Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

March 5, 2012

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

FROM: Richard J. Bruckner
Director

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION REGARDING RURAL ISSUES AND THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE (DECEMBER 9, 2008, ITEM 39-B)

On December 9, 2008, your Board instructed the Director of Planning to take the following actions:

1. Formulate draft standards for development of rural communities within the General Plan Update.
2. Identify provisions that relate to development of rural communities in future outreach efforts concerning the General Plan Update.
3. Make a presentation to the Association of Rural Town Councils (ARTC) no later than April 2009 concerning rural issues and the General Plan Update.
4. Report back to the Board of Supervisors every 90 days identifying how the Department is addressing rural issues in the General Plan Update.

This quarterly report, as directed by your Board motion, summarizes the progress of the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) in addressing the actions outlined above.

The General Plan Update team continues to work closely with the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update team to ensure that there is consistency between efforts.

The Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance was heard and approved by your Board on January 24, 2012, with five amendments to the Ordinance to provide clarification or to strengthen the proposed regulations. County Counsel is currently drafting final language of the Ordinance and will schedule the item on the Board consent calendar in the coming months.

During the last quarter, the staff continued to make edits to the Draft General Plan, based on input received from major stakeholders during the County's recent outreach efforts. The staff also posted new tools and information on the DRP website, including meeting presentations and notes, and GIS-based draft policy maps.

During the last quarter, staff also continued to develop the Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Program in the Draft General Plan and the implementing Draft SEA Ordinance. Major activities include discussing the Program and Draft Ordinance with County staff and other major stakeholders, such as the Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC). Staff also posted detailed information on the SEA program web page, including profiles of SEAs, SEA eligibility criteria, and an index of all related studies and reports. In the coming months, DRP will report back to your Board on SEATAC reform; release a revised draft of the SEA Ordinance, as well as a revised draft of the Hillside Management Ordinance; engage in additional discussions with stakeholders beginning in March; and brief the Regional Planning Commission on April 25, 2012.

In April 2012, staff will release a revised and reformatted version of the Draft General Plan.

Additionally, staff will continue to work closely with the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update team to reach out to residents in the Antelope Valley and work with the dedicated and informed representatives of the ARTC. Starting in the upcoming weeks, the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update team will initiate 15 meetings with the ARTC and all of the individual Town Councils in the Antelope Valley. The purpose of these meetings is to introduce zoning consistency and discuss what zone changes, if any, are proposed for individual communities.

The next quarterly report on rural issues and the General Plan Update will be delivered no later than June 1, 2012. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Connie Chung at (213) 974-6417 or cchung@planning.lacounty.gov. For questions related to the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update or SEA Program, please contact Mitch Glaser at (213) 974-6476 or mglaser@planning.lacounty.gov. For questions related to Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance, please contact Bruce Durbin at (213) 974-6432 or bdurbin@planning.lacounty.gov.

RJB:JS:CC:gmc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Association of Rural Town Councils (Wayne Argo)