

*Envision San José 2040*

*General Plan Update*

*December 13, 2010*

*Task Force Meeting #47*

# Agenda Item #3

## Task Force Ambassador Update

# Agenda Item #4

## 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Envision General Plan

- Task Force Input
  - Riparian Corridor Setbacks
  - Residential Neighborhood Infill
  - “Landmark” Projects
- Community Input (as of 12-13-10)
  - Historic Preservation
  - Residential Neighborhood Interface

# Agenda Item #4

## 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Envision General Plan

### Riparian Corridor Setbacks

- Task Force recommendation (11-15-10):
  - Establish minimum 50 foot setback for exceptions
- Staff recommendation
  - Emphasize 100 foot setback in General Plan
  - Provide additional detail in updated Policy
  - Coordinate Policy with Habitat Conservation Plan

# Agenda Item #4

## 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Envision General Plan

### Residential Neighborhood Infill

- Allow redevelopment of residential projects at existing density (# of Units) within Residential Neighborhood Areas

#### Examples:

- Replace existing 4-Plex with 4 Townhouses
- Rebuild existing duplex
- Rezoning subject to General Plan conformance

# Agenda Item #4

## 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Envision General Plan

### “Landmark” Projects

- Purpose = provide opportunity for “great” project to be implemented ahead of Village Planning process.
- Great project needs to be substantially consistent with goals for outcome of Village Planning process.
- Non-residential (e.g. commercial, PCGF, etc.) projects can move forward without Village Plan.

# Agenda Item #5

## Environmental Review for the GP Update

# Agenda Item #5

## Desired Outcomes

1. Understand purpose & process of the 2040 General Plan Update EIR
2. Review required contents of Envision DEIR
3. Tips on how to review the Envision DEIR

## Agenda Item #5

### What is Environmental Review?

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) encourages the protection of all aspects of the **physical** environment by requiring local agencies to prepare multidisciplinary environmental impact analysis and to use those studies' findings to make decisions on a proposed project

## Agenda Item #5

### What are the Objectives of CEQA?

- **Disclose** significant environmental effects
- **Identify** ways to avoid or reduce impacts
- **Prevent** environmental damage (mitigation)
- **Disclose** reasons for project approval
- **Foster** interagency coordination & review
- **Enhance** public participation

## Agenda Item #5

# CEQA Definitions of Environment & Significant Effect

- “Environment” means the **physical conditions** which exist within the area which will be affected by the project (CEQA does not consider economic impacts)
- A significant effect on the environment is defined as a **substantial** adverse change in the **physical** conditions which exist in the area affected by the proposed project

# Agenda Item #5

## What is an EIR?

- Provides detailed information to public about the effects a proposed project is likely to have on the physical environment;
- Lists ways in which the significant effects of a project might be minimized through feasible mitigation; and
- Proposes and analyzes reasonable alternatives to a proposed project

## Agenda Item #5

### Unique Aspects of a General Plan EIR

- Describes relationship between proposed land use density & intensity to area's environmental constraints & resources
- Evaluates effects on actual existing physical environment & existing general plan
- Program level analysis is less detailed than a specific development project
- General Plan policies are the EIR mitigation measures

# Agenda Item #5

## Required EIR Contents

- Project Description
- Existing Physical Environmental Setting
- Significant Environmental Impacts
  - Direct and Indirect/Secondary
  - Short Term and Long Term
  - Cumulative
  - Unavoidable
- Mitigation Measures
- Project Alternatives
- Growth Inducing Impacts
- Significant Unavoidable Impacts

# Agenda Item #5

## Potential Environmental Impacts

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Air Quality
- Noise & Vibration
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Geology & Soils
- Biology
- Cultural Resources
- Hazardous Materials & Hazards
- Aesthetic & Visual Resources
- Utilities/Water Supply
- Population & Housing
- Public Facilities and Services
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions

