



CALAVERAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA SUBMITTAL

ITEM TITLE General Plan Study Session on Water and Economic Development Elements		BOARD MEETING DATE December 13, 2011		AGENDA NUMBER
Dept:	Planning Department	Supervisory District Number All		Consent _____
Contact:	Rebecca Willis			Regular <u> X </u>
Phone:	754-6394			
Published Notice Required? Yes _____ No <u> X </u>		Estimated Time:		
Public Hearing Required? Yes _____ No <u> X </u>		3 hours		
(X) Power Point Presentation				
() Resolution () Ordinance () Minute Order () Agreement				
() Budget Transfer (Must be signed by Auditor)				
(X) Other (specify) Study Session				
Dept. Head <i>R Willis</i>	Counsel <i>J Elliott</i>	CAO <i>Jan M By...</i>		

RECOMMENDATION:

The purpose of this study session is to review the Water Element and Economic Development Element and provide direction to staff. Staff recommends the Board direct staff to:

- a. Work with the Water Element Group to change the formatting of the policy and implementation measures to eliminate the universal "the County shall.." language and replace with language that focuses on the intentions and outcomes;
- b. Work with the Water Element Group to identify issues to be incorporated into the core document of the General Plan and remaining issues to be addressed as a follow up to the General Plan;
- c. Include policies to support economic development in the General Plan;
- d. Re-organize the administrative draft of the Economic Development Element into an Economic Development document that can be more flexible over time, include the collaboration and coordination of various organizations, and take advantage of opportunities, such as our JPA membership with the Central Sierra Economic Development District which works with counties and local businesses for regional planning for economic development and assists members in obtaining federal and state grants, funds, and assistance.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

Water Element

The California Government Code 65302 requires the Conservation Element of a General Plan to address the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element must consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction described in the land use element. The water portion of the conservation element needs to be developed in coordination with countywide water agencies and special districts. It needs to include the discussion and evaluation of water supply and demand information. The conservation element may also cover:

- The reclamation of land and waters
- Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters
- Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan
- Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores
- Protection of watersheds
- The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.

In February 2009, the Calaveras County Water Element Group submitted a Draft Water Element Goals & Policies Report for incorporation in the General Plan Update. The Draft Water Element is included as Attachment A. In December 2010, the Board of Supervisors held a study session on important water issues in the County as well as the State.

The Draft Water Element contains nine goals:

- Goal 1: Water Resource Protection and Reliability
- Goal 2: Water Use Efficiency
- Goal 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- Goal 4: Water Quality
- Goal 5: Wastewater Management
- Goal 6: Watershed Management
- Goal 7: Stormwater and Flood Management
- Goal 8: Interagency Communication and Cooperation
- Goal 9: Public Education and Awareness

All nine of the goals are relevant and appropriate to include in the General Plan Update to address state law requirements as well as issues specific to Calaveras County.

Under each goal is a series of policies and implementation programs. Under Mintier Harnish's direction, these policies and implementation programs were all formatted to read "The County shall..." However, the County is not a water or wastewater service provider. In areas where the County does not have jurisdiction, the policies are worded such that the County shall "work with", "encourage", and "support". This language is ambiguous. Further, it seems to imply that the County is the only entity that needs follow the General Plan. In reality, there are many other agencies and entities that will rely on the County's General Plan. The special districts will cite and rely on the General Plan as they plan, design, and secure funding for infrastructure. The policies and implementation programs should be worded to provide clear direction to all of the responsible agencies that will be using the General Plan. Staff feels we would be able to

develop more effective policies and implementation measures with the Water Element if we are not handcuffed to "the County shall" format.

Given the importance to better integrate water with land use in Calaveras County, staff feels the majority of the Element should be included in the core document of the General Plan. There are a few issues may be better addressed as a follow up to the General Plan, when more information is known about the pending Delta Plan and statewide issues involving water rights. Staff will have a power point presentation at the study session to review issues specific to Calaveras County and long range planning beyond the 24 years in the General Plan horizon.

Economic Development Element

State law does not require an Economic Development Element to be included in a General Plan. Nonetheless, economic development is a key issue for the County. As part of the General Plan Update, Applied Development Economics (ADE), a subcontractor to Mintier Harnish, prepared a draft element under direction from an economic development group. This element was intended to provide guidance for how Calaveras County can achieve its vision for economic development and economic sustainability.

Mintier Harnish formatted the administrative draft element and submitted it to the County for review. However, in the formatting, the policies and implementation programs involved the universal "the County shall..." language which in effect, creates policies and programs that rely on County staff, resources, and funding. Unfortunately, this is not feasible. This element will need more work to capture the goals and objectives of the group in a manner that is feasible and defensible in a General Plan document.

There are multiple efforts by many organizations to further business attraction, retention, expansion, tourism, job creation, and marketing of the County. The Calaveras County Economic Development Company prepared and released the Calaveras County Profile, which provides insights into the County and its communities. The profile includes amazing photographs of the County, stories that highlight some of the history and people, graphs of demographics and trends, and visioning. The profile is posted on the County's website. The Central Sierra Economic Development District just released its annual strategy report for a 30-day public review period. The Central Sierra Economic Development District works with counties and local businesses for regional planning for economic development and to assist members in obtaining federal and state grants, funds, and assistance. Calaveras County is a member of the joint powers authority for this district. The Central Sierra Economic Development District's Comprehensive Development Strategy includes infrastructure and economic development needs assessment for its members. The report is included as Attachment B.

Staff recommends that the General Plan include key policies to support economic development. However, it will be problematic to draft a stand-alone element given the uncertainty of the resources and funding available to implement policies and programs. The Board has two alternatives it may consider:

- a. The draft element may be reorganized into an Economic Development document that can be more flexible over time, include the collaboration and coordination of various organizations, and take advantage of opportunities, such as our JPA membership with the Central Sierra Economic Development District which works with counties and local businesses for regional planning for economic development and assists members in obtaining federal and state grants, funds, and assistance.

- b. The draft element may be deferred Phase 2 of the General Plan. There is a need to adopt a core document for the General Plan to include all state-mandated components. The core document may include placeholders to add optional elements, such as an Economic Development Element.

FINANCING:

Not applicable

ALTERNATIVES:

None at this time.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None at this time.