

July 9, 2019

Item #17
7-9-2019

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Timing of the public review of the update of the Fresno County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Dear Chairman Magsig, Members of the Board, and Public Works and Planning Director Steven White:

I would like to share with you a recent change in the County's timetable for the public review of the draft revised General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Earlier this year the County website stated that the release of public review documents would take place sometime this summer or fall and that Planning Commission and Board workshops would take place later this fall or winter.

On the assumption that the review period might be as short as 45 days, this past April I asked your Planning Department if it could give the public advance notice of the release date of documents for public review — so that residents would be prepared to begin studying the documents the moment they are released. The Planning Department responded that because the review period would be longer than 45 days there was no need to provide such information.

And so, understanding that the County would not be providing advance notice of the release date and not knowing exactly how long the review period would be, I often returned to the County's website to see if I could find any new information.

Last month I discovered a significant change to the County's timetable for the public review of draft documents. Where the County has previously stated that documents would be released this summer or fall, there was a new statement reading "Release date to be determined." And information about the timing of the Board and Planning Commission workshops was no longer available.

I've been working with a number of people for several years preparing for the release of revised documents, and I find it extremely difficult to keep them engaged when there is no way to know when things might take place. For all we know, documents could be released next week, next month or even next year.

Can your Board help by directing staff to give the public a better understanding as to when revised documents might be released for public review?

Thank you,



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