Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Bruce W. McClendon FAICP
Director of Planning

January 7, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Bruce W. McClendon, FAICP
Director of Planning

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION REGARDING PROGRESS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY OAK WOODLANDS CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (October 7, 2008, Item 95-C)

On October 7, 2008 your Board requested appropriate County staff to participate in the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Program and instructed the Director of Planning to facilitate actions to assist the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (Resource Conservation District) in its preparation of the Los Angeles County Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan (Oak Woodlands Plan). This first quarterly status report summarizes the progress of the Oak Woodlands Plan, including actions your Board instructed the Director of Planning to take.

An initial step towards participation in the Program is the preparation of the Oak Woodlands Plan. Since October 2007, four County Fire Department Foresters have been participating in the Los Angeles County Oak Woodlands Conservation Strategic Alliance (Strategic Alliance) to provide technical advice to the Resource Conservation District in its preparation of the Oak Woodlands Plan. In addition the Department of Regional Planning prepared an oak woodlands map for the Resource Conservation District which the District submitted with its grant proposal to the California Resource Conservation District to fund the preparation of the Oak Woodlands Plan. Regional Planning will continue to provide technical assistance through participation in the Strategic Alliance and through the provision of planning services as required.

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Your Board sent a five-signature letter to the Wildlife Conservation Board supporting the Resource Conservation District's grant application for funding to prepare the Oak Woodlands Plan. Included in this letter was notice that your Board has allocated $50,000 in direct funding toward this effort and that the County is prepared to provide technical, staff, and other necessary support in the future. The letter was mailed to the California Wildlife Conservation Board on November 10, 2008.

The Resource Conservation District submitted its grant application to the California Wildlife Conservation Board for funding to prepare the Oak Woodlands Plan on November 5, 2008. The Wildlife Conservation Board will consider the application at its next meeting in February 2009. The Resource Conservation District feels very comfortable with the likelihood that the grant application will be approved and is moving assertively with its agenda of tasks to prepare the Oak Woodlands Plan.

Your Board requested that the Strategic Alliance request that a member of the Building Industry Alliance (BIA) be added to its membership. Regional Planning has coordinated with the Strategic Alliance to invite Holly Schroeder, Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles-Ventura Chapter of the BIA to the January 8, 2009 meeting of the Strategic Alliance. At this meeting it is expected that an appropriate member of the BIA will be selected to participate in the Alliance.

Your Board requested that Regional Planning coordinate with the Resource Conservation District to ensure that noticed community outreach meetings regarding the Oak Woodland Plan be held in the Antelope, San Gabriel, Santa Clarita, and San Fernando Valleys. The Resource Conservation District expects these meetings to begin in August 2009 and Regional Planning will collaborate to identify meeting locations and assist with mailing notifications and the facilitation of meetings.

The Resource Conservation District facilitated a meeting of the Strategic Alliance on December 9, 2008 to prepare for an Oak Woodlands Workshop on March 5, 2009 to establish the scope and intent of the Oak Woodlands Plan. The Strategic Alliance is also preparing for three workshops in March, April, and May 2009 to determine the economic benefits of the Oak Woodlands Plan. Following the workshops a draft Oak Woodlands Plan will be prepared and be the subject of community outreach meetings in summer 2009. The Resource Conservation District expects the Oak Woodlands Plan to be fully vetted by appropriate County agencies and ready for Board adoption by February 2010.

The next quarterly report on the progress of the Oak Woodlands Plan will be delivered in April 2009.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Mark Herwick of my staff at (213) 974-6427 or by email at mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov. Our office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays.

BWM:RCH:msh

c: Chief Executive Officer, Attn. Lari Sheehan
County Counsel
Executive Office
Chief of Forestry, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains