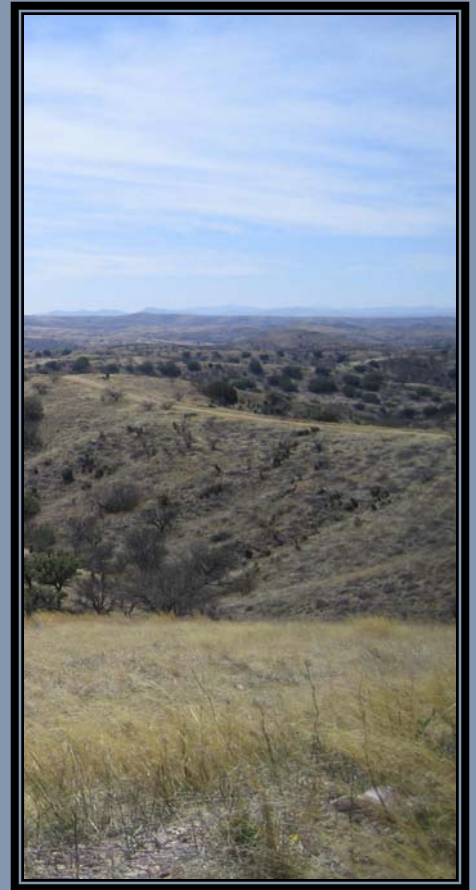
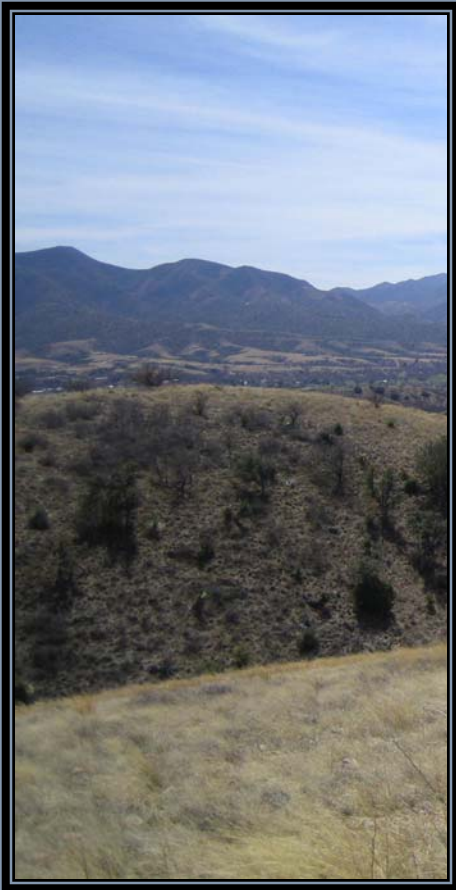


# *Patagonia*



## **General Plan 2009**



**RESOLUTION NO. 09-04**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA, ARIZONA, ADOPTING THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE, A GENERAL PLAN FOR MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUANT TO ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, A.R.S. §9-461 ET. SEQ., ESTABLISHING PLANNING GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES; AND CONSIDERING EACH OF THE PLAN ELEMENTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE AS WELL AS OTHERS DETERMINED ESSENTIAL BY THE TOWN.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Patagonia desires to establish policies for continued improvement of living quality for its citizens, preserving its unique character, and guiding community growth in ways that are consistent with its citizens' values; and,

**WHEREAS**, an open public participation process has provided direction for Patagonia's future which was derived from the ideas, commentary, priorities, preferences, review and suggestions offered by residents, business people, civic organizations and representatives of local institutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, the General Plan Update serves as a framework for municipal preparedness and planning; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town wishes to be in full compliance with the State of Arizona Growing Smarter legislation requirements; and,

**WHEREAS**, advisory comments pertaining to the General Plan document have been sought from those agencies and jurisdictions specified by A.R.S. §9-461.06(C) to be included in the sixty-day statutory review period and the written comments and public hearing testimony received pursuant to such required review have been duly considered; and,

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing to receive public comments on this plan was held by the Patagonia Planning and Zoning Committee on January 20, 2009; and,

**WHEREAS**, this plan was then reviewed and additional comments were considered by the Town Council on February 11, 2009; and,

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing to receive public comments on this plan was held by the Town Council on February 25, 2009, at which time the Council tentatively approved the plan and directed staff to prepare the adopting resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA, ARIZONA** as follows:


**SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF PLAN.**

The Town of Patagonia hereby adopts the Town of Patagonia General Plan Update, Section I, General Plan Introduction, and Section II, General Plan Elements (Land Use Element, Circulation Element, and Energy and Water Resources Element).

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Town of Patagonia General Plan Update shall be effective from and after April 11, 2009.

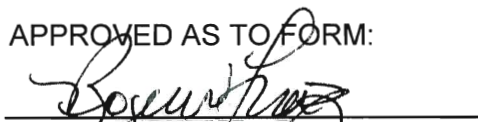
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Patagonia, Arizona, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary H. Gay, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Heiss  
Town Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Frazier  
Town Attorney

## ***Acknowledgements***

The Town of Patagonia General Plan was partially funded by a grant through the Arizona Department of Commerce. Supplemental funding was provided by the Patagonia Regional Community foundation with matching funds provided by the Town.

The following persons and committees were instrumental in preparing the General Plan:

### **Town Council**

Meredith Aronson  
Gary Gay, Mayor  
Meg Gilbert  
Kevin McKay  
Gilbert Quiroga

### **Planning and Zoning Committee / General Plan Advisory Committee**

Steven Smith, Chairman  
Abbie Zeltzer  
Adrienne Halpert  
Saul Lieberman  
Virginia Thiers

### **Other Important Contributors**

Citizens of Patagonia  
Mr. McKenzie's Class, Patagonia Union High School  
Randy Heiss, Patagonia Town Manager  
Matthew C. Brown, Photos

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David Williams, A.I.C.P  
Jeremy Knapp  
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# I. Introduction

The Town of Patagonia is appropriately proud of its history and distinctive character. The community is quirky and likes it that way. Patagonia’s spirit is easily confirmed by a single visit. Situated at over 4,000 feet elevation, among the hills south of the Santa Rita Mountains and in the riparian corridor of Sonoita Creek, Patagonia is spectacularly rich in both natural and human assets. Protecting and ‘sustainably’ building upon these unique assets and town character is the distinguishing vision of the community.



Town and nearby county residents endeavor to maintain and enrich a symbiotic and sustainable relationship with their magnificent environment. The provision, locally, of jobs and affordable housing, coupled with progressive environmental stewardship are keys to long-term sustainability of the Town.

According to a report by Arizona State University’s Morrison Institute:

*“Sustainability is the condition of existence which enables the present generation of humans and other species to enjoy social well-being, a vibrant economy, and a healthy environment, and to experience without compromising the ability of future generations of humans and other species to enjoy the same.”<sup>1</sup>*

Patagonia seeks to be a sustainable community, as evidenced by citizen input during the development of this General Plan. This citizen-driven Plan articulates the community’s agreed upon vision and overall goals, and includes supporting policies and recommendations for specific actions that help move the community towards its vision.

This General Plan is a vital document to the decision-makers and the citizens of Patagonia as the Town moves forward. It supplies the outline needed to plan for the orderly and efficient development of the Town, and the preservation and strengthening of Patagonia’s distinctive community character.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Sustainability for Arizona: The Issue of Our Age, [Arizona Policy Choices 2007](#)





## General Plan Purpose

The primary purpose of the 2009 **Town of Patagonia General Plan** is to provide a tool for the community to guide decision-making and coordinate development, maintenance and preservation efforts over the coming 20-year period. The General Plan also responds to and exceeds Arizona's Growing Smarter statutory requirements.

Recognizing ongoing development pressure due to Arizona's population growth, active mining proposals and the overall attractive living quality that characterizes Patagonia, the Mayor and Town Council formed a citizen-based planning committee. The committee, in conjunction with extensive public input, assisted in the development of a plan that expresses their vision of a unique, prosperous, and diverse community with adequate supporting services.

In its adopted form, the **Patagonia General Plan** shall serve as a general guide for the Town Council, the Planning and Zoning Committee, Town staff, citizens, as well as public and private interests regarding development in and around the Town of Patagonia.

The General Plan is intended to provide a framework for all of the interrelated functions of the Town of Patagonia. To help understand what a General Plan is and does, we can say:

The General Plan *is*:

- *an expression of the spirit and vision of the community*
- *a framework for future decision making*
- *a means of preserving and enhancing quality of life*
- *a statement of Town policy*
- *a legal requirement under Arizona State Law*

The General Plan *is not*:

- *a tool to promote special interests*
- *a rigid, unchanging or inflexible document*
- *a detailed policy or ordinance for specific properties or areas*
- *a zoning map*

Patagonia welcomes users of **The Patagonia General Plan**. Inquiries regarding the **General Plan** should be made to:

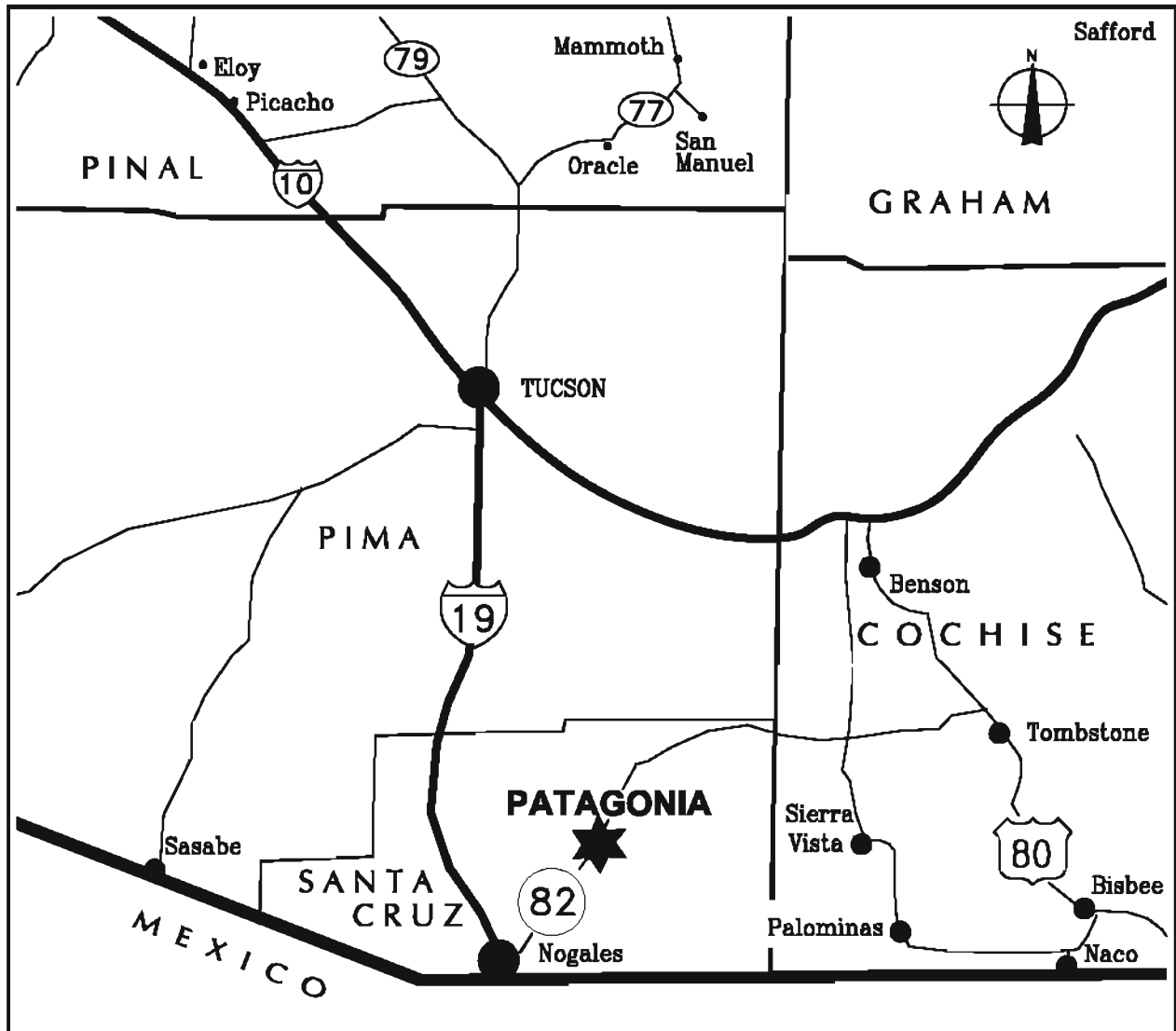
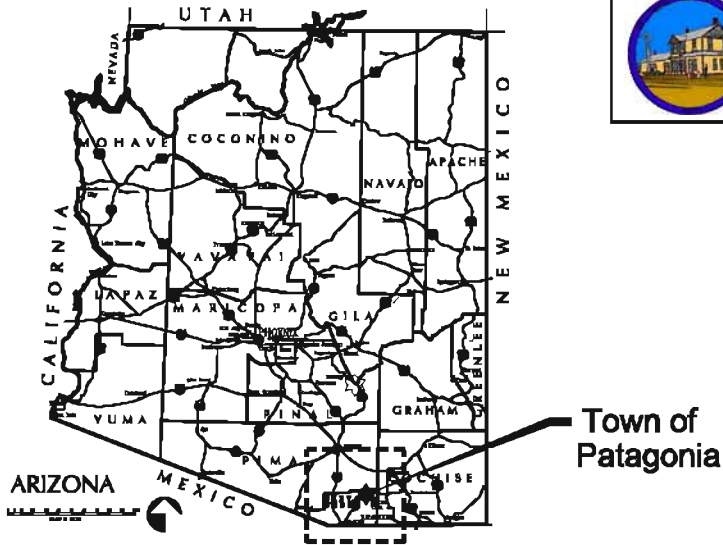
Town Manager  
310 McKeown Avenue,  
P.O. Box 767  
Patagonia, AZ 85624  
(520) 394-2229





# Town of Patagonia GENERAL PLAN

## REGIONAL CONTEXT



**WILLDAN**  
Serving Public Agencies

**FIGURE  
1**

Date: 9-2-2008



## A. Preface

The **Patagonia General Plan** represents a statement of ‘who we are’ as a community and serves as an expression of expectations for the next twenty years. The content of this Plan is driven by citizen input and serves as a tool to help guide and shape the physical development, preservation, and maintenance of the Town.

Required by Arizona Statutes, the previous Patagonia General Plan was created and adopted in 2001 by Patagonia’s leaders and is required to be updated and re-adopted at least once every 10 years. The Patagonia General Plan conforms to the letter and spirit of Arizona’s Growing Smarter requirements, adopted in 2000, to guide municipal planning and growth management with enhanced public involvement.

Included within the Patagonia General Plan are two required elements: Land Use and Circulation, and a third, unique element: Energy and Water Resources. This third element was added at the direction of the Planning and Zoning Committee to provide clear emphasis on important community values and issues related to sustainable energy and water resources. These elements are intended to support the future needs of the community.

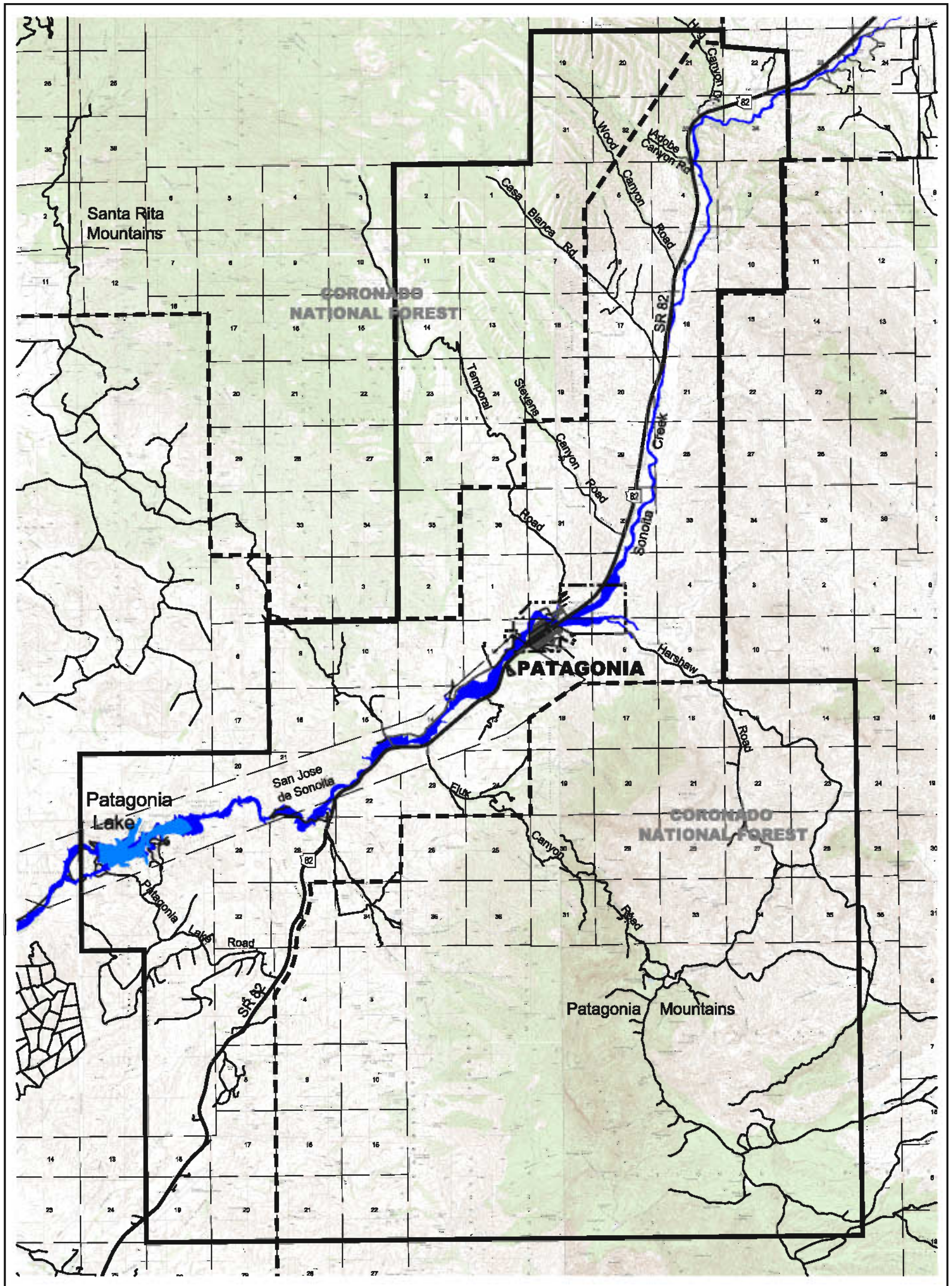


The Patagonia General Plan is a guide. The General Plan Elements are interrelated and intended to be considered collectively. It is important that the Plan Elements do not stand alone as users are strongly urged not to rely on select, excerpted statements. Rather, they are encouraged to consider all the subject matter of the Patagonia General Plan as a whole.

Patagonia, like many towns, is clearly impacted by activity in the immediately surrounding areas of Santa Cruz County. The Patagonia Planning Area expands the geographic base of Patagonia’s influence beyond the present town limits to these unincorporated areas.

Coordination with Santa Cruz County plays a fundamental role in ensuring compatible and efficient development and adequate provision of essential infrastructure and services. The adopted Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan is fully supported by Patagonia and this General Plan. The Patagonia Planning Area (Figure 2) includes approximately 76 square miles. The Town hopes to exert a positive influence on growth and development issues under Santa Cruz County’s jurisdiction. A strong, cooperative relationship between the Town and the County is crucial in implementing the agreed upon goals for both jurisdictions and ensuring the best possible living quality for Town and County residents and visitors.





 **Town of PATAGONIA**

**GENERAL PLAN UPDATE  
PLANNING AREA**

-  Existing Streets
-  State Highway
-  Section Line
-  Incorporated Boundary
-  Planning Area
-  National Forest Limits



**FIGURE  
2**



## Local History<sup>2</sup>

The history of Patagonia has been shaped largely by local economic forces related to mining, ranching and tourism. The railroad that signaled the height of economic times in the Town is gone, along with most mining activity. The 21<sup>st</sup> century has revealed the Town’s strongest asset- its people.

The Town was incorporated in 1948 with the prospect of receiving about \$10,000 a year in State tax revenues for needed public improvements. Mining, cattle ranching, civic pride, and the New Mexico and Arizona Railroad, taken over by Southern Pacific in 1897, were the driving forces that shaped Patagonia through the 1950s. As many of these activities declined, the people of Patagonia coalesced to help each other and the Town. Local organizations such as the Woman’s Club and Rotary Club led efforts to preserve and maintain the Town. Included in these efforts were the establishment of the Public Library, relocation of the historic train depot and dedication of the railroad right of way as a town park.

By the 1960 and 70s, tourism became the primary economic force in the Town. In 1968 the Sonoita Creek was dammed to form Patagonia Lake, now a state park. Patagonia has enjoyed popularity as a tourist destination with attractions such as Patagonia Lake, The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, movie making, and outdoor recreation. The community has recently garnered a reputation as a growing arts community.



The Town has worked carefully to protect its character. Change has often been rejected when considered incompatible with the Town’s uniqueness. In return, citizens have supported the Town government and helped bolster revenues through volunteer efforts as major fiscal challenges faced Patagonia in the 1980s and 90s.

The Town of Patagonia is resourceful, friendly and supportive. It is with these characteristics in mind, the community has prepared its General Plan.

This Introduction Section contains:

- Guidance for using the General Plan document,
- Town Planning Vision,
- Basic Assumptions and Planning principles, and
- Directions for administering the General Plan.

<sup>2</sup>Excerpted from the Patagonia General Plan 2001 and Lisa Waite Bunker’s “The Early Years of the Patagonia Library: 1957-1976.”





## B. How to Use This Plan

The **Patagonia General Plan** outlines a vision for Patagonia’s long-range health and sustainability based on the aspirations of the community. It is a general expression of the future Town of Patagonia. The Plan provides specific focus through the creation of an overall vision and the identification of strategic goals, objectives and specific implementing policies and recommendations to guide public and private decisions related to the development and the provision of services in the Town and in the Patagonia Planning Area.

The General Plan provides guidance to citizens regarding the physical development of the community. It allows public agencies and private interests to design projects that will enhance the character of the community, preserving and improving the overall quality of life for Patagonia residents. The Plan is a guide to Town management, Town departments, Town Council and the entire community.



