

APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY

Complete streets: streets designed to accommodate multiple travel modes. This means that streets would have not only travel lanes for vehicles, but also room for bicycles, sidewalks, street trees, and bus stops and pull-out lanes (along bus routes).

Goal: a statement of the desired future state.

General Plan Guiding Principles: shared community values used in guiding the development of goals, policies, and implementation strategies in the General Plan.

General Plan Study Area: represents lands that most affect, and are most affected by, the implementation of the General Plan.

General Plan Vision: represents the public’s hopes, dreams, and expectations for themselves and future generations, with a focus on key issues that enjoy consensus in the community.

Implementation strategies: proactive programs or processes that will be undertaken by City staff. Programs are like “work orders” for City staff.

Level of Service (LOS): a way of describing perceived traffic flow, measured primarily at the intersection of two or more streets where there are traffic controls (stop signs, signal lights, etc.). The most common way to express LOS is by assigning a letter from “A” to “F.” LOS “A” represents free flow conditions, while LOS “F” represents the most congested traffic conditions (long lines at intersections to total gridlock).

Policy: decision-making guide for City Council and Planning Commission in managing land use change and other City actions.

Sphere of Influence (SOI): represents the future probable physical boundary and service area of the City. The SOI identifies future growth areas so that the City may plan for efficient and orderly extension of public services and infrastructure.

Area of Concern (AOC): located between the cities of Gridley and Biggs, which presents the primary future growth areas for both of these communities.

Planned Growth Area: geographic focus of the 2030 General Plan update.

KEY ACOUSTICAL TERMINOLOGY:

- dB:** (decibel). A unit for describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).
- dBA:** (A-weighted decibel). The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network.
- Leq:** (Equivalent Noise Level). The energy mean (average) noise level. The instantaneous noise levels during a specific period of time in dBA are converted to relative energy values. From the sum of the relative energy values, an average energy value is calculated, which is then converted back to dBA to determine the Leq. In noise environments determined by major noise events, such as aircraft overflights, the Leq value is heavily influenced by the magnitude and number of single events that produce the high noise levels.
- Ldn:** (Day-Night Noise Level): The 24-hour Leq with a 10-dBA “penalty” for noise events that occur during the noise-sensitive hours between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM. In other words, 10 dBA is “added” to noise events that occur in the nighttime hours, and this generates a higher reported noise level when determining compliance with noise standards. The Ldn attempts to account for the fact that noise during this specific period of time is a potential source of disturbance with respect to normal sleeping hours.
- Lmax:** (Maximum Noise Level). The maximum instantaneous noise level during a specific period of time. The Lmax may also be referred to as the “peak (noise) level.”