

# DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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PLANNING  
SERVICES



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July 28, 2008

Re: Responsibilities as PAWTAC Member

Dear PAWTAC Member:

On June 27, 2008 the Board of Supervisors directed staff to contact the members of the Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee (PAWTAC) to ensure that the duties and responsibilities of the committee are clear. The purpose of this letter is to clearly articulate the role of PAWTAC and the limits of its duties.

PAWTAC is one of several advisory committees established by General Plan policy. Its authority stems from Policy 7.4.2.7 that states that PAWTAC is to “advise the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on plant and wildlife issues.” With that in mind, the expectation for PAWTAC as it advises the County is to provide technical, biological expertise on various County programs relating to plant and wildlife issues as those programs are developed. Further, it should be clear that PAWTAC is not a policy advisory body; that is the purview of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. In regards to the INRMP, General Plan Policy 7.4.2.8 defines PAWTAC’s specific role on the INRMP: “The inventory and mapping effort shall be developed with the assistance of the Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee, CDFG, and USFWS.” Additionally, as directed by the Board of Supervisors in a previous resolution, if PAWTAC has internal disagreement, then all positions should be forwarded to the Board. Finally, it is expected that where members hold different views with regard to the policy direction as established by the Board of Supervisors, those differences should not cloud the recommendations and technical advice provide by PAWTAC.

I look forward to working with you as a member of PAWTAC as the County tackles several important General Plan implementation programs. A meeting will be scheduled soon as we undertake the task of developing the INRMP. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter N. Maurer  
Principal Planner