



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
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Public Hearing
March 3, 2009

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: 2030 General Plan Adoption

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion 1) adopt a **Resolution** overruling the Airport Land Use Commission's Findings of Inconsistency relating to the approval of the Sacramento 2030 General Plan (2/3 vote required); 2) adopt a **Resolution** certifying the Master Environmental Impact Report and adopting the mitigation monitoring program for the Sacramento 2030 General Plan; and 3) adopt a **Resolution** adopting and implementing the Sacramento 2030 General Plan and repealing the 1988 General Plan and all previously adopted Community Plans.

Contact: Tom Pace, Long Range Planning Manager, 808-6848

Presenters: Tom Pace, Long Range Planning Manager

Department: Planning

Division: Long Range Planning

Organization No: 22001111

Description/Analysis

Issue:

In 2004, the Council initiated the process to create the 2030 General Plan to replace the existing 1988 General Plan. The Draft 2030 General Plan, released in May 2008, was developed with guidance and input from the Council, Commissions, General Plan Advisory Committee and an extensive public outreach effort.

On November 18, 2008, Council held a workshop to provide input on proposed changes to the Draft 2030 General Plan. Staff then returned to Council on December 2, 2008, for the first of two hearings on the adoption of the 2030 General Plan.

This staff report follows up on the issues discussed at the December 2nd meeting and proposes additional changes that have since been identified. These issues will be presented on March 3, 2009, and are summarized below.

Airport Land Use Commission's Findings of Inconsistency

In reviewing the draft 2030 General Plan, the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) made a finding of inconsistency with the Overflight Safety Zone of the Sacramento International Airport and the McClellan Field Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

At the December 2nd meeting, Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to overrule the ALUC's findings. As required by state law, staff notified the ALUC and Caltrans' Division of Aeronautics of this intent motion. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments, which serves as Sacramento County's ALUC, responded to this notification by stating that the ALUC had no additional comments on the matter. Staff, therefore, is recommending the Council adopt the resolution to overrule the ALUC findings. Adoption of this resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the Council.

Climate Change

In December 2008, staff revised the EIR to change the determination of the Plan's contribution to the cumulative impact of climate change to be significant and unavoidable. However, additional concerns were raised at the December 2, 2008, public hearing by the Attorney General regarding the policies and programs identified by staff to mitigate the climate change impacts of the General Plan. At the direction of the Council, staff has had discussions with the Attorney General staff and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District staff to identify additional mitigation recommendations. A list of proposed changes to policies and programs to mitigate greenhouse gas and climate change impacts, and staff recommended responses to these suggestions, are included in Attachment 6.

Potential costs to the City and its customers have been identified broadly for evaluation purposes. However, in many cases actual costs for implementation will not be known without more detailed investigation and research that typically takes place during project or program development.

Senate Bill 375

In 2008, the State of California adopted Senate Bill 375, known as "the Anti-Sprawl Bill". This legislation requires each metropolitan planning organization to include a Sustainable Communities Strategy in its regional transportation plan or an Alternative Planning Strategy for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aligning planning for transportation and housing needs, and creating

incentives for the implementation of the strategies. Staff is proposing a new goal and policies be added to the 2030 General Plan's Land Use section to provide for coordination with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) in preparing its regional transportation plan. The goal and policies are also intended to support the City's efforts to facilitate and streamline the development of residential mixed-use projects and priority transportation projects that are consistent with SB 375. The proposed goal and policies are provided in Attachment 1.

Land Use Modifications

Since the December 2nd Council meeting, staff has modified the Land Use and Urban Design Diagram. Council directed staff to change the land use near the corner of 65th Street and Fruitridge Road from Traditional Neighborhood Low Density to Suburban Corridor to encourage commercial development on the site. The Delta Shores development was approved by Council on January 13, 2009. Therefore, the land use for this area was changed based on the plans approved by Council. Also, several minor administrative changes were made to fix inconsistencies with existing planning documents. Maps of these changes can be found in Attachment 8.

