

**City Manager's Housing Working Group
PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Purpose: The City Manager's Housing Working Group, comprised of 20 Novato residents representing a diversity of neighborhoods and City-wide interests, is charged with making recommendations to the City Manager on housing policy for the City.

More specifically, the overarching purpose of the Committee is to develop recommendations that:

- Identify housing opportunity sites, as required by State General Plan Law, consistent with community-wide values.
- Address challenges (e.g. crime) associated with existing as well as future affordable housing sites in the City, after determining the extent of the problems; and
- Determine how the City and its citizens can influence State and regional policies that affect Novato, including the next round of ABAG's affordable housing allocations to cities and counties in the region.

In developing its recommendations on housing policy, the Working Group will be guided by the following principles, which were discussed by the City Council at their September 21, 2010 Work Study Session on the City's Housing Element:

1. **Advocacy** -- Increase the City's political involvement and activity in legislative and other advocacy regarding State and regional housing allocation processes, policies and mandated requirements.
2. **Open and Participatory Process** -- Conduct an open and inclusive planning process that encourages all residents of Novato to participate and that insures all input will be considered before decisions are reached.
3. **Housing Needs and Mix** -- Address the community's future housing needs by providing a mix of housing options to serve all socio-economic levels, household sizes, and age groups in the community.
4. **Housing Density** -- Establish housing densities that are consistent with community-wide values. Reduce proposed affordable housing densities, especially when adjoining single family housing neighborhoods.
5. **Integrating Housing into Neighborhoods** -- Protect the character of existing neighborhoods by carefully considering the compatibility, density and design of new adjacent residential development.
6. **Distribution of Housing Units** -- Disperse affordable housing sites throughout the City to the greatest extent feasible. Overconcentration of affordable housing units in one area should be avoided. Revise the housing opportunity sites list in accordance with this policy direction.
7. **Housing in Commercial Areas** -- Housing opportunity sites in the Downtown and other commercial areas should be considered while balancing needs for retail and commercial development to assist with the City's financial health and service delivery.
8. **Public Safety** -- Evaluate potential public safety impacts from new housing, especially higher density housing.

