

A P P E N D I X F

C O M M E N T S L E T T E R S O N T H E  
D R A F T G E N E R A L P L A N





**Woltering, Nancy**

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**From:** Laurel Chambers <Laurel.Chambers@sonoma-county.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 3:22 PM  
**To:** Woltering, Nancy; Jones, Jessica; Nicholson, Amy  
**Cc:** scfsa@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sonoma County Food System Alliance GP Engagement  
**Attachments:** Food Equity Santa Rosa General Plan - Meeting Summary.pdf; Sign-in Sheet\_8.22.23.pdf; Santa Rosa General Plan Revision Tracker.xlsx

Good afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance (SCFSA) regarding the General Plan draft released last month. We were surprised and disappointed to see that the new draft of the Food Access and Urban Agriculture has been significantly pared back and the language weakened. We compiled the attached comparison spreadsheet to show how the draft policies changed over time alongside the feedback our group provided.

Santa Rosa City planners attended multiple SCFSA meetings and gathered our thoughts and feedback leading up to the first draft of the General plan released last summer. They assured us that they had reviewed the SCFSA's Food Action Plan and would incorporate its goals. We provided feedback on the draft concepts and helped shape the goals and actions that ended up in the draft. We then spent considerable time, effort, and our own funding to co-host a community engagement event on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. It was a wonderful collaboration and the planners were very appreciative of the feedback and the excellent turnout. About 50 people attended the event and 36 signed in on the sign-in sheet, but the Community Discussions Summary says there were only 17 participants and the document does not reflect the report that the facilitator prepared (see attached Meeting Summary).

Can you please explain why our input was not accurately reflected in the Community Discussions Summary and why actions were removed or changed in the most recent draft?

Sincerely,

Laurel Chambers, on behalf of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance

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# Food Equity in the Santa Rosa General Plan Workshop

August 22, 2023 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Finley Community Center | Santa Rosa, CA

## Overview

This document includes a summary of the Food Equity in the Santa Rosa General Plan Event. This event was a partnership between the Sonoma County Food System Alliance, the County of Sonoma Department of Health Services (DHS), and the City of Santa Rosa, with funding from the CalFresh Healthy Living program. Ag Innovations, a 501c3 nonprofit based in Sonoma County facilitated the event. About 50 people participated in this workshop.

## Acknowledgments

- Thank you to the City of Santa Rosa for partnering in the design of the workshop, and providing the meeting space, childcare, and for welcoming a community-led event.
- Thank you to the Sonoma County Food System Alliance for volunteering time in providing input, convening this workshop. A special thank you to Laurel Chambers, DHS, for hosting; to Julia Van Soelen Kim, UC Cooperative Extension, and Laurel Chambers for presenting on behalf of the SCFSA, to Wendy Krupnick for providing local goodies during the event, Helen Myers for creating the outreach materials, and to the FSA Volunteers who hosted tables, studied the general plan, and supported the convening, including: Mimi Enright, Evan Wiig, Phina Borgeson, Christine Kuehn, and Suzi Grady. Special thanks to Jessyca Avalos from the Sonoma COAD who helped with translation and table hosting.
- Thank you to DHS for providing funding to support facilitation by Ag Innovations, outreach support, and logistical support.



## About the Workshop

<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants understand the food-system-related sections of the Santa Rosa General Plan</li> <li>• Santa Rosa residents as well as other Sonoma County residents interested in the Santa Rosa General Plan feel heard and have a sense that their interests have been accurately captured and can influence policy making</li> <li>• Santa Rosa city planners are well informed about the kind of food system policies that local residents, and in particular the FSA, want to see in the General Plan</li> <li>• The SCFSA has a clear understanding of next steps for following up with Santa Rosa city planners, workshop participants, and others, in order to carry forward the input gathered</li> </ul>
<b>Attendees</b>	There were about 50 attendees (including organizers), including 8 who participated in a Spanish-speaking breakout group.
<b>Speakers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laurel Chambers, Sonoma County &amp; Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE (Presentation can be found here in <a href="#">English</a> and <a href="#">Spanish</a>.)</li> <li>2. Genevieve Taylor, Ag Innovations (Facilitator)</li> <li>3. Beatriz Guerrero Auna, City of Santa Rosa (Presentation can be found here in <a href="#">English</a> and <a href="#">Spanish</a>.)</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to food policy draft: <a href="https://www.srcity.konveio.com/general-plan-update-2050-draft#page=182">https://www.srcity.konveio.com/general-plan-update-2050-draft#page=182</a></li> <li>• Link to Food Action Plan: <a href="https://sonomacofsa.wordpress.com/food-action-plan/">https://sonomacofsa.wordpress.com/food-action-plan/</a></li> </ul>

## Summary

The following summary was developed at the end of the event, as each breakout group reported out its top three themes.

### Food Equity in the Santa Rosa General Plan Event Themes

1. Healthy Food in Schools: **\*\*Note, Top Theme\*\*** - this theme was present in five out of six breakout groups.
  - Strengthen the ability of schools to source locally
    - Food hubs facilitate institutional purchasing from multiple producers and we need more of them
    - Need more education inside and outside of schools that is appropriate to culture and language.
    - Some suggested that schools could be hubs for community gardens (not only school gardens).
2. Healthy Food Access
  - Strong support for growing food in as many different ways as possible via urban ag. **\*\*Note, Top Theme\*\*** - This theme was present in three of six breakout groups.
  - Ensuring BIPOC land access and ownership. The group was very aware of the dynamics of social equity and looked at the Food Action Plan goal of social equity from a number of different angles.
  - How do we increase demand for and access to local healthy food rather than cheap fast food? Lets make sure healthy food is available at a neighborhood by neighborhood scale. **\*\*Note, Top Theme\*\*** - This theme was present in three of six breakout groups.

