



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

Frequently Asked Questions HOUSING ELEMENT

1. What is the Housing Element?

Answer: The Housing Element is one of the mandatory elements which must be included in a City's General Plan. The Housing Element provides goals, policies, and actions that help the City plan for the housing needs for all segments of the City's population. Housing Element law mandates that local governments adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The City Housing Element is required to be updated every eight years and must be approved by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. For more information about the State's role in the crafting of the housing element, explore the [California Department of Housing and Community Development](#) page on housing elements.

2. What are the items that the Housing Element covers?

Answer: The Housing Element must cover the following topics:

- Analysis of existing needs, including the number of people living in substandard or overcrowded housing, people paying more for their homes than they can sustainably afford, people with special housing needs and affordable units at risk of converting to market rate.
- Analysis of projected needs, including the allocation of income-specific housing needs developed by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG).
- A site inventory where housing development is allowed, as well as supported by infrastructure and the environment.
- Analysis of government controls on housing development.
- Programs, policies and objectives that the city will adopt to assist the development of housing for different income and special needs groups, ensure equal housing opportunity, and preserve and improve the existing housing stock.

3. Who prepares and certifies the Housing Element?

Answer: The City of Paso Robles prepares the Housing Element, but it must be certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This certification creates a presumption that the Element is compliant with State law.

4. How much housing do we need to plan?

Answer: State law requires each city and county plan for their "fair share" of the region's housing needs. The fair share is determined by each region's Council of Government through a process known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA). RHNA is produced by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and identifies the projected housing needs in the region as part of the periodic updating of local Housing Elements of the General Plan. HCD finalized its RHNA allocation determination for the San Luis Obispo region at 10,810 units for the 10-year production period (December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2028). The number of housing units allocated to Paso Robles has been identified as 1,445.