

1.0 Introduction

The City of Eloy has a bright and prosperous future. The goals and objectives contained within this General Plan will help Eloy evolve into the future we desire. The City's unique location, culture, history, geography, and citizen's vision of the future were used in conjunction with fulfilling Arizona Revised Statute (ARS 9-461) requirements and supportive public participation activities to successfully update the Eloy General Plan.

1.1 CONTEXT

The City of Eloy is located in south central Pinal County, to the north and south of Interstate 10 (I-10), the state's main economic transportation artery. Eloy is approximately halfway between the two largest cities in Arizona- Phoenix and Tucson as shown on Map I-1, Eloy Context Map. The City's topography is relatively flat throughout the majority of the Planning Area except near the southeast (Picacho Peak State Park), northwest corner (Casa Grande Mountains), and just outside of the eastern boundary (Picacho Mountains) where Newman Peak is located. There are large expanses of vacant desert land and open fields used for agriculture and ranching scattered throughout the City and the Planning Area.

1.2 HISTORY

The area surrounding the City began to carry the name of Eloy when a railroad switchyard was constructed by the Southern Pacific Railroad to connect Tucson to Casa Grande in 1902. In 1918, after the end of World War I, three men: W.L. Bernard, J.E. Meyer and John Alsdorf purchased land in what is now Downtown Eloy. After they purchased the land, they subdivided it and began growing cotton. An application was made in 1919 to establish a post office and, at that time, the City founders favored the name Cotton City. This name was rejected by the Postal Service and the name Eloy was chosen instead.

Historically, the City's economy was largely dependent upon agriculture due to the rich soil profile and easily accessed groundwater. During harvest time, the City's population could temporarily swell to three times the average year-round population. The City of Eloy is part of the Santa Cruz Basin, which is one of Arizona's most fertile agricultural areas, with more than 100,000 irrigable acres.

More recently, the City's economy has diversified, with over 95 percent of its businesses and nearly half its employment now in the agribusiness; arts, entertainment, recreation & visitor industries; business and financial services; education; manufacturing; personal and commercial services; and transportation and logistics sectors.

The City of Eloy officially incorporated in 1949 and was home to approximately 4,700 residents as shown on Map I-2, Annexation Map. The Toltec area was annexed in 1965, increasing the City's incorporated area to 11 square miles. By 2000, the City had increased in size to 71 square miles and approximately 10,375 residents. This growth has continued and as of July 2019, the City of Eloy had a population of approximately 19,005 people, 114 incorporated square miles and 392 square miles within its Planning Area.

Eloy's Historic Battle

When the Civil War began in 1861, Union Troops were withdrawn from many of the western territories. Soldiers near Tucson opened up their supply depots prior to leaving and told the civilians to "take what you need, and get out." Many settlers and civilians did not follow this advice since they had staked their wealth and lives on the prosperity of the southwest.

The Confederate Army marched into the Rio Grande Valley, which was part of the New Mexico Territory. After securing the area, they sent a detachment to Tucson. The commander of the Confederate detachment was Captain Sherrod Hunter.

As the Confederate threat in California subsided, Brigadier General James H. Carleton led a detachment of approximately 1,400 Union soldiers, called the California Column from Fort Yuma to march on Tucson. By early April 1862, the California Column had reached an area near present day Eloy. Detachments were dispatched to reconnoiter the area and the final route into Tucson. Sensing an ambush, the Union Cavalry were split into two groups, one of which circled the base of the Picacho Mountains as a precaution.

Hunter's men had set up an ambush near Picacho Peak. The Confederates opened fire immediately wounding two Union troops. At this time, the second Union force flanked Hunter's men and captured three of the Confederate soldiers. Emboldened by this minor victory, Union Lieutenant James Barrett ordered his soldiers to advance forward. The remaining Confederate Cavalry fired a heavy barrage, which killed and wounded four Union soldiers. Lieutenant Barrett was among those killed.

The battle lasted approximately ninety minutes at which point the remaining Union soldiers withdrew and returned to the main column. The Confederate detachment in Tucson withdrew shortly thereafter and returned to the Rio Grande Valley as they continued to be outnumbered and were too far from the main army to receive regular supplies and reinforcements.

This historic Civil War battle has been reenacted annually at Picacho Peak State Park and has been an exciting event for the City. While the battle's original participants only numbered about two dozen, the event has typically drawn over 200 reenactment participants.

Local Attractions

Fifteen miles north of Eloy, in the City of Coolidge, is the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. This monument is the largest single and tallest Hohokam structure known to exist. The structure was constructed in 1350 A.D., is four stories in height and is the centerpiece of the monument which overall covers approximately 427 acres.

Other local and regional attractions and recreational areas include Picacho Peak State Park, SkyVenture Arizona, and SkyDive Arizona, Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch, Eloy Fiestas Patrias, Robson Ranch Golf Course, Pinal County Fairgrounds, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Country Thunder, Queen Creek Olive Mill, Biosphere 2, Goldfield Ghost Town, Eloy BMX racing track, Schnepf Farms.

1.3 CITY GOVERNMENT

The City of Eloy was created by the local citizens primarily for the purposes of self-determination, representation, and improvement to their quality of life. Local government was tasked with providing a wide range of services to meet the needs of the citizens and businesses located within the community. Services currently provided by the City of Eloy include police protection,

water/sewer, trash/landfill, roadways, municipal court, clerk, human resources, library (through a partnership with Pinal County), community development, community services and city administration. The City of Eloy continues to improve the quality of life and the sustainability of the community by developing and enforcing policies related to economic development, land use and transportation planning, open space, environmental preservation, and other important issues. City leaders and staff listen and report the ideas, comments and opinions of the public to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Downtown Advisory Commission, and City Council to ensure that the community's health, safety, and welfare is protected. The City of Eloy has an elected mayor and six elected council members (at large), as well as a City Manager, City Clerk and Chief of Police appointed by the City Council.

In order to provide services to the City's residents and businesses, the City uses revenues principally from City Sales Tax (approximately 40 percent), State Shared Revenues (approximately 39 percent) and Property Tax (approximately 8 percent) and a variety of other sources including services, interest, fees, and licenses. Similar to private businesses, it is critical that the local government's revenues and expenditures are effectively managed to maintain a long-term balance.

1.4 BACKGROUND

The purpose of the General Plan is to provide the local community with a comprehensive approach to guide future development in the community. It applies to all land within the City's incorporated boundary and is advisory for the surrounding Planning Area, includes all subjects related to the community's development, and extends over a 10-year timeframe. The General Plan identifies the community's goals, as well as the objectives and implementation measures necessary to achieve these goals.

Over the past five years, City staff has incrementally reviewed and updated and the city council has subsequently adopted each of the eleven elements of the general plan in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes. This subsequent readoption process now will effectively codify the entire General Plan to serve the City of Eloy over the next ten (10) years. The City's Planning Area includes an area larger than the City's Incorporated Area to account for the sphere of influence of the City based on its proximity to other surrounding incorporated and unincorporated communities and tribal lands. Generally, the Planning Area is bounded by a portion of State Route 287 (Florence Boulevard) on the north, a portion of the Pinal/Pima County boundary line on the south, a portion of the section line alignment approximately two miles east of Pecan Road on the east and a portion of the Burris Road alignment on the west.

1.5 USE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

The General Plan is intended to be used by all members of the community, as well as others interested in the City's future. The key to using the General Plan is the understanding that while some of the objectives within the Plan may not be achievable in the near term, they are intended to guide the community's future long-term development.

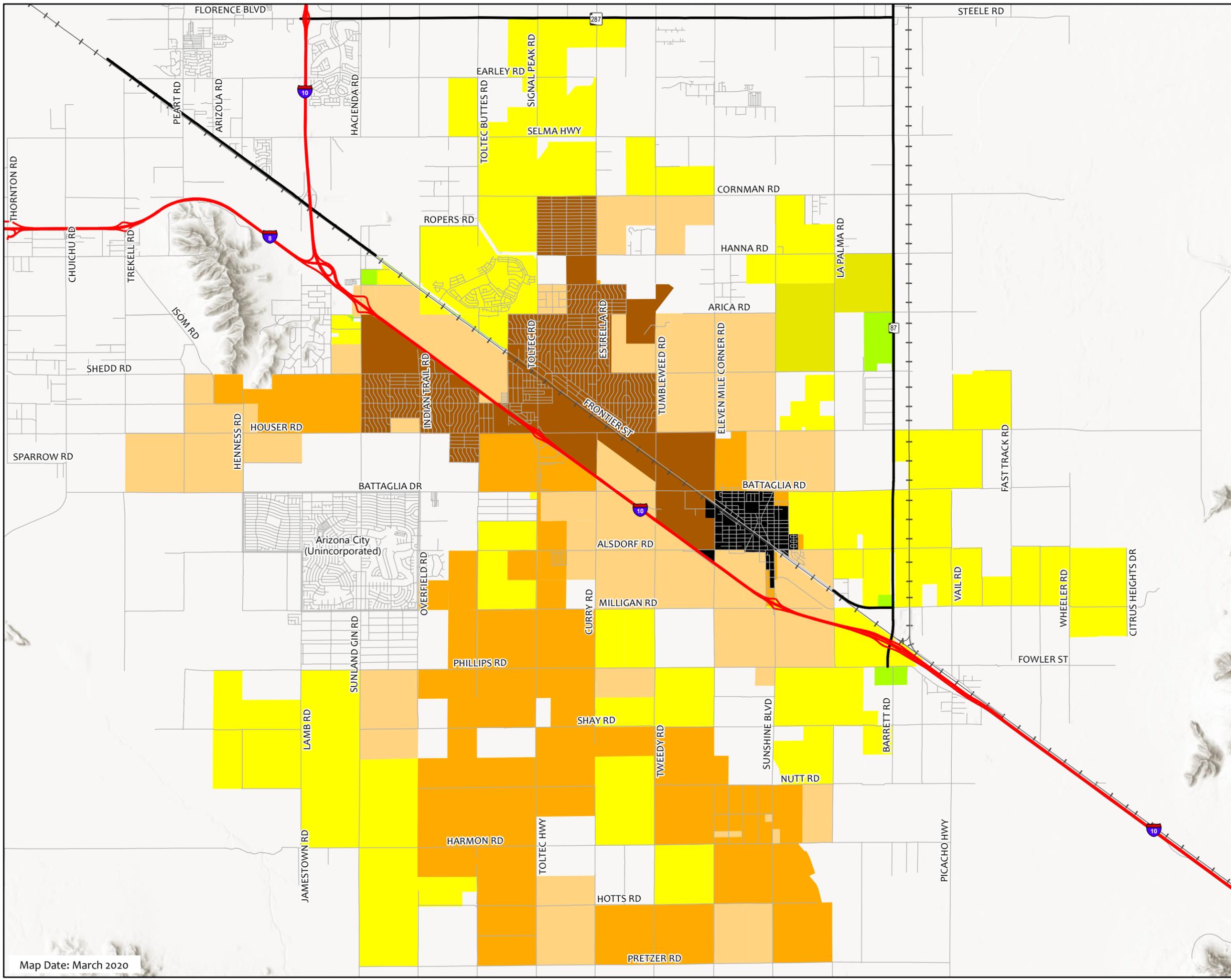
The remainder of the General Plan is divided into 11 chapters, or elements. An implementation chapter is also included. Each element shares a common format, beginning with general overarching Goals, followed by the Purpose of the Element, the City's Existing Character and Discussion sections, with the Objectives section as the final component, which establishes the City's recommended

direction. Supportive maps, charts and tables are also included within each element to assist in communicating the intent of the text.



Annexation Map

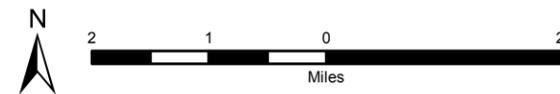
Eloy General Plan



	Year End	Number of Annexations	Square Miles	Population
	1950	1	1.41	3,580
	1960	0	0	4,899
	1970	4	12.45	5,381
	1980	9	27.46	6,240
	1990	20	27.18	7,211
	2000	1	2.5	10,375
	2010	30	41.67	16,631
	2020	7	0.85	19,391

Reference

- Interstate
- Highway
- Railroad



Disclaimer: This map is furnished for reference purposes only and is not suitable for legal, financial, engineering, or surveying purposes or commitments. The City of Eloy assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies presented, and shall have neither liability nor responsibility for any direct or indirect loss or damage in connection with, or arising from, the information on this map. Any conclusions derived from this map are the responsibility of the user.

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasystemen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community