



Land Use

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BOULDER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM #3

January 16, 2013 – 3:00 PM

**Hearing Room, Third Floor
Boulder County Courthouse**

Docket BCCP-08-003: BOULDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: Environmental Resources Element revision Update

Briefing on upcoming schedule for Environmental Resources Element update including POSAC in January and Planning Commission in the next two months.

Informational Item – No Action Requested.

Public Testimony Will Not Be Taken
(Staff Planner Bill Davidson)

Summary

The purpose of this item is to inform Planning Commission of the upcoming presentation of the draft update of the Environmental Resources Element for your consideration at the February or March meeting. Due to the extensive nature of the Element revisions, staff felt that it was to your advantage to become aware of this upcoming item.

The Environmental Resources Element constitutes one of the cornerstone Elements of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP). As one of the key Elements of the Plan, it is alluded to in three of the seven Guiding Principles approved by Planning Commission in 2012. Additionally, the Goals Element of the Plan contains nine Environmental Management goals, the most of any issue area.

Accordingly, this Element has entailed considerable staff effort to achieve the BCCP update project goals of clarification, elimination of redundancies, correcting outdated references, removing policies which are programmatic in nature rather than policy-oriented, and achieving a more concise and understandable form.

The Environmental Resources Element update is the first for which Land Use has played a central coordinating role. As the department with the most expertise and involvement in preparing the research, applicability and text of the original Element and subsequent incremental revisions, Parks and Open Space has taken the lead in analysis and revision of its content.

Scope of the Draft

In this proposed draft of the Environmental Resources Element, many policies have been removed based on the criteria noted above, and other policies have been sharpened and refined in their content. In addition, certain terms and important phrases have been defined at the beginning to aid the reader by providing context and to better understand the intent of the policies.

Development of the Environmental Resources Update Draft

Land Use staff has worked extensively with Parks and Open Space staff for a number of months to produce the draft which you will be discussing at your upcoming meeting. The result has been a product which staff believes demonstrates the type of update which is intended for other upcoming Element revisions.

Next Steps

POSAC will review the draft at their meeting of January 24, 2013.

Depending on how extensive suggested changes from POSAC are, and the level of revisions to the draft which may be needed, Land Use staff expects to bring the draft to Planning Commission for discussion and consideration in February or March.

Other individual Elements of the Comprehensive Plan will be brought to you for your consideration on a regular basis over the coming months.