



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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July 18, 2014

Agenda Date: July 23, 2014
Time: 7:00 PM

SSCC ADVISORY GROUP
PLANNING COMMISSION
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**SUBJECT: STUDY SESSION TO DISCUSS PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT
 OF THE SUSTAINABLE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLAN (SSCC)**

Members of the Planning Commission and SSCC Advisory Group:

The purpose of this Study Session is for the Advisory Group and Planning Commission to discuss and provide feedback to staff and the consultants about the Public Review Draft of the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan (SSCC). The Board of Supervisors will also be discussing this draft at its meeting of August 5th. The Public Review Draft has been released for a 4-week public comment period that ends on August 18, 2014. Any comments received by August 18th will be considered by staff and the consultants in revising the document into a final SSCC that will be proposed for acceptance by the Board of Supervisors and then transmitted to the Strategic Growth Council in order to complete the grant-funded planning study. Public comments will also be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors when those bodies are tentatively scheduled to consider the final SSCC, on September 10th and September 30th respectively.

The SSCC is a planning study that suggests a vision, guiding principles and strategies that over time could lead to a more sustainable development pattern in Santa Cruz County. Completion of the Plan is an important first step. The next step will be for the County to identify whether and how to move forward with the suggestions in the SSCC. It is anticipated that upon acceptance of the SSCC, the Board will direct staff to develop a proposed set General Plan Sustainability Updates involving the Land Use, Circulation and Community Design Elements of the General Plan, along with implementing code amendments and selected changes to the General Plan and Zoning Maps.

Staff would expect to be able to identify the recommended elements of what would be included in this package of Sustainability Updates by June 2015. Once the Board accepts the elements of the package as a “project description”, a Master EIR will be prepared. It is expected that by Summer 2016 a Draft EIR could be circulated for public comment, and then a Final EIR would be prepared to respond to public comments. The Final EIR and proposed set of General Plan Sustainability Updates and Code Amendments would then be considered at public hearings by the Planning Commission and Board of

Supervisors for adoption. The Coastal Commission will also need to consider and adopt any changes that are part of the Local Coastal Program.

The July 2014 Public Review Draft of the SSCC is available to be viewed and downloaded here:

<https://placeworks.sharefile.com/d/se2e37987a51435fb>

Sincerely,

Kathy Previsich
Planning Director