

Agenda Item: 5.1
Area Plan: All
Supervisorial District: All
Project: General Plan Amendment 960
EA No. 41788 and EIR No. 521
Planning Commission: November 18, 2009

Applicant: County of Riverside
Project Manager: Mitra Mehta-Cooper
Project Planners: Josh Lee;
Cindy Thielman-Braun;
Phayvanh Nanthavongdouangsy.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORT

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 960 – THIRD PUBLIC WORKSHOP:

The following changes, proposed as part of the first comprehensive review cycle of the General Plan (GPA 960), will be discussed with the Planning Commission during this third public workshop (first workshop – June 24, 2009).

Proposed Changes: Land Use Element, Open Space Element, Air Quality Element, Circulation Element, and Area Plans

1. Proposed additions and refinements to the Air Quality Element related to the Green House Gas (GHG) Policies
2. Proposed additions and refinements to the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan related to the Vista Santa Rosa Community Policies and Plans
3. Proposed additions to the Western Coachella Valley Area Plan related to the Sky Valley Rural Village Overlay
4. Proposed refinements to the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan related to the Chiriaco Summit Rural Village Overlay
5. Proposed refinements and additions to the Elsinore Area Plan related to the Lakeland Village Policies and Land Use Designations
6. Proposed refinements to the Circulation Element related to the Trails Policies and Plans
7. Proposed additions and refinements to the Multipurpose Open Space Element related to Arroyo issues

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Riverside County General Plan requires that the County initiate a comprehensive review of the document every five years to address changes in development patterns, correct imperfections/errors, and streamline implementation of the General Plan. General Plan Amendment 960 (GPA 960) is an amendment that the County initiated in 2008, after the first five years of the General Plan adoption, to comprehensively review its progress. General Plan Amendment 960 encompasses a variety of policy refinements and additions in multiple areas of the unincorporated Riverside County and at multiple levels in the General Plan document.

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS:

The following guidance is available in the General Plan for this five-yearly review cycle. It:

- a) Is initiated by the County.
- b) Is primarily intended to assess General Plan progress and issues related to its implementation.
- c) Is the only time, other than a declared extraordinary amendment or an Agriculture Foundation Component amendment, that a Foundation Component of the General Plan may be considered for change.

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- d) May include policy, entitlement and technical amendment proposals determined to be an appropriate part of this cycle.
- e) Extends planning projections another five years into the future, identifying required adjustments in the General Plan, if any, to accommodate anticipated needs.
- f) Includes special considerations to reassess the Vision and Planning Principles and recommit to them. This five-year interval also permits a comprehensive evaluation of CETAP and MSHCP progress, with refinements as necessary to enable further implementation of these programs as they relate to the General Plan.

From this guidance, the County Planning Department has proposed a series of changes as part of the first comprehensive review cycle of the General Plan (discussed as Planning Commission Agenda Item No. 5.1 on July 09, 2008 and Agenda Item No. 6.1 on October 01, 2008). Currently, the Planning Department is in the process of conducting a series of public workshops to receive the commission's comments on these staff proposals (during the project development phase of GPA960). The first such public workshop was conducted on June 24, 2009 as Agenda Item No. 5.1.

RECOMMENDATION:

Solicit Planning Commission's comments on the aforementioned proposed changes.

This is not a public hearing and NO DECISION on the project will be made at this workshop.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A Compatible Disk (CD) is attached with this staff report that provides additional information to the Planning Commission on the following items.

- 7 (aforementioned) proposed changes that will be discussed in this workshop
- All comment letters received since the last workshop for this project

Should a Commissioner prefer a hard copy of this information, please advise Ms. Mitra Mehta-Cooper at mmehta@rctlma.org or (951) 955 8514.

This information is made available at the Planning Department's website at http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/temp/rc_genplan_2008.html and a hard copy of this information is made available at the Planning Department office located at 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, CA-92502.