



Group 2 Warm Up Input

## CHAPTER 2: VISION





### What is a Community Vision

*A community vision is a long-term aspiration describing a community's values and shared image of what a community wants to be in the future. Put simply, it describes the ideal condition of a community.*

## CREATING OUR VISION

The Community Vision for Elk Grove, expressed through a Vision Statement and a series of Supporting Principles, is a declaration of the kind of community that Elk Grove wants to become in the future and sets the course for this General Plan.

The Community Vision draws upon findings derived from research into existing conditions, demographics, and trends in Elk Grove, and was crafted based on input provided by the community during a visioning process. The City conducted community engagement events between August and December of 2015 to identify key values and issues, with subsequent outreach activities that allowed for refinement of the Community Vision. City staff and officials contributed their feedback at joint City Council/Planning Commission study sessions. Representatives from organizations with an interest in the community shared their visions through focused interviews. Members of the public offered input at mobile workshops conducted at community events held throughout the City and at an all-day visioning workshop.

## COMMUNITY VISION

The Community Vision establishes the basis for General Plan goals and policies. The Vision Statement describes the values and aspirations for Elk Grove in the future. It identifies key characteristics necessary for sustaining what is important to the community and for Elk Grove to achieve its potential. The Vision Statement is supported by nine Supporting Principles, statements that together contribute to the larger Community Vision and provide more specific guidance for General Plan goals and policies.

## VISION STATEMENT

### THE CITY OF ELK GROVE IS...

A great place to make a home, a great place to work, and a great place to play. Our community is diverse, healthy, safe, and family-oriented, with thriving schools and plentiful parks, shops, and places to work. Agriculture, rural homes, and urban life flourish together. Our natural resources, including water and open spaces, are protected and offer a variety of recreational opportunities. Community members travel easily by automobile, by bicycle, on foot, or using transit. The City is proactive in making daily life healthy and sustainable—considering the needs of future generations while protecting what is valued today.

Well-maintained infrastructure and the right mix of services and amenities draw new and dynamic businesses and development to Elk Grove. Development is guided to ensure responsible growth and opportunities for a diversity of individuals who call Elk Grove home.



## SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES

### REGIONAL GOALS & INFLUENCE – OUR REGIONAL NEIGHBORS KNOW US & OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Elk Grove occupies a prominent place in the regional dialogue. The City’s identity and brand are clear in the minds of its neighbors, and our unique sense of place makes our City an appealing destination to live, work and visit. Our contributions to the region continue to strengthen that identity and include recreational opportunities, higher education, job centers, and quality neighborhoods. City officials engage with other cities, Sacramento County, and other partners to plan and build for an ever more dynamic region. The City’s employment potential within the regional economy is fulfilled.

New businesses have emerged, providing new employment centers that support technology and build from our agricultural roots. Both housing and jobs are available in the community, providing flexible opportunities for many lifestyles including the opportunity to live-work-and play, within the distance that can be walked in twenty-minutes.

### INFILL DEVELOPMENT & OUTWARD EXPANSION – DEVELOPMENT FILLS IN THE GAPS & EXPANSION OCCURS WITH PURPOSE

Unfinished, undeveloped gaps found throughout the City become opportunities to develop economically successful compact and walkable additions that provide added value to our community as well as new job opportunities and lifestyle improvements while reducing dependence on single occupancy vehicles. Existing small businesses are protected even as we invite in new businesses and different economic opportunities. New development plans are grounded by community needs and market demand, and are carried out efficiently and holistically. New housing built in a variety of shapes and sizes to meet the needs and desires of our diverse community also fills in these gaps.

Infill development is consistently executed with programs that address impacts and encourage innovative urban design and building solutions. A creative growth management strategy allows expansion to occur when economic need, community vision, and regional goals align. There is a strong system in place to guarantee that as the community accommodates new neighbors and new jobs, it continues to maintain and improve facilities and services, such as schools, roads, and parks. Our development review process works to ensure that new development is compatible with surrounding neighborhoods and to preserve the character of our community.

