



Legal Authority and General Plan Implementation



**City of
Gridley**

2030 GENERAL PLAN

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LEGAL AUTHORITY

California planning law requires cities and counties to prepare and adopt a "comprehensive, long-range general plan" to guide development of the community. Statutory authority for a general plan is described in the Government Code of the State of California Section 65300 et seq. Although the general plan must address a number of mandatory subjects and elements, lead agencies are free to focus the general plan, as appropriate, to address locally relevant conditions.

The question of "legal adequacy" is addressed according to the standards of state law (contained in the Government Code). Further guidance is provided by the General Plan Guidelines, which are prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).¹ The City drafted the 2030 General Plan consistent with direction in the Government Code OPR's General Plan Guidelines, and relevant case law related to general plans.

Local governments have the sole responsibility for the review, approval, and adoption of the general plan. However, state agencies have review and comment authority over some local government actions related to the general plan or implementing tools of the general plan. In California, courts are frequently asked to rule on local government compliance with State general plan law.

General plans must analyze issues of importance to the community, set forth policies for conservation and development, and outline specific programs for implementing these policies. General plans must contain narrative development policies, diagrams, and text that describe the community's overall objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals.

State law specifies that each general plan address seven issue areas, known as "elements," which must be consistent with one another. According to OPR's General Plan Guidelines, topics from different elements may be combined, but all must be addressed within the general plan. The seven required elements include:

1. Land use;
2. Transportation;
3. Open space;

¹ More information on the General Plan Guidelines can be found at the OPR's web site:
<http://www.opr.ca.gov/>

4. Conservation;
5. Housing;
6. Noise; and,
7. Safety.

Descriptions of the required topics to be covered within each mandatory element are provided below.

LAND USE

A land use element must designate the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of the land for

- ✓ housing, business, industry;
- ✓ open space including agriculture, natural resources, recreation, and enjoyment of scenic beauty;
- ✓ education, public buildings and grounds, solid and liquid waste disposal facilities; and,
- ✓ other categories of public and private uses of land.

The land use element must also include a statement of the standards of density and intensity recommended for the various districts and other territory covered by the general plan.

TRANSPORTATION

A circulation element describes the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, other travelways, terminals, and, and other infrastructure and facilities, and correlates these facilities with the land use element of the general plan.

OPEN SPACE

The open space element details plans and measures for the preservation of open space for natural resources, for the managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, and for public health and safety.

CONSERVATION

A conservation element details how natural resources are conserved, developed, and utilized. Natural resources can include water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other resources deemed important to the community. The conservation element may also cover:

- ✓ Reclamation of land and waters;
- ✓ Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters;
- ✓ Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan;
- ✓ Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores;
- ✓ Protection of watersheds;
- ✓ Location, quantity, and quality of rock, sand, and gravel resources; and,
- ✓ Flood control.

HOUSING

The housing element consists of standards and plans for the improvement of housing and the provision of adequate sites for housing to meet the needs of all economic segments of the community.

NOISE

A noise element must identify and appraise noise problems in the community. By using guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control, in the State Department of Health Services, the noise element must also analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable as

determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:

- ✓ Highways and freeways;
- ✓ Primary arterials and major local streets;
- ✓ Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems;
- ✓ Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation;
- ✓ Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards; and,
- ✓ Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment;

Noise contours must be shown for all of the above sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours are then used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise. In addition, the noise element must include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element also serves as a guideline for compliance with the state's noise insulation standards.

SAFETY

The safety element provides for the protection of the community from risks associated with the effects of:

- ✓ seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure;
- ✓ slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides;
- ✓ subsidence, liquefaction and other seismic hazards, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body;
- ✓ flooding; and,
- ✓ wildland and urban fires.

The safety element must also map known seismic and other geologic hazards. In addition, the safety element must address evacuation routes, peak-load water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures as related to fire and geologic hazards.

CHANGES IN RELEVANT LAW

From time to time, the State of California makes revisions to state law that affect the preparation of General Plans and some of their implementing mechanisms, such as zoning and subdivision ordinances.

The following section highlights some of more important and recent changes in state law that relate to Gridley's General Plan. All section numbers listed below are in the Government Code, unless otherwise specified.

- ✓ Section 65302.2 was added to require general plans to use water management plans from water agencies as source documents for water issues.
- ✓ Section 65302.3, which addresses general plan consistency with airport land use plans, was amended in 2002, as follows:
- ✓ As a part of 1996 amendments, Section 65352 was amended to require the planning agency to notify affected public agencies (e.g., cities, counties, special districts, school district, LAFCO, regional planning agencies, federal agencies, water suppliers, air pollution control districts) of a substantial amendment to a general plan.
- ✓ Section 65352.2 was also added on local government coordination to foster improved communication and coordination between cities, counties, and school districts related to planning for school siting.
- ✓ In 1996, the legislature amended requirements for coordination and consultation among water supply agencies relative to general plan updates (see Section 65352.5, Water supply coordination) to ensure that proper water supply planning occurs in order to accommodate projects that will result in increased demands on water supplies.
- ✓ As a part of Section 65400, the legislature included amendments that deal with implementation of the general plan. This section requires the following actions:
 - After the legislative body has adopted all or part of a general plan, the planning agency shall do both of the following:

- Investigate and make recommendations to the legislative body regarding reasonable and practical means for implementing the general plan or element of the general plan, so that it will serve as an effective guide for orderly growth and development, preservation and conservation of open-space land and natural resources, and the efficient expenditure of public funds relating to the subjects addressed in the general plan.
- Provide an annual report to the legislative body, the Office of Planning and Research, and the Department of Housing and Community Development on the status of the plan and progress in its implementation, including the progress in meeting its share of regional housing needs determined pursuant to Section 65584 and local efforts to remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.

The housing portion of the annual report required to be provided to the Office of Planning and Research and the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to this subdivision must be prepared through the use of forms and definitions adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of, Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370) of, and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of, Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2). This report must be provided to the legislative body, the Office of Planning and Research, and the Department of Housing and Community Development on or before October 1 of each year.

- ✓ Section 65404 was added to require the Governor to develop conflict resolution processes for use in conflicts among state agencies, plans, and projects.
- ✓ Open-Space Lands. The definition of open space was amended for clarity as a part of changes enacted in 2002 (refer to Section 65560, Definitions).

A package of flood related bills were passed and signed in 2007 dealing with flood protection and land use planning in Central Valley. This legislation raises the standard for flood protection of urban areas, requires the State to provide updated information on the extent of floodplains, and requires local land use entitlement authorities to make more responsible land use decisions in floodplain areas. The Legislature expressed its intent in the California State Water Code Section 9601 as follows:

- (a) The Central Valley of California is experiencing unprecedented development, resulting in the conversion of historically agricultural lands and communities to densely populated residential and urban centers.

(b) The Legislature recognizes that by their nature, levees, which are earthen embankments typically founded on fluvial deposits, cannot offer complete protection from flooding, but can decrease its frequency.

(c) The Legislature recognizes that the level of flood protection afforded rural and agricultural lands by the original flood control system would not be adequate to protect those lands if they are developed for urban uses, and that a dichotomous system of flood protection for urban and rural lands has developed through many years of practice.

(d) The Legislature further recognizes that levees built to reclaim and protect agricultural land may be inadequate to protect urban development unless those levees are significantly improved.

(e) Cities and counties rely upon federal flood plain information when approving developments, but the information available is often out of date and the flood risk may be greater than that indicated using available federal information.

(f) The Legislature recognizes that the current federal flood standard is not sufficient in protecting urban and urbanizing areas within flood prone areas throughout the Central Valley.

(g) Linking land use decisions to flood risk and flood protection estimates comprises only one element of improving lives and property in the Central Valley. Federal, state, and local agencies may construct and operate flood protection facilities to reduce flood risks, but flood risks will nevertheless remain for those who choose to reside in Central Valley flood plains. Making those flood risks more apparent will help ensure that Californians make careful choices when deciding whether to build homes or live in Central Valley flood plains, and if so, whether to prepare for flooding or maintain flood insurance.

The 2007 statutes create new responsibilities for state agencies, such as the Department of Water Resources (DWR) the newly reorganized Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

By July 1, 2008, DWR was required to provide preliminary maps of areas within 100- and 200-year floodplains protected by “project levees” (Water Code 9610). “Project levees” are those levees that are part of the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control. Generally, these are levees for which the Department or CVFPB are responsible for ensuring that they provide flood protection. Currently, the 100-year floodplain is the most

frequently cited standard for flood risk and flood protection. DWR is also required, by December 31, 2008, to prepare maps that show levee protection zones, including those lands where flooding would be more than three feet deep if a levee were to fail (Water Code 9130). DWR will provide suggested requirements for adoption by the Building Standards Commission related to construction in areas protected by project levees where flood waters would exceed three feet in a 200-year flood (Health and Safety Code 50465).

By January 1, 2012, DWR is required to have prepared the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (Water Code 9612). In accordance with Sections 9614 and 9616, this plan will identify and evaluate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers flood management system; assess climate changes implications for flood control; outline necessary improvements to facilities in the system to provide 200-year flood protection to urban areas; propose structural and non-structural improvements to riverine ecosystem functions; and, related items. “Urban areas” are those with more than 10,000 residents protected by project levees.

The State Reclamation Board is now known as the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB). This organization maintains its historic responsibility for oversight of project levees. In addition, the CVFPB is responsible for actually adopting the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (described above), which is drafted by DWR.

With the addition flood related information provided by the State of California, local agencies will be required to update their plans and regulations to ensure consistency. The 2007 flood bills revised the requirements for the Land Use, Conservation, and Safety elements of city and county General Plans, with special attention to jurisdictions within the Central Valley.

Cities and counties in the Central Valley are required to update their General Plans within 24 months of adoption of the Central Valley Flood Control Plan. The updates must reflect the facilities identified in the State Plan of Flood Control; locations of other flood management facilities; maps of property protected by these facilities; and, the locations of flood hazard zones. Jurisdictions must use the data from the State Plan of Flood Control to create goals and policies that reduce the risk of flood damage. In the future, when Central Valley cities and counties look to update the General Plan safety element, consultation is required with the CVFPB, as well as any local agency that provides flood protection. Specific findings are required if the city or county rejects the advice of the CVFPB or local flood protection agencies (Government Code 65302.9).

GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the General Plan will determine its success and the degree to which the community’s vision is achieved. City decision makers will need to steadfastly apply General Plan policies in making day-to-day decisions, both on projects, as well as public investments and other actions.

The City will manage land use change according to goals and policies presented throughout the 2030 General Plan. Gridley will encourage and allow land use change that is consistent with the 2030 General Plan policies and moves the community toward 2030 General Plan goals. By prioritizing these shared community goals and policies, the City will ensure long-term, high quality of life and sustainability for future residents.

The City will coordinate with other public agencies on investments, such as infrastructure and public facilities to support General Plan-compliant land uses. General Plan implementation strategies represent “task orders” to be filled during the General Plan time horizon by City staff. Some of these implementation strategies could require substantial staff time and investment. It will be important to establish priority for these implementation strategies, in order to ensure efficient application of City staff time and resources.

The General Plan provides broad flexibility for achieving the City’s goals. Policies provide a decision making guide for the City Council and Planning Commission, but discretion is inherent by these decision makers in implementing the General Plan. For Gridley, some variation from the policy language may be allowed, so long as such variations further General Plan goals.

The City recognizes that during General Plan buildout, new planning and environmental techniques will become available. Where proposals are consistent with the City’s economic, environmental, and social goals, new planning, design, and building practices that could have not been anticipated in this document will enjoy the City’s support. The City will periodically update the General Plan and implementing documents, when appropriate, to take best advantage of emerging planning methods, building technologies, and design strategies. The City will monitor implementation of the General Plan continuously and report at least annually on achievements. The City will routinely monitor and identify any required amendments that may be needed to improve on the efficacy of General Plan policies and address emerging issues.

This General Plan provides substantial development opportunity with the potential to benefit the entire community. The City welcomes development that supports the community vision and goals described in this General Plan. The City will adhere to the

framework presented in the General Plan to manage growth and development at a fiscally and environmentally supportable pace. This will allow Gridley to maintain its high quality of life and attract quality development, businesses, and employment.

THE GENERAL PLAN AND CITY REGULATIONS

The General Plan provides a governing basis for all other plans and planning documents of the City and all codes, ordinances, and policies of the City related to land use change, transportation, environmental resources, infrastructure, and other related topics.

In California, general plans are cities' and counties' guiding policy documents. Local agencies implement general plans in part through the adoption and enforcement of zoning codes, subdivision ordinances, and other regulations. General plan land use designations and planning policy provide a framework for zoning designations and development standards.

Cities and counties' design regulations and guidelines are also governed by general plans. General plans often contain policy that guides any municipal code sections and ordinances that regulate grading, building permits, open space dedications, landscaping requirements, parkland dedication, parking requirements, transportation infrastructure, signage, and any other planning-related codes and ordinances.

The law requires that cities and counties make a "consistency" finding with the general plan for any subdivision map, zoning action, public facility plans, and other functions of local government. Court decisions have concluded that these "consistency" determinations cannot be made if the local jurisdiction does not have a legally adequate general plan. In effect, local governments cannot issue development permits, or perform many vital public functions without a legally adequate general plan.

The Zoning Ordinance, the primary tool used to implement the General Plan, regulates development type and intensity citywide. Development regulations set limits on building height, lot coverage, setbacks, and other components of development.

The City's Zoning Ordinance and other standards will be updated following the adoption of the updated General Plan, to ensure consistency and effective implementation. The General Plan identifies the types of changes that will be necessary in Implementation Strategies in various elements of the General Plan.

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

There may be need to amend sections or elements of the General Plan. The City is limited in how many times it may amend any one of the mandatory general plan elements. An element may not be amended more than four times in one calendar year, except in the following circumstances:

- ✓ The element is optional;
- ✓ The amendments are requested and necessary for affordable housing;
- ✓ The amendment is necessary to comply with a court decision in a case involving the legal adequacy of the general plan;
- ✓ The amendments are made to bring a general plan into compliance with an airport land use plan; or,
- ✓ The amendments are needed in connection with the adoption of a comprehensive development plan under the Urban Development Incentive Act.

Amendments may include more than one change to the general plan. In some cases, a government may group together several proposals to be considered in one amendment. Amendments can be adopted by the governing agency, with the mandated process outlined in Section 65350, et seq., or by initiative or referendum. Any amendment must conform to all the requirements of planning law, including consistency requirements. Amendments are subject to compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

When the Planning Commission and City Council are considering a proposed General Plan amendment, at a minimum, the answers to the following questions (plus additional considerations, as conditions warrant) will determine the City's action:

- ✓ Is the proposed amendment in the public interest?
- ✓ Is the proposed amendment consistent and compatible with the goals and policies of the General Plan?
- ✓ Is the proposed amendment consistent with Gridley's General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles?
- ✓ Have the potential effects of the proposed amendment been evaluated and determined not to be substantially detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare?

- ✓ Has the proposed amendment been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act?

The City will make each of the above findings along with a detailed General Plan consistency analysis prior to considering any amendments.

SPECIFIC PLANS

In accordance with state law, the City may choose to adopt specific plans for properties within the boundaries of the Planning Area. If properly designed and implemented, a specific plan, as set forth in California Government Code, can be a helpful tool for providing a transition between the citywide goals and policies contained in the General Plan and subsequent entitlement requests (e.g., tentative maps, conditional use permits).

If a specific plan is pursued within Gridley, each property owner with property located in the proposed specific plan area are encouraged to participate, on equal footing, in the specific planning process.

The specific plan is a complete “blueprint” for the development of a defined area. It includes:

- ✓ land use and circulation diagrams;
- ✓ public facilities required to serve proposed land use;
- ✓ the cost and methods of financing needed public facilities and services;
- ✓ guidance on implementation of the plan, including infrastructure phasing and development standards (i.e., zoning); and,
- ✓ other methods of General Plan consistency analysis, as applicable.

Specific plans must be consistent with the City’s General Plan and the City’s infrastructure standards and plans. Specific plans within Gridley must contain information including, but not limited to the following:

- ✓ Land use diagram and description;
- ✓ Circulation system diagram and description;
- ✓ Policies, design guidelines, and development standards for specific plan development;

- ✓ Parks;
- ✓ Public facility plan, including the location and sizing of major infrastructure (e.g., water, wastewater, storm drainage) and other public facilities (e.g., parks, schools) consistent with the General Plan, and City infrastructure plans and standards;
- ✓ Phasing and financing of all public infrastructure and facilities;
- ✓ Description of the requirements, entitlements, and process for specific plan implementation; and,
- ✓ Analysis of consistency with General Plan policies and diagrams.

In addition to providing coordinated land use and infrastructure planning, specific plans may be required by the City to provide the information necessary to support an annexation request to LAFCO. The City may elect to forward an annexation request that does not include the entire geographic area included in an approved specific plan.

Specific plans are subject to CEQA analysis, with the City as the lead agency, pursuant to the statutory guidance, CEQA guidelines, and case law applicable at the time of processing.

THE GENERAL PLAN AND LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE REGULATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Regional agencies, such as the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have been established in recognition of the fact that planning issues extend beyond the boundaries of individual cities.

Efforts to address regional planning issues such as air and water quality, transportation, affordable housing, and habitat conservation have resulted in the adoption of regional plans. The policies adopted by the City will be affected by these plans, and will, in turn, have effects on these other plans.

The implementation of the General Plan will involve not only the City, but a broad array of agencies responsible for approving different aspects of General Plan buildout, trustee

agencies of important natural resources, and public agencies with which the City will proactively coordinate on regional issues.

The 2030 General Plan and the accompanying General Plan EIR both make reference to laws, plans, and regulations administered by other public agencies. In many instances, the City’s policy is crafted to provide consistency with regulations of another public agency.

