

**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:** 09/14/05  
**Department Name:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** 09/27/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** 1 hour on 10/25/05  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Executive Officer

**STAFF CONTACTS:** John McInnes – 568-3552  
Director, Strategic and Long Range Planning

Dianne Meester – 568-2086  
Assistant Director P&D

**SUBJECT:** EIR Contract Procedures Review

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing to consider adoption of a resolution amending the County's "Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, As Amended".(Set Hearing for October 25, 2005) (Est. Time: 1 Hour, 15 min Staff).

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

This recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1, An efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On January 18, 2005 your Board directed that the County Planning Commission (Commission) review the County's EIR contract procedures and return to the Board within 90 days with a report/recommendations. Further, your Board directed that this effort be facilitated by a Project Manager to be assigned by the County Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO's Project Manager subsequently convened an Executive Committee to assist in the effort, developed a draft report and recommendations, and presented all findings to the County and Montecito Planning Commissions.

On May 10, 2005, your Board directed staff to return to the Board on June 21, 2005 for a discussion regarding EIR contract procedures and to request that the County Planning Commission tailor it's recommendations to accommodate that schedule.

The County Planning Commission subsequently held two hearings on May 4, 2005 and May 23, 2005, and the Montecito Planning Commission held a hearing on May 18, 2005 to consider the staff findings and develop recommendations for your Board's consideration.

On July 19, 2005, your Board directed staff to revise the County's CEQA Guidelines. The Montecito and County Planning Commissions will be reviewing the revisions on September 21, 2005 and October 5, 2006 prior to returning to Board. The purpose of the Board's hearing on October 25, 2005 is to finalize the County CEQA Guidelines changes relating to EIR preparation public and private projects.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

No mandates or service levels are affected by this action.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None.