

# Soledad General Plan 2045

*Siempre Soledad*

## General Plan Advisory Committee

February 12, 2024



# Agenda

- **General Plan Update Brief Overview**
- **Visioning Outreach**
- **Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles**
- **Next Steps**
- **Clarifying Questions**
- **Public Comment and GPAC Discussion**
- **Adjourn**

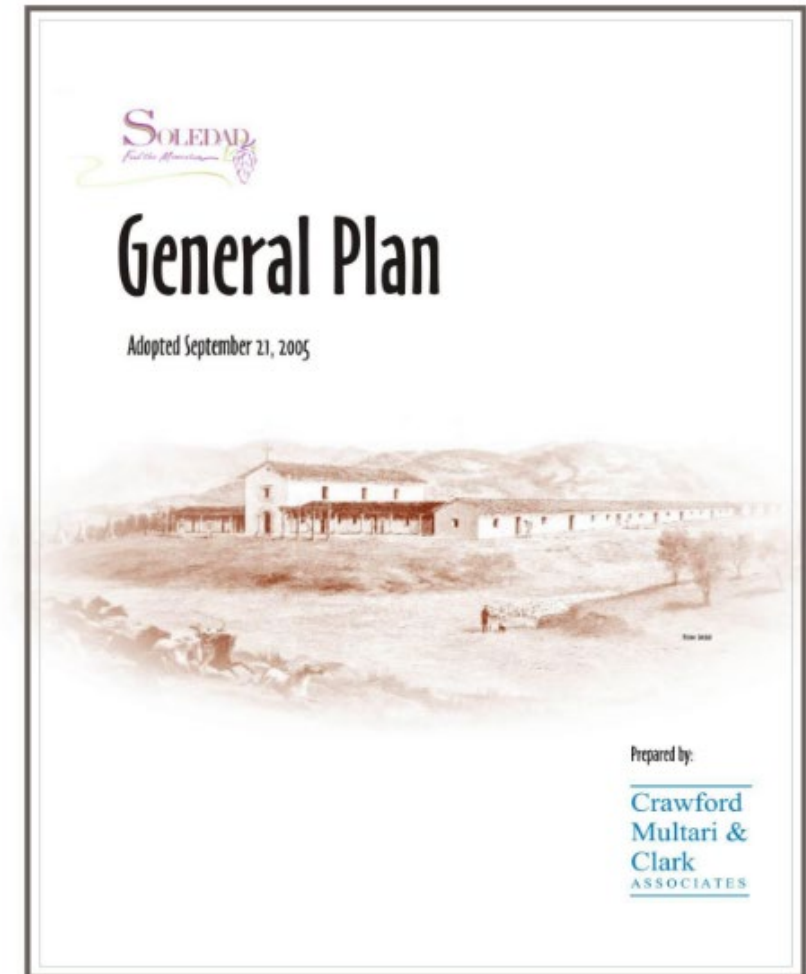




# General Plan Update

# 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 related policies**



# 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**



# Where Are We Now?

- Existing Conditions Memos and Briefing Book
- Vision and Guiding Principles  We Are Here!
- Policy Development
- Draft Alternatives
- Housing Element
- Draft General Plan document
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Final General Plan and Adoption



# Visioning Outreach

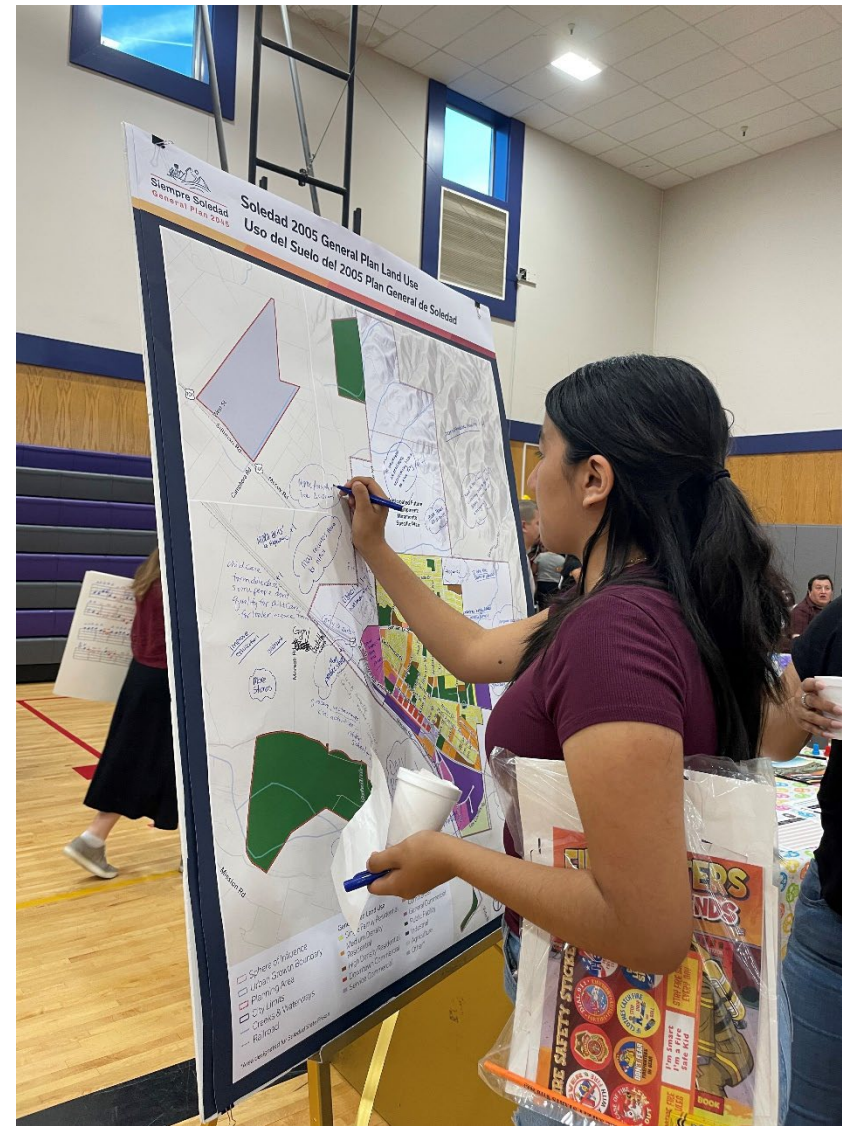


# Community Input Ahead of the Vision

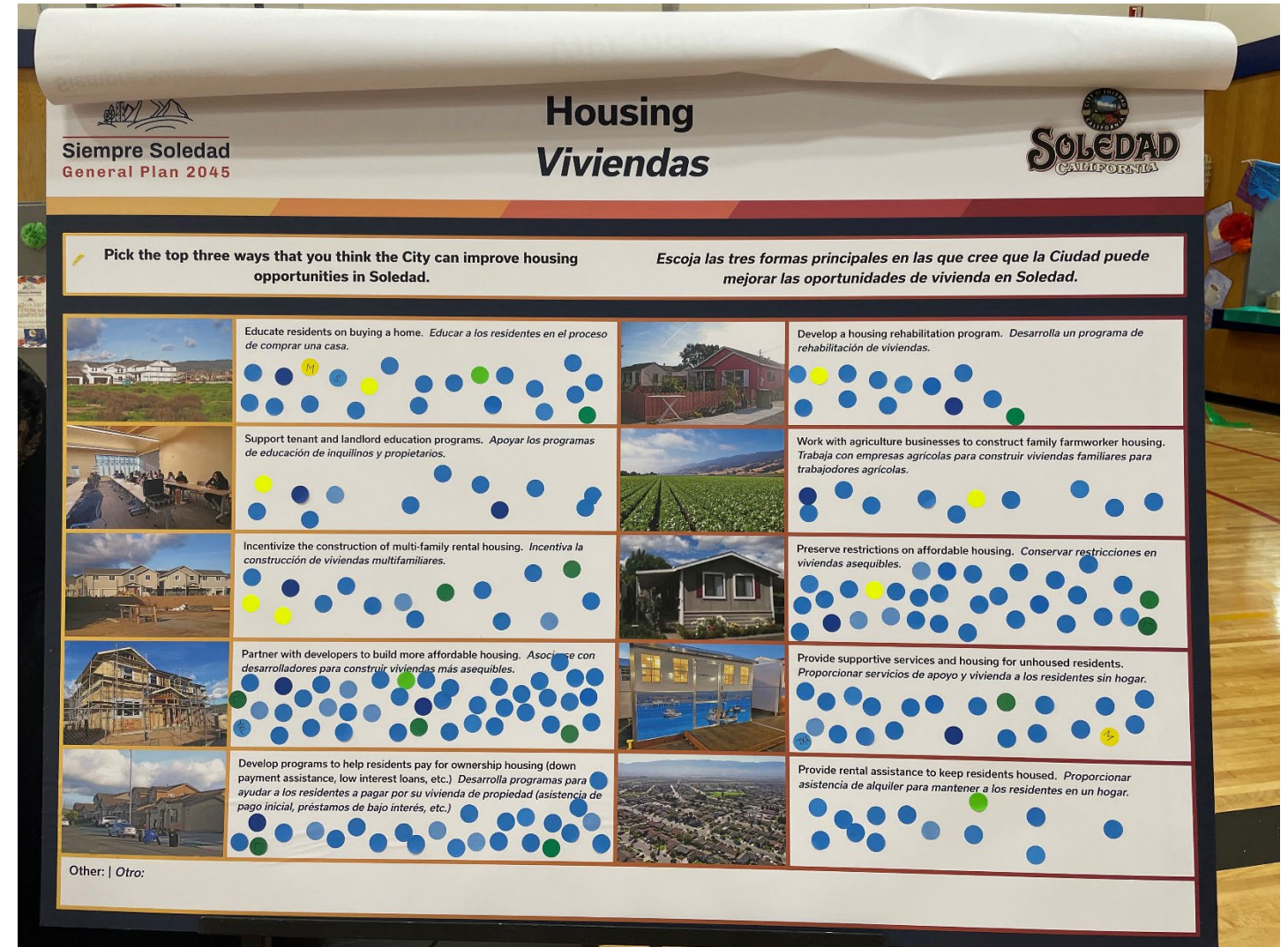
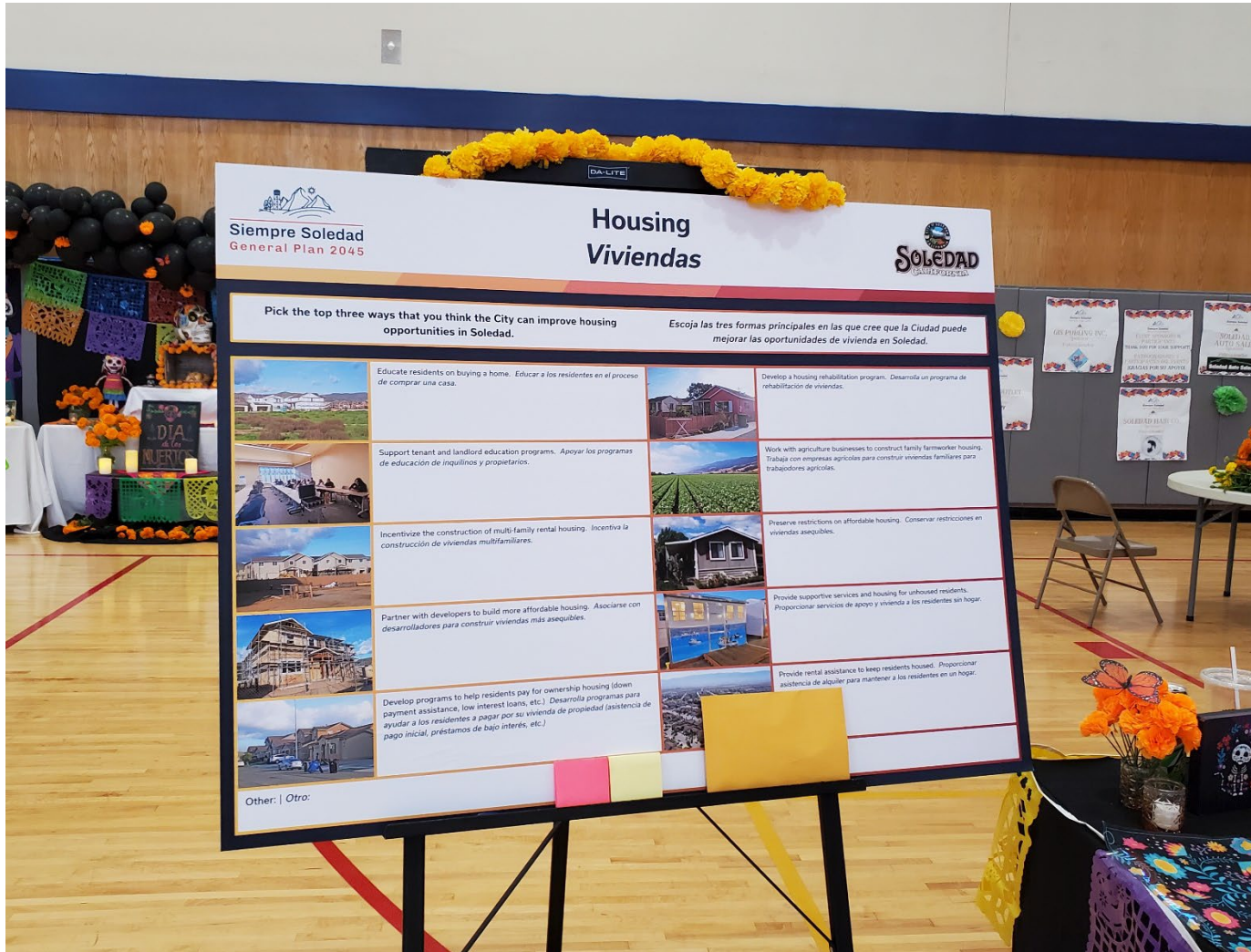
- **Summer 2023 through Winter 2023**
- **Community pop-up events**
  - » Hot Summer Days
  - » National Night Out
  - » Farmer's Market
  - » Resource Fair
- **Economic development focus groups**
- **Dia de los Muertos community event**
- **Online visioning survey = 166 responses**



