SECTION 4

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

This section contains goals, policies, and implementation programs that establish the framework for provision of public facilities and services to meet the demand created by existing and future development in Eureka. The goals and policies of this section are organized topically according to the following categories, each of which relates to a particular type of facility or service.

- General Public Facilities and Services
- Water Supply and Delivery
- Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal
- Stormwater Drainage
- Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Protection
- Schools

GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Goal 4.A: To ensure the effective and efficient provision of public facilities and services for existing and new development.

Policies

4.A.1. The City shall provide high quality public facilities, utilities, and services throughout the urbanized area of Eureka and shall ensure that such facilities, utilities, and services are compatible with surrounding development.

4.A.2. The City shall direct growth to those areas already served by public infrastructure and utilities.

4.A.3. The City shall require that all land designated for urban development be served by adequate water and other utilities necessary for health, safety, and welfare of citizens and property. Conversely, the City shall not provide urban utilities to areas that are not designated for urban development, particularly agricultural areas, wetland areas, forest lands, and areas with unsuitable topography.

4.A.4. The City declares that existing public works facilities, including water, wastewater, stormwater, highway, and railroad facilities serving the Planning Area are essential to the economic and social well-being of the people and shall be maintained, enhanced, and restored to assure the orderly and balanced utilization and conservation of natural and human-created resources.

4.A.5. The City shall permit the formation or expansion of special districts where assessment for, and provision of, the services will not induce development inconsistent with this General Plan.

4.A.6. The City shall ensure that new or expanded public works facilities within the Coastal Zone will be designed and limited to accommodate needs generated by permitted uses and development consistent with the provisions of this General Plan.

4.A.7. Within the Coastal Zone, the City shall prohibit the extension of urban services (sewer and water) beyond the urban limit line as designated in the Local Coastal Program or into areas with Open Space designations (i.e., Agricultural, Timberland, Natural Resources, Water Development, and Water Conservation), except that the water system intertie line in the southwestern part of the city shall be permitted to extend outside of the urban limit line into these areas, provided no connections for private users shall be allowed outside the urban limit line. No assessments, ready to serve fees, or other costs or encumbrances, including bond indebtedness, for urban services shall be assessed against lands beyond the urban limit line, except for those lands already provided with urban services, services to existing residential uses on the Lieber parcel, or those lands for which assessments or other costs or encumbrances have been levied prior to July 1, 1984.

4.A.8. The City shall promote undergrounding of overhead utility lines whenever feasible particularly in recreational facilities, the Core Area, and new residential development.

4.A.9. The City shall require the undergrounding of all new utility services.

4.A.10. The City shall require that new development contribute its fair share to providing all public services and infrastructure, including schools, necessary to serve that development.

WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

Goal 4.B: To ensure the availability of an adequate and safe water supply and the maintenance of high quality water for residents of and visitors to Eureka.

Policies

4.B.1. To the extent feasible, within the Coastal Zone, the City shall preserve water system capacity needed for priority uses. These uses and their order of priority are as follows:

a. Coastal-dependent uses;
b. Essential public services;
c. Basic industries vital to the economic health of the region, state or nation;
d. Public recreation;
e. Commercial recreation; and
f. Visitor-serving uses.

4.B.2. The City shall require proponents of new development to demonstrate the availability of a long-term, reliable water supply and adequate water supply infrastructure. The City shall require all new development within the city to connect to the City's water system. New development shall be responsible for constructing or financing any water system upgrades necessary to serve the development.

4.B.3. Through its Capital Improvements Program, the City shall continue to conduct leak detection surveys and replace or repair existing water lines that are inadequate to serve existing development.

4.B.4. The City shall promote efficient water use and reduced water demand by requiring water-conserving design and equipment in new construction and encouraging retrofitting existing development with water-conserving devices.

4.B.5. The City shall identify all development within the city limits not currently served by the City's water system with the intent of requiring connection to the system.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL

Goal 4.C: To ensure adequate wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal.

