TEST FOR AN ADEQUATE GENERAL PLAN

In Cecily Talbery Barclay and the late Daniel J Curtin's *California Land Use Planning and Law*, they pose helpful questions to determine whether a general plan is legally adequate:

IS IT COMPLETE? (SEVEN ELEMENTS)
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

IS IT INFORMATIONAL, READABLE, AND PUBLIC?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

IS IT INTERNALLY CONSISTENT?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

IS IT CONSISTENT WITH STATE POLICY?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

DOES IT COVER ALL TERRITORY WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

IS IT LONG-TERM IN PERSPECTIVE?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

DOES IT ADDRESS ALL LOCALLY RELEVANT ISSUES?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

IS IT CURRENT?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

DOES IT CONTAIN THE STATUTORY CRITERIA REQUIRED BY STATE LAW AS DEMANDED BY THE COURTS? FOR EXAMPLE:

– DOES THE LAND USE ELEMENT IDENTIFY AREAS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO FLOODING?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– ARE NOISE CONTOURS SHOWN FOR ALL OF THE LISTED SOURCES OF NOISE?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– DOES IT CONTAIN ADEQUATE STANDARDS OF POPULATION DENSITY AND BUILDING INTENSITY?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– DOES THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT RESPONSIBLY LIST SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR NEW TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– IS THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT CORRELATED WITH THE LAND USE ELEMENT?
☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– DOES THE GENERAL PLAN CLEARLY SPECIFY ALLOWABLE USES FOR EACH LAND USE DISTRICT?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– ARE THE DENSITY RANGES SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES IN MAKING CONSISTENCY FINDINGS WHERE NECESSARY?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

– DOES THE HOUSING ELEMENT CONTAIN A PROGRAM TO CONSERVE AND IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE EXISTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING STOCK?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

ARE THE DIAGRAMS OR MAPS ADEQUATE? DO THEY SHOW PROPOSED LAND USES FOR THE ENTIRE PLANNING AREA?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

IS THE LAND USE MAP LINKED DIRECTLY TO THE TEXT OF THE GENERAL PLAN?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

ARE THE MAPS AND TEXT CONSISTENT?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

DOES IT SERVE AS A YARDSTICK? CAN YOU TAKE AN INDIVIDUAL PARCEL AND CHECK IT AGAINST THE PLAN AND THEN KNOW HOW YOU CAN USE YOUR PROPERTY?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

DOES IT CONTAIN AN ACTION PLAN OR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

FINALLY, BUT MOST IMPORTANT, IS IT PROCEDURALLY CORRECT? WAS IT ADOPTED PROPERLY?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____

DID IT RECEIVE PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW?

☐ YES   ☐ NO, BECAUSE _____