



San Carlos News Release

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CITY OF SAN CARLOS HOUSING ELEMENT CERTIFIED

(SAN CARLOS, CA, April 29, 2024) – The California Department of Housing and Community Development certified the City of San Carlos Housing Element last Thursday, April 25, marking a major milestone in the City’s commitment to address the housing needs of the San Carlos community. The plan, which must be updated every eight years, addresses both the immediate and long-term housing needs in San Carlos, and will serve as the City’s primary housing policy document through 2031.

The Housing Element, which focuses on the provision of adequate housing for all current and future San Carlos residents, was initially completed by City staff on October 14, 2022, and following revisions in response to the State’s comments, was adopted by the San Carlos City Council on January 23, 2023. Since that time, the adopted Housing Element was further refined and found in compliance with state law on April 25, 2024, after more than two years of City planning and robust community collaboration. “I’m very proud of the work our staff and the community put into this Housing Element,” remarked Community and Economic Development Director Al Savay. “State Certification is a big milestone, and we are looking forward to putting the plan into action on much needed housing goals.”

The City’s Housing Element is comprised of several components, including amendments to San Carlos’ Zoning Ordinance to allow for increased densities, FAR (floor area ratio), and building heights. “We made a strategic decision early on to adopt new development [zoning] standards concurrently with the Housing Element,” asserted Planning Manager Lisa Porras, who managed

the project. “This unlocks the door for greater housing production and instantly implements our commitment to increase housing opportunities in San Carlos.” In addition to updates to the Housing Element, several amendments to the San Carlos General Plan were also made, including the City’s Land Use, Safety, Circulation, Noise, and Environmental Management Elements. The Housing Element complies with all new State laws governing the preservation, improvement, and development of housing in San Carlos.

“Providing a variety of housing options accessible to all income levels has long been a priority of the San Carlos City Council,” said Mayor John Dugan. “State certification of our required Housing Element is an important step toward achieving this goal.” The City of San Carlos is now eager to begin putting the plan into action by implementing and promoting programs and policies that will be used to meet housing needs for everyone in the City of Good Living.

To learn more about the City of San Carlos Housing Element, please visit www.sancarlos2040.org or www.cityofsancarlos.org/housing.

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