

Memo

To: Mayor Foust and Members of the City Council
Chairman Gee and Members of the Planning Commission

From: Tom Passanisi, Principal Planner

Date: July 16, 2009

Re: Draft New General Plan

Background

The General Plan team is happy to release the attached draft copy of the New General Plan. Over the last 18 months, the General Plan team has conducted extensive outreach, reviewed and prepared background material, and held numerous study sessions and workshops with the general public and affinity groups, special interest groups, the Planning Commission and other Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCCs). The result of all of this work is the attached document which is scheduled for discussion at a joint study session with the Planning Commission and City Council on July 27, 2009.

The purpose of the joint study session is to formally unveil the Draft New General Plan as a whole, highlight some of its unique features, and obtain feedback on process and direction from the City Council and/or Planning Commission. On July 27, an "open house" will be held in the foyer before the meeting so that the public can browse informational displays, and have an informal discussion with staff and the consultants about the Draft New General Plan. It will provide Council and the Planning Commission with an opportunity to clarify any questions and take public comment. This is not a decision making meeting, but a milestone in the vetting process because the entire draft will be presented all at once. Vetting of the Draft New General Plan chapters and elements has been underway and will continue. The chapters and elements will come back to the Planning Commission and City Council at a future date for a recommendation and decision. That date has yet to be determined.

At the same time staff has been working on the New General Plan, the consultant has also been writing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Numerous EIR sections have already been prepared and will be reviewed by staff over the next month. The EIR will be further discussed and presented to the Planning

Commission at a future date during a 45 day public review period as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

References to Cargill Property in the Draft New General Plan

The draft New General Plan makes reference to the Cargill property in both the Introduction and also in the Appendix. It includes by reference all the text and maps pertaining to the site *from the 1990 General Plan*. The actual referenced documents are included in the Appendix of the Draft New General Plan. This action is consistent with the direction given by City Council to retain all the text and maps related to this site that were in the 1990 General Plan and carry them forward in the New General Plan. Thus the New General Plan proposes no changes to the 1990 General Plan text and maps as it relates to the Cargill property.

Only some of the chapters and elements of the entire Draft New General Plan are currently included in the attached binder. The remaining Infrastructure Element, Housing Element, Building Community Chapter, Public Safety Chapter, Natural Resources Chapter, and Implementation Matrix, all will be delivered to you next week. (Staff wanted to provide you with a head start to review the document). Some of the chapters and elements such as Building Community still need to be reviewed by several BCCs. Also staff is preparing a response to State comments on the first Draft Housing Element.

Next Steps

The General Plan chapters and elements will continue to be vetted with various BCCs and the public. On July 28, the Housing and Human Concerns Committee will review the Building Community Chapter of the New General Plan. On August 6, a large joint study session will be held with Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission, Civic Cultural Commission, Senior Affairs Commission and the Library Board. The New General Plan team anticipates that the entire New General Plan will be finalized in a high quality draft format ready for adoption hearings in the fall in October. In the meantime, the General Plan team will be working on the EIR and preparing it for the 45 day public review period as required by CEQA.

Please feel free to contact me at 780-7237 if you have any questions. Thank you.

C: Peter Ingram, City Manager
Stan Yamamoto, City Attorney
Jill Ekas, Planning Manager
Chu Chang, P.E., Building, Infrastructure and Transportation Director
Silvia Vonderlinden, City Clerk