Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

Memorandum

July 23, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT

On March 24, 2009, your Board adopted a motion instructing the Acting Director of Regional Planning to report back to you with an overall strategy to strengthen the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Community Standards District (CSD) in several areas, including preservation of the area's rural and semi-rural lifestyle, environmental resources, and the public's continuing investment in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The motion did not contain a report-back date.

This project has been assigned to the Community Studies II Section; Gina Natoli is the Section Head. The project is understood to be the completion of a strategy report to your Board that details how the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan and North Area CSD will be amended to include additional items deemed important by your Board. Following is a brief summary of the steps taken on this project since the previous status memo was provided to you on May 5, as well as the next steps that will be taken to complete the referral.

STEPS TAKEN TO COMPLETE STRATEGY REPORT

- Draft Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program reviewed for applicable provisions to transfer to the North Area CSD
- Draft Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone Plan reviewed for applicable policies to transfer to Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan

- Compared Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan and Community Standards District with Draft LCP policies and provisions to verify which policies and provisions already exist in the North Area

NEXT STEPS IN COMPLETING STRATEGY REPORT

- Review "dark skies" ordinances, rural road standards, and landform grading provisions for examples to recommend for the North Area CSD
- Analyze North Area Plan trails map and policies with General Plan Section and Department of Parks and Recreation to determine possible changes to NAP trails map and North Area CSD
- Identify stakeholders and create public input process:
  - Participants
  - Topic areas to review
  - Meeting schedules
- Develop timeline for strengthening North Area CSD
- Identify resources needed for project
  - Staff
  - Services and Supplies
- Complete strategy report and present to Board of Supervisors

PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING REFERRAL

- Quarterly status reports to CEO: Next report September 2009
- Report to Board: October 2009

I hope this status report has been of assistance to you. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Gina Natoli at 213/974-6422. Our offices are open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

cc: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors