



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 3/7/2017
Agenda Placement: 10A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Morrison - Director, Planning, Building & Environmental Service
Planning, Building and Environmental Services

REPORT BY: David Morrison, Director, Planning, Building & Environmental Servi - (707) 253-4805

SUBJECT: Resolution Adopting the Ahwahnee Principles: Water, Climate Change, Resource-efficient Communities, and Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services requests adoption of a resolution adopting the Ahwahnee Principles for Water, Climate Change, Resource-efficient Communities, and Economic Development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item is presented to the Board of Supervisors at the request of Supervisors Dillon and Wagenknecht. The direction to staff to bring back a report and discussion item on the Ahwahnee Principles was most recently discussed on June 9, 2015. Staff has reviewed the Ahwahnee Principles and recommends adoption.

The Local Government Commission (LGC), a private, nonprofit public policy organization based in Sacramento, has written four sets of principles to guide land use and community development: water, climate change, resource-efficient communities, and economic development. These sets of guidelines are called the Ahwahnee Principles.

Resource-efficient Communities, written in 1991 by the LGC, paved the way for the Smart Growth movement and New Urbanism. These principles provide a blueprint for elected officials to create compact, mixed-use, walkable, transit-oriented developments in their local communities. Since 1991, the LGC developed the Ahwahnee Principles for Economic Development in 1997, the Ahwahnee Water Principles in 2005, and the Ahwahnee Principles for Climate Change in 2008.

The LGC claims that "cities and counties across the nation" have adopted the principles to break the cycle of sprawl. The LGC, however, does not keep an up-to-date list of these jurisdictions. The last update several years ago showed 18 California jurisdictions had adopted the water principles, along with the League of California

Cities, Bay Area Water Forum, Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Southern California Association of Governments Water Policy Task Force.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Staff report.
2. Public comments.
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

This item is presented to the Board of Supervisors at the request of Supervisors Dillon and Wagenknecht. The direction to staff to bring back a report and discussion item on the Ahwahnee Principles was most recently discussed on June 9, 2015. Staff has reviewed the Ahwahnee Principles and recommends adoption of the attached resolution. .

In 1991, the Local Government Commission (LGC), a private, nonprofit public policy group based in Sacramento, California, invited architects Peter Calthorpe, Michael Corbett, Andrés Duany, Elizabeth Moule, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Stefanos Polyzoides, and Daniel Solomon to develop a set of community principles for guiding land use planning. Named the Ahwahnee Principles (after Yosemite National Park's Ahwahnee Hotel where the group convened), the LGC presented the principles to about 100 government officials in the fall of 1991, at its first Yosemite Conference for Local Elected Officials. The first set of principles dealt with resource-efficient communities. Since 1991, the LGC has developed three additional sets of Ahwahnee Principles regarding water, climate change, and economic development.

An analysis of how the four sets of principles are consistent with the Napa County General Plan is provided in Attachment B. In total, there are 46 principles recommended by the LGC. Each of the Ahwahnee Principles has been included verbatim within the attachment, along with the corresponding General Plan goals and/or policies that support that principle. As can be seen in the analysis, the themes that are presented in the principles are deeply echoed and reflected in the General Plan: preserving open space; enhancing communities to meet the needs of those who work and live there; creating sustainability; maintaining a high quality of life; protecting the quality and quantity of our water resources; and acting to reduce and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Consequently, staff strongly supports the recommended resolution.

The LGC states that "cities and counties across the nation" have adopted the principles to break the cycle of sprawl. The LGC, however, does not keep an up-to-date list of these jurisdictions. The last update several years

ago showed 18 California jurisdictions had adopted various portions of the principles, along with the League of California Cities, Bay Area Water Forum, Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Southern California Association of Governments Water Policy Task Force. The LGC has no list of jurisdictions that have adopted all four sets of principles.

A partial list of cities, counties and organizations that have adopted one or more sets of the Ahwahnee Water Principles include:

- | Benicia, CA.;
- | Canal Fulton, OH.;
- | Cotati, CA.;
- | El Cerrito, CA.;
- | Gaithersburg, MD.;
- | Marin County, CA;
- | Marin Municipal Water District, CA;
- | Menlo Park, CA;
- | Morgan Hill, CA;
- | Oakdale, CA.;
- | Palo Alto, CA;
- | Petaluma, CA;
- | Port Hueneme, CA;
- | Richmond, CA;
- | Rohnert Park, CA;
- | Rolling Hills Estates, CA;
- | City of San Diego, CA.;
- | San Jose, CA;
- | San Luis Obispo - City, CA;
- | Santa Barbara - City CA;
- | Santa Monica, CA;
- | Santa Paula, CA;
- | Santa Rosa, CA;
- | City of Sunnyvale, CA;
- | Tempe, AZ.;
- | City of Ukiah, CA;
- | Ventura - City, CA;
- | Ventura County, CA;
- | West Hollywood, CA.;
- | Town of Windsor, CA; and
- | Yolo County, CA.

Organizations that have endorsed the Ahwahnee Principles:

- | Bay Area Water Forum and Association of Bay Area Governments (CalFed Task Force);
- | League of California Cities;
- | Southern California Association of Governments Water Policy Task Force.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Attachment A - Resolution

B . Attachment B - General Plan Policy Analysis

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi