



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 3, 2010
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Planning Division, Community Development Department
SUBJECT: *Plan Santa Barbara*, Summary Direction

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council hold a work session and provide direction to staff for preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and General Plan Update policy documents.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan Update work sessions held in July was for Council to review both the overall policy framework and to discuss in more depth a number of key policy issues.

The City Council's direction is needed at this phase of the process in order to guide the staff in preparation of the policy documents and the EIR for final review by the Planning Commission prior to the General Plan returning to Council. During the final phase before the Planning Commission and the public, there are likely to be some additional policy adjustments. What is key for Council now is to work together to provide direction so that the final General Plan documents have the greatest likelihood for Council super-majority support in the fall. Staff feels that receiving clear direction from the City Council at this point is critical since final review and recommendations at the Planning Commission are scheduled for this September with the final Council review and adoption in October/November of this year.

The Planning Commission's recommended direction was the focus of a Special Joint Meeting on June 22 and 23. The Commission developed a hybrid approach, selecting the components from each of the four growth alternative scenarios analyzed in the DEIR, and forwarding a set of key policy recommendations that meet the following criteria:

- Mitigate environmental impacts to the maximum extent feasible;
- Maximize the achievement of Plan Objectives set forth in the framework and principles, including Living within Our Resources;
- Achieve internal consistency among the policies;
- Ensure the policies are operational and capable of being implemented;
- Stimulate economic vitality.

Staff will present the evolution of key policy issues starting with the *PlanSB* project description as studied in the DEIR; then, we will review the Planning Commission hybrid alternative recommendation and the present a decision matrix which includes the Council direction to date. This matrix will be provided before the meeting.

The next steps in the process will include all of the following: finalize the EIR and policy documents; release documents for public review and comment at the September 9, 2010 Planning Commission hearing; Planning Commission review, FEIR certification and recommendations to Council; and then the Council adoption hearing in late October or early November. Following action by Council, staff will return with more specifics on a work program for implementation. This could occur at the semi-annual Planning Commission/City Council meeting that usually occurs in February/March.

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APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office