

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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EL DORADO

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2008
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Peter N. Maurer, Principal Planner
SUBJECT: INRMP Revised Work Program

Development Services Department submitting the Scope of Work for the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and requesting the following:

1. Approve the revised work program for the INRMP and authorize staff to contact the appropriate consultant for cost estimates;
2. Direct staff to recruit for and identify prospective Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee (PAWTAC) members, based on the parameters for the committee established in 1999; and
3. Direct staff to begin the initial steps of preparing the INRMP, based on the revised work program.

Fiscal Impact/Change to Net County Cost: None

Background:

General Plan policy 7.4.2.8 and Implementation Measure CO-M direct the County to adopt an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). Additional policies and implementation measures, specifically 7.4.1.6 and CO-U, provide additional guidance on what must be contained within that plan. The County initiated preparation of such a plan in September 2006 with the hiring of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). SAIC's responsibilities were to conduct workshops with the Board, coordinate with state and federal resource agencies, develop an INRMP work plan, and provide legal advice under a subcontract with Ebbin Moser + Skaggs regarding rare and endangered species. This contract expired December 31, 2006.

Subsequently, a second contract was let with SAIC, after the County determined that it did not wish to expand the INRMP into a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP). The HCP/NCCP is a resource planning program designed to meet state and federal requirements and involve resource agencies in the preparation and approval of the plan. The subsequent contract provided for SAIC to

attend meetings with the Board and staff, provide support for a Pine Hill Preserve Management Plan review, and review and comment on the Oak Woodland Management Plan, in order to prepare a revised work plan for the INRMP by April 2007.

On July 10, 2007, the Board directed staff to work with SAIC to reduce the scope of work to four basic tasks (inventory, prioritize, acquire, and protect) and reduce the public outreach and number of meetings in order to keep costs down to below \$500,000. SAIC submitted revised scopes in October 2007 and January 2008, however, both exceeded the maximum cost set by the Board. The Board then directed, and staff prepared, an Initial Inventory of Habitat map, which was adopted by the Board on April 1, 2008. Staff has been working to refine and reduce the scope of work to further limit the costs while meeting the requirements of the General Plan and providing adequate CEQA analysis of the plan.

Discussion:

Attached is the draft revised work program for the preparation of the INRMP. We have also included an outline of the major sections of the work program that identify what can be accomplished by staff and what must be accomplished for consultants or PAWTAC. Staff met with members of the Community Coalition (representatives of development interests) and with individuals representing conservation interests to further refine the draft. Staff believes that the proposed work program will result in an INRMP that meets the requirements of the applicable general plan policies and implementation measures, provides the flexibility desired by the development community, and adequately protects the important natural resources in the county. It is the intent of staff to address Policies 7.4.1.6, 7.4.2.8, 7.4.2.9 and 7.4.4.5 and Implementation Measures CO-M, CO-N, CO-U, as well as incorporating the appropriate provisions of CO-K (gabbro soils rare plants) and CO-P (oak woodlands).

The next steps that staff needs to take are to finalize the budget for the INRMP and clearly articulate the tasks that SAIC will perform, reactivate PAWTAC, and begin those tasks assigned to County staff. Staff wants to make sure that the steps being taken are consistent with Board direction. It is staffs intention, unless provided with different direction to do the following:

Budget - Review the revised scope of work with SAIC to determine the cost for the consultant portion of the INRMP. Staff would then return to your Board with a final proposed work schedule and budget for authorization to proceed with preparing a contract for the work.

PAWTAC - Policy 7.4.2.7 directs the County to form a PAWTAC to advise the Board and Planning Commission on plant and wildlife issues. The Committee was first formed by action of the Board in 1998, consisting of seven members. PAWTAC was revised in 1999, by expanding the membership to 20, consisting of local residents and agency volunteers. However, the Committee has not met for several years, and several of the previous members no longer reside in the county or work for the agencies. The County will need to reactivate this committee by reviewing the current membership, replace inactive members, and revise, if determined to be appropriate, its membership makeup. Staff proposes the following steps to reactivate this Committee:

1. Contact the previously appointed members and agency representatives to determine if there is continued interest in serving on the committee;
2. Advertise for prospective new members;
3. Return to your Board with a list of prospective members for appointment.

Unless there is different direction from your Board regarding the make-up of the committee, staff proposes to utilize the same format as was adopted in 1999. It would also be appropriate to clarify PAWTAC's role in the preparation of the INRMP. Further, the Board may wish to explore the option of having PAWTAC serve as a technical committee made of members with biological credentials; and convening a separate committee such as an Advisory Committee or Stakeholder Committee consisting of interested community members representing diverse interests. Both committees would serve as advisory to the Board and make recommendations to the Board.

County Staff Tasks - The proposed work program identifies a number of tasks that staff must perform in order to complete the INRMP. Many cannot proceed until some of the key tasks to be performed by the consultant are completed or at least underway. However, some can be undertaken immediately. Staff proposes to begin with the following:

1. Review and update the Initial Inventory based on more accurate GIS layers now available.
2. Inventory existing regulatory constraints related to important habitat and prepare Protected Lands Map.
3. Compare Initial Inventory and Protected Lands maps with the County's Land Use designations for consistency.

Attachments:
Outline of Work Distribution
Draft Work Program