The Town of Patagonia General Plan is divided into two sections:

- Section I: Introduction** including:
  - A. Preface
  - B. How to Use This Plan
  - C. Patagonia’s Vision
  - D. Citizen Participation
  - E. Planning Assumptions and Principles
  - F. Plan Administration
  - G. Statutory Plan Requirements
  
- Section II: General Plan Elements** including:
  - A. Land Use
  - B. Circulation
  - C. Energy and Water Resources

## C. Patagonia’s Vision

Through a series of public meetings, including three community-wide public workshops, a vision statement evolved from extensive citizen input. Citizens recognize the unique character of their Town and have identified those most cherished attributes that are to be built upon in the coming decades.





## PATAGONIA'S VISION

Patagonia is a friendly small town in a scenic natural setting. The Town has a strong community spirit that encourages excellence in quality of life, education, and local businesses representative of the residents' individualistic character. Patagonia is sustainable, ecologically and economically. Affordable housing, fiscal stability, environmentally sound building and business practices, and ecologically-based land stewardship are essential goals.

Patagonia values its unique and distinct character as evidenced by its community sense of humor and acceptance of individualism.

These ideas set a solid foundation for the planning assessments and recommendations that follow. Patagonia maintains a commitment to preserving its unique character and to continued living quality improvements.

### D. Citizen Participation

The content of the Patagonia General Plan is citizen-driven. Public involvement served a vital role in determining the future directions Patagonia should take. Citizens of all ages and interests provided input in identifying aspects of the Town that are most important to preserve and improve.

In addition to Town staff, a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) was utilized to provide direction and feedback for this General Plan. The Committee was composed of the Town's Planning and Zoning Committee and held open meetings at which members of the community were free to comment, provide feedback and offer suggestions during the plan preparation process. The Committee met regularly over several months to provide guidance during plan preparation.





A concerted effort was made to include residents from various income levels, areas of the community, interest organizations and backgrounds. Notices were distributed widely in the small community and the Town’s library website was available to provide information.

The General Plan public participation process was highlighted by work sessions with the Community Coalition of Eastern Santa Cruz County and with a classroom of students at Patagonia High School. Additionally, three community-wide public workshops addressed background and purpose of the Plan, identification of community assets, values and goals.

Approximately 90 informal survey forms were completed to help identify key points for the future vision and community issues related to each of the Plan Elements. Finally, citizens and high school students participated in a mapping exercise to chart future locations for homes, business and community facilities.

Student observations relating to Patagonia’s unique character and friendly people were particularly poignant. Community pride and a sense of place were revealed through student-completed surveys, comments and maps.

## E. Planning Assumptions and Principles

The General Plan for Patagonia includes recommendations and analyses of current and future conditions. Due to potential economic and political changes throughout the region, the Town has little or no control over many external forces that will influence its future. Anticipating these changes, it is necessary to identify some of the more significant general conditions that appear likely to prevail in the future. There are a few fundamental assumptions that assist in organizing Patagonia’s General Plan principles. If the following assumptions prove to be incorrect, it may be necessary for Patagonia to re-evaluate goals and objectives identified in the **General Plan**. Town development policies coincide with these basic directions.

### Planning Assumptions:

- ❑ ***The Town of Patagonia and the Patagonia Planning Area will continue to experience development pressure and an increase in total population.*** Development activity in Santa Cruz County, and residential construction in and around town are bringing more people to the area along with demands for services and goods.
- ❑ ***The Town’s land use strategy is to continue to support mixed-use development and to not require separation of all land uses.*** The Future Land Use Plan (Figure 5) shows the community’s envisioned land use within the incorporated area. Actual future land uses will be determined based on compatibility of proposed land uses with existing uses through the issuance of Use Permits. Use permits will be required for all uses other than single-unit residential use. Use Permits are intended to further the goals and policies of the General Plan ensuring that primarily non-residential uses and structures do not adversely affect the integrity, enjoyment and quality of life of nearby residential uses. Use permitting is intended to protect the overall health, safety, welfare and character of the community while minimizing any infringements on individuality.





- ***Patagonia will continue to support and embrace its unique small-town culture.*** The natural setting and friendly lifestyle of the Town meets the needs of individuals and families seeking the characteristics of a small town and rural lifestyle.
- ***Resource extraction, mining, will continue to be a community and county-wide issue.*** A proposed mine in the Santa Rita Mountains, the Rosemont Mine, along with potential mining in the Patagonia Mountains and other areas, are significant threats to the natural environment, community character and public safety. Additionally, the Town's tourism economy is strained by mining activity.
- ***Agriculture, tourism and recreation will continue to be principal economic activities of the Planning Area.*** The area will continue ranching and cattle operations along with other agrarian and equestrian activities. Visitors will continue to travel through the area for its outstanding recreational opportunities.
- ***Traffic will increase on State Highway 82 (Naugle Avenue) along with safety and noise concerns.*** As Santa Cruz County, and to a lesser degree Patagonia, continue to grow, average daily traffic, including truck traffic on Highway 82 in Patagonia, as the only through corridor, will increase.
- ***The affordability of housing will continue to be a concern.*** Due to limited supply of in-town lots served by water and sewer, housing affordability is expected to continue to decline. Current poor market conditions are temporary; rental options are limited and housing costs overall continue to increase.

### **Planning Principles:**

Patagonia's planning process has established some basic principles that provide clear guidance for the community goals contained in each General Plan Element. These principals cannot be assumed; the Town must actively support them.

- ***Ensure land use compatibility.*** To support continued excellent living quality in town, compatibility between neighboring land uses must be promoted and embraced by the community.
- ***Alternative regulations including nuisance controls will be used to promote community livability and land use compatibility.*** The Town has established nuisance controls and will need to expand and effectively enforce those regulations. Proposed expansion of existing regulations should be carefully considered so as not to cause the Town to become an over regulated environment where free spirit and individualism is lost.
- ***Closely study and reject mining (resource extraction) proposals, which pose a threat to the environmental, economic or cultural resources of the Patagonia area.*** The clear majority of planning process participants was passionately opposed to the development of new mining activity in Patagonia and the Patagonia Planning Area.





- ***Seek diverse, locally-based economic growth.*** The Town clearly supports business and employment growth; but does not support large-scale or formula type business expansion in Patagonia. New businesses are preferred to be homegrown. Locally-owned and operated businesses are strongly preferred over standardized, formula businesses. Larger scale employment or commercial development is directed to the Nogales International Airport area, consistent with the Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan.
- ***Ensure new development projects fit the character of Patagonia.*** Paramount in Patagonia is the desire to preserve community character. New development can be a threat to town character if it does not conform to basic architectural, size, location, layout and operational characteristics. Design review of proposed development is strongly supported.
- ***Require all new development to pay their “fair-share” for infrastructure and Town services and that needed supporting facilities and public improvements, onsite and offsite, are provided.*** Development proposals are expected to coordinate with and participate in costs of infrastructure and services. A fair-share approach is preferred with new development expected to construct or fund infrastructure, including major off-site improvements (roads, sewer and water lines for example) needed to support its residents.
- ***Support Santa Cruz County in guiding appropriate residential, commercial and industrial development.*** It is increasingly important for Patagonia to be an active partner in development-related decision-making such as rezonings and Plan Amendments under Santa Cruz County jurisdiction. The Town supports the adopted Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan.
- ***Promote the use of sustainable energy and the protection of groundwater resources.*** Providing leadership and stewardship is important in employing new energy technologies and applications that improve community sustainability. Water is the most critical resource in Patagonia.

## F. Plan Administration

The purpose of this section is to provide administrative direction, criteria and procedures for compliance with State Statutes. Plan maintenance and feedback on Plan performance are addressed as well.

### 1. General Plan Adoption

In accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes (9-461.06-J), the **Patagonia General Plan** is effective for up to ten years. The General Plan can be updated or readopted at any time at the discretion of the Town; however it must be updated or readopted within ten years from the date of adoption. As conditions change, including development patterns or the emergence of new technologies and economic trends, the General Plan will require a comprehensive update.





The **Patagonia General Plan** is adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Town Council. At a minimum every ten years, a new General Plan or the currently effective General Plan shall be submitted for adoption or re-adoption. Major amendments to the General Plan must also be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Town Council as further detailed in the following Major Amendment subsection.

The process of General Plan adoption entails three key steps. The Plan is provided to outside agencies including Santa Cruz County, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), and the State Department of Commerce for a review period of at least 60 days. The Patagonia Planning and Zoning Committee will review the General Plan at a public hearing. Finally, the Patagonia Town Council holds a public hearing for final public comment and adoption.

## 2. Relationship to Other Plans

The General Plan provides direction across three Plan Elements. Future, more detailed functional “Plans” for community design, water, wastewater, circulation, economic development or parks and trails plans for example, can serve to implement the General Plan. These plans should be consistent and provide refinements for individual functions, disciplines or geographic areas of the Patagonia Planning Area.

As other Plans are adopted they are intended to be integrated with the General Plan. Where greater detail and direction is provided in these Plans, such directions shall prevail and will be followed.

The Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan provides substantial, consistent direction for the unincorporated areas outside of Patagonia. The Patagonia General Plan overlaps the County Comprehensive Plan, providing a finer focus for planning issues most impacting Patagonia, and, as such, may be used by Santa Cruz County as additional guidance for decision-making.

## 3. General Plan Amendments

Frequent changes to the adopted General Plan are both ill-advised and, statutorily restricted. The General Plan was prepared with significant public input and analysis of existing conditions and community needs. Permitting multiple, uncoordinated alterations undermines the community’s investment in the planning process and is counter-productive to achieving the long-term, agreed upon vision for Patagonia.

There are two types of General Plan Amendments, Major and Minor. A Major Amendment is a revision to the **Patagonia General Plan** text or Future Land Use Plan that has far-reaching consequences on the use of land areas, demand on available infrastructure and services and/or substantially alters or is inconsistent with specified residential density or development intensity. A Minor Amendment is any other revision to the Future Land Use Plan or text that does not meet the criteria for Major Amendment as explained below.





## Major General Plan Amendment

General Plan Major Amendments are governed by Arizona Statutes, ARS 9-461.06, D and G. The statutes allow Major Amendments to the General Plan once per year. The Planning and Zoning Committee shall hold a public hearing on Major Amendment(s). A two-thirds vote by the Town Council is required to approve a Major Amendment. Furthermore, the statute defines a General Plan Major Amendment as a substantial alteration of the municipality's land use mixture or balance as established in the municipality's General Plan land use element.

Planning Statutes require municipalities to define the criteria to be used in determining if a proposed plan amendment effects a substantial alteration of the municipality's land use mixture or balance as established by the adopted General Plan.

Major Plan Amendments may be proposed to the **Future Land Use Plan** and **text** of the General Plan.

### a. Major Map Amendment

The determination, if a map amendment is a Future Land Use Plan Major Map Amendment, are by two criteria. The criteria include *land use* and *infrastructure*.

#### Land Use Criteria

A Major Amendment to the **Patagonia General Plan** is any proposal that would result in a change of such significance as to substantially impact portions of the Town and/or its Planning Area. The criteria for determining whether or not a prospective development that differs from the adopted General Plan text and map will require a Major Amendment are based upon the relative size, in land area, and extent of change proposed. Acreages for Major Amendments (in Tables 1 and 2) are calibrated to locally appropriate thresholds. Criteria for determining a Major Amendment to the Patagonia General Plan include:

- **Size** in land area, and
- **Extent** in terms of development intensity or density and relationship to surrounding land uses.

