

Sonoma Developmental Campus Factsheet

Updated September 2021

In 2019, the California State Legislature agreed on a 3-year planning process in partnership with the County of Sonoma to develop a Specific Plan for the future development of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) campus.



The SDC Specific Plan will create a Sonoma County Board of Supervisors-adopted plan and EIR to redevelop 900 acres in the heart of Sonoma Valley. Once home to a community of people with developmental disabilities and the largest employer in the Sonoma Valley, the site will create a vibrant place to live, work and play for future generations.

Access the Guiding Principles and vision statement at:

tinyurl.com/sv5p99vz

Directed by a set of Guiding Principles and a community vision for the site, the development program will balance key factors such as market demand and site constraints with input from the community. The process ensures creating a community that respects the site's history and becomes a critical part of the future of Sonoma Valley.

For more information about the SDC Specific Plan, visit the project website at:

www.sdcspecificplan.com

Please sign up to stay engaged and automatically receive email updates:

www.sdcspecificplan.com/sign-up-for-updates

Any questions can be directed to Brian Oh at:

engage@sdcspecificplan.com

Current Status

The next step in this process is the development of project alternatives for additional analysis by the project team. These alternatives will be discussed at an upcoming public workshop currently scheduled for November 2021.

The following are key milestones for community engagement with included anticipated dates of completion. For the most updated timeline and additional details, please visit the project website.

Project Alternatives
Jun. - Nov. 2021

Public Release &
Public Workshop
Nov. 2021

Preferred Alternative
Nov. 2021 - Jan. 2022

Board of Supervisors
Review
Jan. 2022

Specific Plan Public
Review Draft + DEIR
Jun. - July 2022

Planning Commission
Public Hearing
*31-45 days after
release*

Final Specific Plan
Sept. 2022

Planning Commission
& Board of
Supervisors Approvals

Frequently Asked Questions

Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan



What is the history of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC)?

The SDC provided services to persons with developmental disabilities for over 120 years.

The SDC was the Sonoma County's largest employer at the peak of its operations. In 2018 the State of California officially closed the facility and relocated clients to smaller, community-based care facilities.

For more information about the history of the site: <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/site-history>

What is the geographic extent of the site?

The site is 945 acres. The property includes a large historic campus, agricultural lands to the east, and vast ecological and open space resources.

Who currently owns the property?

The State of California owns the site and has forged a unique partnership with Sonoma County that allows the County, together with the community, to chart the future role of the SDC through the development of a Specific Plan.

What is a Specific Plan?

A specific plan is a document designed to implement the goals and policies of the General Plan which covers all land in a county's jurisdiction. Specific plans cover smaller areas. These plans contain detailed development standards, distribution of land uses, infrastructure requirements, and implementation measures for the development of a specific geographic area. To learn more about Specific Plans visit: https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/specific_plans.pdf

What are the steps to prepare the SDC Specific Plan?

The first step is to analyze the existing conditions on the SDC site, including a historic preservation-focused building assessment, a market study, an analysis of opportunities for enhancing natural connectivity and open space preservation, a mobility analysis, and a water supply assessment. The second step is to develop project alternatives that will lead to a preferred alternative. The third step is to prepare a draft plan and environmental review after the preferred alternative is selected. The fourth step is finalization of the plan which includes refining draft plans and holding public hearings which will lead to the adoption of the Specific Plan. At each step of the process, there are opportunities for public participation.

When will the SDC Specific Plan be completed?

The final plan is expected to be complete by September 2022. For a more detailed project timeline visit: <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/project-schedule>

How can members of the community get involved in the SDC Specific Plan process? Community involvement is the cornerstone of this important project and there will be numerous opportunities to share your opinions and help shape the plan as it is developed. The County has developed a community engagement strategy. Events and opportunities to participate in the SDC Specific Plan process will be posted to the project

website as they are scheduled. To learn more visit: <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/meetings>.

Who approves the Specific Plan?

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission are responsible for approving the SDC Specific Plan.

Is there a vision for the site?

Yes, a vision and guiding principles were created through past community engagement efforts. They can be found on the SDC Specific Plan project website and accessed [[Here](#)]. The vision is a summary of the shared goals to be achieved by the SDC Specific Plan. The guiding principles support the overall vision and will be reflected in the goals, policies and implementation of the Specific Plan.

What are the State's priorities for the site?

The State of California's priorities for the site include:

- permanent protection of the open space and natural resources as a public resource to the greatest extent feasible;
- housing shall be a priority in the planning process;
- any housing that is determined to be appropriate for the property shall include affordable housing;
- any housing opportunities on the property shall give priority to projects that include deed restricted housing for individuals with developmental disabilities;
- options shall be considered for the appropriate protection of the Eldridge Cemetery located on the property.

What happens after the SDC Specific Plan is approved? How long will it take to implement the SDC Specific Plan and how will it be funded?

Staff anticipates the final EIR and Specific Plan to be adopted in September 2022 by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The California Department of General Services will have a parallel disposition process on a similar timeline. Once approved, a new land owner will redevelop the campus, typically in phases.

How can I learn more about the SDC Specific Plan?

The SDC project website provides up-to-date information about the project, its schedule, project documents and County contacts. The website provides information about how you can get involved. If you want to receive periodic email updates about the SDC Specific Plan, sign up at this link: <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/sign-up-for-updates>

Who should I contact if I have questions?

For questions about the planning process or materials, please email:

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