

NOTICE OF SCOPING SESSIONS

TWO SCOPING SESSIONS have been scheduled before the **RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR** in order to inform the involved agencies and the public of the nature and extent of the proposed project indicated below, and to provide an opportunity to identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the EIR and help eliminate from detailed study issues found not to be important. The Scoping Sessions are **not** public hearings on the merit of the proposed project and **NO DECISION** on the project will be made. **Public testimony is limited to identifying issues regarding the project and potential environmental impacts.** The County will not provide an immediate response to any concerns raised. Additional project information, including a detailed project description is available on the County Planning Department's website at: www.tlma.org/planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NO. 521 / GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 960, COUNTY-INITIATED "GENERAL PLAN FIVE-YEAR UPDATE PROJECT" – EA 41788 – Project Manager: Mitra Mehta-Cooper, AICP, Principal Planner, Strategic Planning Team – Countywide (All Supervisorial Districts) – Countywide (All Zoning Districts) – Countywide (All Area Plans) – Location: Countywide – Countywide (approx. 4.18 Million acres) – Zoning: Countywide (Various) – **REQUEST:** The Administration Element of the General Plan establishes a cycle for assessing "General Plan progress and issues related to its implementation" every 5 years. In 2008, this comprehensive review process was initiated for the first time under GPA No. 960. Through it, the County will examine how implementation of the General Plan has proceeded and determine what, if any, refinements are necessary or desirable to ensure the General Plan continues to reflect the Vision for our County's future and remains a viable and efficient tool for implementing that Vision. The resultant areas identified for revision form the basis of the proposed Project and cover a variety of issues. Every Element of the General Plan will be reviewed and updated with current information, where necessary. Policy and map changes are also being contemplated, in particular, for the Land Use, Circulation, Multipurpose Open Space and Safety Elements. A new "Healthy Communities" Element is being considered as well. Changes may include policy, entitlement and technical amendments, as needed. As Lead Agency, the County of Riverside has prepared an Initial Study (Environmental Assessment No. 41788) for GPA No. 960, the General Plan Five-Year Update Project, pursuant to Section 15060 *et seq.* of the California Code of Regulations (i.e., the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines) and concluded that implementation of the proposed Project could have a direct or indirect adverse impact on the environment. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Project is warranted to evaluate the effects of implementation of the updated General Plan resulting from GPA No. 960. The EIR will also examine the effectiveness of existing General Plan policies designed to avoid, reduce or minimize adverse environmental impacts. The need for any further mitigation will also be evaluated and additional mitigation measures will be formulated, where needed. – APNs: Countywide. (Legislative)

EAST COUNTY SESSION -

DATE OF SCOPING SESSION 1: **Monday, April 27, 2009**
TIME OF SCOPING SESSION 1: 9:00 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter
PLACE OF SCOPING SESSION 1: RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
38-686 EL CERRITO ROAD, CONFERENCE ROOM
PALM DESERT, CA 92211

WEST COUNTY SESSION -

DATE OF SCOPING SESSION 2: **Monday, May 4, 2009**
TIME OF SCOPING SESSION 2: 1:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter
PLACE OF SCOPING SESSION 2: RIVERSIDE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
4080 LEMON STREET, 9th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROJECT MANAGER, Ms. Mitra Mehta-Cooper, at 951-955-3200 or by e-mail at mmehta@rctlma.org or by U.S. mail at: P.O. Box 1409, Riverside, CA 92502-1409.