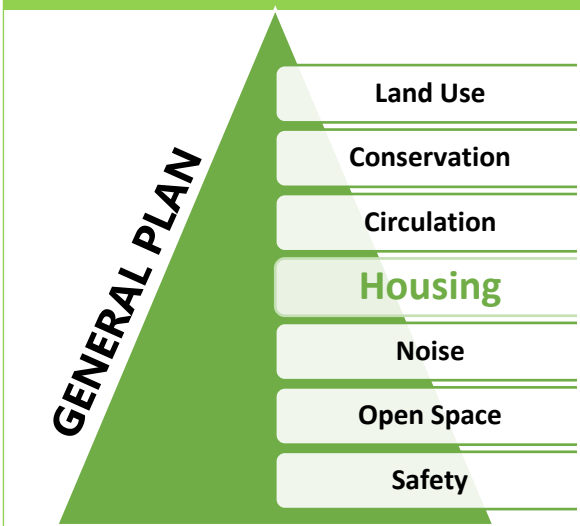


General Plan and its Seven Elements



What is a Housing Element?

State Law establishes a framework for local land use regulation. It requires every City to adopt a General Plan for its physical development. A Housing Element which is one part of the General Plan includes goals, policies, quantified objectives and scheduled programs to preserve, improve and develop housing. State Law requires cities to update their Housing Element every eight years.

While cities don't build housing themselves, they create policies & programs that affect where housing can be built, how much, and how it gets approved. Each jurisdiction's housing plan needs to help ensure that there will be enough capacity and supportive policies to meet the projected **Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA)**.

What is RHNA?

RHNA is a representation of future housing need for all income levels of a jurisdiction and is a requirement of California State housing law. Every jurisdiction must plan for its RHNA allocation in its Housing Element of its General Plan.

The State develops an estimate of housing need based upon estimated employment growth and other factors. This is a complex process since it relies on future projections and certain assumptions. This gets translated into a regional number which is then allocated to each city by its Regional Council Of Governments (COGs), in our case ABAG (the Association of Bay Area Governments). The RHNA is the number for both total housing and affordable housing units that each city must plan and zone to allow that amount of housing to be built.

Be informed –

Visit the [Foster City Housing Information Page](#)
Stay Involved — Join the mailing list

The City of Foster City encourages input from anyone with an interest in Housing Element update.

If you would like to learn more or stay involved, [Signup for the mailing list.](#)

Why is Housing so important to the State?

The State has identified housing challenges that need to be addressed in order to not only address the housing production shortfall but also to create diverse housing choices.

Creating more housing—and more diverse housing choices—means:

- **Young families** can find an affordable starter home.
- **Young adults** moving out of their childhood home and into the housing market can stay in the cities they grew up in.
- **Our aging population** will have more options for retirement, including downsizing, providing housing for on-site health or home care, and staying in their communities.
- **Workers** - teachers, firefighters, health care workers, essential workers - can find homes near job centers (which will reduce traffic!).
- **Children grandchildren** can stay near their parents and grandparents in the communities they feel a part of.
- More people will have more opportunities, **across incomes**, to rent or own homes in the places they live, work and love.

Join the Conversation!

Stay tuned for upcoming meeting related to Housing.