In other cases, the City has committed in the General Plan to seeking input from other agencies on particular planning or environmental issues that may arise during General Plan buildout. Some of the key areas of interaction with other agencies are described below.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA recognizes the authority of the local general planning process in several areas. In law and in practice, the environmental review process is an integral part of the local planning, development review, and decision making process.

Although the local general plan is considered the primary policy document to guide growth and conservation in California’s cities and county’s, the state’s environmental laws affect local development patterns, analysis, and planning documentation. The relationship between CEQA and California’s planning and zoning laws and development patterns is ever-changing. But, under CEQA, general plans as considered a “project” under CEQA, and the general plan adoption process is subject to environmental analysis and disclosure, just as development “projects” are subjected to CEQA.

As a policy document, the general plan provides guidance and sets standards for several areas of mandatory environmental review for other “projects” undertaken by local governments and the private sector. In recognition of this close relationship between general plan policy and the environmental review process, the Gridley General Plan has been prepared to respond to changes in the State’s CEQA regulations, CEQA Guidelines, and relevant and applicable CEQA case law. Gridley’s plan is also designed to achieve self-mitigation in most environmental areas.

BUTTE COUNTY

The land use and development standards of lands located outside the City boundaries are subject to the rules and regulations of Butte County. When these lands are located within the City's Sphere of Influence but outside the City's corporate boundaries, development projects pursued at the County level are referred to the City for review and comment.

BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

The provisions of California's Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 set forth procedures for LAFCOs throughout the state to review annexation applications. The Act was adopted to:

- ✓ encourage orderly development;
- ✓ ensure that populations receive efficient and high quality governmental services; and,
- ✓ guide development away from open space and prime agricultural lands, unless such action promotes planned, orderly, and efficient development.

The Butte LAFCO must adhere to adopted guidelines pursuant to State law in its review of future City annexations. The City is required to provide certain information and application materials to LAFCO for consideration of City sphere of influence (SOI) changes and annexations of lands to the City.

BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is an association of all the local governments within Butte County. Its members include the cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville; the Town of Paradise; and the County of Butte.

BCAG is responsible for development of federal and state transportation plans and programs that secure transportation funding for the region's highways, transit, streets and

roads, pedestrian, and other transportation system improvements. BCAG is required also to coordinate transportation planning with state and federal air quality laws and regulations.

BCAG is charged with distributing the local share of the regional housing needs among the cities and unincorporated areas of the County. The regional housing needs plan (RHNP) is used as a critical measure of compliance with state housing law. The purpose of the RHNP is to allocate to the cities and county their “fair share” of Butte County’s projected housing need by household income group. The RHNP will also be required to be consistent with assumptions used in development of the regional transportation plan.

BCAG is also the administrative and policymaking agency for the region's public transit service. Butte Regional Transit or the "B-Line" is a consolidated transit system that provides urban and rural fixed route service and provides complementary Paratransit service in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Gridley is located within the jurisdiction of the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD). All projects in Butte County, and in the City of Gridley planning area, are subject to BCAQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction.

From time to time, BCAQMD adopts guidance documents for assessment and mitigation of air quality impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City consulted with BCAQMD and drafted General Plan policies consistent with the January 2008 *Air Quality Handbook: Guidelines for Assessing Air Quality Impacts for Projects Subject to CEQA Review*. This handbook (BCAQMD 2008) is an advisory document that provides lead agencies, consultants, and project applicants with uniform procedures for addressing air quality in environmental documents. This document was used, in part to develop both General Plan policy and conduct environmental analysis of 2030 General Plan impacts.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) is a nine-member state board with the primary duty of protecting the quality of the waters within the Central Valley Region for all beneficial uses.

The CVRWQCB formulates and adopts water quality control plans for specific ground and surface water basins. The regional board also prescribes and enforces requirements on waste discharges.

The CVRWQCB will be responsible for approving storm drain and wastewater discharge permits required by the City to implement its stormwater management and wastewater system master plans.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) plans and oversees the state highway system and works with other governmental agencies and local jurisdictions to plan, develop, manage, and maintain California's transportation system.

The state is divided into 12 Caltrans planning districts. Gridley is located in District 3 which also includes the San Joaquin Valley counties of Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Sacramento, and four mountain counties (Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, and Sierra).

Caltrans has permitting authority for all access to, and from State Route 99 (SR 99), and therefore works closely with the City to ensure that this important roadway continues to function in a safe and efficient manner. Several General Plan policies and strategies describe the relationship between City planning and changes along SR 99.

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