Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

January 7, 2011

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

FROM: Richard J. Bruckner
Director

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION REGARDING PROGRESS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY OAK WOODLANDS CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (October 7, 2008, Item 95-C)

On October 7, 2008 your Board requested appropriate County staff to participate in the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Program and instructed the Director of Planning to facilitate actions to assist the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (Resource Conservation District) in its preparation of the Los Angeles County Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan (Oak Woodlands Plan). The Resource Conservation District convened a working group called the Los Angeles County Oak Woodlands Conservation Strategic Alliance (Strategic Alliance) to write the Plan. The Los Angeles County Fire Department and Department of Regional Planning has provided technical advice to the Strategic Alliance. This is the ninth quarterly status report that summarizes the progress of the Oak Woodlands Plan.

The draft Oak Woodlands Plan was released on October 27, 2009 for public comment and an informational presentation regarding the Plan was made to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) on March 17, 2010. On April 14, 2010 the RPC submitted a letter to your Board expressing its appreciation for the financial support provided to the Resource Conservation District to pursue development of the Oak Woodlands Plan.

On June 24, 2010, the Strategic Alliance convened a working meeting to consider recommendations from an independent planning consultant that had been retained to review the draft Oak Woodlands Plan. The Strategic Alliance favorably received the consultant's recommendations and then initiated a work plan to comprehensively revise the draft Oak Woodlands Plan.

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During summer 2010 select members of the Strategic Alliance revised the draft Oak Woodlands Plan and on October 1, 2010 made it available to the entire Strategic Alliance membership for review. Following review by the membership, select members of the Strategic Alliance met on December 16, 2010 to finalize remaining issues with the Plan, including the following:

- Ensure that it is structured in two parts with Part I containing the required elements necessary to allow for access to state funds by landowners who voluntarily want to preserve or protect oak woodlands, and that Part II is a recommendations report to the Board of Supervisors regarding other measures that could be taken to further increase the preservation and protection of oak woodlands;
- Determine how to calculate the area of oak woodlands based on the state definition of oak woodlands; and
- Clarification of existing County regulations regarding oak trees.

The Strategic Alliance expects to complete its final revised version of the draft Oak Woodlands Plan by the end of January 2011. The Strategic Alliance hopes that the revised draft Oak Woodlands Plan, which will meet the funding requirements of the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), will be adopted by your Board thereby allowing access to oak woodlands protection funds administered by WCB.

The next quarterly report on the progress of the Oak Woodlands Plan will be delivered April 7, 2011.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Mark Herwick of my staff at (213) 974-6423 or by email at mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov. Our office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays.

RJB:JS:MSH:msh

c: Chief Executive Officer, Attn. Rita Robinson
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief of Forestry, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains