



**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL AND  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**AUGUST 23, 2021**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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**DATE:** August 23, 2021

**TO:** City Council & Planning Commission

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Please see the attached additional public comment for the General Plan Update Vision & Guiding Principles item.

Xenia Bradford,  
City Manager

## Vision Statement and Guiding Principles Community Feedback

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**Comment #1:** In the literature about Vision Statements, there seem to be differences of opinion about present vs future tense for Vision Statements. Using present tense seems to confuse citizens not involved in the process as they interpret it as a statement of the current situation, not something to be achieved by end of Plan period.

Also, conciseness seems to be seen as a virtue for Vision Statements so all can remember it and use it during the life of the General Plan (10-20 years). I read one comment that said, "It should fit on a T-shirt." The GPAC statement has many good ideas in it, but I am wondering if it could be improved through editing.

One person suggested this edit: Solvang's residents and businesses cherish their unique village, its Danish heritage and scenic rural setting. Citizens promote Solvang's quality of life (or strong sense of community), its cultural resources and welcome visitors.

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**Comment #2:** The draft Vision Statement, under Culture, does not include the library as an important institution, surely an oversight? It should be specifically mentioned, please.

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**Comment #3:** Was it an oversight that the Solvang Library was not even listed under Cultural Resources on the GPAC Recommended Vision and Guiding Principles? The Solvang Library is an important resource to the community. In fact, it should be enlarged to better serve the community.

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**Comment #4:** I have a question in regards to the Vision Statement and in the jobs and housing bullet point it mentions "Living Wage Jobs" versus just jobs, what is the point of inserting "living wage"? Why not just jobs?

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**Comment #5:** While reading through the vision and guiding principles, I had to laugh out loud when I read that "neighborhoods are buffered from the impacts of traffic, overflow parking, and events." Whoever wrote that does not live on 2nd Street! Parking is a huge issue, right up there with traffic and all the trash from tourists that litter our streets.

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**Comment #6:** Vision Statement Comment: The last 2 words, "and visit" are not fitting and should be removed.

Guiding Principles Comments:

Cultural Resources Principle has neglected churches and/ or spiritual refreshment. Please omit "emotional richness." Emotions should not be a guiding principle.

Mobility and Access Principle: " ... while reducing negative impacts of regional traffic ...."

Jobs and Housing Principle should include affordable housing options.

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## General Plan Website Comments (June 2021-August 2021)

- Keep Copenhagen car free please!
- I'm a local. I like the carless streets in Solvang.
- We are locals and we LOVE having the cars off the streets so that walking and dining and touring Solvang can be done without the exhaust and noise and danger of cars. Keep the streets blocked off please.
- I am curious about the disconnect between our very real drought conditions over the past 12 years and the increase in State requirements for future development in the city and surrounding areas in Solvang. How can we have two more Hotel/ Motel constructions approved, Towne homes off of Mission Drive under construction, and the possibility of the "Goleta Development Construction Company design plan in middle of Solvang, when residents are under severe drought conditions year after year? This "Type" of planning, whereby, money wins over water, feels very counter intuitive. Future planning needs to be based on current and trending major resource restrictions first and foremost. When you put money above all else, it is always the long term residents that end up paying the bill. Everyone who's hand is in the money jar needs to take their hands out of the pot, and use simple common sense. No water, no more building, period. Once we find a solution to our water crisis, we can build again.