### ECONOMIC VITALITY – OUR ECONOMY IS DIVERSE & BALANCED & ENHANCES QUALITY OF LIFE

Major employment centers make their home in Elk Grove, and where appropriate are seamlessly connected to emerging neighborhoods and expanded transit options providing employment opportunities and stimulating ancillary businesses as well. We continue to invite businesses that are competitive in the region and set the stage to attract these businesses by providing resources and amenities they need. Old and new businesses together improve our lives by providing new jobs as well



*Elk Grove City Hall*



*Community Retail*

as convenient places to access amenities and entertainment. Elk Grove has a diverse economy that builds from our heritage, but also invites in new and changing industries. Higher education and technical training are available to our community members as they pursue diverse job opportunities in these new industries. The City is leading the way in innovative technology infrastructure, technical education opportunities, sports activities and entertainment, and a safe and crime-free environment. Employment centers are set in exciting and vibrant neighborhoods and districts with great quality-of-life amenities including pedestrian friendly design and a mix of uses to attract and retain the best and the brightest in their respective disciplines. All these features combined attract business and offer a better quality of life for individuals and families of all incomes, ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



*Old Town Elk Grove*

Growth and development in the City are built with our historic resources and identity in mind. These businesses bolster the community by providing jobs, services, goods, and recreational opportunities for residents.

### COMMUNITY IDENTITY – CITY CORE, HERITAGE & WELL-KNOWN NEIGHBORHOODS

The City includes a civic core that offers central gathering spaces which all community members may enjoy and feel welcome in. The City and community organizations partner to foster a thriving and safe civic core. Successful projects and annual events enhance vitality and camaraderie in this place.

Old Town Elk Grove continues to protect and showcase our heritage for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. This unique district is a source of pride and identity for Elk Grove residents.

All of our neighborhoods are built around our top-notch parks and schools. Preservation and change in our neighborhoods are guided by values of diversity, neighborly spirit, and small-town character.



*Rural Elk Grove*

### RURAL AREAS – PROTECTING OUR FARMING HERITAGE & RURAL LIFE

We celebrate the Rural Area and its heritage, and balance that heritage with other needs, services, and lifestyles desired in Elk Grove. The Rural Area is valued in our community for its aesthetic and cultural significance, as well as the economic and educational opportunities that agriculture provides. Our commitment to maintaining the Rural Area is clear and codified in core planning documents through programs that preserve the aesthetics and style of our rural heritage. Agricultural producers and other land uses remain good neighbors, each with desired services and infrastructure needs fully met.

### OPEN SPACE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – OUTDOOR RECREATION IS RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR DOOR

Our parks and trails are high quality and highly valued, providing regional destinations for outdoor recreation and active living. We continue to enhance



and maintain our recreational open spaces so that they are safe, connected, and accessible to all. Our trails connect easily to other trails and parks in the region, and community gardens are a source of local food and local involvement. Homes in the Livable Employment Area are for the most part within an 1/8 mile of pocket parks or playgrounds, and ¼ mile from civic greens or parks.

### MULTIMODAL & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION – MOVING AROUND ANYWHERE, ANY WAY

Our residents, workers, and visitors need to move about efficiently, and have a variety of ways to do so. Connected transportation networks, regional coordination, and public and active transportation options are priorities for our community. Connected and mobile community members have the ability to travel within the City and to other places in the region by a variety of methods, with seamless transitions between modes and regions. Our community has roadways in place that allow for efficient movement and safe travel spaces for all modes of travel. New roadways follow the principles of “Complete Streets”. The infrastructure and facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users are clean, safe, and well maintained, and walkways and bike lanes are continuous and complete with convenient connections to local and regional transit. Amenities such as bus shelters make riding transit comfortable and convenient in our community. We are committed to extending transit service with good frequency and route coverage to future expansion areas of the City.



*Recreation at Elk Grove Park*



*Transit at Elk Grove*

### SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY – CLEAN, GREEN PRACTICES & HEALTHY LIVING

Sustainable practices are at the forefront of environmental concerns in Elk Grove. Organizations, businesses, and residents desire a city that is adaptive to and resilient against climate change, is a leader in conservation, and embraces innovations in green technologies. The City layout and land uses promote healthy living, with healthy grocery options and destinations nearby that people can get to by walking and biking. The City’s residents and businesses recognize the importance of responsible resource use, and they work together to conserve and use water and energy to their full potential. The City follows good, innovative design principles for urban spaces and infrastructure to enhance sustainability and resiliency.



*Opening of the Lewis Stein Bridge*

### COORDINATED SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY, & INFRASTRUCTURE – SERVICES FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS

Safety and services are important to all members of our community, and services for youth, seniors, and disadvantaged families are readily available. Entertainment and social centers create a thriving and diverse economy and give residents a place to shop, play, and relax. The City ensures that important services in our community, including social, housing, transportation, health, and education, are available and efficiently obtainable for community members who choose or need them to thrive.



*Community Outreach Event*