- Instead of restricting fast food by setting limits on how close together they can be, look at the density of fast food in neighborhoods—some neighborhoods have much higher density of fast food than others
  - It's not enough to mandate all small corner stores to sell healthy food, they have to do something to increase demand for that food so it doesn't go to waste and cost the store.
  - Support local food, such as tamales and local fruit.
  - Support for edible landscaping, urban fruit trees, allowing people to grow food in as many places and ways as possible.
  - Excited to see community gardens in general plan—but needs more support
    - Community gardens need a coordinator and resources to prevent them from falling into neglect.
    - Community Healthworkers could be a resource for supporting community gardens.
    - Bayer Farm and Andy's Unity Garden are neighborhood hubs and important sources of healthy food, education and community—every neighborhood should have one
    - Allow/facilitate more community gardens in parks (example: Place to Play is huge and has space for a garden) And/or a farm.
  - Food waste prevention—need repurposing kitchens to meet mandates in SB 1383 to reduce greenhouse gasses as a result of food waste.
  - Support for food hubs, including distribution, aggregation, and processing, alongside support for micro businesses and home kitchens and small kitchens. Suggested food hub zoning.
  - City should come to the neighborhoods with services as much as possible—offer office space to CalFresh, other food assistance so it is easier for people to sign up for benefits
3. Consider the present and future of Farming. Climate change is happening now and we need to ensure access to water for farmers.
4. **Recommendations for the Food System Alliance:** A number of breakout groups gave advice directed specifically to the Sonoma County Food System Alliance, including: 1) The FSA should consider telling the FSA story more clearly and publicly, 2) Identify clear calls to action and ensure that the Food Action Plan is flexible in the face of a changing future, 3) supporting these ideas by identifying funding, research and big policy ideas or initiatives, and supporting accountability for implementation of these policies, and 4) following up on supporting healthy food in schools through building a coalition where parents can get involved. Electeds, CDFA Rep would be interested, and potentially connect it to edible food recovery efforts in the county.

## Next Steps

- 1) Send the summary as a comment to the City of Santa Rosa General Plan, in order to support their EJ Element in the General Plan
- 2) Please comment online here:  
<https://www.srcity.konveio.com/general-plan-update-2050-draft#page=182>
- 3) Start Healthy School Food Coalition meetings
- 4) Get involved in the FSA - please contact us [here!](#)
- 5) Food System Alliance will review and reflect on what was learned and let it influence the future and present of the Food System Alliance.

## Breakout Group Notes

The following are “raw notes” developed from each breakout group. There are very specific and actionable ideas throughout these notes, including specific feedback on policy points in the General Plan draft. The groups were asked to review a summary of the Food Action Plan and a two page draft of the relevant section of the General Plan.

Each group was given 45 minutes to discuss in groups of 6 the following questions: 1) What resonates about the Food Action Plan and the Food System Alliance input? 2) Based on your interests and concerns about the Sonoma County Food System, what questions do you have? 3) What are you excited to see in the General Plan? 4) What do you see missing from the General Plan? 5) Anything else you want to make sure the city planners consider as they finalize the General Plan?

### Breakout Group 1

- Inform everyone of the intention of the food action plan
- Basic needs are human needs. This is where all human problems are connected - eating unhealthy foods. The children are our future and they are being poisoned from unhealthy food.
- The title of the plan was noteworthy for some
- Participants would like to listen to what the city has to offer and share with the community
- One of the participants is a local farmer and would like to share his land. Create space for community gardens and community kitchens.
- Need to have incentives to allow local farmers and restaurant workers affordable housing
- Love the pillar to limit fast food restaurants
- Add to the checklist to offer vegetarian foods
- Information for nutrition to the community with cooking classes that are accessible for everyone and are culturally sensitive
- Information needs to be in indigenous languages too
- Want support for the tamale cart not to be harassed by the police
- We need better food in the schools
- Local gardens that are accessible to the community
- Educate the community on what vegetation is for each season
- No chemicals / pesticides
- Fresh food (i.e. non-frozen) that is full of nutrition
- Less burgers, less fast, and less chemicals
- Need housing with space for vegetation and gardening - green space - to cultivate and enjoy
- Community gardens - currently Land Paths have rented spaces however people have had these spaces for many years. Can they cycle and allow more people or purchase more land and make it more accessible?
- Focus on the school system lunches for a better future
- City should allow the raising of livestock (goats, cows, pigs)
- Educate the community about different times to grow different types of vegetables - need to be culturally accessible and to learn how to maintain the community garden areas
- Education in nutrition for all!
- Streets with fruit trees, like in the Barlow
- Incentivize developer to add vegetation and landscaping that is edible
- Inform the community on how to get proper food
- Offer licensing so that they are not harassed by the police

## Breakout Group 2

### FSA Actions

- There should be a forum for parents to advocate for healthy school food / Revisit forum done for school food

### Other comments

- Add community based organizations as partners
- Organic and regenerative is missing from the SRGP
- 6-6.5 - too weak. Can we get to the root of the problem? Why can't we have stronger language and mandates for healthy food?
- Can we direct City to start canvassing CBOS and other partners to work on food system issues, specifically 6-6.6
- Hubs for food to support school food and small growers
- Hubs for social services - more neighborhood resource centers where people can apply for food assistance programs
- Promote gleaning and food recovery to residences and businesses

## Breakout Group 3

### Food Action Plan (FAP)

- Pillars 3&4 relate to current work
- Social equity important - domino effects on health
- Pillars 1 and 2 important preference for SoCo products - what's cheap now has costs
- Clear call to action important. How to reach those not involved? Find ways to reach people where they're at.