# Dia de los Muertos Event



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# Online Vision Survey

- **Live from October to January**
- **City supported on-the-ground promotion of the survey**
- **166 responses to 10 questions**
- **8 multiple choice/ranking questions and 2 open-response**
- **Focus on housing, neighborhood amenities, transportation, and demographic questions**

# What We Heard

## Residents want:

- Affordable housing for existing residents
- Large, national retailers like Target, Walmart, and Costco
- More grocery stores and places to buy healthy, fresh food
- Local jobs that pay a living wage
- Educational offerings at all levels and workforce training

# What We Heard

## Residents want:

- More work and social opportunities for young people
- Improved freeway entrance/exits to relieve congestion
- More ways to reach retail areas across town
- Healthcare services, including urgent care clinics, labs, dentists and pharmacies
- More spaces for recreation, both indoor and outdoor

# Vision & Guiding Principles



# Vision Statement

*Soledad is a small town with big ideas, celebrating our rich cultural heritage and serving as the gateway to the Pinnacles. We are a welcoming and diverse community that is committed to improving quality of life, growing businesses, and being a safe and healthy city where everyone thrives.*



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## Guiding Principles



### Economy

We cultivate a thriving economy that supports quality retail for our residents' shopping needs, small businesses, and regional tourism. We aim to provide our residents with secure and well-paying jobs that will serve as the backbone of their livelihoods. Residents are able to shop locally for their essential needs.



### Safety

We prioritize a safe and open community. Our streets have ample lighting, well maintained sidewalks, highly visible crosswalks, and protected bike lanes. Freeway access accommodates our need for evacuation in the event of an emergency. Our safety and law enforcement providers are partners with all of us in preparing for emergencies and preventing crime.



### Housing

We ensure access to quality and diverse housing near schools, jobs, retail, and parks that is affordable to residents of all income levels.



### Youth

We invest in our youth by providing safe communities, access to health care, workforce development, educational pathways, quality housing, and parks and recreational opportunities for their well-being and growth.



### Equity

We believe everyone has a voice in shaping Soledad and participating in local decision making.



### Health

We promote both physical and mental health services through our infrastructure, facilities, stores, and services. This includes walking, biking, and access to healthy and safe foods. Healthcare and social services are plentiful and accessible to everyone in the community.



### Community Places

We value parks, public gathering spaces, recreation, cultural events, and a vibrant Downtown that is comfortable and welcoming to all. We advance our beautiful park and recreation system with amenities that offer moments of play and connection with our neighbors.



### Education

We invest in the prosperity of our community and local workforce through a range of educational programs that provide academic advancement and job skills training. We are proud to provide educational services in Spanish, English, and other languages spoken locally.



### Mobility

We have high-quality road and public transit systems that minimize traffic congestion and allow convenient access to daily destinations. We are proud of our safe, walkable, and bikeable neighborhoods that promote these non-automobile modes of transportation.

# Economy Guiding Principle

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# Next Steps

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- **Continue to ask the community for feedback on Draft Vision and Guiding Principles**
- **Planning Commission and City Council meetings to confirm Vision Statement anticipated in Late February/March**
- **Start Land Use and Circulation Alternatives Process**

# Website and Online Activities

<https://www.soledadgeneralplan2045.com>

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





Any Questions?



# Public Comments and GPAC Discussion



Thank you!