Policy Modifications

Staff is proposing modifying the noise policy (which addresses exposure to multiple loud, short duration events) to address concerns about the impact the policy may have on future development. Staff is also proposing eliminating the policy that limits the number of times the General Plan can be amended in a year. More information is provided in Attachment 1.

Mobility Element Modifications

Minor changes were made to the Mobility Element to reflect Council direction on several Special Study Segments. In addition, technical changes were made to the street classification and number of lane diagrams based on results of the study segment analysis and to correct errors.

Policy Considerations: The recommended changes to the Draft 2030 General Plan are consistent with both the City's overall Strategic Plan goal and the 2030 General Plan Vision of becoming "the most livable city in America". They are also consistent with the Smart Growth Principles adopted by Council in 2001, and the Blueprint Growth Allocations adopted by Council in 2005. And notably, the 2030 General Plan is consistent with the Council adopted Vision and Guiding Principles for the Plan, which call for the following: 1) a vibrant downtown and town centers; 2) energized commercial corridors; 3) expanded transportation choices; 4) safe and livable neighborhoods; and 5) sustainable development.

Environmental Considerations:**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

The adoption of a new general plan is a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and an environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared for the 2030 General Plan to satisfy CEQA requirements. In this case, a “Master EIR” has been prepared. CEQA provides that when a Master EIR has been prepared, subsequent projects that are within the scope of the MEIR may receive expedited environmental review.

The focus of the MEIR is cumulative development allowed under the 2030 General Plan, and cumulative impacts. Development assumptions have been identified in the MEIR that seek to base the impact analysis on a level of development that can reasonably be expected during the 2030 General Plan effective period. During the preparation of the MEIR, Environmental and Long Range Planning staff have been in close coordination, and an effort has been made to reduce impacts through general plan policy to the greatest extent possible. Once certified, the MEIR will be a reference point for many later projects.

Mitigation measures are identified in the MEIR to reduce impacts to a less than significant impact; however, significant and unavoidable impacts were identified for Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Noise and Vibration, Public Utilities, and Transportation and Circulation. As with other CEQA documents, the presence of significant and unavoidable impacts imposes a requirement for adoption of a Statement of Overriding Considerations to approve the project.

The MEIR has been circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period pursuant to CEQA requirements, and has been posted online on the website maintained for environmental documents by Development Services Department, and the Long Range Planning website at www.sacgp.org. Copies of the Draft MEIR were provided to the Council in July of 2008, and the Final MEIR in November 2008.

Twelve comment letters were received on the MEIR. The comment letters and responses to comments are included in the attached Final MEIR. The Final MEIR responds to all comments received on the Draft MEIR and revises text and/or analyses where warranted. Responses to comments have been sent to all who commented on the Draft MEIR. Additionally, an initial errata memorandum regarding corrections to the Final EIR was provided in December 2008 for the Council’s consideration. A second errata memorandum has also been prepared to identify additional corrections to the MEIR, and to reflect proposed changes to the project, based on Council direction and staff recommended changes to address concerns regarding climate change.

Sustainability Considerations: The Draft 2030 General Plan is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan goals to reduce dependence on the automobile, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, preserve open space, encourage community participation, and improve health of citizens.

Commission/Committee Action: On November 13, 2008, the Planning Commission took action to forward to the City Council a recommendation to certify its Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) and adopt the Sacramento 2030 General Plan.

Rationale for Recommendation: The Draft 2030 General Plan is consistent with the adopted Vision and Guiding Principles, the SACOG Blueprint Allocations, Smart Growth Principles and City's Strategic Plan. The 2030 General Plan is a state-required land use and policy document that will guide the City's growth in a sustainable manner for the next 20 years.

Financial Considerations: None at this time.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by:



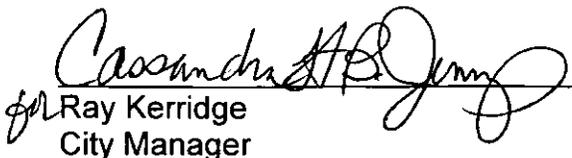
Thomas S. Pace
Long Range Planning Manager

Approved by:



Carol Shearly
Director of Planning

Recommendation Approved:



for Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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