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June 20, 2007

Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Board Members:

Subject: Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) Mapping Status and Issues

Recommendation:

Development Services recommends that your Board review the map being brought before you today as the map reaching towards consensus between members of the Community Coalition and Development Services regarding oak woodlands mapping.

Development Services further recommends that your Board provide direction to:

1. Prepare a final Oak Woodlands map, consistent with discussions at today's workshop;
2. Release a public review draft OWMP, Fee Study, and implementing ordinances based on the map;
3. Release the environmental document for public review; and
4. Refer the draft OWMP back to the Planning Commission and Agriculture Commission to review and to develop recommendations with direction to return the matter back to the Board for action by November 20, 2007.

Background:

The process for preparing an Oak Woodland management Plan, which will serve as the "Oak Woodland portion" of the INRMP, began in September 2006. Since that date, a number of workshops have been held focusing on mapping and mitigation fee issues. A summary of these activities is included in Attachment 1. Attachment 2 summarizes key issues that have been addressed to date regarding Oak Woodland issues in the ministerial permit process. At its June 12, 2007 meeting, the Board directed staff to hold a workshop with the Board on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. to review map issues and receive Board direction. Further, the Board directed staff that the importance of oak woodlands identified through the Oak Woodland Management Plan relative to other types of habitat will be determined in the

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and that the oak woodlands by itself is not necessarily “important,” noting this issue will be decided during preparation of the INRMP.

Development Services staff and consultants, EN2 Resources/Pacific Municipal Consultants, have worked with the Planning Commission subcommittee and members of the Community Coalition to work towards a consensus on the requirements of one composite map to present to the Board.

Discussion:

The maps that have been developed for the Oak Woodland Management Plan serve the following purposes:

1. To map existing oak woodlands;
2. To meet the requirements of State law regarding Oak Woodland Management Plans to ensure grant eligibility;
3. To meet requirements of General Plan policies and implementation measures, including Policies 7.4.4.4, 7.4.4.5, 7.4.5.2, 7.4.1.6, and 7.4.2.8. Implementation measures include CO-L, CO-M, CO-P, and CO-U;
4. To map large expanses of native vegetation/oaks per Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) policies;
5. To develop the oak woodland portion of the INRMP; and
6. To set priorities for oak woodland conservation by identifying the priority acquisition/conservation areas necessary for implementation of Option B (i.e. “Important” Oak Woodlands).

One of the maps used to prepare the “composite” map, the “5 CWHR Types/FRAP Map”, was presented to the Planning Commission on January 24, 2007. This map shows the entire extent of existing oak woodland habitat as identified by FRAP (Fire and Resource Assessment Program) and used in the General Plan EIR (~248,857 acres).

The composite map, “Important Oak Woodland Habitat”, is intended to identify Oak Woodlands that will be the priority for conservation, and reflects the outcome of discussions with the Planning Commission subcommittee, members of the Community Coalition, consultants, and Development Services. The map depicts oak woodlands addressed in the 2004 General Plan EIR for the county, excluding oak woodlands under state and federal land management, in community regions and rural centers, and in commercial and industrial land use designations (~77,817 acres).

Four map layers will be presented which together form the composite map. The first map layer is an aerial photograph of the county. The second map layer (“5 WHR Types Layer”) depicts the county’s oak woodland as defined by the State’s Wildlife

Habitat Relationship system. The third map layer ("Important Oak Woodland Habitat Layer") depicts oak woodlands addressed in the 2004 General Plan EIR for the county, excluding oak woodlands under state and federal land management, community centers and rural regions, and commercial and industrial land uses. The fourth map layer illustrates the county's Important Biological Corridors (IBCs).

On June 19, 2007, Development Services, EN2 Resources, the Planning Commission subcommittee, and members of the Community Coalition met to review the oak woodland mapping. The term "Important" as it relates to Policy 7.4.2.8 (INRMP) criteria and Policy 7.4.1.6/Implementation Measure CO-U (No-Net-Loss) was discussed by the group. Members of the Community Coalition do not interpret "Important" to have a regulatory meaning; rather, it designates the oak woodland resource that should be prioritized for mitigation or other conservation acquisition from willing sellers. Further, the group discussed including the following disclaimer on the Important Oak Woodland Habitat map: "Policy 7.4.1.6 and Implementation Measure CO-U apply only when rare, threatened or endangered species are present. Oak woodlands identified on this map do not necessarily contain any rare, endangered or threatened species. Identification on this map does not imply that Policy 7.4.1.6 or Implementation Measure CO-U applies. Policy 7.4.1.6 and Implementation CO-U may apply to oak habitat if endangered, rare or threatened species are present at the same site."

A policy issue remains regarding whether parcels with Oak Woodlands that have the LDR land use designation should be removed from Important Oak Woodland Habitat. This policy issue was not addressed during Planning Commission workshops, but is one of the issues that will be addressed by members of the coalition. This issue will be addressed further at Monday's workshop. Some of the members of the Community Coalition met on June 21, 2007, as they were not settled on the composite map, "Important Oak Woodland Habitat", being presented to you today. They will address your Board regarding their remaining concerns and issues.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Fuz
Director of Development Services

Attachments:

- 1 - Summary of Key Oak Woodland Issues
- 2 - Timeline Summary of Program Activity