

**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:** February 11, 2003  
**Department:** Planning & Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** February 25, 2003  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** 10 minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Document FileName:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Dianne Meester, Interim Director  
Planning & Development  
**STAFF** Dianne Meester, 568-2086  
**CONTACTS:** Heather Baker, 568-2882

**SUBJECT:** Receive and adopt the Annual Report on the County's Comprehensive Plan (General Plan)

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors receive and adopt the Annual Report of the County's Comprehensive Plan (General Plan).

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community; Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit; Goal No. 4. A Community that is Economically Vital and Sustainable; and Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

California Law [Government Code Section 65400(b)(1)] requires all jurisdictions to submit to their legislative body an annual report on the status of the general plan and progress toward its implementation. This Annual Report must be endorsed or adopted by the legislative body and submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) each year. In prior years, Planning and Development has submitted the Board adopted Comprehensive Planning Division Five Year Work Program as the Annual Report. This year, and in subsequent years, more information on the progress of housing production, related to Housing Element policies, programs and production objectives, will be presented in the Annual Report.

#### The Annual Report:

- Describes the purpose of the report;
- Describes the structure of the Comprehensive Plan;
- Describes the County's efforts to update and maintain the Plan;
- As required by law, describes general plan amendments adopted by the Board during this Annual Report reporting period. Each jurisdiction can set their own reporting period. We are recommending that our reporting period coincide with the adoption of the Comprehensive Division's Five Year Work Program); and
- Describes our Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation and the status of housing production.

#### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

State law (Government Code Section 65300) requires cities and counties to have a current and internally consistent general plan. Seven elements are mandatory – Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Open Space, Conservation, Noise, and Safety. Each mandated element has some minimum degree of required topical coverage. The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan is the County's general plan. It consists of the seven mandated Elements and the Local Coastal Plan or Program (LCP) for land use within the Coastal Commission's coastal zone jurisdiction. It also consists of eleven additional elements deemed by the local community to be valuable in guiding the development and conservation of local resources and desired quality of live standards. The Comprehensive Planning Division of the County's Planning and Development Department (P&D) maintains the Comprehensive Plan and monitors its implementation. The Comprehensive Plan meets or exceeds minimum State law requirements, although it could benefit from various levels of updating and enhancement as described in the Five Year Work Program.

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The intent of this law is to ensure that the jurisdiction's general plan directs all land use decisions and that it remains an effective guide for current and future development. The annual report process gives each jurisdiction the opportunity to review Plan policies, standards and guidelines with an objective, global view; one that is distanced from the pressure and, perhaps, passion, of a specific project application and decision. The annual report process allows local legislators to consider whether or not existing general plan policies, standards and guidelines remain effective, or whether they need to be amended to adapt to new circumstances, resource limitations and/or community values. It allows the Board of Supervisors the opportunity to program into the Planning and Development Department's Comprehensive Planning Division

budget and work program any amendments necessary to keep the general plan current and its implementation effective.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Preparation of the Annual Report is covered in Planning and Development's General Fund contribution "base budget" for Fiscal Year 2002 – 2003 under the Administration program in Comprehensive Planning. This can be found on page D-263 of the County 2002-2003 proposed budget.

**Special Instructions:**

None.

**Concurrence:**

N/A