Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

October 14, 2014

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
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FROM: Richard J. Bruckner
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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.

Antelope Valley Area Plan Update

During this quarter, the Department continued its efforts to complete the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update. On July 7, 2014, the Department held the second Notice of Preparation Scoping Meeting, at Downtown Los Angeles, as a follow-up to the first one held in the Antelope Valley on June 26, 2014. On August 22, 2014, the Department

released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update. The Draft EIR was available for viewing at the Department's main office and the Antelope Valley field office as well as all Los Angeles County (County) libraries within the Antelope Valley and the Palmdale City Library. The Draft EIR comment period was from August 22, 2014, to October 6, 2014; any comments received during the comment period will be considered in the Final EIR.

On Saturday, September 27, 2014, the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) conducted a public hearing on the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update in the Antelope Valley. Approximately 500 persons were in attendance, which included one elected official and representatives from local Town Councils. After hearing testimony from approximately 70 persons, the RPC voted 4-0-1 (absent) to recommend approval of the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update with changes as recommended by staff and made during the public hearing. A public hearing before the County Board of Supervisors is tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2014.

More information on the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update effort can be accessed at the following link: planning.lacounty.gov/tnc.

General Plan Update

During this quarter, the RPC continued the public hearing process for the General Plan Update. On July 27, 2014, staff presented a revised draft of the General Plan. On August 6, 2014, staff continued discussions on the Draft Hillside Management Ordinance and the Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Program. On October 8, 2014, staff recommended that the SEA Ordinance and SEA Program Guide be continued off calendar for more time with community-level outreach and follow up to address ongoing and recent comments and questions heard at the September public hearing on the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update, and in meetings with various stakeholders including Town Councils and the Blue Ribbon Committee. The RPC continued the SEA Ordinance off calendar, and continued the rest of the General Plan Update to December 10, 2014.

On October 8, staff also provided the RPC with a fiscal impact analysis on the General Plan Update, which was prepared in partnership with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. The fiscal impact analysis includes considerations for the Antelope Valley, based on the 1986 Antelope Valley Area Plan as well as alternate land use scenarios.

More information on the General Plan Update public hearing process, including public comments and a full hearing schedule, can be found at the following links:

- Hillside Management effort: planning.lacounty.gov/hma
- SEA Program: planning.lacounty.gov/sea
- Rural Zones: planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/zoning
- Community Climate Action Plan: planning.lacounty.gov/ccap/draft
- Public Comments: planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/comments2014
- Hearing Schedule: planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan
- Draft EIR: planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/ceqa
- Fiscal Impact Analysis: http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/resources

Other Efforts Related to Rural Issues

During this quarter, the Department continued environmental work for the Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance with the preparation of the Draft EIR. It is anticipated that the Draft EIR will be available for public review in November 2014.

Stakeholder Outreach

During the past quarter, staff continued to reach out to stakeholders to discuss issues of concern in rural communities. Staff met with the following stakeholder groups:

- Three Points-Liebre Mountain Community Meeting (July 12, 2014)
- Endangered Habitats League (July 21, 2014)
- Acton Town Council (July 31, 2014)
- Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (August 7, 2014)
- Ana Verde Town Council (August 7, 2014)
- Acton Town Council (August 11, 2014)
- Acton Community Meeting - Ravenna (August 12, 2014)
- Acton Community Meeting (August 13, 2014)
- Littlerock Town Council (August 14, 2014)
- Antelope Acres Town Council Community Meeting (August 20, 2014)
- Greater Antelope Valley Association of Realtors (August 21, 2014)
- Edwards Air Force Base/Plant 42 (September 11, 2014)
- Three Points-Liebre Mountain Community Meeting (September 13, 2014)
- Antelope Acres Town Council Community Meeting (September 17, 2014)
- Elected Antelope Acres Town Council Community Meeting (September 17, 2014)
- Ana Verde Community Meeting (September 18, 2014)
- Blue Ribbon Committee (September 24, 2014)
- Fairmont Community Meeting (September 18, 2014)
- Oso Community Meeting (September 25, 2014)
- Acton Town Council Community Meeting (October 1, 2014)

- Blue Ribbon Committee (October 2, 2014)

The next quarterly report on rural issues and the General Plan Update will be delivered no later than January 5, 2015.

Should you have any questions regarding the General Plan 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, Hillside Management effort, SEA Program and the Renewable Energy Ordinance, 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:MC:CC:SMT: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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