Policies

4.C.1. The City shall promote efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand by requiring water-conserving design and equipment in new construction and encouraging retrofitting with water-conserving devices.

4.C.2. The City shall continue its efforts to detect and correct infiltration/inflow (I/I) in its wastewater collection system.

4.C.3. The City shall require pretreatment of commercial and industrial wastes prior to their entering the city collection and treatment system.

4.C.4. The City shall prohibit the development of new on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems within the city limits.

4.C.5. The City shall require all new development within the city limits to connect to the City wastewater treatment system.

4.C.6. The City shall not allow extension of sewer service outside of the city limits, except in limited circumstances to resolve a public health hazard resulting from existing development, or where there is a substantial overriding public benefit.

4.C.7. The City shall identify all existing development not currently served by the City wastewater treatment system with the intent of requiring connection to the system.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

Goal 4.D: To collect and convey stormwater in a manner that least inconveniences the public, reduces or prevents potential water-related damage, and protects the environment.

Policies

4.D.1. The City shall consider establishing an assessment district to fund citywide storm drainage improvements, including replacement, repair, or relocation of storm drain facilities.

4.D.2. The City shall encourage the use of natural stormwater drainage systems in a manner that preserves and enhances natural features.

4.D.3. The City shall support efforts to acquire land or obtain easements for drainage and other public uses of floodplains where it is desirable to maintain stream courses in a natural state.

4.D.4. The City shall consider recreational opportunities and aesthetics in the design of stormwater detention/retention and conveyance facilities.

4.D.5. The City shall promote sound soil conservation practices and carefully examine the impact of proposed urban developments with regard to water quality and effects on drainage courses.

4.D.6. The City shall improve the quality of runoff from urban and suburban development through use of appropriate and feasible mitigation measures including, but not limited to, artificial wetlands, grassy swales, infiltration/sedimentation basins, riparian setbacks, oil/grit separators, and other best management practices (BMPs).

4.D.7. The City shall require new development that would increase storm drainage runoff in a 10-year storm event more than one cubic foot per section to provide retention/siltation basins to limit new runoff to prior-to-development flows.

4.D.8. The City shall encourage new project designs that minimize drainage concentrations and impervious coverage and maintain, to the extent feasible, natural site drainage conditions.

4.D.9. The City shall require new projects that affect the quantity or quality of surface water runoff to allocate land as necessary for the purpose of detaining post-project flows and/or for the incorporation of mitigation measures for water quality impacts related to urban runoff. To the maximum extent feasible, new development shall not produce a net increase in peak stormwater runoff.

4.D.10. In the Martin Slough drainage, the City shall cooperate with Humboldt County and affected landowners to minimize potential damage and economic loss arising from stormwater runoff, consistent with other policies of this General Plan.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Goal 4.E: To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in Eureka.

Policies

4.E.1. The City shall require solid waste collection in all urban and suburban development.

4.E.2. The City shall promote maximum use of solid waste source reduction, recycling, composting, and environmentally-safe transformation of wastes.

4.E.3. The City shall require that all new development complies with applicable provisions of the Humboldt County Integrated Waste Management Plan and the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Plan.

4.E.4. The City shall encourage the development of regional and community-based recycling facilities in heavy commercial and industrial areas.

4.E.5. The City shall encourage businesses to use recycled products in their manufacturing processes and consumers to buy recycled products.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Goal 4.F: To provide adequate police services to deter crime and to meet the growing demand for services associated with increasing population and commercial/industrial development in the city.

Policies

4.F.1. Within the City's overall budgetary constraints, the City shall strive to maintain a staffing ratio of 2.8 personnel per 1,000 residents (1.0 non-sworn and 1.8 sworn).

4.F.2. The City Police Department shall strive to maintain an average response time of three (3) minutes for calls for critical life-threatening emergencies.

4.F.3. Within the City's overall budgetary constraints, the City shall provide police facilities (including substation space, patrol, and other vehicles, necessary equipment, and support personnel) sufficient to maintain the above service standards.