### Questions

- What will it take for society to understand the importance of food and the food system?  
Pandemic-like
- Flavor can be transformational
- How to increase education at all levels. Outside of schools, neighborhood hubs. More avenues for education on food, nutrition, and health are needed. Community health workers - federal funding.

### Excited to see in the GP

- Community gardens!
- Paid community health workers
- Restrictions on fast food - need carrots and sticks
- Community garden coordinators
- School gardens can be community hubs and community gardens
- 6-6.2 - Collaboration - organizational.

## Breakout Group 4

- Healthy food in schools
- Urban agriculture - fence restrictions make it hard to make gardens
- Right to grow food
- Right to sell local produce grown at home - like setting up market booth in a driveway
- Barrier to better school food
  - Small kitchens

- Short staffed
- Food safety
- Action 6-6.2: needs more than just requirements to stock fresh produce, or it will go to waste - they need support to sell it, show case it, promote it
- Action 6-6.8: instead of 300 ft requirement, it should be about overall neighborhood density of the fast food places
- Action 6-6.17: solid soil testing for homes and gardens too
- Resources for coordination of community gardens to help them be maintained and prevented from falling into disrepair
- A method to ID vacant property for potential community gardens (addressed by 6-6.22?)
- Action 6-6.2: need to assure that price points of grocery stores are varied, i.e. not just discount, not just high
- Need to keep regulations on growing/selling produce reasonable, but safe - not onerous with hoops to jump through
- Incentivize establishment of food hub and local farmers to aggregate, distribute food
- Climate change impacts on farmers
- Anthropocene is shifting us away from ag - we see it happening today. We need more support for farming in the GP (water access, etc.) Prioritize water hierarchy for ag

### Breakout Group 5

#### Comments for Food System Alliance

- Connect the dots as in the Food Action Plan - reduce siloing
- Access with education hand in hand with connecting the dots
- Thanks to FSA for getting some of this language into the SRGP
- Strengthening neighborhood connection with the local food system
- How do we hold the City of Santa Rosa accountable in fulfilling the goals in the General Plan?
- FSA can do more with school and parents

#### Group comments re: Santa Rosa General Plan

- Strengthen role of community-based organizations
- Missing language re: pesticide use and organics
- Strengthen language about people growing food in many different ways and places
- Community gardens in "community parks" no just in "neighborhood parks"
- Strengthen language regarding SR City, School District 6-6.5
- Review for policies that could strengthen the ability of school districts to source local food
- Dedicate city space for one-stop shopping for food access help and other social services at the neighborhood level

### Breakout Group 6

#### What resonates?

- Better definition needed on "healthy food"
- Urban ag in plan in a big way
- Community gardening is important and needs support
- Progressive but doesn't go far enough
- Language vague to leave open for interpretation
- Creates "operating space"
- Understands healthy food access issues; affordable even better but how is it operationalized to make it affordable
- Affordability; accommodation for accessibility to fresh product; food deserts and fast food access

- Income potential from sugar sweetened beverages tax? How to direct it to further GP goals? Stake it to health...revenue from unhealthy food should go to healthy food

#### Questions

- Precautionary principle planning considered? FAP is by nature utopian. How can it consider adverse future issues?
- Schools - with independence of schools how can we connect with the General Plan or to foster support in schools?
- How do we connect state and local government with school policy (GP 6-6.5).
  - Weave in state programs language
- Gentrification: how can GP ensure affordable housing in the face of current pressures

#### Breakout Group 7

- Update zoning codes
- Save local dairy processing
- Culturally appropriate food options
- More support bringing healthy food / new initiatives to Equity Priority Areas (EPAs)
- Daily farmers market at Mitote Food Park
- SB1383!
- Transportation to healthy food options, including community bikes with baskets to carry food
- Save Manzanal (apple processing)
- Mobile food pantries
- Providing access to land for agriculture particularly for underrepresented farmers and to combat generational wealth
- Leveraging SRJC (Shone Farm) to introduce program for local meat processing or apprenticeship program with local butchers
- Any urban ag should support BIPOC folks with things like fast tracking permits and other incentives
- Healthy food in local school system - procuring from local sources
- Centralized location to store food / food recovery with freezers (physical spaces)
- Work with SRJC culinary program (or other culinary programs) to prep healthy food for school system
  - Include the Ceres Model of training students to cook with farm grown ingredients
  - Outreach to underrepresented communities, including things like
    - Providing childcare at meetings like this
    - Hosting meetings in EPAs
    - Increasing awareness of food assistance programs

#### Urban Ag Points

- Any policy should maximize "operating space" to allow actors to resolve issues of urban food production
- Society regulates activities we want to suppress and de-regulates those we want to encourage. Urban Ag ordinance should be largely an act of de-regulation.
- Two myths that should be discussed:
  - Food production creates residential nuisances
  - Food production is an economic endeavor, i.e. it is not economically viable at the small-scale, and therefore not affordable.
- Urban Ag can survive primarily by acting within in the informal and domestic economy

- To meet household needs in EPAs, urban ag will need to include proteins and fats = animal husbandry
- Successful production and economic models can be found in history or nations that are monetarily poor or stressed
  - Eastern Europe prior to 1990
  - Balkans
  - Southeast Asia
- Predicament: Good food is too expensive to buy. Food is too cheap to provide a livelihood to the farmer.
  - Solution: shift production to the household and community garden level.

### Miscellaneous Comments

Let's look at what's going right in other municipalities.

