



Planning Division

Memorandum

DATE: September 11, 2006

TO: Mayor Pierce and City Council Members

FROM: Rosanne Foust, General Plan Liaison to the City Council
Tom Passanisi, Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Draft Infrastructure and Water Supply Elements

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss concepts in the attached General Plan Elements and refer the Elements back to the Planning Commission for continued refinement. This action is only to provide an update and “check-in”, and allow the Council to affirm the direction and approach to these Elements.

BACKGROUND

Planning staff has been working on the General Plan update for the last several years. There have been numerous community meetings and discussions on the guiding principles and the future story of Redwood City. City Council has already conceptually reviewed two of the Elements.¹ Now staff wishes to submit two more for the same type of review.

The two draft elements for discussion are the Infrastructure Element and Water Supply Element. Both are attached². The Planning Commission has already reviewed these two Elements and held two public hearings on each.

At this time the City Council is not being asked to adopt these two elements or substantially discuss the details of the documents. Rather staff wants to simply provide an update and affirm direction and approach on the policy *concepts*. If there is some goal and policy that does not seem appropriate or something is missing then staff would appreciate the feedback. Following Council review, staff will work out the details at the Planning Commission level and then bring the entire General Plan back for formal review and adoption. This approach will essentially be the process for all thirteen elements.

The General Plan process consists of several steps. First the Planning Commission reviews the draft documents as they are written by staff. Following Planning

¹ The City Council conceptually reviewed the Parks and Open Space Element and Conservation Element on August 7, 2006

² The final graphics and maps for each Element will be inserted prior to the Planning Commission and City Council comprehensive review of the entire General Plan

Commission's review, comments, and public hearings, the General Plan Liaison to the City Council then brings forward the Elements to "check-in" and inform the City Council (one or two elements at a time). Council then comments on each document and confirms that staff is generally on the right track.

INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT

Several years ago, the Planning Commission suggested that staff prepare an Infrastructure Element as one of the optional Elements in the General Plan. Although not a State required Element, the Commission felt that the movement and delivery of vital services such as water, sewage, energy and communications were important enough to warrant an individual Element.

The Infrastructure Element reflects several of the General Plan's Guiding Principles adopted by both the City Council and Planning Commission. They are:

- ❖ ***Plan for sustainability within our finite resources, including but not limited to open space, water, energy, and air quality.***
- ❖ ***Strengthen economic vitality to provide jobs, services, revenues, and opportunities.***

Some of the highlights of the Element include:

- Provides background discussion on the existing utility infrastructure in Redwood City.
- Discusses water storage and distribution, including the City's water recycling project (now under construction).
- Incorporates goals and policies on conserving energy, maintaining good storm good drainage and flood controls, and managing recycling and waste management programs.

WATER SUPPLY ELEMENT

The Water Supply Element is also an optional General Plan Element which discusses overall water supply and demand, and then sets forth goals and policies. It essentially bridges the gap between the projections and analysis found in the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) with the City's overriding goals and policies in the General Plan. It also reflects the above guiding principles as water supply is an important component of every day life and is vital for sustainability.

Planning staff has prepared the Element in close cooperation with the Public Works Services Department and the Engineering and Construction Division so that the document is consistent with previous decisions on long-term water supply. The draft element incorporates Planning Commission comments as well as input from the City's special counsel for the water enterprise.

Some of the highlights of the Water Supply Element Include:

- Reflects Council's goals and policies on water supply, demand, and conservation.

- Discusses the relationship of the Element to the Urban Water Management Plan.
- Integrates water supply with land use planning.

NEXT STEPS

Following your discussion and general direction, these elements will then be formally compiled and packaged together for additional review by the Planning Commission and ultimately for review again by the City Council. The next Element that will be forward to you for conceptual review will be the Economic Development Element which is tentatively scheduled for October 9, 2006.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Infrastructure Element
2. Water Supply Element