



Photo by Rene Rodriguez

Scoping Meetings

November 2, 2011 | Board of Supervisors Chambers

Meeting Agenda

1. **Introductions**
2. **Ground Rules**
3. **Status of Draft 2035 San Benito County General Plan Update**
4. **Purpose of Public Scoping Session**
5. **CEQA Process**
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Receive Public Comment**



San Benito County Representatives

- Gary Armstrong– Planning Director, San Benito County Planning and Building Inspection Services, 3224 Southside Road, Hollister, CA 95023, garmstrong@cosb.us
“2035 San Benito County General Plan NOP” on subject line

Environmental Planning Partners, Inc.

- Juliana Prosperi, AICP – Deputy Project Manager,
P.O. Box 627, Sloughouse, CA 95683-9715



Ground Rules

- **Be courteous and show respect for others**
- **Speak clearly and succinctly**
- **Listen to all ideas and comments**
- **Avoid repeating questions or comments**
- **Stay on topic**
- **Limit comments/questions to 5 minutes**
- **Detailed or highly technical comments should be submitted in writing**



Status of 2035 San Benito County General Plan Update

PHASE 1
Public Outreach

- Community Workshops
- Community Survey

STAGE 6
Fiscal Impact
Analysis

- Fiscal Impact Analysis

STAGE 1
Project Initiation

STAGE 2
Existing
Conditions

- Background Report

STAGE 7
Draft 2035
General Plan

- Draft General Plan

STAGE 3
Issues and
Challenges

- Issues and Challenges
Report

STAGE 8
Environmental
Review

- Draft Environmental Impact
Report

STAGE 4
Alternatives

- Alternatives Report

STAGE 9
Public Review

- Public Hearings
- Final EIR

STAGE 5
Preferred
Alternative

- Preferred Alternative

STAGE 10
Adoption

- Final General Plan
- Adoption Hearings



Purpose of Today's Scoping Meeting

- **Opportunity to involve various groups, individuals, and agencies to solicit public comments on environmental issues**
- **Not a Question & Answer session or an opportunity to debate the merits of the proposed General Plan**
- **Helps team determine scope and content of EIR analysis**
- **Kicks off the environmental review process**



Overview

- **CEQA Basics**
- **Environmental Review Process**
- **2035 San Benito County General Plan Update Program EIR**
- **Key elements of the Program EIR**



What is the California Environmental Quality Act?

- **Framework that informs the general public and decision-making bodies about the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project**
- **Identifies alternatives and mitigation measures to avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts**
- **Discloses to the public the reasons why agency approves a project**
- **Public participation is an essential part of the CEQA process**



Environmental Review Process

CEQA Scoping

- Notice of Preparation
- Public Scoping Meeting

Draft EIR

- Public review and comment period

Final EIR

- Response to Comments

Planning Commission Meeting

- Recommendation to BOS to certify or not certify EIR
- Recommendation to BOS regarding project decision

Board of Supervisors Meeting

- Decision to certify or not certify EIR
- Consideration of project decision



What is a “Program” EIR?

- Examines broad goal and policy objectives, program impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures
- More expansive evaluation of environmental effects than a “project-specific” EIR
- Tiered-approach for environmental review
- Allows subsequent projects to limit review to significant impacts not analyzed in the Program EIR

Key Elements of the Program EIR:

Project Description

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Vision and Guiding Principles
- Section 3: Land Use Element
- Section 4: Economic Development Element
- Section 5: Housing Element
- Section 6: Circulation Element
- Section 7: Public Facilities and Services Element
- Section 8: Natural and Cultural Resources Element
- Section 9: Health and Safety Element
- Section 10: Administration Element

Environmental Setting

- 2011 existing conditions as set forth in Background Reports

Environmental Impact Analysis

- Focus on indirect impacts over the long-term
- Cumulative & Growth Inducing Effects

Mitigation Measures

- Modification of proposed policies/new policies

Alternatives

Issues to be Evaluated in the Program EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture/Forest Resources
- Air Quality/GHG Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards/Wildland Fires
- Hydrology/Water Resources
- Land Use
- Noise
- Minerals, Oil, Energy
- Population & Housing
- Recreation
- Traffic/Transportation
- Utilities/Public Services
- Alternatives
- Cumulative Impacts

Scoping ----- **Fall 2011**

- Initial Study / Notice of Preparation
- Public review and comment period
- Public Scoping Meeting

Draft EIR ----- **Winter 2012**

- Public review and comment period (45 days)

Final EIR ----- **Spring 2012**

- Public review (10 days)

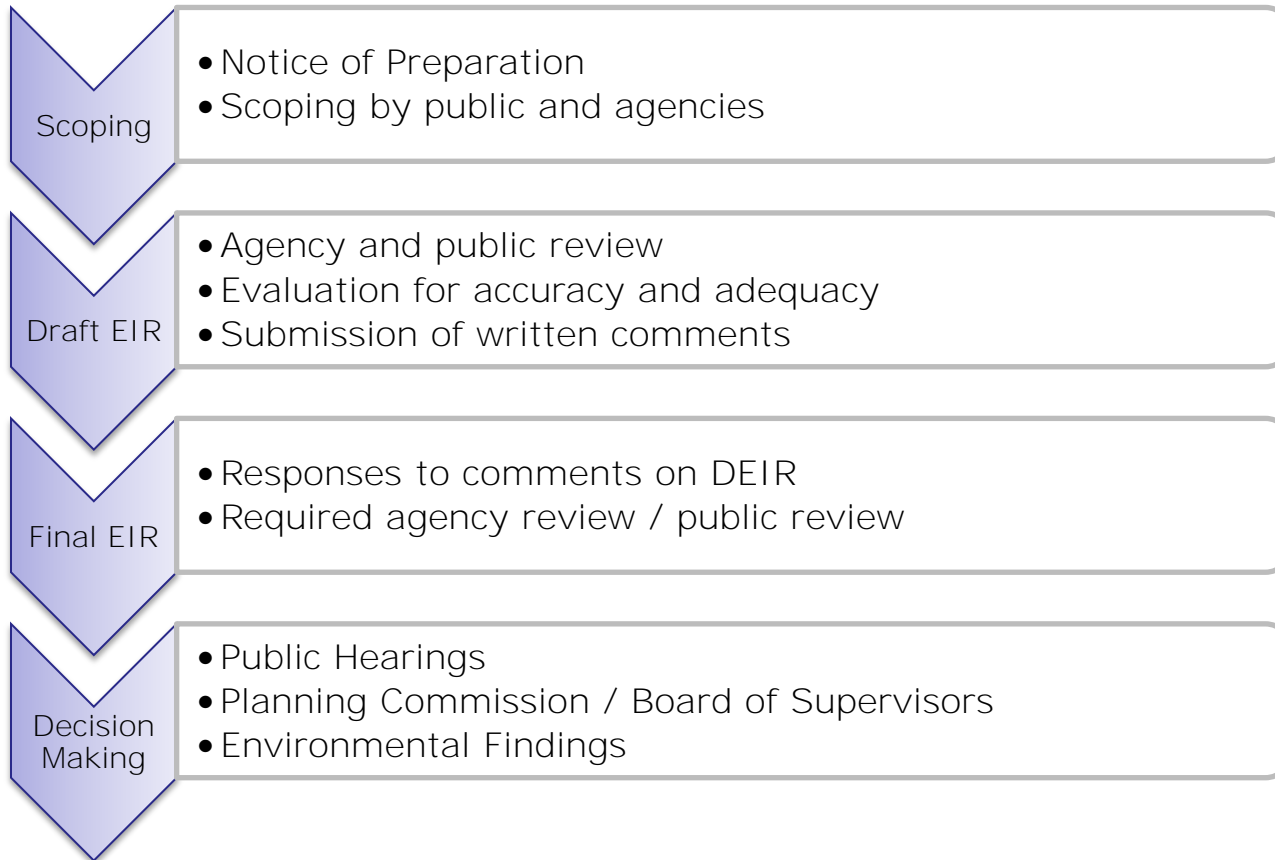
PC Meeting ----- **Summer 2012**

- Recommendation to BOS to certify or not certify EIR
- Recommendation to BOS regarding project decision

BOS Meeting ----- **Summer 2012**

- Decision to certify or not certify EIR
- Consideration of project decision

CEQA Process and Public Participation



Next Steps

- **Review public comments from CEQA scoping period**
- **Incorporate comments into Program EIR process**
- **Complete and circulate Draft Program EIR**
- **Review and formally respond to public comments**
- **Prepare and circulate Final Program EIR**
- **Planning Commission review of Program EIR**
- **Board of Supervisors consideration of Program EIR**



Public/Agency review ends November 28, 2011.

Fill out a speaker card.

Other ways to provide input:

- Email: garmstrong@cosb.us and include “2035 San Benito County General Plan NOP” in the subject line.
- Mail written comment letter to:
 - San Benito County Planning and Building Inspection Services
 - Attention: Gary Armstrong, Planning Director
 - 3224 Southside Road
 - Hollister, CA 95023

Review project documents at:

- <http://www.sanbenitogpu.com>
- <http://www.cosb.us>

A photograph of a rolling green hillside under a sunset sky. A large, dark tree stands on the crest of the hill. The foreground is filled with green grass and yellow wildflowers. A wooden fence is visible in the lower right corner.

Thank you for your participation

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