



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

San Francisco General Plan Preservation Element: Objectives 1-3

Historic Preservation Commission | June 18, 2014



Preservation Element

Definition

An element of the General Plan that establishes a long-range vision for the protection of historic resources and that sets forth a series of goals, objectives, and policies to accomplish that vision over time.

Project Summary

Overview

- Update the draft Preservation Element.
 - Improve usability.
 - Clarify existing policies.
 - Identify missing policies.
- Perform public outreach.
- Prepare final draft for environmental review.
- Propose for adoption.

Project Goals

Overview

- Create a succinct, inspiring, and effective policy document.
- Reflect the City's progress over the past 7 years and current best practices.
- Clearly differentiate between Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures.

Objective:

Definition

An objective sets a general direction; it is a future goal or end. More important, it is an expression of community values. Because of this, it may be abstract in nature. It may or may not be quantifiable or time-dependent.

Objectives are not expressed as actions, but rather as ends that will be achieved.

Policy:

Definition

A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making. A policy is based on, and helps implement, the objectives of a General Plan. For a policy to be useful as an action guide, it must be clear. Ambiguity or vagueness impedes policy implementation. This is especially true when it comes to determining whether zoning or other land use decisions are consistent with the General Plan.



Implementation Measure:

Definition

This is an action, procedure, program, or technique that carries out general plan policy. Each policy must have at least one corresponding implementation measure.

Preservation Element Objectives

Overview

1. Identification & Documentation
2. Preserve & Protect
3. Archeological Resources
4. Application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards
5. Professional Qualifications of Decision-Makers & Staff
6. Incentives
7. Education & Public Awareness
8. Sustainability
9. Disaster & Emergency Preparedness

OBJECTIVE 1

Staff Analysis

Maintain an inventory of historic resources.

- Re-word as: *“Identify those elements of the City’s tangible and intangible environment that are essential to conveying our history and culture.”*
- Modify policies to define what elements should be considered “historic resources.”
- Include archaeological resources so that the City takes a holistic and consistent approach to all types of historic resources.
- Include social heritage resources and intangible resources.
- Support with implementation measures that call for the creation of local historic resource evaluation criteria.

OBJECTIVE 1: Policies

Staff Analysis

- 1.1 *Develop and maintain a Citywide Historic Context Statement to inform an overall understanding of San Francisco's built environment.*
- 1.2 *Undertake a citywide survey to identify and evaluate properties that are forty-five years old or older, or that appear to have exceptional historic/cultural significance, and conduct periodic updates of the survey.*

Move Policies 1.1 and 1.2 to Implementation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Policies

Staff Analysis

1.3 Collect and evaluate information about potential historic and/or conservation districts that possess significant concentrations, linkages, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

Delete Policy 1.3 or modify.

OBJECTIVE 1: Policies

Staff Analysis

1.4 Encourage property owners and development interests to undertake identification and evaluation of historic resources in advance of the environmental review and/or building permit review processes.

No suggested changes.

1.5 Identify and evaluate City-owned historic resources.

Prioritize the evaluation of City property?

OBJECTIVE 1: Policies

Staff Analysis

1.6 Recognize historic resources of exceptional importance that are of recent construction.

Expand list of policies that recognize specific types of resources, such as social heritage resources, intangible resources, or significant public interiors.

1.7 Recognize resources associated with diverse or underrepresented populations, communities, themes, and resource types.

Prioritize the recognition of these resource types?

OBJECTIVE 1: Policies

Staff Analysis

1.8 Develop and maintain an official City Register of identified historic resources and associated documentation, which shall be made readily available and accessible to property owners, government agencies, and the general public.

Move Policy 1.8 to Implementation or modify.

OBJECTIVE 2

Staff Analysis

Protect and preserve historic resources.

- Re-word as: *“Integrate the consideration of historic resources as a major aspect of the City's planning, permitting and development activities.”*
- Replace “protect” with specific methods of historic resource management.
- Organize methods as a hierarchy of preferred management tools.

OBJECTIVE 2: Policies

Staff Analysis

2.1 *Protect individual historic resources eligible at the local, state, or national level.*

2.2 *Protect locally, state, or nationally eligible historic or conservation districts.*

Move Policies 1.1 and 1.2 to Implementation.

2.3 *Protect resources that have not been previously identified or designated that appear eligible for designation individually or as part of a district.*

Move Policy 2.3 to Implementation.

OBJECTIVE 2: Policies

Staff Analysis

2.4 Protect historic resources that are less than fifty years old.

2.5 Protect significant interiors in public or publicly accessible buildings.

Delete Policies 2.4 and 2.5.

OBJECTIVE 2: Policies

Staff Analysis

2.6 Support efforts to pursue formal designation of properties determined eligible for listing as City Landmarks or City Historic Districts under Article 10 of the Planning Code.

Broaden to state: “*Support efforts to pursue formal designation of properties determined eligible for listing on local, state, or federal registries.*”

2.7 Promote the rehabilitation and adaptive use of historic resources as an alternative to demolition.

Consider how possible modification of Policies 2.1 and 2.2 would integrate with this policy.

OBJECTIVE 2: Policies

Staff Analysis

2.8 *Use enforcement powers to prevent unauthorized alterations and demolition by neglect.*

Move Policy 2.8 to Implementation.

2.9 *Designate, preserve, rehabilitate and adaptively re-use City-owned historic resources.*

2.10 *Foster inter-agency communication and collaboration on projects with historic preservation aspects or impacts.*

Combine Policies 2.9 and 2.10.

OBJECTIVE 2: Policies

Staff Analysis

2.11 Collect, archive, maintain, and protect documents and artifacts that are important to the historical understanding of San Francisco's built environment.

Re-word Policy 2.11 or move to a separate education objective.

OBJECTIVE 3

Staff Analysis

Preserve archaeological resources within San Francisco as an irreplaceable record of the past.

- Consider how Objective 3 should relate to Objectives 1 and 2, which direct the City to identify and protect historic resources generally.
- Expand the policies under this objective to promote more educational and interpretative work in the City's management of archaeological resources.

OBJECTIVE 3: Policies

Staff Analysis

- 3.1 *Develop and maintain an archaeological geographic information system (GIS) of known and expected archaeological resources and of their associated documentation.*

Move Policy 3.1 to Implementation.

- 3.2 *Ensure preservation or appropriate treatment of archaeological resources discovered during project activity.*

No suggested changes.

OBJECTIVE 3: Policies

Staff Analysis

3.3 *All Indigenous archaeological sites in San Francisco shall be presumed to have significant archaeological value.*

No suggested changes.

3.4 *Create archaeological preservation districts to preserve multiple-feature archaeological resources that are prehistorically, historically, or thematically interrelated.*

Modify to read: *“Promote the designation of archaeological preservation districts to preserve multiple-feature archaeological resources ...”*

Staff Requests

Conclusion

- Respond to staff suggestions for each Objective and Policy.
- Contribute further suggestions for structural or conceptual changes.
- Make recommendations for future staff presentations.

Next Steps

Conclusion

July 16

HPC Review: Objectives 4-6

August 20

HPC Review: Objectives 7-9

September 10

Open House

Fall/Winter

Public Outreach & Revision

Winter/Spring

CEQA Review



QUESTIONS?

www.sfplanning.org