The following changes in land use designations within the Town limits on the Future Land Use Plan require a Major Amendment to the Town's General Plan:





**Table 1  
Major Plan Amendment Land Use Criteria Within Town Limits**

<b>Current Designation</b>	<b>Proposed Designation</b>	<b>Acres to Trigger a Major Amendment</b>
Residential (Low Density, Medium Density)	Open Space	Not Major
Low Density Residential	Medium Density Residential	10
Residential (Low Density, Medium Density)	Mixed use, Public Employment	10
Mixed Use, Public, Employment	Any	4
Open Space	Any	2

\*Please reference the Future Land Use Plan and Land Use Legend in the Land Use Element for descriptions of land use designations.

Table 1 represents the land use criteria for determining a Major Amendment for areas inside the Town limits and is separate from the infrastructure criteria. If the above thresholds are not exceeded, the amendment to the General Plan is considered minor and will be processed in accordance with the Town’s procedures for a Minor Amendment. Any aggregate change (total of all requested changes) of 40 acres or more will require a Major Amendment.

The Town has only an advisory role to Santa Cruz County regarding planning and zoning decisions in the unincorporated portions of the planning area. Town staff should request copies of zoning, plan amendment, subdivision plat, conditional use permits and site plan applications for property located within, at a minimum, 3 miles of the Town. A response letter should be provided back to the County addressing Patagonia’s planning and development-related comments on the proposed project. Table 2 lists the Major Amendment criteria for areas outside the Town limits and is intended to provide Town staff with guidance for input to Santa Cruz County when reviewing land use changes.





**Table 2  
Major Plan Amendment Land Use Criteria Outside Town Limits**

<b>Current Designation</b>	<b>Proposed Designation</b>	<b>Acres to Trigger a Major Amendment</b>
Ranch	Residential (Rural, Low Density, Medium Density)	80
Ranch, Rural Residential	Mixed Use, Public, Employment	25
Ranch, Rural Residential	Open Space, Resource Conservation	320
Rural Residential	More intense Residential Category (ex: Rural to Low Density Residential)	40
Public, Employment	Any	40
Open Space	Any	20
Resource Conservation	Ranch, Residential (Rural, Low Density, Medium Density), Open Space	20
Resource Conservation	Mixed Use, Public, Employment	10

\*Please reference the Future Land Use Plan and Land Use Legend in the Land Use Element for descriptions of land use designations.

**Infrastructure and Service Criteria**

Infrastructure and public services must expand to keep up with new development. Land use changes and amendments to the General Plan can have a range of impacts on public infrastructure and services. A General Plan amendment and development approval request that would place significant cost burdens on publicly funded services or municipal or private utility systems may be considered a Major Amendment. That is, where available capacities or funded capital investments for expansion (such as roads, bridges and drainage control) are insufficient to support the proposed development, the applicant would be required to pay for necessary improvements. A Major Amendment would be called for if infrastructure needs are not fully covered.

A General Plan Major Map or Text Amendment will be required when infrastructure demands are not offset by private investment or extensions to public systems. This applies in cases where the proposed amendment does not meet the minimum acreage criteria in Table 1 to trigger a Major Amendment, and the proposed amendment does not offset infrastructure and service demands as determined by the Town Manager or their designee.

**b. Minor Map Amendment**

General Plan Minor Map Amendments may be processed independently subject to Town policies and procedures. Minor Map Amendments are all General Plan map amendments not deemed as major using the land use, infrastructure and service criteria described above.





**c. Text Amendment**

Revisions to the General Plan text that help to clarify and implement the General Plan are a General Plan Minor Text Amendment. However, any text amendment that would change the dwelling unit density or intensity of any Land Use Category would be a Major Text Amendment. The General Plan Major Text Amendment would be required to follow the same process as a General Plan Major Map Amendment. General Plan Minor Text Amendments will follow the policies and procedures as set forth by the Town.

**d. General Plan Major Map/Text Amendment Process**

The Town of Patagonia, in accordance with Arizona Statutes, will consider General Plan Major Map/Text Amendments at a single public hearing during the calendar year the proposal is made.

Application for a General Plan Major Map/Text Amendment will be in accordance with Town policies and procedures. The Town will provide the necessary forms and information, establish necessary fees, and will process the amendment request.

Public participation is critical to the processing of a General Plan Major Map/Text Amendment. A Public Participation Program, similar to the one applied to the General Plan preparation process, will be followed to achieve a high level of citizen participation.

The following is the basic process for a General Plan Major Map/Text Amendment:

- ❑ Applicants will attend a pre-application meeting with Town staff prior to submitting an application.
- ❑ Applications will be accepted from January 1 to June 30 for processing within that calendar year.
- ❑ At least sixty days before the Major Map/Text Amendment is noticed for Planning and Zoning Committee Public Hearing, the Town will transmit the proposal to the Planning and Zoning Committee and Town Council and submit a copy, for review and further comment, to Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development, SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization, Arizona Department of Commerce, and anyone who requests it.
- ❑ All Major Map/Text Amendments require a Planning and Zoning Committee public hearing. The Planning and Zoning Committee will submit a recommendation to Town Council prior to the Town Council public hearing.
- ❑ Town Council public hearings to consider Major Plan Map/Text Amendments will occur between October 1 and December 31 within the calendar year the application was submitted.





- State Statutes require a two-thirds majority vote by Town Council to approve a General Plan Major Map/Text Amendment.

#### 4. Biennial General Plan Report

The Patagonia Town Manager or his designee is responsible for compiling a Biennial Report monitoring the status of the General Plan, even in the event that no General Plan amendment has occurred. Included in the report should be an assessment of the validity of the goals and objectives and a progress statement on their incremental achievement. Problem areas or suggested updates should be detailed. The timing of the Biennial Report shall be established by Town policy.

The Planning and Zoning Committee actively participates in the review of the General Plan. The Committee should provide recommendations to Town staff and officials on suggested Plan refinements. Upon Committee review of the Biennial Report, it should be forwarded to the Town Council.

#### 5. Plan Updates

In accordance with Arizona Statutes, ARS 9-461.06-J, the **Patagonia General Plan Update** is effective for up to ten years upon its adoption. The Plan can be re-adopted and/or updated at any time at the discretion of the Town. As conditions change the plan may require a comprehensive update.

### G. Statutory Plan Requirements

The **Town of Patagonia General Plan** has been prepared according to Arizona Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus statutory requirements.

The **Patagonia General Plan** contains the requisite two elements needed to satisfy the Growing Smarter/Plus requirements. The required elements are: **Land Use** and **Circulation**. The Town of Patagonia has also prepared a unique **Energy and Water Resources** Element, above and beyond minimum Growing Smarter/Plus requirements. All required Plan Elements respond to Planning Statute specifications including:

**Land Use.** The element designates the proposed general distribution, location, and intensity of residential, commercial, industrial, public and open space and agricultural uses. The Element supports development and redevelopment that reflects the character of the community.

**Circulation.** The element identifies the conditions and location of existing and proposed arterial routes, collector streets and other street classifications. The element discusses pedestrian, bicycle and transit services and facilities. The Circulation Element supports the proposed land use pattern outlined in the Land Use Element of the plan.





## II. General Plan Elements



Plan Elements are the components that provide a logical structure for municipal planning. In Arizona, smaller municipalities like Patagonia are required to address two topical areas: Land Use and Circulation. The Town of Patagonia has chosen to address an additional Element, Energy and Water Resources which are beyond the State's requirements but provide desired community

focus on sustainable community development. All Elements are considered to be interrelated parts of the entire framework for Patagonia planning.



### A. Land Use Element

The Land Use Element establishes an outline for goals and objectives with following implementation policies and recommendations. This element designates the intensity, location and extent of public and private uses of land. In addition to addressing the distribution of land uses, this chapter addresses other closely related topics, including population, housing, and public service issues.

#### 1. Future Conditions

This section details Patagonia's preferences with regard to future growth and development patterns based on guidance from the Town's General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and well-attended public workshops.

##### Sustainable Development Preferred

Citizen input guided the creation of preferences for sustainable development. Development variables were evaluated by attendees at a community-wide General Plan Public Workshop and subsequently refined by additional GPAC and public input.

Citizen input expressed a preference for limited, moderate growth in Patagonia. No growth and rapid growth scenarios were rejected. Over the next 20 years, growth in both population and employment is expected and preferred to be limited to an increase of about 50%, or about 400 to 500 individuals. Such moderate growth was preferred 2 to 1 by process participants.

Key Principles for future land use and the local economy included:

- For areas that are approved for additional development in the unincorporated areas surrounding Patagonia, conservation-based communities are preferred over conventional subdivisions and development.





- Adopt municipal land use controls to regulate the use of property to improve nuisance and compatibility concerns.
- While the Planning Area is extensive, the Town prefers only limited annexation of adjacent, ‘developing’ areas.
- Employment growth is important and the location of new employers in Patagonia is desired. New employment activity is strongly preferred to be sustainable in terms of its demands on natural and man-made resources.
- Preferred employers include those based on innovation technologies and industries. Home-based employment is strongly supported, representative of the Town’s individual character.
- Growth of existing businesses should be supported in addition to the establishment of new, locally-owned businesses.
- Improvements to the fiscal stability of the Town, in both the private and public sectors, are desired. While balancing municipal revenues and expenses is critical to fiscal stability, the economic health of the Town’s residents and households is also important for long-term fiscal health of the community.
- Closely related to fiscal stability are municipal revenues that are used to fund town services. Increasing town tax revenues, without increasing existing tax rates, is the preferred strategy.

**Moderate Growth Projected**

Moderate growth assumptions for Patagonia are summarized in Table 3. Based on citizen input, the optimal Year 2030 population for the community is about 1,400.

**Table 3  
2025 Growth Assumption for Patagonia**

	<b>2006 Estimate</b>	<b>2030 Projection</b>
Population	926	1,400
Dwelling Units	498	736
Employment	434	650
Commercial Sq. Ft.	About 70,000	140,000

\*Data provided by Town of Patagonia and DES; projections by Willdan

The Town currently has about 1.9 persons per dwelling, relatively low for Arizona with an average of about 2.4 persons per dwelling. This figure is generally associated with retirement communities in Arizona. Many households in Patagonia have only one or two residents. The projection for Year 2030 uses 1.9 persons per household to project the future number of dwellings as a function of population growth. It may be reasonable to expect that household size will increase over the next 20 years, although Arizona’s status as a retirement friendly state almost assures continued growth in our retirement population, and hence, smaller household sizes. Square footage of future





commercial uses has been estimated using a planning guideline of 200 square feet per household, for a total of about 140,000 square feet in the year 2030.

## 2. Current Conditions

### Land Use Patterns

The Town of Patagonia is unique in Arizona as it does not have the most commonly used land use controls in the United States; zoning. Zoning typically serves to segregate different land use types, residential, commercial and industrial. The purpose of zoning is to mitigate or prevent conflicts among land use types through segregation or the creation of zoning districts.



Physically, Patagonia is split by Highway 82 (Naugle Avenue) and McKeown Avenue. The Town is primarily residential. The majority of businesses, shops, restaurants, and other hospitality-related uses are located on Naugle and McKeown Avenues between Second and Fourth Avenues. Moving away from the highway, uses are principally single family residential with scattered home-based and small businesses. Home occupations and services based from homes, are common in town and can be found on nearly every block.

