

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: February 8, 2010

FROM: CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality: Workshop for Council

The City Attorney's Office is proud to be the first department to present to Council a workshop on a timely subject of importance to general City business. We have been asked to present a general overview of the legal requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), and particularly focus on environmental impact reports ("EIR"). The format of the workshop will be a typical powerpoint presentation with general principles of law that are meant to assist Council in understanding the basics, but that will also leave room for discussion of Council questions.

The application of CEQA to any project currently being processed by the City will not be discussed so that an applicant's rights to due process and fair and impartial decisionmakers will not be prejudiced. Nonetheless, general examples or examples from projects already approved and constructed may be useful to the discussion.

Attached for review prior to the workshop are a few items intended to give Council a platform from which to begin discussions.

- Attachment 1 is a "CEQA Process Flow Chart" created by the California Natural Resources Agency. This and other general information regarding CEQA can be found on the Natural Resources Agency's website at <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>.
- Attachment 2 is a copy of the City's Initial Study template which is used to begin the CEQA evaluation process on all projects that are not exempt from further review.
- Attachment 3 is a copy of the powerpoint presentation that outlines the workshop discussion, presented in a format that allows Councilmembers to take notes on the side.

If the Council would like to review additional materials regarding the City's CEQA process prior to the workshop, we would suggest a review of the City's environmental policy guidelines adopted by the City Council on October 21, 2002 by Resolution #8165. These guidelines are posted on the City's website at:
<http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/planning/environmental/EnvPolicyGuidelines.pdf>


Respectfully submitted,


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