



Tulare County General Plan Update

Tulare County General Plan Technical Advisory Committee January 20, 2004

1:30 p.m. Conference Rooms A & B, Board of Supervisors Chamber,
County Civic Center, 2800 West Burrel, Visalia, CA

The meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Present: Keith Woodcock, George Finney, Dave Nenna, Christina Dabney-Keel, Al Diaz, Bill Whitlatch, Mary Alice Escarsega, Mary Helen Espino, Ray Beach, Bob Keenan, Heather Sadler, Mike Olmos, Mary Beatie, Dave Harrald, Jim Sullins, Bob Jennings, Nicky Henderson, Bob Stocker, Julie Allen, Theresa Szymanis, Soapy Tompkins, James Blair, Brad Dunlap, Scott Cochran, Paul Saldana, Karl Schoettler, Gary Marshall, Mark Kielty

2. Changes to the Agenda

3. General Plan 2025 Process and Progress

Keith Woodcock provided a PowerPoint overview of the upcoming General Plan process, the structure for the review, and the steps taken to date, with a focus on the outreach meetings held and questions posed to the public. The web site was introduced. Keith offered to make outreach presentations to any group (faith based, school districts, etc.) that would like one.

In response to questions regarding the scope of the plan, George Finney indicated that the unincorporated communities were on a different time path for review, but that the urban boundary areas of the cities would be included. The issue of standards within the urban boundaries was brought up. Keith Woodcock noted that a final product for implementation of the plan will include a review of the zoning and subdivision ordinances. These documents must be consistent with the General Plan, which derives the question of what we do with the normal stream of projects where there may be potential inconsistencies, once the General Plan is adopted.

4. Technical Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Keith Woodcock indicated that the Preliminary Issues Report and Background Report would be disseminated via the mail. The process for reviewing plan documents was discussed. These reports will be large and will likely contain data gaps. Theresa

Szymanis suggested that the Preliminary Issues Report would result in further direction from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors as to which issues will be considered most important to focus on. Sub-task groups to focus on specific issues may be the best way to conduct the review.

Mike Olmos suggested that we might want to break down by geographical areas.

Within a week, County staff should have a better feeling for when these reports will be available and how we can address them. A second meeting may be called to quickly get the process rolling. Tuesday afternoons seem to be a good day to hold these meetings. Alternative Future Scenarios are going to be an important part of this program.

5. Brown Act Committee Rules

Agendas will be posted in the normal locations and members of the public are able to attend.

6. Interim Policies Related to General Plan and Zoning Amendment Requests

Keith Woodcock described this two step process to the group. The Planning Commission has blessed this item and the Board of Supervisors will be considering the policy on March 2, 2004.

7. Next Meeting Date

County staff will be in contact with Mintier and Associates and schedule the next meeting for an upcoming Tuesday afternoon.

8. Questions and Comments

Julie Allen asked how much time is expected to be spent on these reviews, such as the Preliminary Issues Report. Do we know the extent to which we can anticipate participation? Keith Woodcock suggested that TAC members bring their comments to the meeting and the County will take them into consideration. Keith Woodcock committed to doing everything we can to lessen the burden on people's time.

Bob Stocker asked if there is an assumption that the TAC will be involved in the outreach to other agencies. Keith Woodcock responded that information sharing would be a good thing. Bob Stocker also asked how the participation will be weighted, for instance, what about emphasis that one group places and might try to steer the General Plan in one direction or another. Keith Woodcock responded that all input would be given the same weight.

Participants were thanked for their participation, and contribution to the process.

9. Adjournment 2:30 p.m.