

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: March 28, 2002
Department: Fifth District and First District
Budget Unit:
Agenda Date: April 9, 2002
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisors Tom Urbanske and Naomi Schwartz
STAFF CONTACT: Jeanne Sparks, Fifth District Executive Assistant, 346-8400

SUBJECT: Set a hearing on April 16 to consider endorsing The Sustainability Project's policy tour of Curitiba, Brazil to study how the city's internationally-acclaimed urban planning methods may benefit Santa Barbara County

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing on April 16 to:

1. Endorse The Sustainability Project's policy tour of Curitiba, Brazil
2. Write a letter to Curitiba introducing the policy tour delegation, and
3. Ask the group to report its findings to the county.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with our organizational values regarding collaboration and partnering.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Sustainability Project of Santa Barbara is considering starting an independent Santa Barbara Community and Regional Planning Institute to establish a means for problem solving that allows innovative and effective solutions to evolve. The institute would include elected officials, department heads and staff involved in current issues and challenges. They would meet weekly for open discussions with citizens, architects and designers to formulate, launch and improve city and regional projects, especially integrated, multifaceted ones.

An institute similar to this, the Institute of Urban Research and Planning (IPPUC), has been established and operating in the city of Curitiba, Brazil for about three decades. It was created specifically to implement a reorientation of the city's expansion and provide continuity of urban

planning through the years. Curitiba's planning has been so successful, it has become an international model for solving urban problems.

As a first step to creating a local planning institute, The Sustainability Project is organizing a 16-person delegation to visit Curitiba on a policy tour. The group will arrive in Brazil on April 28, 2002 and leave on May 4, 2002. The delegation includes The Sustainability Project board members (architects, builders, urban planners, landscape architects) along with key and influential government decision-makers and citizens of Santa Barbara County.

The purpose of the policy tour is to learn about the problems Curitiba is trying to solve, the methods that worked and those that did not work. The group would like to see their innovative examples in action, evaluate their effectiveness in meeting Santa Barbara County's sustainability goals, and discuss with influential decision-makers ways in which Curitiba's methods might be applicable here.

The delegation would like a letter from the County introducing the group, supporting its goals and expressing a desire to receive information from the delegation when it returns. Please see attached letter and background information on Curitiba.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Not mandated.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None.

Special Instructions:

Concurrences:

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