

Focused stakeholder meetings which brought together the Planning Commission subcommittee, and environmental, agricultural, and development interests, were held on September 5 and September 12, 2007. The Board received the public review draft OWMP in September 2007, and accepted public comments on September 25, 2007. Public comments were also accepted at the October 10, 2007 Agricultural Commission meeting, as well as today's Planning Commission meeting. The first public comment period for the public review draft OWMP will end on October 25, 2007. Additional comments can be accepted when the environmental document is circulated and returned to the Commission for recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Throughout the process, every effort has been made to prepare the OWMP in a manner that implements existing policy of the General Plan, and establish the OWMP as the oak woodland portion of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The OWMP was also intended to implement the Option B oak mitigation provisions of Policy 7.4.4.4.

However, some issues remained unresolved and needed clarification to implement the OWMP. Development Services requested the Board's guidance and direction in interpreting and clarifying the following key issues: oak tree canopy approach versus oak woodland approach; inclusion of corridors for conservation easement acquisition; and fee ratios. Development Services also provided information regarding possible General Plan amendments for the Board's discussion.

Discussion:

The OWMP has three purposes: to comply with General Plan implementation Measure CO-P; to establish a conservation fee option for mitigating oak woodland loss (Option B); and to establish a plan for oak woodland conservation in El Dorado County which will assist landowners, the County, non-profit organizations, and others to seek grants from state and federal programs to conserve oak woodlands.

The OWMP features discussions of oak woodland natural resource values; oak woodland economic value; threats to oak woodlands; County and State mitigation standards for loss to oak woodlands; mitigation Option B fee methodology; monitoring and reporting; administration of the OWMP; education and outreach; partnering opportunities; mapping; and General Plan consistency.

Prior to this meeting, you received a copy of the public review draft OWMP and September 25, 2007 report to the Board of Supervisors. This agenda item before you will allow the Planning Commission the opportunity to provide comment and receive public comment on the OWMP.

Next Steps:

Development Services staff has identified a list of possible General Plan amendments to clarify current General Plan policies. However, Development Services recommended to the Board that

they continue on the current OWMP path, through CEQA review and adoption, in order to attain Option B of Policy 7.4.4.4 by January/February 2008. After the OWMP is adopted, then Development Services, the Planning Commission, the Board, and stakeholders can address and pursue necessary General Plan amendments.

We have attached a schedule that identifies the milestones prior to completion of the OWMP, if the Board chooses to continue on the current OWMP path. Staff anticipates completion by January. Staff and Mr. Lind of EN2 Resources, Inc., the principal author of the OWMP, will be available for questions at today's hearing.

Recommendation:

1. Receive a staff/consultant team presentation.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Discuss the information provided and offer input to staff and the consultant team.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Board of Supervisors September 25, 2007 staff report
Attachment 2 – OWMP schedule