The Town is also divided by Sonoita Creek, a significant riparian corridor in Southern Arizona. The creek provides a substantial open space corridor including the Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. The Nature Conservancy properties are located primarily west of town but do include a substantial area of land on the east side of town at the confluence of Harshaw and Sonoita Creeks. The floodplain of Sonoita Creek incorporates over one-half the area of the Town, significantly impacting the character of Patagonia.



Without zoning, Patagonia has developed into a truly mixed use community where homes, businesses and commercial activities generally co-exist well. There are concerns in the community regarding nuisances, character preservation, and the protection of scenic views. The Town has and will continue to creatively address these issues through existing and future Town ordinances, without the use of zoning.

### Services

Patagonia provides many services to Town residents. Some of these services benefit County residents who live outside the Town limits. The Town provides police, fire, library, public pool, water, sewer, sanitation, landfill, recreation/parks, family health services, and a senior center, among other services (See Figure 3, Significant Features).

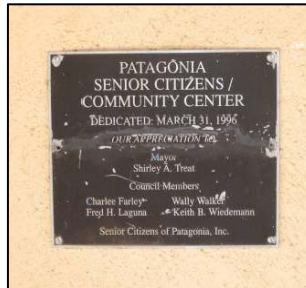




Providing services that County residents benefit from creates an additional demand on the Town without any additional revenue to offset service costs.

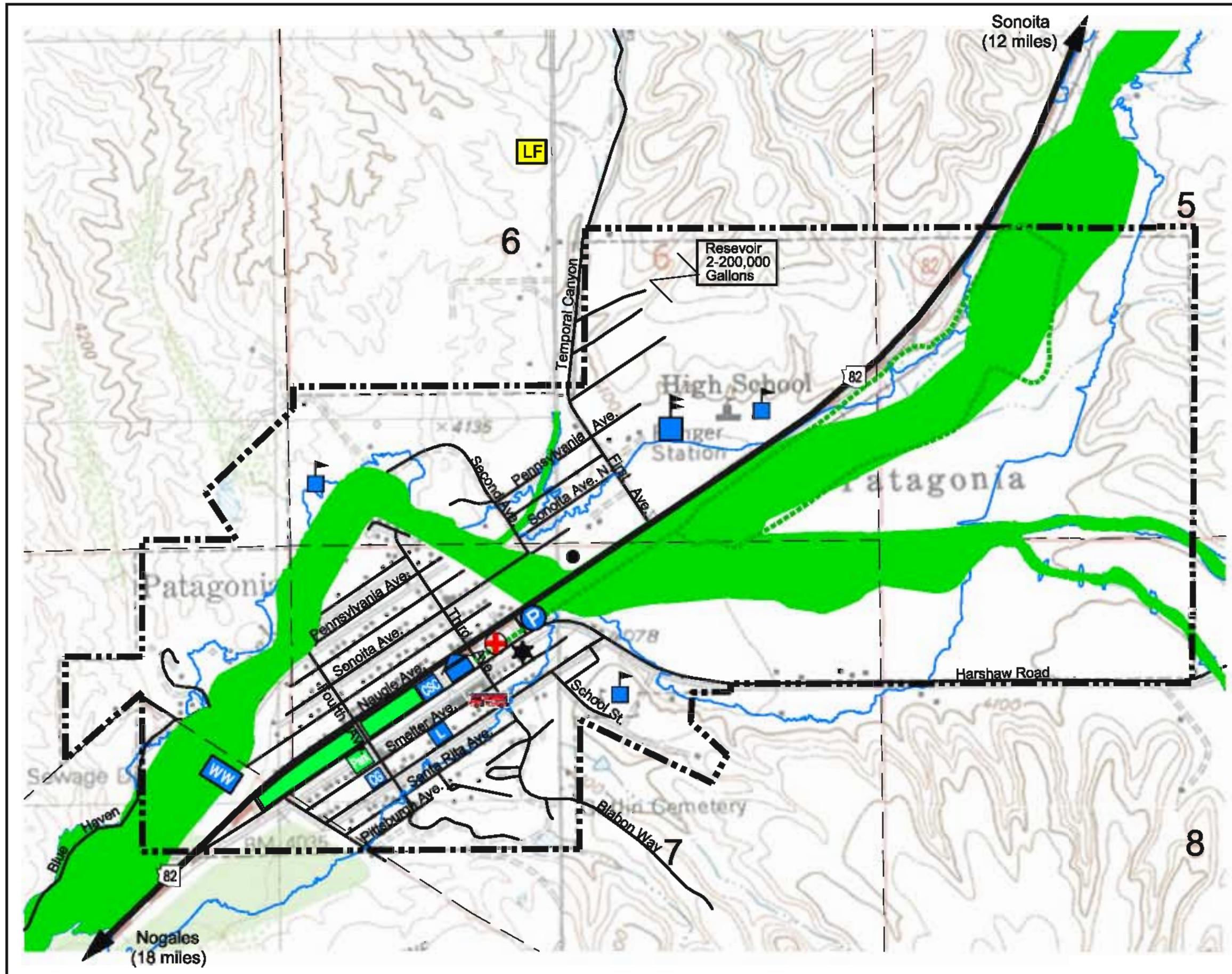
Presently the Town operates the following facilities and services:


- Local street maintenance,
- Water System including wells, pumps, storage reservoirs and a distribution system,
- Wastewater System including treatment plant, lift station and collection mains,
- Marshall's Office with 3.5 officers and a part-time animal control officer,
- Fire Protection is voluntary and is supported by limited town funding,
- Library
- Landfill
- Cady Hall
- Senior/Community Center
- Town Park & Gazebo
- Cemetery
- Community Pool
- Dr. Mock Park
- Richardson Park



Additional Community facilities and services not operated by the Town include:



- Patagonia High School
- Patagonia Elementary School
- Patagonia Montessori School
- St. Theresa's Catholic Church
- Patagonia Community Methodist Church
- Patagonia Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Patagonia Community Garden
- KPUP FM Community Radio
- Patagonia Community Health Center
- Tree of Life Rejuvenation Center and Health Practice
- Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department





# Town of PATAGONIA

## GENERAL PLAN UPDATE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

-  Existing Streets
-  State Highways
-  Incorporated Boundary
-  Section Line
-  Sonoita Creek Floodplain
-  Nature Conservancy
-  Meta Trail
-  Town Hall
-  Post Office
-  Wastewater Treatment Facility
-  School
-  Police
-  Medical Clinic
-  Community Senior Center
-  Park
-  Landfill
-  Community Garden
-  Library / Cady Hall
-  Fire Station
-  Water Well






**WILLDAN**  
Serving Public Agencies

**FIGURE  
3**



### 3. Land Use and Service Considerations

Primary land use planning and public service considerations in Patagonia include:

- ❑ The compatible buildout and redevelopment of existing town lots and the wise use of remaining vacant lands. Preservation of community character and neighborhood livability, including scenic viewsheds, is essential.
- ❑ The moderate to small scale of residential structures in Town should be maintained.
- ❑ The development of standardized, formula-type businesses is not in character with the Town.
- ❑ Zoning aside, the reasonable use of alternative regulations to promote public health, safety and welfare as well as compatibility among mixed uses.
- ❑ Desire for sustainable, harmonious development, particularly in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County near the Town. Cooperative planning efforts with Santa Cruz County and Nogales.
- ❑ Addressing affordable housing needs and opportunities in Patagonia.
- ❑ Prevention of environmental and quality of life degradation from new resource extraction operations including mining in the mountain ranges surrounding Patagonia.
- ❑ Sustainability of town revenues and services as demand for services continues to increase. The costs of providing services continues to rise as the Town seeks sustainable revenue streams to support basic public services including police, water, wastewater and street maintenance.
- ❑ Encouraging new development in areas where water and sewer infrastructure exists.
- ❑ Supporting healthy and growing local businesses and services that are clearly preferred based on citizen input, over non-local or formula businesses.
- ❑ Sustainable employment and economic growth to improve household and municipal revenues.
- ❑ Implementing appropriate design standards for commercial, industrial and, institutional development projects.
- ❑ Impacts of the flood plain on existing buildings and new design and construction.

### 4. Goals, Objectives and Implementation Policies

Patagonia citizens clearly desire protection of the character and qualities that are unique to the community including its friendliness and the celebration of individuality as





evidenced by locally-owned business and unique mixed-use neighborhoods. Identified issues for land use planning includes compatibility of mixed use neighborhoods, appropriate land use controls, appropriate scale and design of new businesses and new residential construction and housing affordability. Fiscal and environmental sustainability are recognized keys to the Town’s desired future.

Patagonia’s land use goals and objectives promote the Town’s vision to enhance current assets, provide fiscal balance, and preserve community character and individuality. They stress the importance of retaining a distinctive identity as positive change is accomplished. The Town’s image as an excellent place to live is promoted and expanded in the overall strategy for preserving, adding and blending compatible types of residential and non-residential development.

Policies serve to provide action-oriented direction for implementing agreed-upon community objectives and goals. Responsibility for Plan implementation is community-wide including Town staff, elected and appointed officials, private interests and citizens.

**Goal 1. PRESERVE COMMUNITY CHARACTER.**

*Objective:* Promote living quality by ensuring compatibility among land use activities in and around Patagonia.

- Policy:* Evaluate and improve regulations for controlling noise.
- Policy:* Reduce public health and safety threats from utility installations.
- Policy:* Work with Santa Cruz County to evaluate and establish Town minimum standards for air quality and odor control.
- Policy:* Update and enforce animal control regulations. Seek funding assistance and intergovernmental support.
- Policy:* Establish sign regulations to ensure outdoor advertising is compatible with community character.
- Policy:* Partner with Santa Cruz County in developing and preparing zoning or other land use regulation changes impacting the Planning Area.

*Objective:* Promote development and redevelopment that is consistent and compatible with overall Town character.

- Policy:* Establish clear and concise community design guidelines for non-residential construction.
- Policy:* Prepare standards for formula businesses, including appropriate restrictions on locations, quantities, architecture, size and signs.
- Policy:* Establish a review process, including a conditional use permit requirement, for construction proposals for all non-residential development.
- Policy:* Preserve and renovate vernacular architecture where appropriate.
- Policy:* Maintain consistent residential scale; very large residences are not consistent with the Town’s character.





*Objective:* Encourage infill development on properties served by Town infrastructure.  
*Policy:* Identify those vacant or under-utilized lots and parcels of land that are currently served by Town water, wastewater and paved streets.  
*Policy:* Offer reasonable incentives to promote infill development when in the Town’s best interest as determined by the Town Council.

*Objective:* Support affordable housing opportunities in Patagonia.  
*Policy:* Avoid actions that serve to reduce the stock of existing affordable housing options including rental properties.  
*Policy:* Encourage the construction of housing products such as attached townhomes and apartments in appropriate locations.  
*Policy:* Offer appropriate incentives for affordable housing such as permit fee waivers for new home construction.

*Objective:* Reduce the amount of light pollution created by human activity.  
*Policy:* Prepare, adopt and enforce a light pollution control ordinance.  
*Policy:* Provide public education and information on low-impact outdoor lighting techniques.

*Objective:* Maintain communication with Santa Cruz County regarding land use and development decisions impacting the Town and the Planning Area.  
*Policy:* Establish ongoing and timely communication with Santa Cruz County staff and Board of Supervisors regarding land use and development issues.  
*Policy:* Make recommendations consistent with the Town’s adopted General Plan to the Board of Supervisor’s on Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning, use permit and subdivision cases.

**Goal 2. PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THE STEWARDSHIP AND PROTECTION OF THE RURAL CHARACTER AND SCENIC QUALITIES OF THE PATAGONIA AREA.**

*Objective:* Protect significant natural resources including Sonoita Creek and Patagonia Lake.  
*Policy:* Evaluate public and private proposals and actions to determine impacts on the area’s watershed including Sonoita Creek, Harshaw Creek, Red Rock Creek, and groundwater resources.  
*Policy:* For construction over 25 feet, require viewshed analyses assessing potential impacts to important scenic views.  
*Policy:* Limit patio wall heights to four feet to preserve scenic views, allow taller walls only with a conditional review process.

*Objective:* Discourage mining and other activities that damage or detract from Patagonia’s environmental and scenic quality.





- Policy:* Adopt formal opinions on development proposals outside the Town that impact the area’s character or natural resources, such as the Rosemont Mine.
- Policy:* Provide input to agencies and other units of government regarding Town preferences and development goals, objectives and policies.

**Goal 3. ENSURE LONG-TERM FISCAL STABILITY FOR PATAGONIA AND ITS RESIDENTS.**

*Objective:* Support sustainable land uses that provide business and employment opportunities for residents of Patagonia.

*Policy:* In cooperation with area realtors, prepare and distribute an inventory of appropriate, available sites for businesses, industries and affordable housing options such as multi-family residences.

*Policy:* Assess basic fiscal impacts of development proposals with regard to expected revenue generation and public service costs. Consider infrastructure contributions in determining impacts.

*Policy:* Continue to manage town resources conservatively while seeking sustainable revenue streams to support town services.

*Objective:* Capitalize on economic opportunities created by Highway 82.

*Policy:* Encourage expansion of existing and the construction of new, compatible, locally-owned businesses.

*Policy:* Support tourist-based or other employment or revenue generating locally-owned, compatible, commercial development.

**5. Land Use Recommendations**

Consistent with Land Use Goals, Objectives and Policies, the following recommendations help guide Plan implementation:

- ❑ Update Town Code nuisance regulations relating to animal control, noise, outdoor lighting, air quality and odor control. Include a public participation process to ensure adequate opportunity for citizen input.
- ❑ Prepare and adopt Design Guidelines for residential and non-residential development to preserve and enhance the character of the Town. Guidelines and standards are recommended for both redeveloped residential properties, as well as for commercial uses.
- ❑ Ensure new construction is designed in consideration of flood plain requirements as appropriate.





- ❑ Establish a conditional use permit process that includes design standards for any formula-type businesses or other major projects that are proposed. The process should include public hearings focused on compatibility before the Planning and Zoning Committee and Town Council.
- ❑ Remain proactive regarding land use proposals in the Planning Area. The Town has adopted an official position on proposed mining in the area and should continue to formally communicate on significant land use issues in Eastern Santa Cruz County.
- ❑ Adopt limits on patio wall heights to preserve scenic views and promote neighborliness. A maximum height of four feet is recommended with a process to consider appropriate exceptions.
- ❑ Monitor development proposals in Santa Cruz County, provide input to Board of Supervisor’s decisions and support the implementation of the Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan.
- ❑ Support proposals that provide, maintain, or improve affordable housing opportunities in the community.
- ❑ Identify suitable lots and support infill development or redevelopment opportunities that are compatible and improve the efficient use of town services.
- ❑ Analyze and consider fiscal impacts of development proposals. Explore sustainable options for improving town revenues.



## 6. Future Land Use Plan and Land Use Legend

The Future Land Use Plan describes the types of future land uses accommodated within Patagonia and the Town’s Planning Area. In some cases, future designations may not match existing uses of land as future, preferred uses have been identified. The following categories describe the land use designations used in the Town’s General Plan and shown on the Future Land Use plans. Each designation identifies the intended range and intensity of land uses. The land use categories used in the Patagonia Planning Area are intended to be consistent with the Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan.

Non-residential uses, such as home-based businesses, have traditionally been a part of the land use mix in residential areas of Patagonia. Those uses continue to be supported





in predominantly residential areas as long as they are relatively low impact and do not interfere with the enjoyment of property by neighboring owners.

**Ranch – (R)**

This category recognizes ranching and related activities as a major land use within the planning area. The principal land uses in this category are very low-density residential, ranching, agriculture, viticulture, low intensity/low traffic tourism, resource conservation and accessory uses. The maximum density of this designation is less than 0.025 dwelling units per acre, or one dwelling per 40 acres.

**Rural Residential – (RR)**

The rural residential category promotes the continuation of the rural character that is common across much of the Patagonia area. Rural areas may include farming and small scale livestock operations along with low density residential uses. The maximum density of this designation is .25 dwellings per acre, or one dwelling unit per 4 acres.

**Low Density Residential – (LDR)**

The low density residential designation accommodates semi-rural development. The maximum density of this designation is 1 dwelling unit per acre.

**Mixed Use Residential – (MUR)**

The mixed residential category is characterized by existing town neighborhoods of predominantly single-family homes co-mingled with small, home based businesses. Single-family attached, single-family detached and multi-family housing units are envisioned in this category. The maximum density of the category is 12 dwelling units per acre.

**Core Area - Mixed Use – (CA-MU)**

This designation is intended to provide the opportunity for a variety of land uses activities interspersed with one-another; primarily for higher density residential integrated with retail, services and employment uses in areas accessible to infrastructure and public services. Affordable housing is supported. Appropriate exceptions for higher density (greater than 12 dwelling units per acre) affordable housing that meets community needs are encouraged. Division of lots or “lot splitting” in discouraged.

**Public – (P)**

The public category provides for public or institutional uses such as school campuses and their attendant facilities (playgrounds, ball fields, hard courts, etc.) hospitals, churches, water treatment facilities, landfill sites, public library facilities, Town offices, public cemeteries, infrastructure and utilities sites.

**Employment – (E)**

The employment land use category is a broad designation intended to accommodate numerous types of development including office and commercial uses allowing for varying scale and intensity. The scale and intensity of new development needs to be consistent with Town character. While a large facility, perhaps over 7,000 square feet, might be appropriate on Harshaw Road, it would not fit the character of the Town’s





central business areas on Naugle or McKeown Avenues. Employment sites are to be integrated, through design and siting, with adjacent residential or other activities.

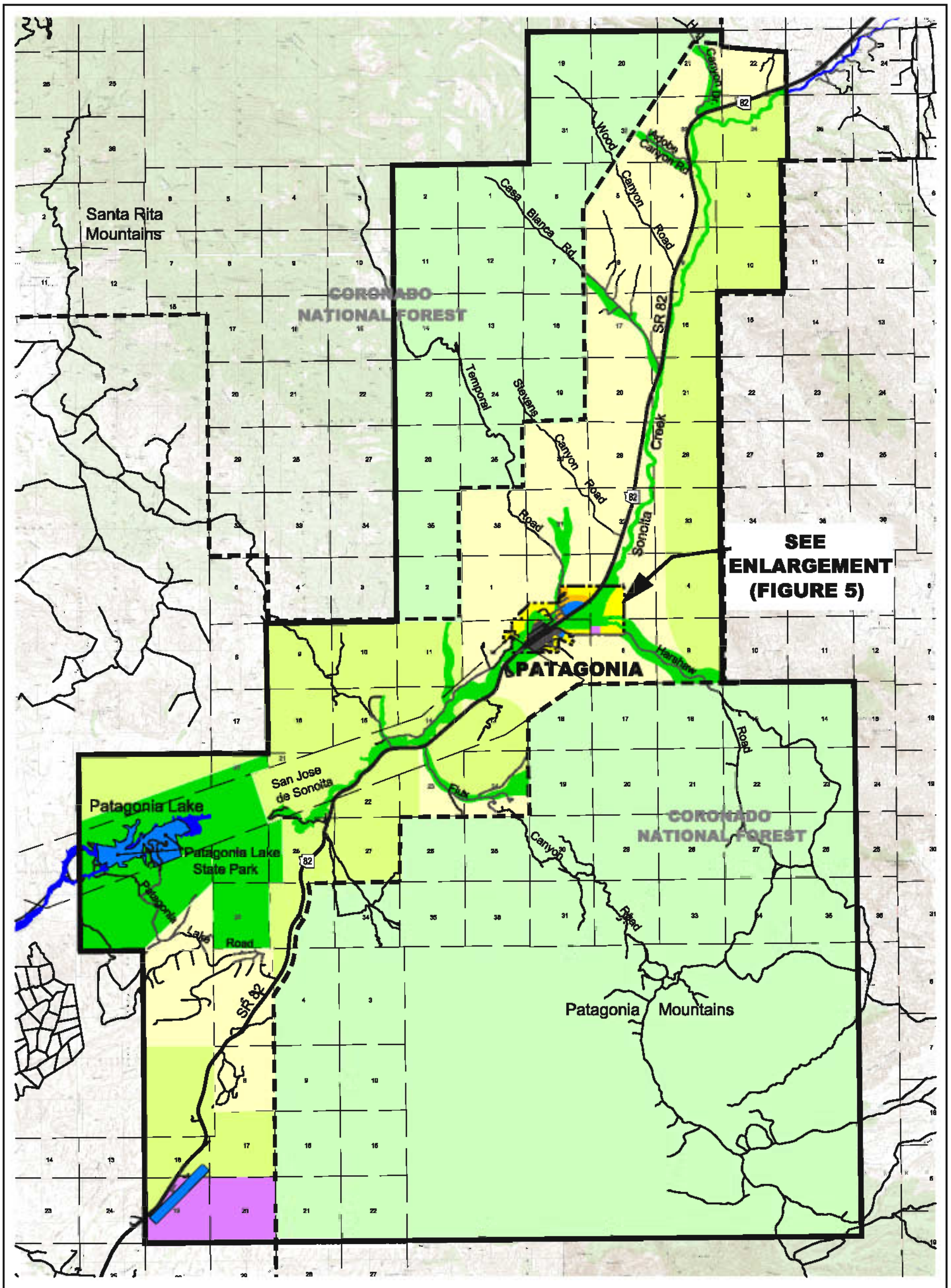
**Open Space – (OS)**

The open space category designation identifies open space sites and corridors intended for public recreation including parks and preserves. This designation includes developed parks, nature preserves, natural areas, and the floodway of Sonoita Creek. Where open space is designated for State Trust Lands, a minimum residential density of one dwelling per acre is recognized.







**Resource Conservation – (RC)**







The resource conservation designation is to protect existing public lands, preserve open space and to accomplish conservation objectives including land, air, water, forest, and wildlife resources. Maintaining and improving environmental quality in these areas is vital.



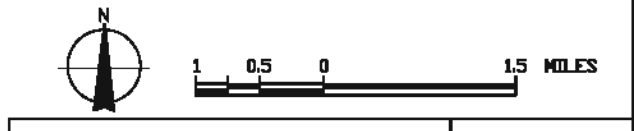


 **Town of PATAGONIA**

-  Existing Streets
-  State Highway
-  Incorporated Boundary
-  Planning Area
-  National Forest Limits
-  Section Line

-  Ranch (40 ac/du)
-  Rural Residential (4 ac/du)
-  Employment
-  Public
-  Open Space
-  Resource Conservation

**GENERAL PLAN UPDATE  
FUTURE LAND USE PLAN  
PLANNING AREA**



**FIGURE 4**

Source: Santa Cruz County Public Works 03-03-2008

Date: 1-29-2009





## B. Circulation Element

The Circulation Element addresses anticipated short-term and long-term transportation and circulation needs. It supports land use goals and recommendations with intensions to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods, to promote compatibility between transportation modes and land use, and to reduce the adverse air quality impacts of transportation.