4.F.4. The City shall annually assess police facilities and equipment needs and develop strategies that, at a minimum, maintain the above service standards.

4.F.5. The City shall consider public safety issues in all aspects of commercial and residential project design, including crime prevention through environmental design.

4.F.6. The City shall continue to support creative approaches to crime prevention and problem solving through the Eureka Police Department's Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving strategies.

FIRE PROTECTION

Goal 4.G: To protect residents of and visitors to Eureka from injury and loss of life and to protect property from fires.

Policies

4.G.1. The City shall ensure that water main size, water flow, fire hydrant spacing, and other fire facilities meet City standards.

4.G.2. The City Fire Department shall attempt to maintain an ISO (Insurance Service Organization) rating of 3.

4.G.3. The City Fire Department shall attempt to maintain an average response time of three (3) minutes for all service calls, including emergency medical service (EMS) calls.

4.G.4. The City shall require new development to develop or fund fire protection facilities, personnel, and operations and maintenance that, at a minimum, maintains the above service level standards.

4.G.5. The City shall identify key fire loss problems and design appropriate fire safety education programs to reduce fire incidents and losses.

4.G.6. The City shall implement ordinances to control fire losses and fire protection costs through continued use of automatic fire detection, control, and suppression systems.

4.G.7. The City shall cooperate with Humboldt Fire District No.1 and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) in providing adequate levels of fire protection services in the Planning Area.

4.G.8. The City shall provide a dedicated training facility for the fire department that is designed appropriately to provide fire and life safety tactics education for firefighters in order to increase personnel safety, efficiency, and effectiveness.

4.G.9. The City Fire Department shall annually inspect all residential rental units for compliance with fire safety requirements.

SCHOOLS

Goal 4.H: To provide for the educational needs of Eureka residents.

Policies

4.H.1. The City should continue to support local school districts in providing quality education facilities that will accommodate projected changes in student enrollment.

4.H.2. The City shall encourage the provision of social, recreational, and educational services that complement and enrich those provided by public and private educational facilities.

4.H.3. The City shall work cooperatively with local school districts in monitoring housing, population, and school enrollment trends and in planning for future school facility needs, and shall assist the districts in identifying appropriate sites for new schools.

4.H.4. The City's land use planning should be coordinated with the planning of school facilities and should involve local school districts in the early stages of the land use planning process.

4.H.5. The City should plan and approve residential uses in those areas that are most accessible to school sites in order to enhance neighborhoods, minimize transportation requirements and costs, and minimize safety problems.

4.H.6. The City shall include schools among those public facilities and services that are considered an essential part of the infrastructure that should be in place as development occurs.

4.H.7. The City shall encourage school facility siting that establishes schools as focal points within the neighborhood and community.

4.H.8. The City shall encourage the location of schools in areas with safe pedestrian and bicycle access.

4.H.9. Whenever feasible, the City shall support and participate with local school districts in joint development of recreation areas, turf areas, and multi-purpose buildings.

4.H.10. The City shall support local school districts in using existing school facilities for non-school-related and child care activities.

4.H.11. The City should encourage use of schools as community centers to provide a range of services.

4.H.12. The City should require developers of new residential projects in the city to participate in providing sidewalks adjacent to arterials to ensure safe pedestrian/student travel to and from schools. The City should encourage Humboldt County to do likewise in unincorporated parts of the Planning Area.

4.H.13. The City should work with Humboldt County to provide streets and roads in the Planning Area that school buses can negotiate safely, including turn-around areas and safe passageways along embankments and grades.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

4.1. The City shall prepare an analysis of all development within the city limits to determine where development is not currently served by the City's water and wastewater systems with the intent of establishing a program for connecting to the City's systems.

Responsibility: City Council
Engineering Department
Time Frame: As funding becomes available

4.2. The City shall prepare a study assessing the feasibility of establishing an assessment district to fund citywide storm drainage improvements, including replacement, repair, or relocation of storm drain facilities.

Responsibility: City Council
Engineering Department
Time Frame: As funding becomes available