

**EXHIBIT D**  
**GUIDELINES FOR LAND USE CATEGORY AMENDMENTS**  
**FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING - PART I OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT**

1. Existing planning policies. Whether the proposed land use category is consistent with the following:
  - a. Applicable policies in the various elements of the General Plan;
  - b. The general goals in Chapter 1 of Framework for Planning (Part I of the Land Use Element);
  - c. The purpose and character statements for land use categories in Section B, description of land use categories;
  - d. Uses listed in Table 2.2, list of allowable uses; and
  - e. The text, and maps of the area plans (Part II of the Land Use Element).
2. **Area character.** Whether the proposed land use category is compatible with allowed land uses in surrounding land use categories. Whether the potential types of development resulting from a proposed amendment would adversely affect the existing or planned appearance of the countryside, neighborhood and style of development in the surrounding area.
3. **Environmental impacts.** The proposed amendment should not enable development that would cause potential significant adverse environmental impacts as determined through an environmental determination unless such impacts can be adequately mitigated or a statement of overriding considerations can be adopted in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. **Accessibility/circulation.** Whether the site of the proposed amendment is located with convenient access to a road system in the vicinity that is adequate to accommodate the traffic generated by the type and intensity of development allowed by the amendment.
5. **Soils classification.** Whether the proposed amendment gives consideration to protecting prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance as mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Proposals in other soil classifications should be reviewed together with other site features to determine if the proposed amendment could unnecessarily limit, reduce or eliminate potentially viable agricultural uses.
6. **Slope and other terrain characteristics.** Whether site terrain would be predominantly retained in its existing configuration by development enabled by the proposed amendment. Whether development resulting from the proposed amendment would avoid excessive grading and retain the overall contour of a site such that more intensive development occurs on flatter land and low-density development is accommodated by steeper terrain.
7. **Vegetation.** Whether the proposed amendment enables development that would retain significant vegetation such as oak woodlands or other mature tree forests and native

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plant communities that provide wildlife habitat or include rare and endangered plant or animal species.

8. **Hazards.** Whether the proposed amendment has been evaluated with respect to potential building limitations due to flood, fire or geologic hazards, so that subsequent development will be feasible in relation to the uses allowed by the proposed amendment.
9. **Existing parcel size and ownership patterns.** Whether the proposed amendment enables development of a type and scale consistent with surrounding parcel sizes and ownership patterns.
10. **Availability of public services and facilities.** Whether the proposed amendment is located in an area with demonstrated availability of needed public services and facilities and, where applicable, whether it is suitable for on-site sewage disposal and has an adequate groundwater supply. To the extent that proposed amendments will create a demand for services, amendments in the urban and village areas should demonstrate that services for water supply, sewerage, streets, public safety, schools and parks are available or funded within their sustainable capacities.
11. **Land inventory.** Whether the amendment, with the uses it would allow, is needed to provide an appropriate balance of land uses for the population of the community or area within the projected capacity for natural resources, services and facilities.