Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

April 7, 2014

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
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, the 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 of 2009 concerning rural issues and the General Plan Update; and,

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 the Board motion, summarizes the progress of the Department of Regional Planning (Department) in addressing the actions outlined above.

320 West Temple Street ▪ Los Angeles, CA 90012 ▪ 213-974-6411 ▪ Fax: 213-626-0434 ▪ TDD: 213-617-2292

On February 26, 2014, the Regional Planning Commission initiated the public hearing process for the General Plan Update. At the hearing, testifiers from rural communities commented on the need to further clarify and distinguish policies in the Draft General Plan that apply to rural communities. A summary of public comments can be found at the following link: http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/comments2014.

On April 23, 2014, the public hearing process will continue with a discussion on the Significant Ecological Areas Program and Ordinance and the Hillside Management Ordinance. The full public hearing schedule can be found at the following link: http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan. The Department anticipates bringing all components of the General Plan Update before the Board for consideration in late September or early October 2014.

During the past quarter, the staff continued to reach out to major stakeholders to discuss issues of concern in rural communities in the context of the General Plan Update, including dog kennels, mitigation land banking and rural character and compatibility. On March 26, 2014, the staff provided an overview of the Draft Community Climate Action Plan to the Association of Rural Town Councils.

The Department also extended its commitment to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in its grant application for "Art Outposts Antelope Valley," which is an effort to use creative placemaking to revitalize town centers and increase the vibrancy of the rural communities of Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Quartz Hill and Sun Village.

Furthermore, upon adoption by the Board on February 4, 2014, the staff submitted the Housing Element Update to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for certification review. The Department also developed a draft of an online, user-friendly version of the Housing Element to facilitate its implementation. A copy of the adopted Housing Element can be found at the following link: http://planning.lacounty.gov/housing.

The next quarterly report on rural issues and the General Plan Update will be delivered no later than July 3, 2014.

Should you have any questions regarding the General Plan Update, Housing Element Update, or the Community Climate Action Plan, please contact Connie Chung at (213) 974-6417 or cchung@planning.lacounty.gov. For questions related to the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update please contact Susan Tae at (213) 974-6476 or stae@planning.lacounty.gov. For questions regarding the proposed rural zones, please contact Bruce Durbin at (213) 974-6432 or bdurbin@planning.lacounty.gov.

RJB:MPC
CC:cc:ems

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
Association of Rural Town Councils (Vance Pomeroy, Director)

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