

THE NEW HANDBOOK

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

THE UPDATED LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

Every 10 years, communities in the region must update their local comprehensive plans. The Local Planning Handbook is a guide that walks local planners through minimum requirements of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MLPA).

The Council has several roles in the local comprehensive planning process including:

- Setting policies through Thrive and the regional system and policy plans
 - Reviewing local plans to ensure conformance, consistency, and compatibility with regional plans and policies
 - Providing technical assistance with local plan development and implementation
- The Handbook is one way we provide technical assistance to communities updating the comprehensive plans.

The Handbook:

- Provides clear and specific direction on minimum requirements and how to meet them
- Provides tools, maps, and resources to make it easier to complete minimum requirements
- Individualizes regional information on a community-level as much as possible
- Connects communities with available resources, grants, and additional technical assistance
- Helps communities understand the Council review process
- Provides resources for value-added planning and planning beyond the minimum requirements
- Highlights local planning efforts across the region

WHAT'S NEW!

The updated Handbook includes a new online platform that provides easy navigation and a better experience for users. It includes new tools and resources for communities to provide an easier planning process. The updated Handbook has focused on a more personalized, specific set of tools for communities. The goal is to provide assistance to support communities that choose to move beyond minimum planning requirements to the value-added planning that helps implement their local vision.

There are many new features and tools within the Handbook. Some of the new tools that you will find in the updated Local Planning Handbook include:

- Individualized webpage for each community
- Status Tracker to track the progress of your local comprehensive plan review after its submittal to the Council
- A new online submittal process
- Customized community checklist of the minimum comprehensive plan update requirements
- Interactive mapping tool and individual maps that meet requirements
- Customized affected jurisdiction list
- Resource library by Plan Element, which includes Plan Examples, How To/Fact Sheets, Best Practices, Forms/Templates
- Frequently Asked Questions by Plan Element
- Local Planning Highlights, which showcase communities implementing good planning practices in the region



HOW IT'S ORGANIZED

The Handbook's left-hand navigation panel shows how the Handbook is organized (image to support this discussion). The Handbook is organized into the following categories:

PLANNING OVERVIEW	⤴	Planning Overview , which discusses the regional and local planning process.
PLAN ELEMENTS	⤴	Plan Elements are the heart of the Handbook. The Plan Elements discuss minimum comprehensive plan update requirements for Land Use, Transportation, Water Resources, Housing, Resiliency & Sustainability, Economic Competitiveness, and Plan Implementation sections. Each Plan Element also includes a "Get More Out of Your Plan" section with value-added planning suggestions and a "We Can Help" section, which connects you to resources to help meet requirements. Each Plan Element also has a resource library for each topic.
COMMUNITY PAGES	⤴	
REVIEW PROCESS	⤴	Community Pages are a new feature, which provides customized information specific to your community. This is where you'll be able to submit your plan online and track the status of its review, see community forecasts, access maps/tables that meet MLPA requirements, and download community-specific GIS files. In addition, the Community Pages include individualized policy summaries for your Community Designation(s), process information – including list of affected jurisdictions, and community-specific grant/loan information, if applicable. The Community Pages also links to the Handbook's resource library as well as the Community Profiles page. It contains valuable information for your community (See Community Pages Fact Sheet).
LOCAL PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS	⤴	
RESOURCES	⤴	
CONTACT US	⤵	

Review Process provides information on what is needed before a comprehensive plan is submitted to the Council, discusses how to submit a comprehensive plan, includes information on the Council's review and action on the comprehensive plan. It also includes information on the next steps following plan adoption as well as the planning process for amendments to your adopted plan.

Local Planning Highlights are about you! These are examples of diverse and effective planning efforts and a way to share good planning work that may help other communities. The Local Planning Highlights section will be a continuing process with new information being added. We need your expertise and suggestions on useful planning examples and resources that may be helpful to other communities. Find the nomination form on the Handbook website.

Resources summarizes all the information and resources provided for you that will help you in the planning process. These resources include fact sheets, how-to's, plan examples, best practices, FAQs, and other relevant links.

Contact Us links you to Council staff and technical specialists to help with any questions you may have.



We hope you enjoy the updated Local Planning Handbook! The new Handbook is best suited for an online experience. If you need a hardcopy, please contact your Sector Representative. Keep in mind that the hardcopy PDF only includes planning overview information, process and plan elements. To access the new resources you will need to use the website.

August 2015