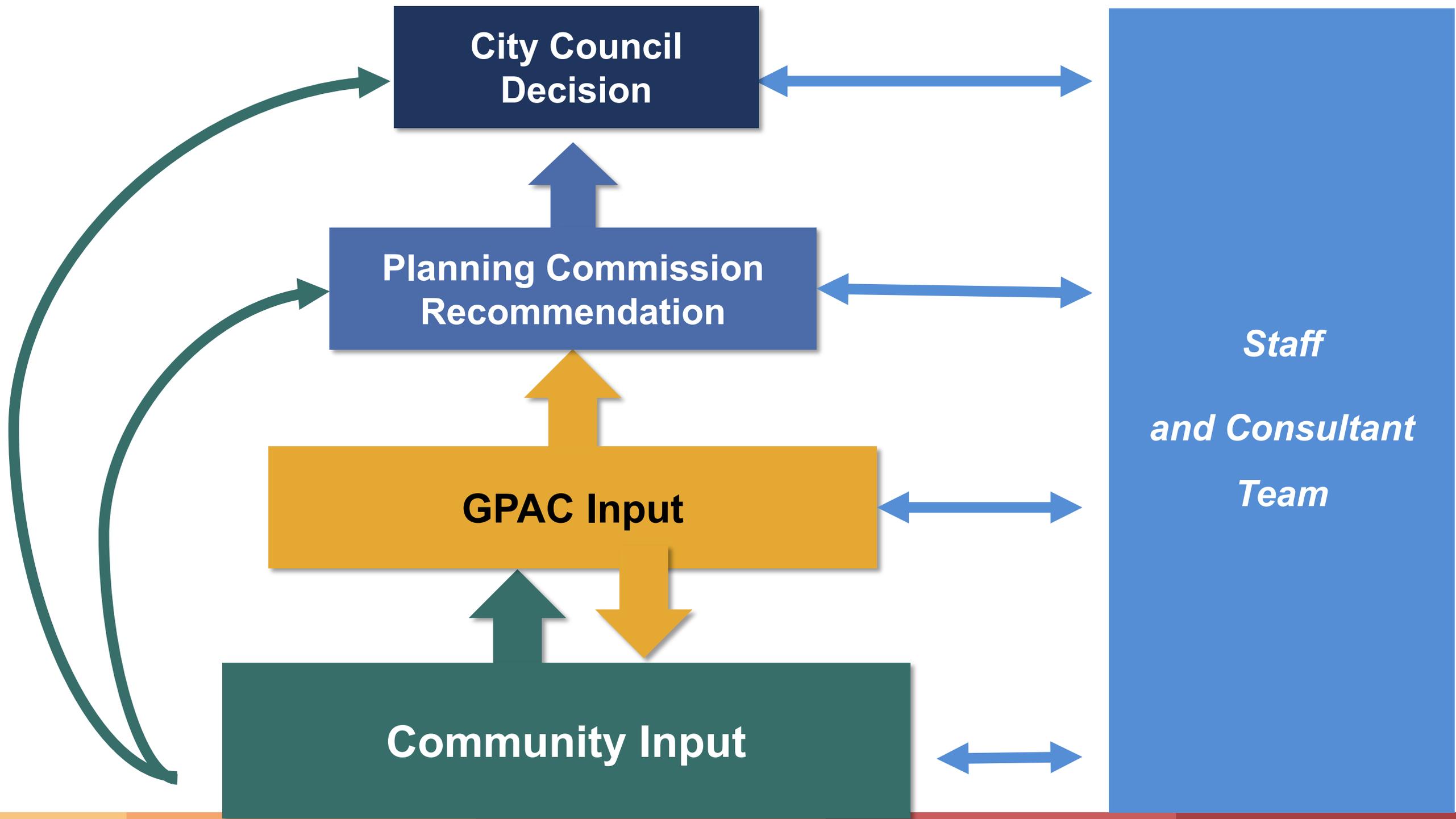
# GPAC Role



# GPAC Role

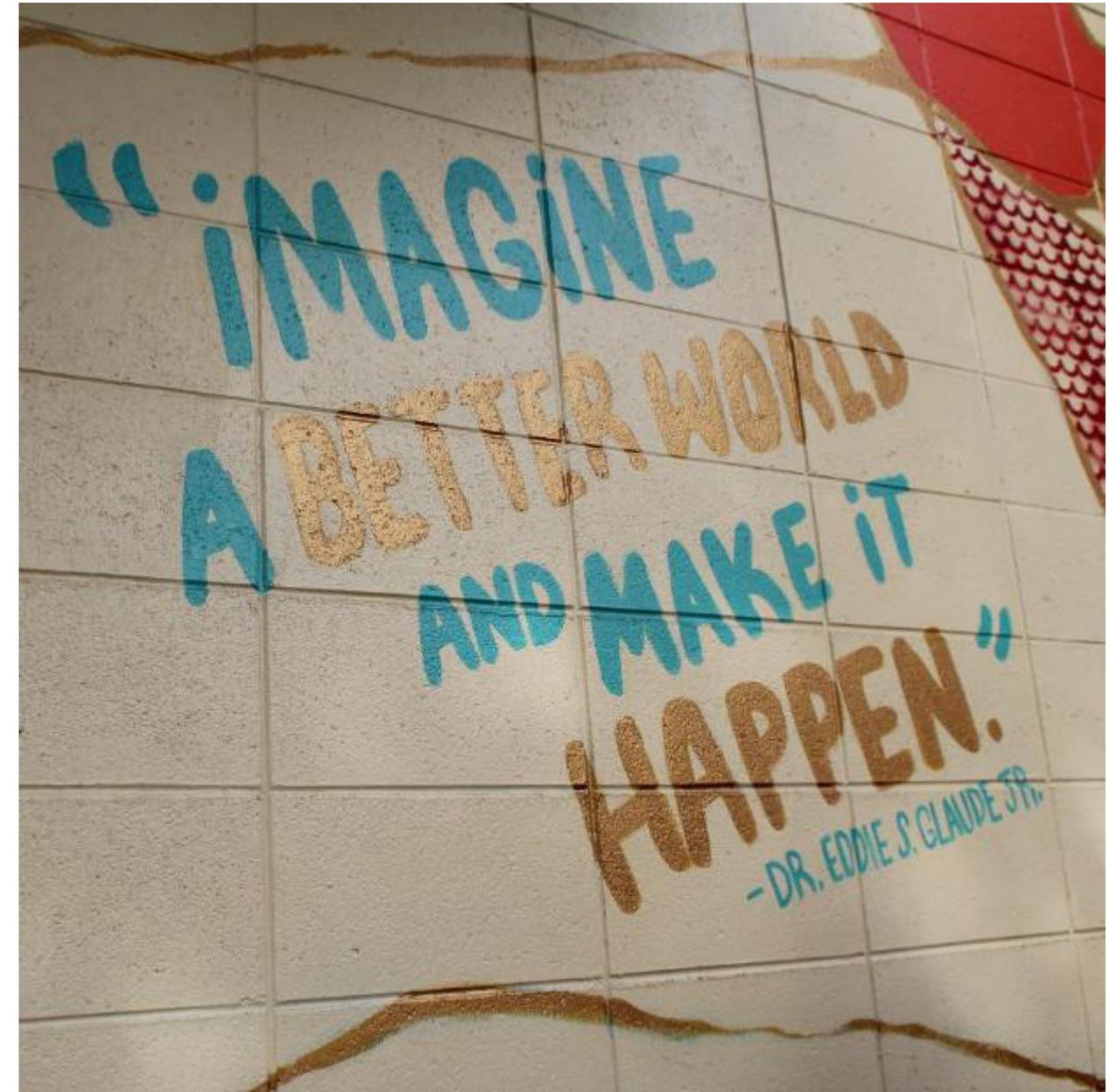
- Act as project liaisons and encourage Soledad community members to participate in General Plan events
- Provide feedback on General Plan update products and help refine materials before they are presented to the Planning Commission and City Council
- Attend six meetings during the General Plan update process





# GPAC Meetings

- 6 meetings on Mondays at 6PM
- Brown Act Meetings
  - » Intended to ensure equitable public participation in government decision-making
  - » Meeting Notice and Agenda must be posted
  - » Meetings are open to the public
  - » Opportunity for public comment
  - » GPAC member serial/group email prohibited – discussions must take place at public meetings



# Chair and Vice-Chair Election

- **Role of Chair**
  - » Open and close the meeting
  - » Ensure meeting follows proper process
- **Most GPAC presentations and facilitation by PlaceWorks consultant team**



# Public Comment and GPAC Discussion



# GPAC Discussion





Thank you!