



June 4, 2007

Mr. Greg Fuz, Director
El Dorado County Development Services
2850 Fairlane Court, Building C
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Building Department Process Improvement Oversight Committee

Dear Mr. Fuz:

We look forward to working with you and other County stakeholders on identifying and discussing solutions for process improvements. The North State Building Industry Association (BIA), the El Dorado Builders' Exchange, and the Sacramento Builders' Exchange, all feel that some process improvements can be implemented immediately without having to increase fees. Some of our suggestions include exempting ministerial projects from general plan review, reducing counter hours to allow more time for application review, and updating the application/plan checklist.

We feel our meetings to date have been productive and have generated some good ideas. We have also made some changes for your consideration on process improvements list provided to us on Friday, however at this time we have removed any suggestions on the list that would require the increase of fees. Below is a list of some process improvement ideas that we would like to see implemented;

- During the next 12 months, the department should review expenditures and revenues monthly with the CAO to ensure that its targets are being met. If they are not met by January, the CAO and Department should go before the Board again to consider further expenditure reductions.
- Consider streamlining General Plan consistency reviews for ministerial projects.

- Work with the Economic Development Department to develop some public training/outreach seminars to go over permit process/application requirements.
- Modify/improve the plan review checklist.
- Create a "fast track" process for economic development that creates long-term jobs in the county and affordable housing projects.
- Consider adjusting counter availability of plan-checkers so that more time can be dedicated to plan review. Cross-train other planners/techs to assist with counter/phone questions.
- Further explore the "Portland Process" for screening residential projects for engineering review.
- Consider implementing technology improvements, which would allow for application submission online, review, and mark-up of plans as well as other permit processing activities.
- Create a formal Development Oversight Commission of building industry associations and members-at-large that can meet monthly on improving the building process.
- Research options for using building market trends to evaluate the department's stance on fee increases; employee benefit increases, staffing increases and other budgetary changes.

While this letter represents a brief discussion of some process improvements, we look forward to working collaboratively with you and the County in further developing these and other options.

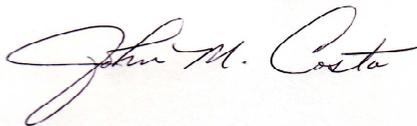
Sincerely,



Linda Mott
El Dorado Builders' Exchange



Joshua Wood
Sacramento Builders' Exchange



John Costa
North State Building Industry Association

Cc: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Laura Gill, Chief Administrative Officer, El Dorado County