Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

January 5, 2015

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

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.

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Antelope Valley Area Plan Update

During this quarter, the Department continued its efforts to complete the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update. On October 31, 2014, the Department released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update. The Final EIR was sent to appropriate agencies as well as persons who commented on the Draft EIR, and was available for review at the Department's main office and online at the project web site.

On October 8, 2014, the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) held a public hearing to conduct a consistency review of the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update with the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan (ALUP) and the General William J. Fox Airfield Land Use Compatibility Plan (Fox ALUCP). After hearing a presentation from ALUC staff, ALUC closed the public hearing and found the project consistent with the adopted ALUP and Fox ALUCP.

On November 12, 2014, the Board conducted a public hearing on the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update. After hearing testimony from approximately 15 persons, the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing, certify the EIR and associated documents, and indicate intent to approve the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update with changes as recommended by staff and made during the public hearing.

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 Department continued its efforts to complete the General Plan Update. The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) held two hearings on the General Plan Update. On October 8, 2014, the RPC discussed the Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Program and took the SEA Ordinance off calendar to allow for additional stakeholder outreach. Staff also presented an overview of the fiscal impact analysis for the General Plan Update. On December 10, 2014, the RPC approved the General Plan Update and the Final EIR. Furthermore, on December 10, 2014, the ALUC held a public hearing to conduct a consistency review and found the General Plan Update consistent with ALUC policies.

More information on the General Plan Update can be found at the following link: planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan.

Other Efforts Related to Rural Issues

During this quarter, the Department continued work on the Renewable Energy Ordinance Project with the preparation of the Draft EIR and revised Draft Ordinance. The Draft EIR is anticipated to be available for public review in spring 2015. On November 5, 2014, the Department presented the Renewable Energy Ordinance Project to the RPC as a discussion item. The presentation included an overview of the project, as well as issues and concerns heard from the community to date. No public comments or RPC action were taken that day.

The Department also continued to support efforts by the County Arts Commission for a placemaking art grant in the communities of Sun Village and Littlerock. At the request of the Arts Commission staff, staff made a presentation on the Antelope Valley to participants on October 21, 2014.

The Department also provided information for efforts by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority (Metro) for preliminary work associated with an Antelope Valley inland port, and attended agency meetings for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)/Metro Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project. The Department also attended a community meeting for the Caltrans/Metro High Desert Corridor Project.

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:

- Endangered Habitats League (October 6, 2014, November 19, 2014)
- Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (October 7, 2014, October 21, 2014)
- Valley Industry & Commerce Association (October 14, 2014)
- Greater Antelope Valley Association of Realtors (October 28, 2014)
- Agua Dulce Town Council (November 5, 2014)
- Oso Town Council (November 13, 2014)
- Antelope Acres Town Council (November 19, 2014)
- Fairmont Town Council (November 20, 2014)

The next quarterly report on rural issues and the General Plan Update will be delivered no later than April 6, 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 (Susan Zahnter, Interim Director)

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