

Napa County Planning Commission Agenda - Information & Distribution WorkSheet

Agenda Item No: 9B

Date of Agenda Item: 10/6/2010
Originating Dept: Conservation, Development & Planning
Report Written by: R. Patrick Lowe Jr. - 259-5937
Subject: Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan
Agreement:
Special Instructions:

For CEO Use Only

County Executive Officer Recommends:

Consent ☺ Administrative ☺ Set Matter/Public Hearing ☺
 Time: _____

For Clerk's Use Only

Motion and Vote:

(a) ____/____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ (b) ____/____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
 Mo. 2nd Ayes Noes Exec. Abst. Mo. 2nd Ayes Noes Exec. Abst.

Denied ☹ Dropped ☹

Continued To _____ 2nd Reading On _____ Resolution # _____
 Agreement # _____ Ordinance # _____ Budget Transfer # _____



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 10/6/2010

Agenda Placement: 9B

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission
FROM: John McDowell for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: R. Patrick Lowe Jr., Deputy Planning Director - 259-5937
SUBJECT: Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION

NAPA COUNTY VOLUNTARY OAK WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

CEQA Status: Categorical Exemption Class 7: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. [See Class 7 ("Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources") which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15307.]

Request: County sponsored resolution adopting the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan (the Plan) for purposes of achieving oak woodlands conservation through voluntary collaborative action by private and public landowners, public agencies, non-profit and other community organizations, and community volunteers. The proposed Plan provides a summary of the location, condition and value of Napa County's oak woodlands; identifies potential threats; outlines conservation strategies and best management practices, and mitigations for CEQA compliance. Upon adoption of the Plan by Board of Supervisors' resolution, county landowners, agencies, and non-profits will be eligible for grants under the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001).

Staff Recommendation: That the Planning Commission conduct a public hearing on the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan and forward a Recommendation of Approval to the Board of Supervisors.

Staff Contact: Patrick Lowe, Deputy Director 707-259-5937 Patrick.Lowe@countyofnapa.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Action :

That the Planning Commission:

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find the proposed action Categorical Exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15307; Class 7: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.
2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution adopting the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Plan.

Discussion:

The Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan (the Plan) provides a summary of the location, condition and value of Napa County's oak woodlands; identifies potential threats; outlines conservation strategies and best management practices. Once the plan is adopted by a resolution of the Board, County landowners, agencies, and non-profits will be eligible for grants under the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001). Adoption of the Plan will also complete an action item included in the Napa County General Plan and address one of the Board's strategic objectives. Staff will provide a summary of the Plan for the Planning Commission's consideration and recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action is Categorical Exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (State CEQA Guidelines); Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15307; Class 7: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

With adoption of the Napa County General Plan Update in June 2008, the County committed to develop a Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan (the Plan) aimed at protecting oak woodlands and encouraging long-term stewardship through voluntary protection and conservation, including landowner incentives. This action item was precipitated by the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (AB 242) of 2001, which established the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund and authorized expenditures from the fund -- upon appropriation by the State legislature -- to land owners and others within local jurisdictions which adopt oak woodlands management plans.

While State grant funds may periodically have limited availability, the Plan will still provide a conservation framework for the preservation of oak woodland resources in Napa County. The focus of the Plan is on achieving oak woodlands conservation through voluntary collaborative action by private and public landowners, public agencies, non-profit and other community organizations, and community volunteers. The Plan establishes the foundation for communication and collaboration among those interested in the long-term health and viability of Napa County's oak woodlands, from which agencies, conservation groups and non-profits can take the lead in working with willing landowners, seeking grants, preparing and holding conservation easements, and designing and implementing stewardship plans to preserve and restore Napa County's oak woodlands. The Plan provides an overview of the location, condition and value of Napa County's oak woodlands; identifies potential threats;

outlines conservation strategies and best management practices; and mitigations for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Plan was prepared with input from a wide range of community stakeholder groups and representatives interested in the conservation of oak woodlands in Napa County. The Plan was circulated for initial public comments from February 1 to March 15, 2010. It was also presented to the Wildlife Conservation Commission at their February 8th meeting and the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy Board (WICC) at their March 25th meeting. An overview of the Plan and update on the status/schedule was also provided to the Board of Supervisors at their May 25, 2010 meeting. Staff continued outreach, meeting with stakeholder groups and interested individuals, to address questions/comments and suggested revisions, which are reflected in the current draft of the Plan (see attached Plan).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Napa County OWMP_Plan_09.01.2010_update
- B . Napa County OWMP_Appendix_09.01.2010_update

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell