

**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: 11/4/05
Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 990
Agenda Date: 11/22/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

STAFF CONTACT: John McInness, Director
Strategic and Long Range Planning

SUBJECT: Planning Commission's Role as the Planning Agency

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors accept the memo from the Planning Commission regarding their role as the Planning Agency and the Commission's coordination on long range planning programs.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On August 16, 2005 the Planning Commission received a report from the CEO's office regarding the Planning Commission's role as the planning agency regarding long range planning efforts. The CEO report identified several different ways in which the Planning Commission could coordinate with the Comprehensive Planning Division on these planning efforts.

After extensive deliberation, the Commission ultimately determined that its basic role as planning agency should not change. However, the Commission did express that the long range planning function is one of the most important functions in the County. The Comprehensive Plan provides the guide or blue print for the future of the County and the Commission regularly reviews projects in areas of the County where the Comprehensive plan has not been updated since 1980-82 (e.g., Gaviota, Lompoc). The outdated plans do not reflect the most current land use planning strategies and provide limited guides and tools for the Commission as it considers development proposals. The Commission stated that it is interested in seeing the long range planning function prioritized and the necessary resources provided to update the County's Comprehensive

Plan for the entire county. The Commission also noted that this goal will be reflected in the Planning Commission's future recommendations on the Comprehensive Planning Division's work programs.

The Commission requested that the Comprehensive Planning Division coordinate with the Commission in the following manner: 1) continue to bring all Comprehensive Planning project's to the Planning Commission for review and recommendations, 2) provide briefings at project milestones, 3) present quarterly reports on the progress of the division's Work Program prior to Board receipt, and 4) work with the Commission to develop recommendations to the Board on the annual division's Three Year Work Program.

In addition, the Planning Commission requested that staff prepare a memorandum, on behalf of the Commission, for submittal to the Board of Supervisors. On November 2, 2005 the Commission reviewed the attached memorandum which reflects the Commission's perspective about long range planning in the County and how it will coordinate with Comprehensive Planning Division and directed staff to forward it to the Board of Supervisors.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The California Government Code requires Santa Barbara County to have a planning agency (GC §65100). This planning agency may be "a planning department, one or more planning commissions, administrative bodies or hearing officers, the legislative body itself, or any combination thereof, as it deems appropriate and necessary. In the absence of an assignment, the legislative body shall carry out all the functions of the planning agency" (GC §65100). The Board of Supervisors has designated the County Planning Commission as the County's planning agency.

Service levels will not be impacted.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The division's budget includes funding to ensure the necessary coordination with the Planning Commission on projects and the Work Program as depicted on pages D-292 and 293 of the FY 05-06 County Budget Book.

Special Instructions:

None.

Concurrence:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Memo from the Planning Commission to the Board of Supervisors