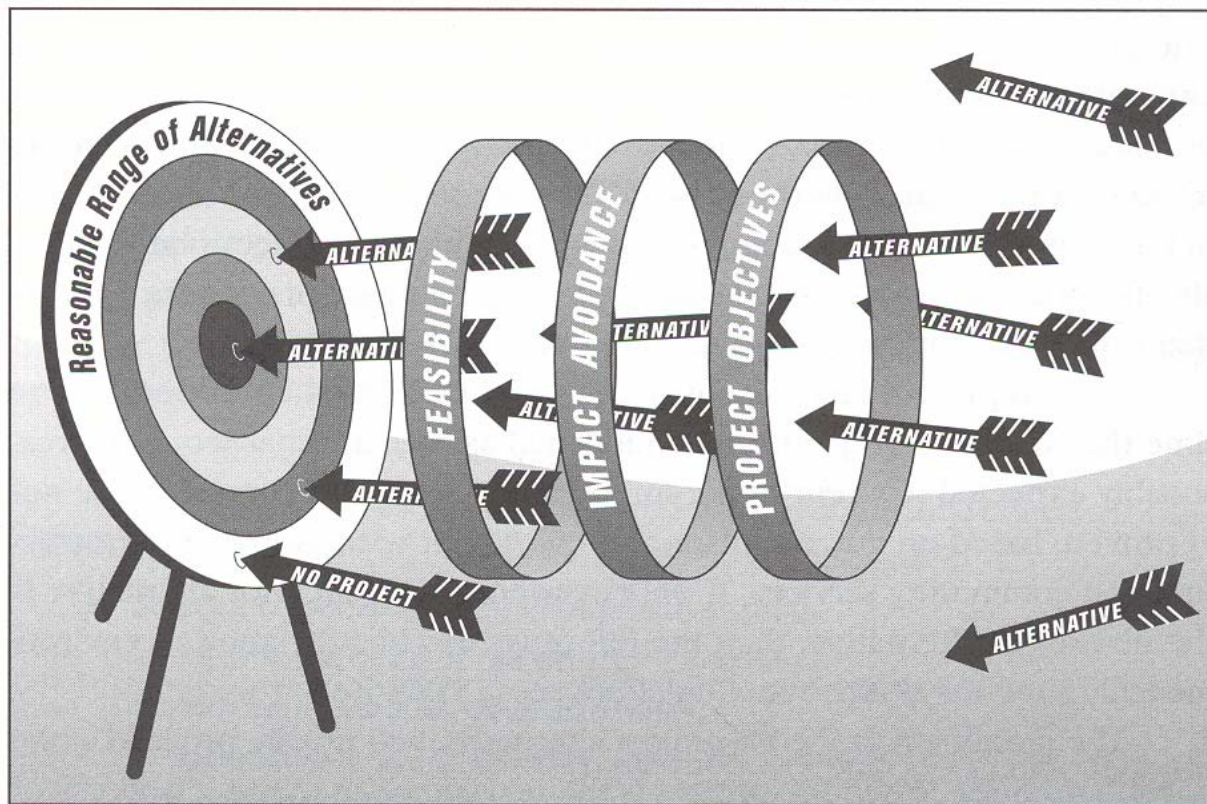
# Agenda Item #5

## EIR Alternatives

- EIRs should describe and evaluate a range of reasonable project alternatives that:
  - are potentially feasible,
  - accomplish most of the basic project objectives, and
  - avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the proposed project.
- “Rule of reason” applies.
- *Intent is to foster informed decision making*

# Agenda Item #5

## EIR Alternative Requirements



# Agenda Item #5

## Transportation Modeling

- Using updated model and techniques
- Provides generalized forecasting analysis
- Thresholds of significance
  - Increase in VMT/Service Population
  - Increase in auto mode share
  - Increase in regional screenline congestion
  - Decrease in public transit performance

# Agenda Item #5

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act
- SB 375 provides guidance for AB 32
- BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines
- BAAQMD Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) Program
- Emissions modeling

# Agenda Item #5

## How to Effectively Read & Comment

- Focus on sufficiency of the document
- Check for accuracy, e.g. project description
- Detect omissions, e.g. impacts or mitigation measures (policies)
- Explain basis and submit data for comments

# Agenda Item #5

## City's EIR Certification Process

- Circulate Draft EIR (45 days)
- Respond to Comments
- Provide Final EIR (10 days before)
- Planning Commission FEIR certification public hearing
- City Council FEIR public hearing (on appeal)
- Council adoption of CEQA findings prior to Envision 2040 adoption

# Agenda Item #5

## Helpful Hints for the Task Force

- Be familiar with project description, project impacts and mitigation measures (policies)
- Bring questions to upcoming Task Force meetings
- May submit DEIR comments as individuals or affiliated group representative
- Use EIR as an informational resource tool in Task Force Ambassador role

# Agenda Item #6

## Public Comment

# Agenda Item #7

## Announcements

- **Next Task Force Meeting – January 24, 2010**