



City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
www.CityofSacramento.org

G

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council; Financing Authority; Housing Authority; Redevelopment Agency

Meeting Date: 12/7/2010

Report Type: Consent

Title: Development Oversight Commission (DOC) Recommendations

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and File.

Contact: Max Fernandez, Director of Community Development, (916) 808-7940; David Kwong, Planning Director, (916) 808-2691.

Presenter: David Kwong, Planning Director, 916 808-2691

Department: Community Development Dept

Division: Administration

Dept ID: 21001011

Attachments

1-Description/Analysis

City Attorney Review

- Approved as to Form

Sabina D. Gilbert

December 1, 2010 SDG

Description/Analysis

Issue: On August 5, 2010, City staff presented to City Council the Development Oversight Commission's (DOC's) Annual Report for 2009-2010. The report listed the Commission's review of accomplishments and challenges for the last year. On that same date, staff requested that the recommendation to extend the current sunset date (December 2010) of the DOC, as provided in Sacramento City Code section 2.90.080, be continued. This would allow for additional outreach and discussion to occur between City staff and the DOC and to return to Council with further information and recommendations.

Since that time, staff convened three special DOC workshop meetings on September 15th, October 13th, and November 10th to discuss the purpose, goals, vision, and future of the DOC. The meetings were facilitated by a professional facilitator (Laura Mason-Smith) to provide objectivity and neutrality to the discussion, given the nature of the proposal; that is, the sunset of the DOC.

Policy Considerations: A sincere discussion was held among the DOC members and staff. Discussion focused on the role of the DOC given the state of the economy. Discussion also entailed redefining the role of the commission and of the goals of the DOC.

It was evident in the discussions that the DOC and staff have been working for years to make the planning and building permit process better and more efficient. It was also clear that staff has the appropriate attitude and perspective in providing customer service. Staff also stressed that we now have to make adjustments and, in some cases, significant adjustments, to department procedures and protocols to address the outcome of the audit in regard to operating procedures. These cultural changes were understood and noted in the discussion.

There was considerable discussion on attitudes, processes, procedures, and cultural changes both in the past and those needed in the future. The recognition of these past and future changes and needs, as well as to the need for the next step forward, were viewed positively by all parties.

As such, discussion then focused on economic development and recovery. There was discussion on the broader picture of the City's economic goals of business retention, attraction and business development, as opposed to viewing just development alone.

It was at the special meeting of September 15th that the DOC took action expressing support of the December 31, 2010 sunset date for the DOC. At the next two meetings, staff worked with the DOC to refine recommendations to the City Council in regard to whether there should be a new and broader economic development commission as opposed to a commission that focused primarily on development, given the prior discussion. At the conclusion of the meeting, staff and the DOC agreed upon meeting informally as a staff and a focus group of interested community members (developers, community members, financial community members) to discuss further the need of an economic development commission, its constituency, and its goals and vision in

concert with a broader based city staff team including staff from Community Development, Transportation, Economic Development, Utilities and the City Manager's Office.

Environmental Considerations: Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, continuing administrative activities do not constitute a project and are therefore exempt from review.

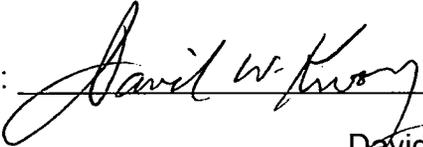
Commission/Committee Action: On September 15, 2010, the Development Oversight Commission unanimously expressed support of the December 31, 2010 sunset date for the DOC.

Rationale for Recommendation: Staff believes that the Commission has been instrumental in leading and supporting positive changes that have occurred in the City's development review services. However, many of the most pressing challenges now facing the City are broader in scope than the original planning and building process improvement focus of the DOC, mostly notably the City's economic recovery and development, and call for the involvement of a broader constituency. Therefore, staff recommends that the December 31, 2010 sunset date for the DOC not be extended. No action is required by Council.

Financial Considerations: There are no financial considerations at this time. As funding is identified, staff will return to Council in order to implement the initiatives.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): There are no ESBD considerations with this report.

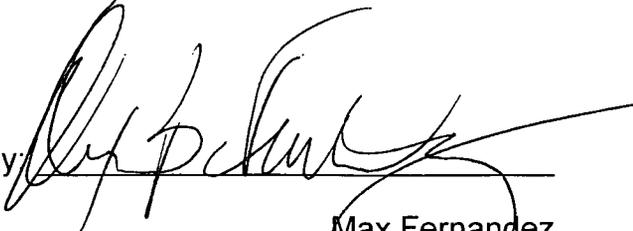
Respectfully Submitted by:



David Kwong

Planning Director

Approved by:



Max Fernandez

Director of Community Development

Recommendation Approved:



Gus Vina

Interim City Manager