



General Plan Biological Resources Policy Update and Oak Resources Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

**Public Hearing
Planning Commission
August 11, 2016**





Presentation Overview

- Purpose of this Public Hearing
- Background Information
- Environmental Review Process
- Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Public Notifications of Draft EIR Release
- Draft EIR Public Comment Methods
- Next Steps



Purpose of this Public Hearing

- **Provide opportunity for the public to submit comments on Draft EIR**
 - Speakers' verbal comments will be recorded
 - Speakers may also submit written comments
 - Comment cards are available for those who prefer not to speak
 - Other written comments may also be received
- Comments on Draft EIR should focus on adequacy in analysis of potential environmental impacts of proposed project
- This public hearing is not a forum to debate the proposed project
- Planning Commission is not taking action on this item



Background

- **September 2012** – Board directed preparation of:
 - 1) Resolution of Intention to Amend General Plan Policies 7.4.2.8, 7.4.2.9, 7.4.4.4, 7.4.4.5, 7.4.5.1 and 7.4.5.2 and related Implementation Measures to clarify and refine County policies regarding oak tree protection and habitat preservation, and
 - 2) Request for Proposal to hire consultant to prepare policy analysis and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- **March 2014** – Board executed contract with Dudek



Background

- **July 2014** – Dudek presented Board with historical background, status of General Plan biological policies and related Implementation Measures, and policy options of how potential updated policies would be implemented
- **November 2014** – Board selected Mitigation/Conservation Approach with public outreach via Board workshops
- **January – June 2015** – Board held series of five public workshops
 - Materials posted in advance on dedicated project webpage
 - Workshops video-recorded and could be viewed live (web streaming) or any time on County online Agenda calendar



Background

- **June 2015** – Board adopted Resolutions 108-2015 and 109-2015 and directed consideration of project alternatives including:
 - 1) Adding oak resource retention standards
 - 2) Options for Individual Oak Tree (IOT) replacement mitigation and associated analysis of implications for In-lieu Fee Nexus Study based on these options
 - 3) Oak resource mitigation requirements related to discretionary and ministerial projects
- **July 2015** – Board adopted ROI 118-2015 (supersedes 108-2015) to more accurately reflect proposed amendments to General Plan Chapter 7 (Conservation and Open Space Element)



Environmental Review Process

- Proposed General Plan Biological Resources Policy Update and ORMP are a “Project” under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- CEQA requires analysis and disclosure of potential environmental effects of proposed Project
- El Dorado County is the CEQA Lead Agency
- Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required
 - Allows Lead Agency to consider broad policy options and program wide mitigation measures at an early time when Agency has greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts



Environmental Review Process

- **Program EIR**
 - Evaluates range of potential environmental impacts related to General Plan biological resources policies and ORMP
 - Analyzes and discloses potential impacts
 - Does not recommend approval or denial of a project
 - Does not approve any construction or specific development projects

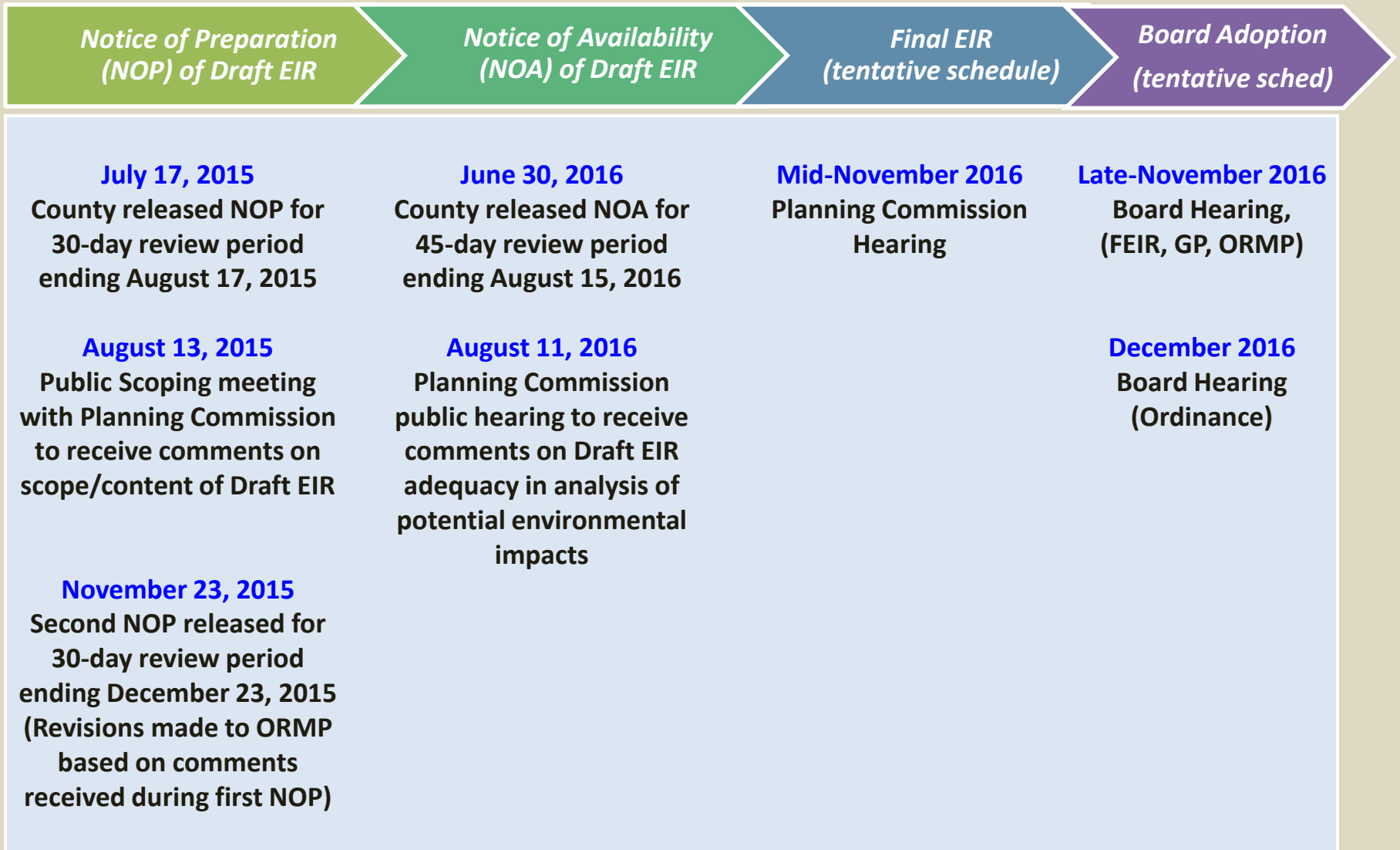


Environmental Review Process

■ CEQA Requirements

- Analyze and disclose potential environmental effects of proposed project
- Identify mitigation to avoid or reduce significant impacts
- Identify and evaluate alternatives that would avoid or reduce significant impacts

Environmental Review Process





Draft Program EIR

- Describes proposed project
- Identifies possible environmental impacts and level of significance
- Recommends mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts
- Evaluates project alternatives that could reduce or avoid significant impacts

The Draft EIR circulated on June 30, 2016 for 45-day public and agency review and comment period



Draft Program EIR

- **Analyzes Possible Environmental Impacts to:**
 - Biological Resources (Chapter 6)
 - Forestry Resources (Chapter 7)
 - Greenhouse Gas Emission focused on loss of carbon sequestration (Chapter 8)
 - Aesthetics/Visual Resources (Chapter 9)
 - Land Use and Planning including agricultural resources (Chapter 5)



Draft Program EIR Summary of Impacts

- 4 impacts identified as Less than Significant or No Impact with no mitigation required (LU-1, LU-3, GHG-2, VIS-1)
- 9 impacts identified as Significant and Unavoidable (*See DEIR, Table 1-1, Exec Summary, pages 1-6 through 1-8*)
 - No feasible mitigation would substantially reduce or avoid 7 of these impacts
 - 2 Mitigation Measures identified for Impacts:
 - **BIO-1:** Result in loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat
 - **BIO-4:** Result in the removal, degradation, and fragmentation of sensitive habitats



Draft Program EIR Mitigation Measures

- **Impact BIO-1 (MM BIO-1):** *Conservation Area Monitoring.*
 - Biological Resource Mitigation Program (per Policy 7.4.2.8) requires periodic monitoring of preserved lands by individual development project applicants to assess effectiveness of the Program for protection of special-status and native species.
- **Impact BIO-4 (MM BIO-2):** *Require Mitigation for Valley Oak Tree and Valley Oak Woodland Impacts.*
 - Exemptions section of ORMP and Oak Resources Conservation Ordinance shall be revised so no activities shall be exempt from requirement to mitigate impacts to valley oak woodlands and individual valley oak trees.



Public Notifications of Draft EIR

- Legal ads published in Mt. Demo and Tahoe Tribune (6/29) and Georgetown Gazette (6/30)
- Notice of Completion filed with State Clearinghouse (6/30) with copies of DEIR distributed to: Air Resources Board, Fish and Wildlife, CA Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection, Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Notice of Availability (NOA) filed and posted in County Recorder's Office and posted in County Bldgs A, B and C
- NOA, Draft EIR and other related documents posted on dedicated project webpage:
www.edcgov.us/Government/LongRangePlanning/Environmental/BioPolicyUpdate.aspx



Public Notifications of Draft EIR

- NOA posted on County website home page News and Hot Topics
- Press Release distributed and posted on County website
- NOA and Draft EIR copies available at all County public libraries and at Planning Services Public Counter in Bldg C
- NOA mailed to Long Range Planning mail list, including tribal consultation/military contacts (230 total)
- Emails sent to LRP's email subscription list (over 1,300) and LRP's database (over 1,500)
- Article published in Mt. Demo on July 8, 2016



Draft EIR Public Comment Methods

- Today at this Planning Commission meeting
 - Speakers - Please state your name, and focus your comments on issues pertaining to the environmental review in the Draft EIR
- Submit written comments by **5:00 p.m. August 15, 2015**
 - Mail or Hand-Deliver to: El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Long Range Planning, Attn: Shawna Purvines, 2850 Fairlane Court, Building C, Placerville, CA 95667
 - Email: shawna.purvines@edcgov.us
 - Fax: (530) 642-0508

Comments received after August 15th may not receive written responses and may not be included in the Final EIR



Next Steps

- Prepare Final EIR to include:
 - Comments received
 - Written responses to comments received
 - Revisions to EIR if necessary in response to comments
- Planning Commission Hearing – **tentatively mid-Nov**
 - Commission will make recommendations for Board to consider
- Board Hearing – **tentatively mid-Dec**
 - Board will consider the Project including: Certifying Final EIR, adopt General Plan amendment to biological resources policies, adopt ORMP, adopt Implementing Ordinance

Written comments on proposed Project may be submitted any time prior to or during the Commission and Board hearings.