



Agenda Date: 6/28/2005
Agenda Placement: 8A
Set Time: 9:00 AM
Estimated Report Time: 1 Hour

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: Hillary Gitelman, Director, 253-4805
SUBJECT: Update on Baseline Data Report

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning to report on the status of the Baseline Data Report (BDR).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of the Baseline Data Report (BDR) is to provide a current, accurate, and valid inventory of the County's environmental and resource conditions. Over the past 18 months, the BDR consultant team has engaged in an extensive data gathering effort, including the creation of a detailed countywide topographic and watershed sub-basin mapping, and development of a comprehensive hydrologic modeling program.

At this time, the BDR is nearing completion and most sections are undergoing final technical peer review. The remaining hydrology-related sections and final revisions to other sections are expected to be completed this summer. The Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) and its Technical Advisory Committee have provided review and comment on the information developed as part of the BDR process. The BDR is on schedule for hand-off to the General Plan Steering Committee at their August 31, 2005 meeting. As a "living document," the BDR will continue to be updated over time as new information and data becomes available. Public comments will always be welcome.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The BDR status report 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

The BDR was an outgrowth of strong community interest and support for the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to assess the potential direct and cumulative impacts resulting from various development scenarios within Napa County. However, differences of opinion existed within the community regarding the scope of work and timeline required to complete this effort and what the report's ultimate use would be. In response to these issues, the Board of Supervisors, in late 2001, requested that the Planning Director advise the Board on a framework for initiating development of a PEIR.

In early 2002, County staff began to identify an approach to developing a PEIR and key individuals and groups whose participation would be important to its success. As a part of this process, interviews with key community groups and leaders were conducted to solicit ideas and information on issues of importance to the community that would affect the scope and associated cost of the document ultimately developed. These discussions identified a need for the County to immediately begin data collection as part of a countywide Baseline Data Report (BDR), which would be the first component of a PEIR and serve as a background document for other major County projects.

In the Summer of 2003, the County requested proposals for professional consulting services to assist with preparation of the Baseline Data Report. Five proposals were submitted and three firms were identified for final interviews. A Selection Committee comprised of two members of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, a Planning Commissioner, and two members of the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy of Napa County (WICC) reviewed the three proposals and interviewed each of the firms. At the conclusion of this process, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with the Selection Committee recommended team of Jones & Stokes/EDAW for the preparation of the BDR.

After contract approval in late 2003, work began in earnest on the BDR in early 2004, with additional workplan elements added in late 2004 to further support the General Plan update. The BDR work has required an extensive data gathering effort in order to provide the most current environmental and resource conditions for the following areas: ·

- | Geology and soils
- | Mineral/rock resources
- | Climate
- | Air quality
- | Surface hydrology
- | Groundwater hydrology
- | Surface water quality
- | Biological resources
- | Energy consumption
- | Noise
- | Public health and safety
- | Population and housing
- | Land use
- | Agricultural resources
- | Transportation and circulation
- | Public facilities and services
- | Cultural resources (includes both historical and archeological resources)

- | Visual and aesthetic resources
- | Fire ecology

In addition, the BDR has utilized newly developed high resolution LIDAR digital elevation information/model (DEM) to provide detailed topographic mapping. This information is fundamental to the development of the watershed/drainage basin mapping and the hydrologic analyses. A MIKE-SHE surface hydrology-groundwater quality model was developed and utilized to provide the necessary information/analyses. Another technical highlight of the BDR has been the development of a biological database (used in coordination with the project GIS) that quickly offers information on how any location in the County may relate to important habitats of concern where federal, state, or locally listed species are potentially found.

Considered a "living document," the BDR will be released for public review section by section via the WICC website, as each section is vetted by technical experts. Public comments, corrections, and new information will always be welcome.

The BDR will provide information on the current baseline conditions throughout Napa County's that will in turn:

- | Expedite preparation of the General Plan PEIR by providing the environmental setting section for this important document;
- | Provide the majority of the base data needed for the update the Napa County General Plan;
- | Provide the basis for development of environmental thresholds of significance consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.
- | Produce an accurate countywide map of all drainages and watercourses
- | Enhance and expand the County's current Environmental Resource Mapping System through the updating of existing maps and the development of new electronic resource maps.
- | Facilitate preparation of project specific CEQA analyses, thereby improving the efficiency of application processing

The BDR will provide most of the necessary data and information for the "existing conditions" section of the General Plan PEIR. The PEIR will evaluate the effects of adoption of the various general plan development scenarios that will be put forth for consideration. The PEIR would include an evaluation of project alternatives, specify potential mitigation measures, and be used to solicit public comments and questions. Based on the comments received, a final PEIR would be prepared and certified.

An important goal of the BDR and subsequent PEIR is to provide as much "up-front" environmental analysis as possible, which can be used in the evaluation of future development projects throughout the unincorporated County. This will result in more efficient, streamlined processing of development applications by allowing "tiering" of future environmental reviews from the General Plan PEIR, reducing the need to prepare detailed subsequent environmental documentation for vineyard and winery development projects that are consistent with the adopted General Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . BDR Project Status Table
- B . BDR Report - Example
- C . BDR Maps - Examples

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey