

Thousand Friends of Martinez

The Martinez City Council needs to go back to the drawing board and, with citizen input, develop a General Plan Update (GPU) that protects, maintains, and grows our city while preserving what its citizenry says is important:

- a safe, vibrant place to live and work
- preservation of our existing neighborhoods throughout Martinez
- growth in our Downtown that retains our historic, small-town character
- protection and improvement of our parks, open spaces and waterfront

The General Plan Update (GPU) has failed – here’s how:

- **Current important issues omitted (partial list)**
 - ✓ Sea level rise and flooding
 - ✓ Wildfire danger
 - ✓ Homelessness
 - ✓ Local job creation
- **Missing Measure I**
 - ✓ Measure I must be included in the GPU
 - ✓ Measure I *map* must be included too--current GPU map changes some land uses.
- **Fails to incorporate public input**
 - ✓ The primary source of public input was **dissolved** in the middle of the GPU process.
 - ✓ The GPU does not identify community priorities or concerns.
- **It’s stale**
 - ✓ The GPU was set aside five years ago.
 - ✓ It was started over ten years ago.
 - ✓ The last public input is five years old.
- **It is hard to read and confusing---it’s not a plan**
 - ✓ The GPU is over 400 pages long and the EIR adds 650 pages.
 - ✓ It is filled with superfluous information.
 - ✓ It is confusing to read.
 - ✓ It leaves out critical information, like how many new houses in your neighborhood.
- **It leaves the public defenseless and makes the City Council all-powerful**
 - ✓ Almost all decisions are left to the interpretation of the Council
 - ✓ There are few mandatory protections for our neighborhoods or the Downtown.
 - ✓ Strong protections that are included in our current General Plan may have been deleted or changed in the GPU.
 - ✓ The GPU leaves the public virtually powerless to contest Council decisions
- **It just throws out our current General Plan which contains strong public protections.**

The GPU is **not** a plan – urge the Martinez City Council to start over and do it right.