



# COUNTY OF EL DORADO, CALIFORNIA

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject:  GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT INITIATION HEARING & VOLUNTARY CONCEPTUAL REVIEW PROCESS	Policy Number:  J-6	Page Number:  1 of 4
	Originally Adopted: 12/10/2013	Last Revised Date: 10/06/2020

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- A. Ensure that applicants are informed of the potential concerns and risks associated with privately initiated General Plan Amendments, including Specific Plan Amendments and new Specific Plans that would result in increasing allowable density by 50 or more dwelling units.
- B. Assist the County Board of Supervisors in determining whether a proposed change to the General Plan furthers the overall goals and objectives of the Board of Supervisors based on the Criteria listed below in Section III.
- C. Provide for early public knowledge and involvement in the General Plan Amendment initiation process.
- D. Specify the manner in which amendments to the El Dorado County General Plan, including Specific Plan Amendments and new Specific Plans sought by private parties shall be initiated pursuant to Government Code Section 65358 (general plan amendments), Government Code Section 65453 (specific plan amendments), and General Plan Policies (2.9.1.1 through 2.9.1.6).
- E. Provide the framework for applicants to follow when voluntarily requesting a Conceptual Review before the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors for any development project pursuant to Section 130.51.090 of the County's Zoning Ordinance.

This review process will result in neither approval nor denial of the proposed project. The more thorough review that occurs during the formal application process could reveal issues and circumstances that were not known or reviewed during the much shorter review of the Initiation Hearing/Conceptual Review process.

### II. POLICY

- A. Any privately-initiated application to amend the General Plan, including Specific Plan Amendments and new Specific Plans (herein collectively referred to as "Applications") proposing to increase allowable residential densities by 50 or more dwelling units shall require an Initiation Hearing before the Board of Supervisors. The Initiation Hearing is the first point of consideration by a decision maker and is intentionally limited in scope. The hearing shall focus on a high-level policy assessment of how well the proposed application furthers the overall goals and objectives of the Board of Supervisors based on the Criteria listed below in Section III.
- B. This Policy shall apply only to applications submitted after the effective date of this Policy.



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### III. PROCEDURE

A. Applicants shall submit a complete application to the Planning and Building Department. The completed application shall include, but not be limited to, the following items:

1. A description of the proposed project and General Plan amendment, Specific Plan amendment, or new Specific Plan including a discussion of the elements and policies to be amended, the reasons for the amendment, and how the amendment meets the Criteria listed below;
2. Vicinity and Location Maps;
3. Site plan(s) showing existing and proposed General Plan land use and Zoning designations for the subject property and surrounding properties; and
4. Optional exhibits, such as photographs or aerial photographs.

B. Once staff has determined the application is complete, a staff report shall be prepared and the application shall be referred to the Board of Supervisors for a hearing to evaluate whether the application meets the criteria identified below. The County will strive to schedule this hearing within 60 days from the date staff determines the application is complete.

Notice shall be provided in accordance with and as outlined in County of El Dorado Zoning Ordinance Section 130.51.050 Public Notice Requirements and Procedures. Public Notice range to be determined by Department Director with a minimum range of a half (1/2) mile. Notice of the hearing shall be provided in the manner required by Government Code section 65091 or as otherwise required by County Ordinance or Resolution.

C. An application shall be evaluated to determine how well it meets the following Criteria:

1. The proposed application is consistent with the goals and objectives of the General Plan, and/or County adopted Strategic Plan, and/or Board of Supervisors adopted community vision and implementation plan; and
2. Public infrastructure, facilities and services are available or can be feasibly provided to serve the proposed project without adverse impact to existing or approved development; and



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3. The proposed amendment provides additional public benefit to the community as compared to the existing land use designation, density/intensity range, plan, or site design. This can be achieved by meeting one or more of the following goals and objectives:
  - a) Increases employment opportunities within El Dorado County.
  - b) Promotes the development of housing affordable to moderate income households earning at or below 120% of the median monthly income for El Dorado County, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
  - c) Provides additional opportunities to retain retail sales and sales tax revenues within El Dorado County.
  - d) Protects and enhances the agricultural and natural resource industries.

D. Additional considerations for discussion may include, but not be limited to:

1. Level and diversity of community support and opposition;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed size, density and boundary of the project site;
3. Provision of additional benefit to the community;
4. Provision of public facilities;
5. Potential environmental effects; and
6. Future potential zoning and allowed uses.
7. Special consideration to be given to projects within high fire zone areas.

E. Exemptions

General Plan and Specific Plan amendments necessary to correct technical errors or mapping errors, to facilitate the development of qualified housing projects available to very low- or low-income households, to protect the public health and safety, to comply with changes in state or federal law, or that propose to increase allowable density/intensity by less than 50 dwelling units are exempt from the provisions of this Policy.



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**IV. RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT**

Planning and Building Department  
Department of Transportation

**V. DATES (ADOPTED, REVISED, NEXT REVIEW)**

<b>Originally Adopted:</b>	12/10/2013		
<b>Last Revision:</b>	10/06/2020	<b>Next Review:</b>	10/06/2023