

## GPAC COMMENT WORKSHEET FOR DRAFT GENERAL PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

<b>COMMENTS BY:</b> <b>GPAC - General Recommendations Regarding Draft General Plan</b>		<b>DATE:</b> <b>9 May 2011</b>
CHAPTER/ PAGE/ PARAGRAPH	COMMENTS	PROPOSED ACTION FOR CONSIDERATION
	<p><b>Summary of Goals</b>            In corporate into our recommendation the “Draft Revisions to Goals Per GPAC Recommendations, 9/13/2010” unless they are superseded by comments in these specific element documents. These recommendations appear in three areas of the draft GP (executive Summary, and two locations within each element chapter)</p>	See Comments
	<p style="color: red;">Keep referneces to MCAGCC consistent. Referred to and “the base”, “the Marine Base”, “the Marine Corps Base”, “Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC)”, and “USMC-29 Palms” (SF-40) etc. Locally, it is referred to as “The Marine Base.”</p> <p style="color: red;">Same applies for Joshua Tree National Park (referred to as “The National Park” or “the Park” etc.</p>	Standardize
	<p><b>Format of General Plan Goals</b>            The draft General Plan lacks policies, implementation measures, implementation responsibility and a schedule of action.</p> <p>The format used for General Plan goals and implementation does not meet the State’s General Plan Guidelines. Per the Guidelines, a policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making and indicates a commitment of the City to a particular course of action. A policy is carried out by implementation measures or programs; in this Update they are combined. The General Plan is to be a policy document but combining implementation and policy effectively eliminates any policy direction.</p> <p>Also, the State’s General Plan Guidelines provide direction on implementation. The general plan should identify, where appropriate, the local agencies responsible for carrying out implementing actions and a schedule of action.</p>	See Comments
	<p><b>Sustainability</b>            California law requires that cities commit to sustainability of natural resources and energy consumption. This requires that the city have meaningful policies and action plans in its new General Plan. The General Plan update does not fulfill this requirement.</p> <p>In the draft General Plan two symbols are used to denote adaptability and sustainability. Text on page XIV, intended to define these symbols, is puzzling and inconclusive. Further, placement of the symbols in the General Plan text appears to be arbitrary. It is not evident that their use is supported in the EIR nor is it clear why they are attached to the implementation policy.</p> <p>This method does not comply with existing law because there are no policies, implementation measures, responsible parties or schedules of action.</p> <p>The GPAC recommends that meaningful sustainability goals and policies be created as part of a sustainability element.</p>	See Comments

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	<p><b>Development Impact Fee Program</b> Development impact fee information is unavailable and there has been no public discussion.</p> <p>The Impact Fee Program is a component of the update; any recommendation of the General Plan should include knowledge and understanding of this Program. Impact fees are relevant to all development in the city’s future and to the Land Use, Circulation, Recreation, and Safety Elements. The GPAC recommends that the General Plan not be adopted prior to release and public discussion</p>	See Comments
	<p><b>Consistency of Elements <del>ADD NEW LANGUAGE?</del></b></p> <p><del>DELTE THIS?</del> To date, the GPAC has reviewed the Land Use Element and has substantially reviewed the Circulation Element but has not reviewed the Conservation/Open Space, Housing, Noise, Recreation or Safety Elements. Additional concerns may be identified following the review of the additional elements. Following such review, the elements should be analyzed by the GPAC to ensure consistency among elements (as required by law).</p>	See Comments
	<p><b>Ineffective Implementation Policies</b></p> <p>Implementation Policies of the draft General Plan should be rewritten because they do not provide policy direction nor do they reflect the State’s General Plan Guidelines. Per the Guidelines, a policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making and indicates a commitment of the City to a particular course of action. Per General Plan Guidelines Chapter One, a policy is carried out by implementation measures.</p> <p>The State’s General Plan Guidelines provide direction on General Plan Implementation. The guidelines state:</p> <p>Adopting infeasible planning policies or implementation measures is a waste of time. To avoid this, the planners who will be implementing the plan should be involved in its preparation. In addition, the general plan should identify, where appropriate, the local agencies responsible for carrying out implementing actions (i.e., the current planning division of the planning department or the development/traffic engineering division of the public works department).</p> <p>The draft General Plan does not establish these required responsible parties or schedules of action.</p>	See Comments

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General Comment from GPAC Meeting 3/28/11	<p><b>Desert Characteristics:</b></p> <p>The characteristics of a desert environment are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low unevenly distributed precipitation, less than 10 inches (25cm) per year.</li> <li>2. Temperature extremes.</li> <li>3. Windy (increased evaporation rates).</li> <li>4. High light intensity.</li> <li>5. Nutrient-poor, alkaline soil.</li> <li>6. Low rates of primary production.</li> </ol> <p>Source: Natural History of California by Allan A. Schoenherr</p>	Suggest inserting in the appropriate place in the GP