The Circulation Element is integral to the other plan elements and has implications for future development in the Town of Patagonia and the planning area. The element supports all modes of travel.

### 1. Current Conditions

Patagonia’s circulation structure is primarily composed of a grid system of local streets and one State Highway, which runs through the center of town. Several roads, paved and unpaved, provide access to the surrounding unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County including Harshaw Road, Temporal Canyon Road/First Avenue, Red Mountain Court/S. Third Avenue and Blue Haven Road.



Traffic issues revolve largely around Highway 82 (Naugle Avenue) as it serves higher volumes of through traffic, and of particular concern is truck traffic.

#### Regional Connections

Highway 82 runs the north and south length of Patagonia’s planning area. It provides access to Nogales, 18 miles south-west of Patagonia, where it connects with Interstate 19. North of Patagonia, Highway 82 leads to Sonoita (approximately 12 miles) and crosses SR 83. SR 83 connects to Interstate 10 at a point 23 miles to the north.

#### Roadway Network

Patagonia is composed mostly of a compact town center with interconnected two-way roads. Naugle Avenue (Highway 82), an ADOT maintained highway, functions as the primary arterial serving regional and local traffic. The highway runs the length of the planning area.

Traffic calming devises, which help reduce speeds and improve pedestrian safety, are used on Naugle Avenue entering/exiting Patagonia. Rumble strips on the inbound lane, are located at both ends of Town. They serve to alert traffic to oncoming congestion and pedestrian crossings by creating noise and vibration. The same noise and vibration is also a nuisance to Town residents as the sound of tire noise created by the pavement modifications can be heard through most of the community.

There are no traffic signals in Patagonia and highway traffic does not stop when passing through town. Stop signs provide intersection control.





**Traffic Volumes**

Traffic volume is influenced mainly by two factors: population and land use, both of which are increasing throughout Arizona. These factors, along with economic and seasonal changes in truck traffic, are contributing to increased travel on all State Routes, including Naugle Avenue through Patagonia.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) annually measures vehicular traffic on State highways. Traffic counts reported by ADOT for Naugle Avenue are shown in Table 4. In 2007, there were 2,200 to 2,300 average trips per day at the intersection of Third Avenue in Patagonia.

**Table 4  
Traffic Volumes**

<b>Highway 82 (Naugle Avenue)</b>	<b>Average Daily Traffic (ADT)</b>
North of Third Avenue (Sonoita)	2,300
South of Third Avenue (Nogales)	2,200

\* Source: ADOT, 2007 Traffic Counts

Due to increasing population and industrial activity at the Nogales port of entry, Naugle Avenue is expected to carry increased volumes of non-local traffic, particularly truck traffic, during the 20-year planning period. Issues related to public safety and noise is expected to grow as well.



**2. Functional Classification**

Most roadways in Patagonia are two-way local streets serving local facilities and residential neighborhoods. Nearly all of the local streets are paved and have a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. The Town has five rural collector streets; First Avenue, Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue, McKeown Avenue and Harshaw Road, are two lane paved roads with 25 miles per hour speed limits. Rural collectors provide internal circulation within neighborhoods and connections to the Highway. Naugle Avenue is the Town’s only arterial road. A large two-lane paved road with a speed limit of 30-45 miles per hour, the arterial supports higher traffic volumes and connects to the regional roadway system.





The following are examples of Patagonia streets and their functional classifications:

**Table 5  
Road Classifications**

Street Name	Functional Classification
Highway 82 (Naugle Avenue)	Arterial
Third Avenue	Rural Collector
Fourth Avenue	Rural Collector
McKeown Avenue	Rural Collector
Harshaw Road	Rural Collector
Pennsylvania Avenue	Local Street

\* Source: Town of Patagonia and Willdan

### 3. Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation

Non-motorized circulation is a pollution-free form of transportation that is fully supported by Patagonia citizens. Patagonia’s town layout and size provides many opportunities for alternate forms of transportation within the community including walking and biking.

Few roads in Patagonia include sidewalks or crosswalks. Many residents walk in streets or alleys in relative safety due to low traffic volumes. One crosswalk serves the Town, crossing Naugle Avenue at Third Avenue. A sidewalk is located along most of the north side of Naugle Avenue. Sidewalk improvements are a priority for Patagonia and future enhancements will be identified in the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan.

Patagonia currently has few pedestrian and bicycle pathways within Town. Under



current circumstances, limited and disconnected sidewalks can make walking in congested areas along McKeown or Naugle Avenues unsafe. Crosswalks and intersection lighting may be needed at the busiest intersections including along Naugle Avenue and where student traffic is heaviest: near the community’s schools.

### 4. Transit

Patagonia has very limited alternative transportation. The Senior Citizens of Patagonia currently operates a transportation program, restricted to low income and disabled persons and senior citizens.

### 5. Rail Service

There is no longer rail service in Patagonia. The New Mexico & Arizona Railroad, later bought by Southern Pacific Railroad, was built in the late 1880s and ran through the middle of town, parallel to and south of the current highway alignment. The line ran





from Nogales to Sonoita mainly to serve prospering mines in the area. While historic events surround the rail, it has been abandoned and dismantled for nearly a half a century. The Town Hall and a significant amount of town property are former railroad properties.

## 6. Air Service

The Nogales International Airport is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Patagonia near Nogales. The general aviation airport is owned by Santa Cruz County and accommodates single engine and private aircraft and is becoming an increasingly busy facility. No commercial airlines serve this airport.

The County has designated the airport area a major, future employment center.

The Tucson International Airport (TIA), located approximately 50 miles northwest of Patagonia, is the closest airport accommodating commercial aircraft.



## 7. Circulation Considerations

During the planning process the community identified circulation related issues including the following:

### ❑ Truck Traffic

*Through truck traffic on Naugle Avenue creates a major noise nuisance, potential safety hazards and parking problems within Town. All traffic, including trucks, on Naugle Avenue is expected to increase in the future.*

### ❑ Traffic Signal Not Desired

*Citizens prefer no traffic signals on Highway 82 due to addition noise and pollution created by starting and stopping traffic.*

### ❑ Safety Concerns

*Pedestrian travel can be unsafe with limited sidewalk connections through Town and a single crosswalk across Naugle Avenue. Citizens have cited the need for additional sidewalks and crosswalks particularly for providing safe access to all schools.*

### ❑ Non-motorized Transportation

*Maintain and enhance separate pedestrian, bike and horse pathways throughout Town. Future changes in the Town's circulation system should reduce dependency on the automobile.*



□ **Speed Control**

*One of the most common concerns regarding traffic in Patagonia was the need to improve speed control. All traffic, including trucks, border patrol and cars were cited as ‘speeding through town.’ Higher traffic speeds contribute to traffic noise levels and threaten public safety.*

□ **Roadway Grading and Construction in County Areas**

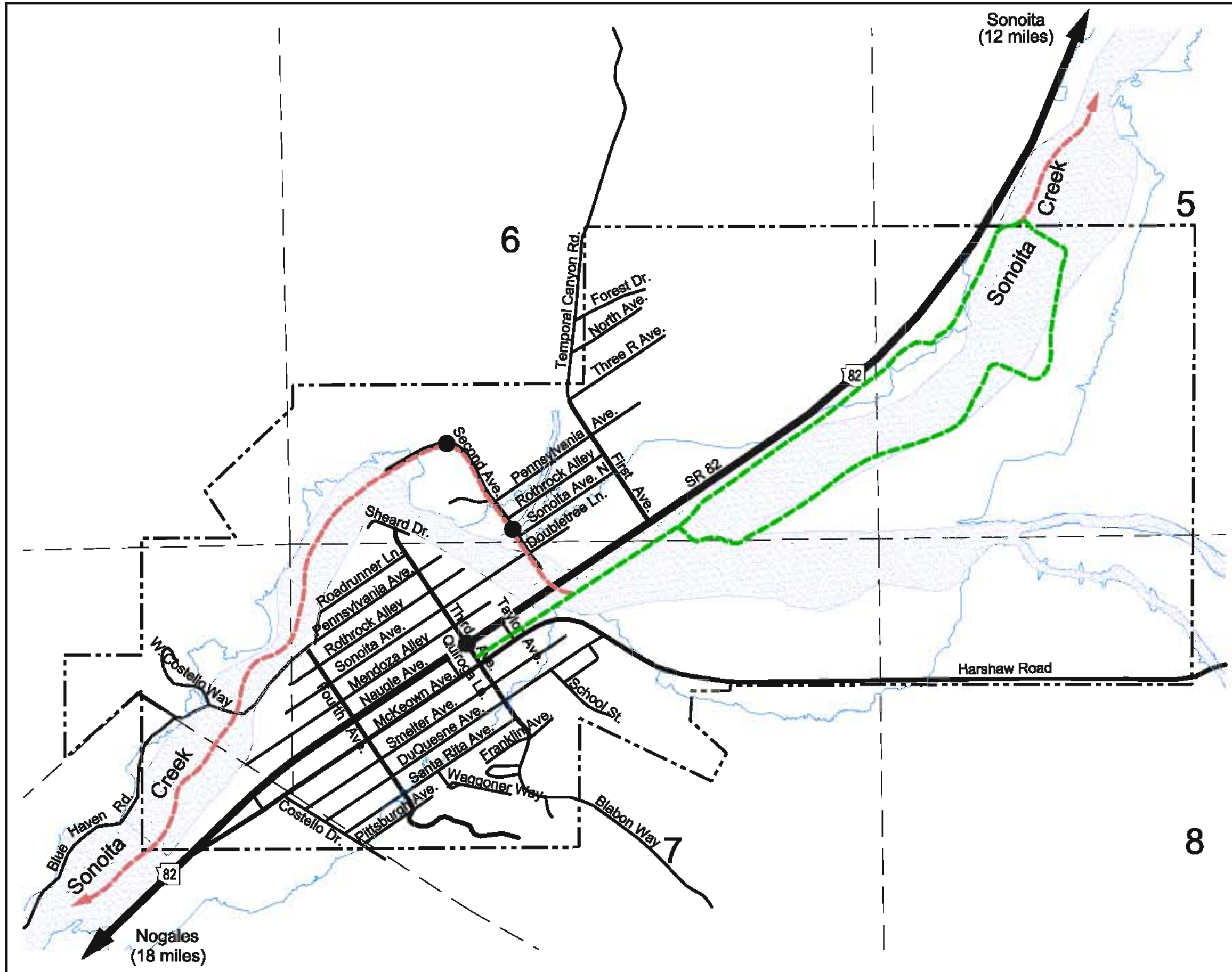
*Additional review and improved permitting procedures may be needed to control the proliferation of new roadway grading and construction in County areas near the Town.*


**8. Circulation Plan**

The Circulation Plan, coordinated with the Future Land Use Element Plan, indicates existing and anticipated future roadway improvements along with multi-use pedestrian trail and path locations. For Patagonia, improvements to make walking and bicycling enjoyable, safe and efficient will be as important as necessary street improvements.

The Circulation Plan includes a possible direct connection for Harshaw Road to Naugle Avenue intended to route truck traffic around downtown. The key to this improvement is an expensive bridge crossing of Sonoita Creek. Specific improvements related to drainage, paving and pedestrian crossings are indicated on the Plan.