- Santa Cruz - homeless garden projects
- Vermont - Intervale
- Detroit - farms and gardens within city limits
- Other??
- And can city employees call or write to the leaders of these projects to talk about how to implement or lay the foundations for implementation?
- And let's incentivize eerie high schooler getting out to SRJC's Shone Farm at least once before graduating

The following have interest in farm to school initiatives:

- Electeds
- CDFA Rep
- Edible food recovery

Registration--Food Equity Santa Rosa General Plan Event (Responses)

Food Equity In the Santa Rosa General Plan Event 8/22/23

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Draft Concepts shared with SCFSA in Jan. 2023 (SCFSA additions in red)	Summer 2023 Draft	SCFSA Feedback on 2023 draft, gathered from event on 8/22/23	Oct. 2024 Draft
	<p><b>Food Access and Urban Agriculture</b></p> <p>Access to fresh foods, whole grains, and other unprocessed or minimally processed foods is essential to people’s health. In addition to retail stores, Santa Rosa currently features five active community gardens that help provide healthy food options to community members. Community gardens play a critical role in the city, sometimes serving as the primary food source when costs of and/or access to retail stores are limiting factors.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture maps census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than a specified distance from the nearest supermarket. Figure 6-3 shows the tracts in Santa Rosa where residents are low income and a half mile or more from the nearest supermarket. The City designates such areas “Healthy Food Priority Areas” to target efforts to meet the nutritional</p>		<p><b>Food Access and Urban Agriculture</b></p> <p>Access to fresh foods, whole grains, and other unprocessed or minimally processed foods is essential to people’s health.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture maps census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than a specified distance from the nearest supermarket. Figure 6-2 shows the tracts in Santa Rosa where residents are low income and a half mile or more from the nearest supermarket, as identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The City designates such areas “Healthy Food Priority Areas” to target efforts to meet the nutritional needs of these communities. The City recognizes that</p>
<p>GOAL X: Community Food Security &amp; Urban Agriculture. Maintain and facilitate the development of new forms of urban agriculture, urban farming, or urban gardening, and community food production in Santa Rosa, including residential gardens, residents’ and, community and school gardens, urban farms, cooperatives, rooftop farms, or other urban farming options that provide health, social, environmental, and economic benefits to residents, including access to fresh vegetables and fruits, promoting physical activity, activating and improving green spaces, community building, creating social connections, and providing nutritional education, especially in food deserts and equity priority communities.</p>	<p>Goal 6-6: Ensure that all households and individuals have convenient, daily access to affordable healthy food, including fresh produce.</p>		<p>Goal 6-6: Ensure that all households and individuals have convenient, daily access to affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce.</p>

<p>Healthy food retail establishments. Promote improved access to healthy food options that sell/serve culturally-relevant foods in areas with a high concentration of less healthy options, such as fast food chains, liquor stores, and convenience stores. Ensure retail food establishments accept federal food benefits including CalFresh and WIC.</p>	<p><b>Policy 6-6.1: Attract and support a range of healthy food retailers, prioritizing EPAs and Healthy Food Priority Areas, so that all residents live within one mile of a full-service grocery store, fresh produce market, or others offering fresh produce.</b></p>		<p><b>Policy 6-6.1: Attract and support a range of fresh food retailers, particularly in Equity Priority Areas and Healthy Food Priority Areas, so that all residents have access to healthy foods within one mile of where they live.</b></p>
	<p>Action 6-6.1: Partner with Sonoma County Health and Human Services to encourage stores in Santa Rosa to participate in the Federal Food Assistance Program.</p>	<p>City should come to the neighborhoods with services as much as possible—offer office space to CalFresh, other food assistance so it is easier for people to sign up for benefits</p>	<p>Action 6-6.1: Encourage convenience stores, liquor stores, and neighborhood markets to carry fresh produce and participate in programs such as CalFresh, especially in Equity Priority Areas and Healthy Food Priority Areas.</p>
<p>Proposed farmers market policy: Identify locations near city center and/or housing hubs for a permanent farmers market (similar to city of Davis' Central Park Farmers Market)</p>	<p>Action 6-6.3: Update the Zoning Code to allow farmers markets in all nonresidential zoning districts by right with standards.</p>		<p>Action 6-6.2: Consider an update to the Zoning Code to allow farmers' markets in all nonresidential zoning districts by right with standards and where they will not be located on the same parcel as an existing grocery store.</p>
	<p>Action 6-6.4: Consult with the local hospitals, clinics, local school districts, Santa Rosa Community College, and the California State University Extension to produce and provide educational materials and programs aimed at promoting and facilitating healthier lifestyles.</p>		
<p>Healthy food options. Promote healthy food and beverage standards and procurement policies and practices in government buildings and government-sponsored events. Include nutrition standards and local food preferences. Promote access to culturally-relevant food.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.5: Explore programs with the Santa Rosa City School District, Sonoma County Public Health Division, community garden groups, and other advocates to provide healthy foods in schools and other public institutions.</p>		<p>Action 6-6.3: Support local programs that provide healthy foods in schools and other public institutions.</p>
	<p>Action 6-6.6: Distribute information and educate low-income families and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs</p>		<p>Action 6-6.4: Support the distribution of information about food assistance programs.</p>

