

4A – Greenprint Intro



INTRODUCTION

Greenprint



The development aspect of the General Plan and Local Coastal Program can be considered the City's blueprint plan, while the conservation aspect can be considered the City's greenprint plan. These plans share a common vision and must be consistent with and support one another. The blueprint plan identifies the role of land use and circulation planning

in supporting resource conservation and sustainability. In turn, the greenprint plan identifies the role of resource conservation and sustainability in supporting Morro Bay's economy.

The Greenprint of *Plan Morro Bay* serves as a framework for how the City can use and manage its resources to benefit the community and guide it toward a more resilient and sustainable future. This section links open space, agricultural, and natural resource preservation with the development plans described in the Blueprint. The chapter is grounded in a shared vision from the community, boards and commissions, and City staff and officials for a sustainable community that sets policies and programs to achieve this shared vision. It is implemented by City ordinances, specific plans, programs, and ongoing activities.

The Greenprint informs community members about the consensus regarding parameters for the conservation of resources and natural habitat, recreational amenities, and the maintenance of public safety within the community. It establishes where to avoid or prohibit development, what services to provide, and how to ensure Morro Bay's people and special places are safe, healthy, and resilient in an ever-changing environment and economy. City residents will consult the Greenprint to understand the areas and resources that the City intends to preserve and protect, and the social and cultural framework that the City will support and strengthen to maintain and enhance the health and well-being of the community and the local ecosystem. Businesses and developers can use this chapter to understand how resources are prioritized and valued to meet community needs and preferences.

ORGANIZATION

The Greenprint has been divided into the following elements focused on conserving resources and promoting health and safety in the city. Each element contains topics that address state and federal requirements and local issues of importance to Morro Bay.

Conservation

The Conservation Element addresses the use and preservation of natural resources to improve the environmental quality of Morro Bay for years to come. Topics covered in this element include important biological communities, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, water resources and conservation, energy resources, waste management, visual resources and viewsheds, and coastal resources. Conservation Element goals and policies promote a resilient, sustainable community offering a balance of open spaces, coastal access, and a quality built environment both along the coastline and inland.

Open Space

The Open Space Element outlines a vision for facilitating coastal access and providing a range of community facilities, parks, and recreation opportunities. This element addresses the protection of natural habitat and wildlife by designating open space areas throughout the community. Open Space Element goals and policies include specific steps to protect and improve Morro Bay’s coastal trails, parks, and facilities and to enhance and maintain open spaces in the coastal zone.

Public Safety

The Public Safety Element minimizes community risks associated with natural and man-made hazards. This element identifies hazards that could be made more severe by the city’s location on the coast and anticipated climate change impacts. Public Safety Element goals and policies address natural hazards, coastal adaptation, and emergency response to protect residents, visitors, and wildlife from anticipated impacts.

HOW TO USE THE GREENPRINT

A variety of people will use the Greenprint in *Plan Morro Bay* for different purposes:

- The Planning Commission and the City Council will consult the Greenprint in decision-making preservation activities.
- City staff will refer to Greenprint policies and standards when approving resource conservation programs and projects.
- The development community will use the Greenprint as guidance when preparing development proposals to respect community sustainability and resilience goals.
- Community members can also use the Greenprint as a valuable resource for understanding the priorities of Morro Bay and the types of development and preservation that may occur in the future in various locations.

By adhering to the goals and policies in the Greenprint, the City is able to guide the community forward in a way that realizes the stated vision for a sustainable and resilient community.

Commented [KK1]: Ditto with what I said about the blueprint: let's refer back to one another so that people don't get the idea that one set of standards is more applicable than others.

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