

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Catherine Kutsuris, Conservation & Development Director

Date: June 22, 2010



Contra Costa County

Subject: Comprehensive Update to County CEQA Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION(S):

ADOPT comprehensive update to Contra Costa County’s Guidelines for Administering the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires government agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their actions before approving plans and policies or committing to a course of action on a project. CEQA requires that public agencies inform themselves about the environmental effects of proposed actions, consider all relevant information before they act, give the public an opportunity to comment on the environmental issues, and avoid or reduce potential harm to the environment when feasible. To ensure their validity, an agency’s actions should comply with CEQA’s statutory requirements as well as the state environmental (CEQA) guidelines that have been adopted by California Secretary of Resources and incorporated into the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000.

APPROVE

OTHER

RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **08/03/2010**

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYES

NOES

ABSENT

ABSTAIN

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: August 3, 2010

David J. Twa, County

RECUSE



Contact: Patrick Roche, Ph# (925) 335-1242

Administrator and Clerk
of the Board of
Supervisors

By: June McHuen, Deputy

cc:

BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

Contra Costa County last adopted a comprehensive update to the County's Guidelines for Administering CEQA on March 28, 2000. The County's current adopted CEQA Guidelines (March 28, 2000) were based on the guidelines published by the State in 2000. Since March 2000, there have been a number of significant changes to the State CEQA Guidelines pursuant to amendments to the California Public Resources Code enacted by the State Legislature. Specifically, there are now new requirements to evaluate a project's impact in relation to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to the enactment of Senate Bill 97. The Department of Conservation and Development recommends the Board of Supervisors consider a comprehensive update to the County's CEQA Guidelines in order to be consistent with the most current State CEQA Guidelines.

Attached for the Board's consideration is an updated version of the County's CEQA Guidelines with amended sections to be consistent with and supplement the latest State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed comprehensive update to the County's CEQA Guidelines makes the following changes: (a) incorporates new requirements established under S.B. 97 to evaluate a project's effects on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions; (b) makes other changes consistent with the latest State CEQA Guidelines; (c) reflects name change for the Department of Conservation and Development; and, (d) incorporates by reference the requirements for conducting a traffic impact analysis related to a General Plan Amendment under the Measure J: Growth Management Program administered by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and adds a new appendix to describe these procedures. These updated CEQA Guidelines would be applicable to Contra Costa County and special districts and agencies governed by the Board of Supervisors.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The validity of County actions associated with its CEQA environmental review might be called into question if they are based on dated CEQA Guidelines.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

None.