	<b>Policy 6-6.2: Encourage the establishment of local restaurants and businesses that serve healthy food.</b>	<b>How do we increase demand for and access to local healthy food rather than cheap fast food? Lets make sure healthy food is available at a neighborhood by neighborhood scale. <b>**Note, Top Theme**</b> - This theme was present in three of six breakout groups.</b>	<b>Policy 6-6.2: Encourage the establishment of local restaurants and businesses that serve healthy food.</b>
	Action 6-6.7: Update the Zoning Code to require conditional-use-permit review for any chain restaurant with more than five outlets in the nine-county Bay Area.		
	Action 6-6.8: Require at least 300 feet between any two fast-food chain operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of restricting fast food by setting limits on how close together they can be, look at the density of fast food in neighborhoods—some neighborhoods have much higher density of fast food than others</li> </ul>	
	Action 6-6.9: Seek resources to facilitate establishment of “microenterprise home kitchen operations”—that is, restaurants operated out of a private residence—in EPAs, as allowed by Assembly Bill 686.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not enough to mandate all small corner stores to sell healthy food, have to do something to increase demand of that food so it doesn't go to waste and cost the store.</li> </ul>	
	Action 6-6.10: Develop a program to provide fast-track permitting for healthy food and grocery stores in Healthy Food Priority Areas and underserved areas, as well as areas identified for increased residential development and mixed use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local food, such as tamales and local fruit.</li> </ul>	Action 6-6.5: Consider streamlining permitting for full-service grocery stores in Healthy Food Priority Areas and underserved areas, as well as areas identified for increased residential development and mixed use.
<b>GOAL X. Community Food Security &amp; Urban Agriculture. Maintain and facilitate the development of new forms of urban agriculture, urban farming, or urban gardening, and community food production in Santa Rosa, including residential gardens, community and school gardens, urban farms, cooperatives, rooftop farms, or other urban farming options that provide health, social, environmental, and economic benefits to residents, including access to fresh vegetables and fruits, promoting physical activity, activating and improving green spaces, community building, creating social connections, and providing nutritional education, especially in food deserts and equity priority communities.</b>	<b>Policy 6-6.3: Facilitate urban agriculture, farming, gardening, and local food production, especially in EPAs and Healthy Food Priority Areas.</b>	<b>Strong support for growing food in as many different ways as possible via urban ag. <b>**Note, Top Theme**</b> - This theme was present in three of six breakout groups.</b>  <b>Consider the present and future of Farming. Climate change is happening now and we need to ensure access to water for farmers.</b>	<b>Policy 6-6.3: Facilitate urban agriculture, farming, gardening, and local food production, especially in Equity Priority Areas and Healthy Food Priority Areas.</b>
	Action 6-6.11: Provide the necessary resources to retain the city's existing community gardens.		Action 6-6.6: Support retention of the city's existing community gardens and encourage development of new community gardens.

<p>Equitable access to safe food-growing opportunities: Encourage the development of new urban agriculture sites in low income and underserved neighborhoods and coordinate efforts with parks and open space organizations. Combine programs on urban agriculture with food production safety, food literacy, and nutritional education.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.12: Support the creation of additional community gardens or other urban agriculture opportunities, particularly in EPAs and Healthy Food Priority Areas.</p>	<p>Excited to see community gardens in general plan—but needs more support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Community gardens need a coordinator and resources to prevent them from falling into neglect.</li> <li>•Community Health Workers could be a resource for supporting community gardens.</li> <li>•Bayer Farm and Andy's Unity Garden are neighborhood hubs and important sources of healthy food, education and community—every neighborhood should have one</li> <li>•Allow/facilitate more community gardens in parks (example: Place to Play is huge and has space for a garden) And/or a farm.</li> </ul>	<p>Action 6-6.7: Support the creation of additional community gardens or other urban agriculture opportunities, particularly in Equity Priority Areas and Healthy Food Priority Areas</p>
<p>Revise the Zoning Code to allow urban agriculture, in its different forms, as permitted uses in all zoning districts of Santa Rosa, inclusive of community food production (as defined in AB 1990 and AB 234) and on-site sales. Revise Zoning Code to make community food production and urban agriculture an opt out activity instead of opt in for all zones.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.13: Consider updating the Zoning Code to allow all forms of urban agriculture by right in all zoning districts where appropriate, including community, yard, rooftop, indoor, and other gardens; community food production (as defined by the State); and on-site exchanges and sales.</p>	<p>Support for edible landscaping, urban fruit trees, allowing people to grow food in as many places and ways as possible.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.8: Consider updating the Zoning Code to allow urban agriculture where appropriate.</p>
<p>Develop Santa Rosa's Urban Agriculture ordinance. This ordinance should include strategies to increase access to healthy food, particularly in healthy food priority areas and equity priority communities; develop urban agriculture physical and operational standards; and mitigate soil hazards.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.14: Develop an Urban Agriculture ordinance that includes strategies to increase access to healthy food—particularly in EPAs and Healthy Food Priority Areas—and standards for operation and soil mitigation.</p>		<p>Action 6-6.9: Consider developing an Urban Agriculture Ordinance that includes strategies to increase access to healthy food—particularly in Equity Priority Areas and Healthy Food Priority Areas—and standards for operation and soil mitigation.</p>
<p>Offer incentives to developers to include a small farm in the development in exchange for allowing higher density housing units.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.15: Explore the feasibility of enacting an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (per Assembly Bill 551) to allow landowners to receive tax incentives for putting land into agricultural use.</p>		<p>Action 6-6.10: Explore the feasibility of enacting an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (per Government Code Section 51040) to allow landowners to receive tax incentives for putting land into agricultural use.</p>

<p>POLICY X.2 Partnerships for Urban Agriculture. Collaborate and partner with Sonoma County, non-profits, schools, neighborhood organizations, faith-based organizations, and advocates to identify and develop sites with urban agriculture potential, especially in low income and underserved neighborhoods. Support urban agriculture in schools, parks, hospitals, correction facilities, or other public land suitable for urban agriculture development, including public easements and rights-of-way, where appropriate, and not in conflict with other uses, utility infrastructure, or needs of property owners.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.16: Partner with the County, nonprofits, school districts, neighborhood organizations, faith-based organizations, and others to identify and develop sites for urban agriculture potential, and support all urban agriculture types in schools, parks, hospitals, correction facilities, and other public land and spaces suitable for urban agriculture development, including public easements and rights-of-way.</p>	<p>Strengthen the ability of schools to source locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Some suggested that schools could be hubs for community gardens (not only school gardens).</li> </ul>	<p>Action 6-6.11: Evaluate ways to support urban agriculture in schools, parks, hospitals, and other public land and spaces where appropriate</p>
<p>Evaluate contaminants that may be harmful to human health on land proposed for urban agriculture including site history assessments and soil testing. Help provide financial resources for soil testing and remediation.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.17: Evaluate the potential presence of contaminants that may be harmful to human health on land proposed for urban agriculture, including by performing site history assessments and soil testing.</p>		<p>Action 6-6.12: Encourage landowners to evaluate the potential presence of contaminants that may be harmful to human health on land proposed for urban agriculture, including by performing site history assessments and soil testing</p>
	<p>Action 6-6.18: Identify financial resources for soil testing and remediation on identified sites for urban agriculture.</p>		<p>Action 6-6.13: Identify financial resources for soil testing and remediation on identified sites for urban agriculture</p>
<p>Proposed policy for food hubs: Direct staff to partner with Ag and Open Space to establish food hubs throughout the city where residents can meet and exchange excess home-grown produce. This would help with food waste and recovery goals while increasing access to healthy food and building community.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.19: Work with the County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to establish food hubs throughout the city where community members can meet and exchange excess home-grown produce</p>	<p>Strengthen the ability of schools to source locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food hubs facilitate institutional purchasing from multiple producers and we need more of them [this comment refers to commercial food hubs, which is slightly different from the community food hubs in the draft policy]</li> <li>oSupport for food hubs, including distribution, aggregation, and processing, alongside support for micro businesses and home kitchens and small kitchens. Suggested food hub zoning.</li> </ul>	

<p>POLICY X.3 Community Education on Urban Agriculture. Collaborate with Sonoma County Department of Health Services, school districts in Santa Rosa, and non-profit organizations, particularly at schools, community centers, farmers markets, and libraries, on efforts to educate the community on the nutritional health, social, economic, and environmental benefits of urban farming and consuming locally grown and ecologically sound foods. Collaborate with programs on food production safety, food literacy, cooking, food waste reduction and nutritional education.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.20: Partner with the County Department of Health Services, local schools, and nonprofit organizations to provide education about the nutritional, social, economic, and environmental benefits of urban farming and locally grown and ecologically sound foods; urban agriculture opportunities; food production safety; food literacy; cooking; and food waste reduction.</p>	<p>Strengthen the ability of schools to source locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need more education inside and outside of schools that is appropriate to culture and language.</li> </ul> <p>oFood waste prevention—need repurposing kitchens to meet mandates in SB 1383 to reduce greenhouse gasses as a result of food waste.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.14: Support partner agencies in providing education about the nutritional, social, economic, and environmental benefits of urban farming and locally grown and ecologically sound foods; urban agriculture opportunities; food production safety; food literacy; cooking; and food waste reduction.</p>
<p>Ensure the Neighborhood Food Act (AB 2561) is recognized, removing barriers renters and members of homeowners' associations (HOAs) face when trying to grow food for themselves at home. Educate landowners including owners of apartment complexes and home-owners associations about the benefits of urban gardening and edible landscaping.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.21: In accordance with the Neighborhood Food Act (Assembly Bill 2561), educate landowners, apartment complexes, and homeowners associations (HOA) about the benefits of urban gardening and edible landscaping, and work with them to remove any barriers that renters and owners with an HOA face when trying to grow food for self-consumption, exchange, or sale.</p>		
<p>POLICY X.6 Urban agriculture on private property. Incentivize private property owners to provide opportunities for residential gardening, urban agriculture, and cottage food businesses on privately owned land including leasing to new, beginning, limited resource, and BIPOC food producers.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.22: Establish incentives for private property owners and developers to provide opportunities for residential gardening and urban agriculture, and similar opportunities to food producers who are emerging, have limited resources, and/or are people of color.</p>	<p>Ensuring BIPOC land access and ownership. The group was very aware of the dynamics of social equity and looked at the Food Action Plan goal of social equity from a number of different angles.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.15: Encourage private property owners and developers to provide opportunities for residential gardening and urban agriculture, and similar opportunities to food producers who are emerging, have limited resources, and/or are people of color.</p>
<p>POLICY X.4 Urban Agriculture for Personal Consumption. Allow urban agriculture opportunities such as yard, roof-top, indoor, and other gardens that produce ecologically sound food and culturally appropriate food for personal consumption. Incentivize developers to incorporate gardens and edible landscaping on new and existing residential, commercial, and public development projects that produce food for residents and workers.</p>	<p>Action 6-6.23: Require public development projects to provide access to sustainable food for residents.</p>		

POLICY X.5 Agricultural land protection.  
Protect and enhance the agricultural land base, including urban gardens and peri-urban farms and ranches within Santa Rosa's sphere of influence, that is not planned for urbanization in the timeframe of the General Plan. Partner with Community Land Trusts as a means of increasing affordability of housing and land for food production.

Action 6-6.24: Work with the County to protect the agricultural land base in the Sphere of Influence, including urban gardens, farms, and ranches.

Action 6-6.16: Work with the County to protect the agricultural land base in the Sphere of Influence, including urban gardens, farms, and ranches.

