General Plan Update Project Phases

PHASE 1| Project Initiation – **COMPLETED**

Set up the Framework | Winter to Spring 2016
The project team will complete a final work program, timeline, and strategy for community outreach. Key community issues and future opportunities will be identified and the Planning Commission will hold its first Work Session.

PHASE 2| Background Report – **IN PROGRESS**

Assess Existing Conditions in the County | Spring 2016 to Spring 2017
The project team will identify existing conditions in the County, sometimes referred to as the “baseline” condition and hold meetings throughout the community to better understand the assets, issues, and opportunities in Ventura County. This analysis and outreach will be summarized in a Background Report, which was completed in Spring 2017. The goal of this phase is to get a good idea of where Ventura County is now so the project team has a clear starting point for developing new guiding principles and policies for the future.

PHASE 3| Guiding Principles

Develop Guiding Principles | Spring 2017 to Fall 2017
This phase focuses on the development of guiding principles that support a vision for the County’s future growth and development and represent the core values of the community. Guiding principles can address a variety of issues such as where new housing and employment development can be best accommodated, preserving natural resources and wildlife habitat, coordinating development around existing and future transportation corridors, supporting public health, safety and social justice, and educating and preparing a robust workforce.

PHASE 4| Evaluate Alternatives

Develop Options and Alternatives | Fall 2017 to Spring 2018
Ventura County is unique compared to other counties in California because for many years its growth and development have been shaped by the Guidelines for Orderly Development and the Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiatives passed by individual cities within the County. While future growth and development will incorporate these existing land use policies, the project team will develop a range of development options dealing with issues such as land use, transportation, and growth alternatives.
PHASE 5| Draft General Plan

Prepare a Draft General Plan | Summer 2018 to Spring 2019
The information and input generated in the prior project phases will be used to develop goals, policies and programs that make up the heart of the General Plan. These are the tools used to implement the community’s vision. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft General Plan, and it will be reviewed by both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

PHASE 6| Program Environmental Impact Report

Conduct an Environmental Review of the Draft General Plan | Spring 2019 to Winter 2020
An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be completed for the project. An EIR presents detailed information about a project’s environmental effects, includes options for minimizing a project’s significant environmental effects, and presents reasonable alternatives that would create fewer environmental impacts than the one being proposed. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the EIR, as will the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

PHASE 7| General Plan Adoption

Final Steps – Adopt a new General Plan | Winter 2020 to Spring 2020
As a result of the environmental analysis, any necessary revisions to the General Plan will be made and a final document will be prepared and presented to the both the Planning Commission and the Board Supervisors. The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the General Plan before it is formally adopted, although ultimate authority to adopt the new Plan rests with the Board of Supervisors.