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May 21, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Receive a Report and Provide Direction on the Planning Division Work Plan Forecast for Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2025-26

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive a report and provide comments and possible direction on the Resource Management Agency's Planning Division Work Plan Forecast for Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2025-26.

FISCAL MANDATES / IMPACT:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Planning Division Budget
Funding Match Required:	None
Impact on Other Departments:	None

The development of the Planning Division Revised Three-Year Work Plan Forecast ("Planning Division Three-Year Work Plan") was previously completed. Staffing costs for the preparation and implementation of the Planning Division Three-Year Work Plan were noted in the June 20, 2023 Board Letter on the Revised Work Plan. These staffing costs were also included in the FY 2023-24 Planning Division Budget and the proposed FY 2024-25 Planning Division Budget. Currently, budgeted appropriations are sufficient to absorb anticipated costs.

DISCUSSION:

On March 28, 2023 and June 20, 2023, your Board reviewed the Planning Division Three-Year Work Plan. This provided opportunities for Board input on the work plan. At the June 20, 2023 meeting, your Board approved the Planning Division Three-Year Work Plan with

specific revisions. The approved work plan sets forth long-range planning projects to be carried out over this three-year term, as well as a general timeframe for in what fiscal year or years work on these projects would occur. The pertinent excerpt of the minutes of the Board's June 20, 2023 meeting is included as Exhibit 2 to this Board Letter, and the approved Planning Division Three-Year Work Plan, which includes the direction from your Board at the March 28, 2023 and June 20, 2023 meetings, is included as Exhibit 3.

The general timeframe in the work plan provided a way to prioritize which projects should be completed in the early portion of the work plan and which would be addressed in the latter portions of the three-year period. The anticipated timing was also reflective of existing staffing capacities, in particular, given the number of vacant positions in the Planning Division. The June 20, 2023 Board Letter, which is included as Exhibit 1, noted a 30% vacancy rate within the Planning Division. The current vacancy rate is approximately 23%, with 12 vacancies out of a total of 51 positions, and while hiring and retaining Planning (and other RMA staff) is a high priority for RMA, recruitment and retention efforts remain challenging in today's strong job market.

At the May 14, 2024 Board meeting, Chair Long requested that your Board hear from the RMA Director at the May 21, 2024 Board meeting including any recommendations that the Director has for adjustments or reprioritization of the work plan. Some of these adjustments would be expected as a result of new or pending legislation that is anticipated to have an impact on certain projects within the work plan. Chair Long also noted that this would provide an opportunity for your Board to provide additional input on the work plan. The Chair further noted that a recent published court case decision may also have a bearing on the all-electric requirements of the Ventura County Building Code (VCBC). This published decision is for the California Restaurant Association (CRA) v. City of Berkeley case, and as noted by County Counsel at the May 14, 2024 Board meeting, this decision has indeed prompted the County to suspend the all-electric requirements that were included in the latest update of the VCBC. RMA staff intends to bring forward a recommendation on forthcoming revisions to the VCBC as a result of this published decision, and will comment on this topic at the May 21, 2024 Board meeting.

Summary

RMA staff will present an update on the Planning Division Three-Year Work Plan and hear from the Board regarding possible refinements of the work plan. Staff will also discuss the plan for updating the VCBC in response to the CRA v. City of Berkeley case.

Based upon your Board's review and possible direction on the Planning Division Work Plan, RMA staff will make revisions to the Work Plan and adjust our priorities

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accordingly. The revised Work Plan will be posted and available on the Planning Division website.

This letter was reviewed by the County Executive Office and County Counsel's Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact me at (805) 654-2661 or at robert.mullane@ventura.org.



Robert A. Mullane, AICP, Director
Ventura County Resource Management Agency

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit 1 - June 20, 2023 Board Letter (without exhibits) regarding Planning Division Revised Work Plan Forecast (July 2023 to June 2026)
- Exhibit 2 - June 20, 2023 Board Minutes (pertinent excerpt)
- Exhibit 3 - Ventura County Planning Division Approved Three-Year Work Plan Forecast (July 2023 to June 2026)