## **Woltering, Nancy**

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**From:** Shan Magnuson <shannysonic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 2, 2024 10:57 AM  
**To:** Laurel Chambers  
**Cc:** Woltering, Nancy; Jones, Jessica; Nicholson, Amy; scfsa@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: [SCFSA GG] Sonoma County Food System Alliance GP Engagement

Thank you, Laurel for sending this letter. I agree with all your concerns and strongly encourage the new draft of the Santa Rosa General Plan to include the language originally proposed which included recommendations from the Sonoma County Food Action Plan.

I hope the efforts of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance and the results of the Aug 22 , 2023 convening, which I attended, will be accurately reflected in the draft plan.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Shan Magnuson

On Fri, Nov 1, 2024 at 3:21 PM 'Laurel Chambers' via Sonoma County Food System Alliance <[SCFSA@googlegroups.com](mailto:SCFSA@googlegroups.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance (SCFSA) regarding the General Plan draft released last month. We were surprised and disappointed to see that the new draft of the Food Access and Urban Agriculture has been significantly pared back and the language weakened. We compiled the attached comparison spreadsheet to show how the draft policies changed over time alongside the feedback our group provided.

Santa Rosa City planners attended multiple SCFSA meetings and gathered our thoughts and feedback leading up to the first draft of the General plan released last summer. They assured us that they had reviewed the SCFSA's Food Action Plan and would incorporate its goals. We provided feedback on the draft concepts and helped shape the goals and actions that ended up in the draft. We then spent considerable time, effort, and our own funding to co-host a community engagement event on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. It was a wonderful collaboration and the planners were very appreciative of the feedback and the excellent turnout. About 50 people attended the event and 36 signed in on the sign-in sheet, but the Community Discussions Summary says there were only 17 participants and the document does not reflect the report that the facilitator prepared (see attached Meeting Summary).

Can you please explain why our input was not accurately reflected in the Community Discussions Summary and why actions were removed or changed in the most recent draft?

Sincerely,

Laurel Chambers, on behalf of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance

**Laurel Chambers, MPH**

Healthy Eating, Active Living Coordinator

Public Health Division

Cell: 408-204-0973

[laurel.chambers@sonoma-county.org](mailto:laurel.chambers@sonoma-county.org)



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To view this discussion visit

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[mprd09.prod.outlook.com](https://mprd09.prod.outlook.com).

From: [Shan Magnuson](#)  
To: [Laurel Chambers](#)  
Cc: [Woltering, Nancy](#); [Jones, Jessica](#); [Nicholson, Amy](#); [scfsa@googlegroups.com](mailto:scfsa@googlegroups.com)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [SCFSA GG] Sonoma County Food System Alliance GP Engagement  
Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024 10:57:17 AM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Sincerely,

Laurel Chambers, on behalf of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance

**Laurel Chambers, MPH**

Healthy Eating, Active Living Coordinator

Public Health Division

Cell: 408-204-0973

[laurel.chambers@sonoma-county.org](mailto:laurel.chambers@sonoma-county.org)



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To view this discussion visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/SCFSA/PH0PR09MB8411B42D656127016F2CC8E1A4562%40PH0PR09MB8411.namprd09.prod.outlook.com>.

**Woltering, Nancy**

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**From:** Ken MacNab <ken@kmacadvising.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 12:08 PM  
**To:** Woltering, Nancy  
**Cc:** Jones, Jessica; Nicholson, Amy  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Status of 2050 General Plan Update

Thanks Nancy. I do have one over-arching question/ concern. In reviewing the updated Draft GP I did not see any mention or consideration of the South Santa Rosa Specific Plan process. I presume the same is true of the Draft EIR (I am just starting my review). This is a little surprising given the scope/magnitude of the SSRSP planning effort. I am curious to know why this is and if there was any internal discussions about this during preparation of the updated draft.

Ken

Ken MacNab  
*KMac Advising*

Sent from my mobile, please excuse typos

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**From:** Woltering, Nancy <nwoltering@srcity.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 11:47:18 AM  
**To:** Ken MacNab <ken@kmacadvising.com>  
**Cc:** Jones, Jessica <jjones@srcity.org>; Nicholson, Amy <anicholson@srcity.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Status of 2050 General Plan Update

Hi Ken,  
We are in the process of discussing whether to include the letters, or just provide a quick summary of the comments received to date. I will clarify once we have settled on our process.  
Thanks,  
Nancy

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**From:** Ken MacNab <ken@kmacadvising.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** Woltering, Nancy <nwoltering@srcity.org>  
**Cc:** Jones, Jessica <jjones@srcity.org>; Nicholson, Amy <anicholson@srcity.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Status of 2050 General Plan Update

Thank you Nancy! Will submitted letters go out in the PC agenda packet? If yes, what is the deadline for submitting something to Amy?

Ken

**Ken MacNab**  
*KMac Advising, LLC*

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**From:** Woltering, Nancy <nwoltering@srcity.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2024 9:51 AM

**To:** Ken MacNab <[ken@kmacadvising.com](mailto:ken@kmacadvising.com)>  
**Cc:** Jones, Jessica <[jjones@srcity.org](mailto:jjones@srcity.org)>; Nicholson, Amy <[anicholson@srcity.org](mailto:anicholson@srcity.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Status of 2050 General Plan Update

Hi Ken,

Please direct comments to Amy Nicholson, Supervising Planner. The General Plan 2050 Draft EIR will be going before the Planning Commission on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the meeting will be on the adequacy of the General Plan 2050 Draft EIR. If we receive comments on the General Plan, we will also forward them to Commissioners. Meetings on the General Plan 2050 and Final EIR will be in the Spring.

