

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Air Quality

Air Pollutant Emission Reduction

Goal Air-1 Minimize air pollutant emissions from new and existing development.

Air-1 Air Pollutant Emission Reduction Policies

- Policy Air-1.1 Assess projected air emissions from new development in conformance with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) CEQA Guidelines and relative to state and federal standards. Identify and implement feasible air emission reduction measures.
- Policy Air-1.2 The cumulative air quality impacts from proposed developments will be considered for proposed land use designation changes and new development, consistent with the region's Clean Air Plan and State law. (SJ2020 GP)
- Policy Air-1.3 Promote the expansion and improvement of public transportation services and facilities, where appropriate, to both encourage energy conservation and reduce air pollution. (SJ2020 GP)
- Policy Air-1.4 The City encourages effective regulation of those sources of air pollution, both inside and outside of San José, which affect air quality. In particular, the City supports Federal and State regulations to improve automobile emission controls. (SJ2020 GP)
- Policy Air-1.5 In order to reduce vehicle miles traveled and traffic congestion, new development within 2,000 feet of an existing or planned transit station will be required to encourage the use of public transit and minimize the dependence on the automobile through the application of site design guidelines and transit incentives. (SJ2020 GP)
- Policy Air-1.6 Encourage mixed land use development near transit lines and provide retail and other types of service oriented uses within walking distance to minimize automobile dependent development.
- Policy Air-1.7 Encourage regional and statewide air pollutant emission reduction through energy conservation to improve air quality.
- Policy Air-1.8 Minimize vegetation removal required for fire prevention. Require alternatives to discing, such as mowing, to the extent feasible. Where vegetation removal is required for property maintenance purposes, encourage or require alternatives that limit the exposure of bare soil.
- Policy Air-1.9 Foster educational programs about air pollution problems and their solutions. (SJ2020 GP)

Air-1 Air Pollutant Emission Reduction Actions:

- Action Air-1.10 Continue to actively enforce the City’s ozone-depleting compound ordinance and supporting policy to ban the use of chlorofluorocarbon compounds (CFCs) in packaging and in building construction and remodeling to help reduce damage to the global atmospheric ozone layer. The City may consider adopting other policies or ordinances to reinforce this effort. (SJ2020 GP)
- Action Air-1.11 Continue to enforce the City’s wood-burning appliance ordinance to limit air pollutant emissions from residential and commercial buildings.
- Action Air-1.12 Continue to increase the City’s alternative fuel vehicle fleet with the co-benefit of reducing local air emissions and continue to implement the City’s Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy (Council Policy 4-6) and Pollution Prevention Policy (Council Policy 4-5) in a manner that reduces air emissions from municipal operations.
- Action Air-1.13 As a part of City of San Jose Sustainable City efforts, educate the public about air polluting household consumer products and activities that generate air pollution. Increase public awareness about the alternative products and activities that reduce air pollutant emissions.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Goal Air-2 Minimize exposure of people to air pollution and toxic air contaminants

Air-2 Toxic Air Contaminants Policies

- Policy Air-2.1 Require completion of air quality modeling for sensitive land uses such as new residential developments that are located near sources of pollution such as freeways and industrial uses. Require new residential development projects and projects categorized as sensitive receptors to be located an adequate distance from sources of toxic air contaminants (TACs) to avoid significant risks to health and safety or employ effective mitigation into project designs.
- Policy Air-2.2 Require new projects (such as, but not limited to, industrial, manufacturing, and processing facilities) that are sources of TACs to be located an adequate distance from residential areas and other sensitive receptors. For projects that emit toxic air contaminants, require project proponents to prepare health risk assessments in accordance with BAAQMD-recommended procedures as part of environmental review and employ effective mitigation to reduce possible health risks to a less than significant level.
- Policy Air-2.3 Truck circulation routes will be reviewed for projects generating significant heavy duty truck traffic to designate truck routes that minimize exposure of sensitive receptors to TACs and particulate matter.
- Policy Air-2.4 Encourage the use of appropriate air filtration, to be installed at existing schools, residences, and other sensitive receptor uses adversely affected by pollution sources.

Policy Air-2.5 Encourage the use of pollution absorbing trees and vegetation in buffer areas between substantial sources of TACs and sensitive land uses, where appropriate and feasible.

Air-2 Toxic Air Contaminants Actions

Action Air-2.6 Develop and adopt a comprehensive Community Risk Reduction Plan that includes: baseline inventory of toxic air contaminants (TACs) and particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) emissions from all sources, emissions reduction targets, and enforceable emission reduction strategies and performance measures. The Community Risk Reduction Plan will include enforcement and monitoring tools to ensure regular review of progress toward the emission reduction targets, progress reporting to the public and responsible agencies, and periodic updates of the plan, as appropriate.

Action Air-2.7 Consult with BAAQMD to identify stationary and mobile TAC sources and determine the need for and requirements of a health risk assessment for proposed developments.

Action Air-2.8 Require signage at new projects that generate truck traffic, which remind drivers that the State truck idling law limits truck idling to five minutes.

Objectionable Odors

Goal Air-3 Minimize and avoid exposure of residents to objectionable odors.

Air-3 Odor Actions

Policy Air-3.1 For new, expanded, or modified facilities that are potential sources of objectionable odors (such as landfills, green waste and resource recovery facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, asphalt batch plants, and food processors), the City requires an analysis of possible odor impacts and the provision of odor minimization and control measures as mitigation.

Policy Air-3.2 Require new residential development projects and projects categorized as sensitive receptors to be located an adequate distance from facilities that are existing and potential sources of odor. An adequate separate distance will be determined based upon the type, size and operations of the facility.

Construction Air Emissions

Goal Air-4 Minimize air pollutant emissions during demolition and construction activities.

Air-4 Construction Air Emission Minimization Policies

Policy Air-4.1 Include dust, particulate matter, and construction equipment exhaust control measures as conditions of approval for subdivision maps, site development and planned development permits, grading permits, and demolition permits. At minimum, conditions shall conform to construction mitigation measures recommended in the current BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines for the relevant project size and type.

Policy Air-4.2 Construction and/or demolition projects that have the potential to disturb asbestos (from soil or building material) shall comply with all the requirements of the California Air Resources Board's air toxics control measures (ATCMs) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations.

Policy Air-4.3 Require subdivision designs and site planning to minimize grading and use landform grading in hillside areas.

Air-4 Construction Air Emission Minimization Actions

Action Air-4.4 Adopt and periodically update dust, particulate, and exhaust control standard measures for demolition and grading activities to include on project plans as conditions of approval based upon construction mitigation measures in the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines,

Action Air-4.5 Prevent silt loading on roadways that generates particulate matter air pollution by prohibiting unpaved or unprotected access to public roadways from construction sites.

Action Air-4.6 Revise the grading ordinance and condition grading permits to require that graded areas be stabilized from the completion of grading to commencement of construction.