



CRA BULLETIN

November
2013

Administration • Building & Safety • County Surveyor • Engineering • Environmental Health • Fleet Services • GIS • Housing • Planning • Roads • Solid Waste

COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE OF GENERAL PLAN

State law mandates that all cities and counties in California adopt and implement general plans. The General Plan is considered to be the constitution for growth and development and all land use regulations, County projects, and private development projects must be consistent with the policies and programs in the General Plan, pursuant to Section 65300 of the California Government Code.

Tuolumne County's General Plan was adopted in 1996. Various elements of the Plan have been updated since that time but many have not.

On September 17, 2013, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to conduct a Comprehensive Update of the Tuolumne County General Plan. As part of this direction, the Board directed staff to draft two new elements for inclusion in the General Plan: a Water Element

and a Healthy Communities Element.

The process for updating the General Plan involves two major steps. The first step is to draft the General Plan itself and the second step is to conduct a review of the potential impacts of the General Plan in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The first step is proposed to be done in-house by the County's Planning Staff with the Board of Supervisors Planning Committee serving as the Steering Committee for the General Plan Update. This step is expected to be completed in the spring of 2014.

The Planning Committee is comprised of seven members: Supervisors John Gray and Evan Royce, Planning Commissioners Jerry Baker and

Bob Steele, and at-large members Mark Banks, Ron Kopf, and James Nagle.

The second step will require contracting with a consulting firm to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2014. Following preparation of the Draft EIR, there will be a 60-day public review period. A public hearing on the adoption of the Final EIR is expected to occur in spring 2015.

The certification of an EIR will streamline implementation of the General Plan and the processing of future development projects. Many projects will be able to rely on the certified EIR to comply with CEQA pursuant to Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines with no further environmental review required. Other projects will be able to utilize informa-

tion contained in the certified EIR, which will eliminate the need to prepare individualized studies.

For additional information regarding the General Plan Update, please contact Supervising Senior Planner Adam Paszkowski at 209-533-5633 or apaszkowski@tuolumne.ca.us.

OFFICE CLOSURES

The Community Resources Agency will be closed on the following days in observance of the upcoming holidays:

- Thursday, November 28, 2013
- Friday, November 29, 2013
- Tuesday, December 24, 2013
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013
- Wednesday, January 1, 2014
- Monday, January 20, 2014
- Monday, February 17, 2014

We apologize for any inconvenience these office closures may cause.

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The Housing Element of the General Plan is required by state law to be updated every five (5) years. Tuolumne County's Housing Element is required to be updated by June 30, 2014. As such, the update of the Housing Element is being undertaken as a separate action from the comprehensive update of the General

Plan discussed in the article above.

The Housing Element provides data concerning the housing needs and conditions in the County and outlines goals, policies and implementation strategies for meeting those needs.

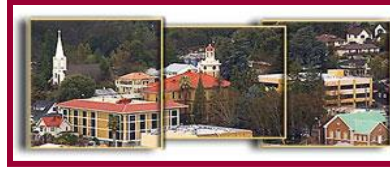
If you are interested in learning more about the

Housing Element or participating in the update process, we encourage you to attend the Board of Supervisors Housing Policy Committee meetings. The Committee is currently reviewing the goals, policies and implementation programs in the draft Housing Element.

You can register to

receive the Housing Policy Committee's meeting agendas and reports by going to www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov. Click on "Notify Me" and become a subscriber of the Housing Policy Committee.

If you have any questions, contact Sheila Shanahan, Housing Program Coordinator, at (209) 533-6904 or at sshanahan@co.tuolumne.ca.us.



COUNTY UPDATES WEBSITE

The Tuolumne County website was recently replaced with a much more user-friendly website, reached using the same URL address: www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov.

The new website pages have a much improved look and feel, making it easier for users to navigate and find the information they are looking for. The CRA has made it a goal to add additional content that users may find helpful as we work on converting the older pages and information to the newer format. We encourage the public to explore the new website, particularly those interested in development-related information or other aspects of the services provided by the CRA.

Some of new features provided by the County's website vendor and host, Civic Plus, are related to ways people can subscribe to get email notices or text messages when new items are posted.

When you open the website, you can click on a "Sign In" button in the upper right corner, and create a profile for yourself. You are not required to give a lot of personal information about yourself and there is no cost involved. Once you sign in, you can then put yourself on distribution lists for notifications.

For example, with a sign in profile, you can now click on one of the large green buttons, "Notify Me." You are now presented with a list of various categories of subjects you can choose from for notifications. Under the category of "Bid Posting," you can sign up for Roads and Engineering. As a company interested

in bidding on paving, bridge construction or similar road and engineering projects, you can sign up to automatically receive bid notices every time one is posted, by email, text message to a mobile phone, or both.

You can also sign up to receive notices related to a "News Flash;" the CRA is managing the following news flash types:

CRA Hot Topics
Development
Engineering
Environmental Health
Garbage & Recycling
Housing
Roads

Further down the list of "Notify Me" categories is the "Agenda Center." Here you can register to be notified of the meeting dates and agenda topics for certain committees or commissions of the County. You will receive a notice when the agenda and related documents are posted.

Another new tool available on the website is the opportunity

to click on the big green "Service Request" button. CRA plans to add a variety of different Service Request types in the near future, such as those related to road concerns.

If members of the public identify a pothole or vegetation blocking visibility, they will be able to submit information to the CRA about their specific concern and its location. This will require signing in to a profile, which will allow the submitter to check on the progress of the situation or the status of the investigation for code compliance cases.

Upon submitting a service request, a tracking number will automatically be assigned and the submitter will use that number to track the progress of the request. Upon final resolution of the request, the submitter will be notified.

If you have any questions regarding the CRA website pages, please contact CRA staff for assistance.

NEW CONSTRUCTION CODES

Every three years, the California Building Standards Commission updates the construction codes. The updates adopted by the Commission in 2013 will go into effect on January 1, 2014. These include the California Building Code, Residential Code, Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code, Energy Code, Green Building Standards, Historical Code, Reference Standards Code, and the Fire Code.

The 2013 updates to these codes do not impose significant new requirements as were implemented by the 2010 codes.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend the following free informational sessions, to be provided by the Building and Safety Division:

**2013 Residential Code
Thursday, December 5, 2013**

**Overview of Code Update
Thursday, December 19, 2013**

**Both are at 4:00 p.m.
18440 Striker Court
Sonora, California**

For more information, please contact Chief Building Official Doug Oliver at 209-533-5633.

COMMENTS

The Community Resources Agency welcomes your comments and suggestions on how we can better provide service to you. Comment cards are provided at the CRA Information Center and County Surveyor counter. Members of the CRA Staff are continuing to meet with representatives of the Tuolumne County Building Industry to address ways to enhance our service to you.

ASSISTANCE

For assistance with your development project or information on any of our programs, please contact us at:

Physical: 48 W. Yaney Avenue
Sonora, CA 95370

Mailing: 2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Telephone:
Main Line: 209-533-5633
Fleet Services: 209-536-1622

Fax:
Main Line: 209-533-5616
Fleet Services: 209-588-9064
Roads: 209-533-5698
Environ. Health: 209-533-5909

Inspection Requests:

Building: 209-533-5940
Environ. Health: 209-533-5992
Engineering Dev: 209-533-6533

**Happy
Holidays
from the
CRA
Staff!**