Thanks, Ken!  
Best,  
Nancy

**Nancy Woltering, AICP CEP | Senior Planner - Advance Planning**  
Planning & Economic Development | 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3 | Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Tel. (707) 543-4688 | Cell (707) 291-6197 | [nwoltering@srcity.org](mailto:nwoltering@srcity.org)



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**From:** Ken MacNab <[ken@kmacadvising.com](mailto:ken@kmacadvising.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2024 9:45 AM  
**To:** Woltering, Nancy <[nwoltering@srcity.org](mailto:nwoltering@srcity.org)>  
**Cc:** Jones, Jessica <[jjones@srcity.org](mailto:jjones@srcity.org)>; Nicholson, Amy <[anicholson@srcity.org](mailto:anicholson@srcity.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Status of 2050 General Plan Update

Hi Nancy-

Hope this message finds you well. We are reviewing the October update to the Draft 2050 General Plan document and will likely have some comments. I am writing to ask who our comments should be directed to. I also wanted to ask if a meeting on the updated Draft GP document has been scheduled before the PC.

Please let me know when you get a chance.

Thanks-

Ken

From: Altamirano, Gino <[galtamirano@coblentzlaw.com](mailto:galtamirano@coblentzlaw.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:49 PM

To: Woltering, Nancy <[nwoltering@srcity.org](mailto:nwoltering@srcity.org)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Projections for Jobs

Nancy, I am interested in the 300 sq. ft. per employee for commercial (see below taken from the October 2024 Draft General Plan update) and if this projection/standard will regulate the number of employees a commercial business/operator can have in a commercial area?

Thank you,  
Gino

CHAPTER 2 | LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Table 2-1 Permitted Densities/Intensities Under the General Plan				
Land Use	Corresponding Zoning Districts	Residential Density (housing units/gross acre)	Residential Density Midpoint (housing units/gross acre)	Square Feet per Employee
<b>Residential</b>				
Very Low Density	Rural Residential (RR)	0.2-2.0	1.0	--
Low Density/Open Space	Single-Family Residential (R-1)	2.0-8.0	4.0	--
Low Density	R-1	2.0-8.0	5.0	--
Medium Low Density	R-1	8.0-13.0	10.0	--
Medium Density	Medium Density Multifamily Residential (R-2)	8.0-18.0	13.0	--
Medium High Density	Multifamily Residential (R-3)	18.0-30.0	24.0	--
Mobile Home Parks	Mobile Home Park (MH)	4.0-18.0	10.0	--
<b>Mixed Use</b>				
Transit Village Medium	Transit Village-Residential (TV-R)	25.0-40.0	--	300
Transit Village Mixed Use	Transit Village-Mixed (TV-M)	40.0 minimum	--	300
Core Mixed Use	Core Mixed Use (CMU)	--	--	--
Station Mixed Use	Station Mixed Use (SMU)	--	--	--
Maker Mixed Use	Maker Mixed Use (MMU)	--	--	--
Neighborhood Mixed Use	Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU)	25.0-40.0	--	--
<b>Commercial</b>				
Retail and Business Services Community Shopping Center Neighborhood Shopping Center	General Commercial (CG)	--	--	300
<b>Office</b>	Office Commercial (OC)	--	--	250
<b>Industrial</b>				
Business Park	Business Park (BP)	--	--	350
Light Industry	Light Industrial (IL)	--	--	400

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**From:** Woltering, Nancy <[nwoltering@srcity.org](mailto:nwoltering@srcity.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:38 PM  
**To:** Altamirano, Gino <[galtamirano@coblentzlaw.com](mailto:galtamirano@coblentzlaw.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Projections for Jobs

Hi Gino,

I received your phone message. The 2050 General Plan projections for jobs are based on the square footage capacity\* of different uses multiplied by a jobs multiplier that is unique to each use. For example, the employee multiplier for new office space is 3.32 jobs per additional 1,000 square feet. These multipliers are from the SCTA model. \*The jobs multiplier for hotels is based on the number of hotel rooms and for educational facilities is based on the number of students.

Does that answer your question? Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thanks,  
Nancy

**Nancy Woltering, AICP CEP | Senior Planner - Advance Planning**

Planning & Economic Development | 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3 | Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Tel. (707) 543-4688 | Cell (707) 291-6197 | [nwoltering@srcity.org](mailto:nwoltering@srcity.org)



From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted]  
Date: [redacted]

Comment Submitted by:  
Name: [redacted]  
Organization: [redacted]  
Email: [redacted]

Comment:

Comment: What this plan seems to ignore or put on the back-burner is that urban tree cover is in a very bad state. The last attention paid to it seems to be in the '90's. The approved tree list is outdated. Any trees planted around this time are at the end of their life span and are not being replaced. In fact, the city's policy is to fill in the planting wells with more concrete. The language of this policy does not reflect the urgency of this situation. The language of the policy does not convey that the authors understand that to get people out walking our streets and neighborhoods instead of driving the streets need to be shaded.

See all comments.

[https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.santarosafoward.com%2Fmail\\_forms%2Flisting&data=05%7C02%7Cnwoltering%40srcity.org%7C5e2171b2c4d647da280608dd098b873c%7C0d511985462e4402a0b038e1dadf689e%7C1%7C0%7C638677217106802247%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoiTWpbcIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YT2Ht%2Brkrx8wSw8Tc9cEojcSvha%2F91MTadFjx9w7Ic%3D&reserved=0](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.santarosafoward.com%2Fmail_forms%2Flisting&data=05%7C02%7Cnwoltering%40srcity.org%7C5e2171b2c4d647da280608dd098b873c%7C0d511985462e4402a0b038e1dadf689e%7C1%7C0%7C638677217106802247%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoiTWpbcIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YT2Ht%2Brkrx8wSw8Tc9cEojcSvha%2F91MTadFjx9w7Ic%3D&reserved=0)

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