

El Dorado County Community Meetings Draft Sign Code Update

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AUGUST 12, 2013

AUGUST 14, 2013

(AG COMMISSION)

AUGUST 19, 2013

AUGUST 22, 2013

(PLANNING COMMISSION AND CEDAC)

Meeting Plan

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- 1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**
- 2. PROCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE**
- 3. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**
- 4. PUBLIC INPUT (COMMENTS, Q&A)**
- 5. NEXT STEPS**

Project Purpose and Background

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BOS DIRECTION TO UPDATE EXISTING SIGN CODE FOR FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

- ❖ Bolster legal framework
- ❖ Address key issues
- ❖ Ensure Consistency with countywide development code update

Legal Framework (Protections) for Signs

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1. Signs are a form of speech
 - Illegal to base regulations on sign message/content
 - No distinction between commercial and non-commercial speech
2. Sign codes must provide due process
 - Includes review, appeal, and exception processes
3. Limited to regulating time, place, and manner of signs
4. Sign regulations must pass a three-part test:
 - Are they content neutral?
 - Do they serve a substantial governmental interest?
 - Are there other options for effective communication?

BOS Key Issues to Address in Sign Code Update

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1. Ensure consistency with state and federal laws
2. Clean up sign permit requirements/process and signs in public r-o-w
3. Reduce sign clutter by encouraging sign consolidation
4. Allow community identity and directional signage
5. Update real estate and political sign regulations
6. Amortize existing billboard signs
7. Establish exempt sign and temporary sign regulations
8. Consider allowing changeable copy signs in limited circumstances
9. Protect view sheds
10. Add lighting standards

Process and Opportunities to Participate

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PHASE 1 – UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES ✓

PHASE 2 – DOCUMENTING ✓

PHASE 3 – EVALUATING AND REVIEWING

**PHASE 4 – REVISING DOCUMENTS AND
RESPONDING TO COMMENTS**

**PHASE 5 – PRESENTING AND ADOPTING
(PUBLIC HEARINGS)**

Public Meetings and Schedule

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- **Additional Public Meetings**
 - ✦ August 12th – 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
 - ✦ August 14th – 6:30 pm (Ag Commission)
 - ✦ August 19th – 5:00 pm
 - ✦ August 22nd – 9:00 am (Planning Commission)
 - ✦ August 22nd – 1:00 pm (CEDAC)
- **Revisions to Draft Sign Code**
 - ✦ August/September
- **Environmental Review**
 - ✦ September/October
- **Public Hearings (PC and BOS)**
 - ✦ November/December

Summary of Significant Modifications to Sign Code

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DRAFT SIGN CODE DATED 7-8-13

Summary of Changes to Existing Sign Code

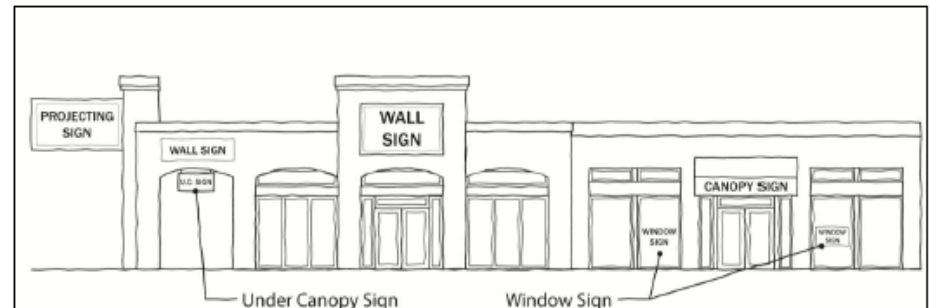
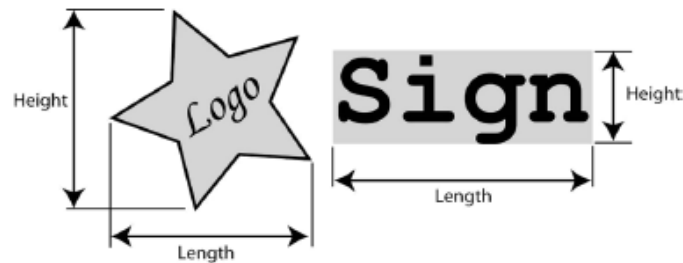
- 1. Expanded introductory/context statement to include goals and intent tied to state and federal laws and the County General Plan.**
- 2. Included new policies for sign regulations that explain legal framework:**
 - Regulatory interpretations
 - Message neutrality and substitution
 - Distinction between on- and off-site signs
 - Signs not expressly permitted are prohibited
 - Exceptions to the limitations in the chapter require a variance
 - Reference to indecent or obscene matter
- 3. Modified sign permit requirements as follows:**
 - Maintained current plan check procedures for permanent on-site signs
 - New permit requirements for uniform sign program, community sign program, and highway-oriented signs

Summary of Changes to Existing Sign Code

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4. Established a comprehensive list of exempt signs without limitations (e.g., traffic signs) and exempt signs with limitations (e.g., window signs).
5. Established a comprehensive list of signs to be prohibited in the County.
6. Added general sign development and design standards:
 - Sign area and height measurement
 - Sign construction, maintenance, and removal standards and requirements
 - Sign design compatibility with buildings
 - Sign illumination
 - Design standards for specific types of signs (e.g., awning/canopy signs, freestanding signs)

Figure 17.16.060.A: Sign Area



Summary of Changes to Existing Sign Code

7. Consolidated existing sign standards for permanent on-site signs into a single table and expanded or modified standards for consistency in allowed type, number, and size of permanent on-site signs by zoning district designation.

Table 17.16.070 – Signage Standards for Permanent On-Site Signs

Zoning District	Permitted Signs and Development Standards	
	Building-Attached Signs	Freestanding Signs
Residential and Agricultural Districts		
R1, R1-A, RE-5, RE-10, R-20,000, R3A	Not allowed	1 sign per subdivision or neighborhood, 12 sf max area, 8 ft max height, non-illuminated
R2, RM	Not allowed	1 sign per subdivision or neighborhood, 12 sf max area, 8 ft max height, non-illuminated
RT	Not allowed	1 sign per development, 12 sf max area, 8 ft max height
MP	Not allowed	1 sign per park, 12 sf max area, 8 ft max height

8. Added standards for menu-order board signs and highway oriented signs.

Summary of Changes to Existing Sign Code

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9. Consolidated and expanded standards for allowed type, number, and size of temporary on-site signs by zoning district designation. No permit required.
10. Added off-site sign regulations with general prohibitions and exceptions for subdivision ladder signs and approved community sign programs.
11. Established clear rules and regulations about what type, number, and size of sign will be permitted on public property (including the public right-of-way).
12. Established rules for illegal, abandoned, and nonconforming signs, including amortization program for billboard signs.
13. Consolidated, updated, and expanded sign definitions.

Public Input (Comments, Q&A)

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What's Next?

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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS
REVISIONS TO DRAFT SIGN CODE
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
PUBLIC HEARINGS