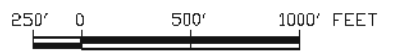





# Town of PATAGONIA

## GENERAL PLAN UPDATE CIRCULATION PLAN

-  Principal Arterial
-  Collector Street
-  Local Street
-  Future Sonoita Creek Trail
-  Future META Trail
-  Improvement Project
-  Incorporated Boundary
-  Section Line
-  Sonoita Creek Floodplain
-  Sonoita Creek Floodway



**WILLDAN**  
Serving Public Agencies

**FIGURE  
6**

Source: Santa Cruz County Public Works 03-03-2008



## 9. Goals, Objectives and Policies

Circulation Goals and Objectives support citizen desires to develop a multimodal circulation system that will be both safe and efficient. Policies serve to provide action-oriented direction for implementing agreed-upon community objectives and goals. Responsibility for Plan implementation is community-wide including Town staff, elected and appointed officials, private interests and citizens.

### Goal 1. ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE CIRCULATION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE, BICYCLISTS, EQUESTRIANS, AND MOTOR VEHICLES.

*Objective:* Provide for in-town pedestrian circulation (sidewalks, paths, and trails) needs, including the needs of the elderly and handicap. .

*Policy:* Identify and prioritize most needed sidewalks and bike paths.

*Policy:* Systematically complete missing sidewalk links and install benches and other street furniture as appropriate.

*Policy:* Partner with community service organizations in improving and expanding local trails.

*Objective:* Establish regional trail connections.

*Policy:* Support the creation of a trail along Sonoita Creek from Sonoita to Patagonia Lake.

*Policy:* Support Mountain Empire Trail Association projects serving the Patagonia area.

*Objective:* Provide for bicycle and equestrian circulation needs.

*Policy:* Develop a non-motorized circulation master plan.

*Policy:* Identify routes, destinations and supporting facilities such as staging areas, bike racks and benches.

*Objective:* Provide adequate vehicular circulation systems including the State Highway, town streets and alleyways and County roads.

*Policy:* Identify alignments, potential funding and appropriate timing for needed roadway improvements.

*Policy:* Pursue funding opportunities for local street system maintenance and improvements.

*Policy:* Adopt off-street parking requirements for new homes.

*Policy:* Coordinate Town and ADOT roadway improvement projects.

### Goal 2. MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS FROM STATE HIGHWAY 82.

*Objective:* Reduce noise and roadway deterioration impacts.

*Policy:* Initiate high-profile enforcement of Town speed limits on Naugle Avenue.

*Policy:* Explore and implement additional traffic calming and noise reduction options.





*Policy: Identify techniques, including local regulations, to reduce noise associated with truck engine-braking including vehicle operation techniques.*

*Policy: Work with ADOT to update operational and traffic control for the portion of Highway 82 impacting the quality of life in Patagonia.*

*Policy: Study and implement noise attenuation alternatives including the use of barriers and native plants along the highway right of way.*

*Objective: Expand and enhance safe crossings of Highway 82.*

*Policy: Upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing at Third Avenue and Naugle Avenue.*

*Policy: Identify locations and needed design features for additional crossings of Naugle Avenue.*

**Goal 3. ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE AND CONVENIENT TRANSIT AND AIR FACILITIES.**

*Objective: Support safe operations and appropriate, employment-based land uses at the Nogales International Airport.*

*Policy: Work with Santa Cruz County and the City of Nogales to ensure implementation of the preferred employment uses adjacent to the airport.*

*Policy: Provide feedback to Santa Cruz County on operational impacts.*

*Objective: Provide a safe place for helicopter operations in Town for emergency service.*

*Policy: Establish guidelines and adopt restrictions on helicopter operations.*

*Policy: Identify primary and secondary helicopter landing areas.*

*Objective: Improve transit services.*

*Policy: Support regional efforts to establish transit service.*

*Policy: Partner with non-profit and for-profit transit providers where a public benefit can be shown.*

**10. Circulation Recommendations**

Consistent with Circulation Goals, Objectives and Policies, the following recommendations help guide Plan implementation:

- ❑ Initiate a high-profile enforcement program, including signage, to reduce truck speeds on Naugle Avenue.
- ❑ Study and implement a noise-limiting ordinance for trucks and other vehicles traveling through Town.
- ❑ Consider extending the 30 mile per hour speed zone to a longer length of highway, perhaps the entire Town limits.





- ❑ Maintain a working relationship with ADOT officials with primary focus on pedestrian crossing and truck noise improvements. Pursue agreements with ADOT for additional restrictions or traffic calming on Highway 82.
- ❑ Identify and prioritize, based on public safety benefits, most needed sidewalk, pathway and trail improvements. Support to the greatest degree feasible, community trail improvement efforts.
- ❑ Construct sidewalk improvements for the south side of Naugle Avenue.
- ❑ Adopt an off-street parking/alley requirement for new home construction to improve circulation and emergency vehicle access.
- ❑ Prepare a Circulation Master Plan to document community preferences and coordinate efforts to improve vehicular and non-vehicular circulation. Transportation related issues such as noise attenuation, transit and special needs services should be considered.
- ❑ Work with ADOT to encourage trucks to use I-19 as an alternate route and support study of the Tucson I-10 truck bypass.
- ❑ Expect developers, including projects located in the County and impacting Patagonia, to participate in financing and/or constructing new, off-site transportation facilities and other infrastructure, including bridges, drainage structures and wastewater systems that serve their projects.
- ❑ Promote transportation services for non-driving public including seniors and youth. Participate in regional communications and efforts to improve transit services.



## C. Energy and Water Resources

Utilizing available energy resources efficiently and supporting the development of renewable energy sources provides a long term benefit to all community members. Similarly, while Patagonia has adequate water supplies today, wise use and conservation are key. This Element addresses basic energy and water resource needs that not only apply locally in Patagonia, but are reflective of global issues as well.



### 1. Existing Conditions

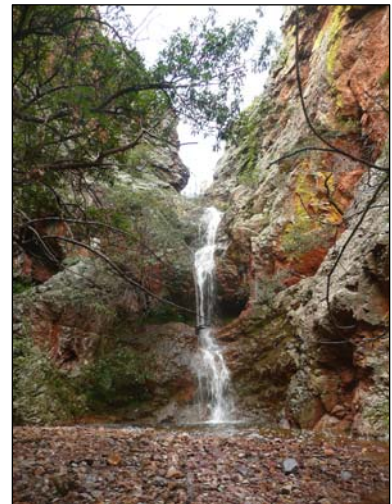
#### Energy

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative provides electric energy service for the greater Patagonia community. Demands for energy are generally increasing as population in the Patagonia Planning Area, and southern Arizona increases. While electrical service is readily available, customers do experience occasional interruptions in service. Some homes provide their own electrical power through individual solar collection systems.

#### Water

The Town of Patagonia is the water provider for area residents. An assured water supply requirement is in affect for all new development. The Town's system includes 2 wells, pumps, two storage facilities and distribution system. Total reservoir capacity is 400,000 gallons. There are about four miles of distribution pipe and approximately 420 connections. Water resources are derived from groundwater pumping from the Sonoita Creek Basin.

The Town produces effluent from its wastewater treatment plant on Costello Avenue. Currently, effluent, which meets federal water quality standards, is not re-used in the community and is released into Sonoita Creek.





The Planning Area includes significant surface water resources in Sonoita Creek and Patagonia Lake. Sonoita Creek has been the subject of extensive conservation efforts and currently includes The Nature Conservancy's Sonoita Creek Preserve, a significant environmental, recreational and educational resource in the community. Patagonia Lake State Park provides a valuable regional recreation opportunity and is a significant water and wildlife habitat resource.

## 2. Energy and Water Resources Issues

Planning considerations for energy and water resources in Patagonia include:

- ❑ *The community desires improved sustainability and is poised to provide leadership on energy and water resource management.*
- ❑ *Protection of water quality for surface and groundwater resources is paramount.*
- ❑ *Achieving conservation of water resources through efficient plumbing and outdoor water use reduction programs.*
- ❑ *Development of alternative energy sources including solar and wind; reducing dependence on fossil fuels.*
- ❑ *Improved reliability of existing electrical service and the establishment of provider-based energy saving and solar credit programs.*
- ❑ *Implementation of Green Building practices.*



## 3. Goals and Objectives

Energy and Water Resource Goals and Objectives support citizen desires to promote the use of sustainable energy sources and protect the community's most valuable resource: water.

Policies serve to provide action-oriented direction for implementing agreed-upon community objectives and goals. Responsibility for Plan implementation is community-wide including Town staff, elected and appointed officials, utility providers, private interests, and citizens.



**Goal 1. IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN PATAGONIA.**

*Objective:* Promote sustainable building practices and techniques for residential and non-residential construction, including existing home and business improvements/expansions.

*Policy:* Explore and implement retro-fitting Town facilities to reduce energy and water use.

*Policy:* Adopt updated plumbing and energy codes that reduce energy and water use.

*Policy:* Promote green building practices and the adoption of a green building program for Patagonia and Santa Cruz County.

*Policy:* Carefully evaluate new power transmission line proposals regarding environmental impacts and service/capacity improvements.

**Goal 2. SUPPORT THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE APPLICATIONS.**

*Objective:* Encourage the use of sustainable energy applications for residential and non-residential construction.

*Policy:* Provide information and other assistance on available federal, state, and other solar and wind energy grants.

*Policy:* Identify alternative fuel suppliers and sources available to community members.

*Policy:* In conjunction with Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Co-op, develop incentives to reduce energy use and promote renewable energy use.

*Objective:* Provide leadership in the development and use of sustainable power.

*Policy:* Promote the creation of a public-private partnership dedicated to the development of a sustainable power generating facility.

*Policy:* Provide citizen education programs on reducing energy and water use.

*Policy:* Promote the use of basic energy saving devices like outdoor clotheslines.

**Goal 3. SECURE AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE COMMUNITY.**

*Objective:* Preserve the quality of community water supplies.

*Policy:* Work with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and other agencies to manage local groundwater quality and supply.

*Policy:* Discourage industrial, such as mining, and other development that negatively impacts ground and surface water quality.

*Policy:* Protect surface water resources including Sonoita Creek and Patagonia Lake.





*Objective:* Promote community water conservation.

*Policy:* Require the use of water saving devices in new construction and building additions through Town building codes.

*Policy:* Promote the use of water harvesting techniques on properties throughout town.

*Policy:* Study the area's water resources to determine 'safe yield' amounts and provide direction for future land use decisions.

## 6. Recommendations

Implementation of General Plan Goals and Objectives can reduce community dependence on fossil fuels, improve environmental conditions and protect valuable water resources. The following recommendations help guide implementation:

- ❑ Adopt updated plumbing code requirements requiring water saving devices in new construction and expansions to existing structures.
- ❑ Implement water harvesting program with a goal of adopting standards for new construction.
- ❑ Monitor development and other activities in the watershed supporting the community for the purposes of preventing negative impacts to the area's water supply.
- ❑ Provide educational programs and materials supporting water and energy conservation techniques, including resources and suppliers of alternative fuels available to Patagonia residents.
- ❑ Promote the development and use of solar, wind and other sustainable energy technologies.
- ❑ Encourage construction to areas where water/wastewater infrastructure is in place.
- ❑ Require new development to fully fund the cost of needed system improvements for water and wastewater service.