

**LAFCO** *of Monterey County*

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LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
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KATE MCKENNA, AICP  
Executive Officer

DATE:            April 26, 2010  
TO:              Chair and Members of the Formation Commission  
FROM:            Kate McKenna, AICP, Executive Officer  
SUBJECT:        **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REPORT FOR THE 2010 MONTEREY COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information only. No action is necessary at this time.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Attachment 1 is a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the 2010 Monterey County General Plan. Since the FEIR responds to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, there is no comment period. In addition, the County Planning Commission has started a series of public hearings on the latest General Plan draft for the unincorporated area of Monterey County. There are opportunities to comment during the current hearing process. Attachment 1 directs interested people to a website to review both documents.

The Local Agency Formation Commission did not comment on the County's Draft Environmental Impact Report. However, in September 2006, LAFCO authorized a letter encouraging the County to establish and implement a mitigation program, as part of the General Plan process, for the loss of prime agricultural lands. Attachment 2 contains 2010 Draft Monterey County General Plan Policy AG-1.12. The policy proposes to establish a mitigation program for the loss of Important Farmland.

No additional comments are recommended at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Instead of accepting this report as an information item, the Commission may provide other direction to the Executive Officer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kate McKenna, AICP  
Executive Officer

cc: Carl Holm, General Plan Project Manager, County of Monterey

Attachments:

1. Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2010 Monterey County General Plan
2. 2010 Draft Monterey County General Plan Policy AG-1.12

## Attachment 1

# PUBLIC NOTICE

### *NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Monterey is releasing the FINAL Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on the 2010 Monterey County General Plan project (PLN070525). Since the FEIR is responding to comments on the Draft EIR, there is no comment period. However, there is opportunity for public comment through the public hearing process for the General Plan and EIR. The Planning Commission is scheduled to begin an initial review and report of the General Plan on March 31, 2010. The Planning Commission will consider the General Plan and FEIR at one or more meetings beginning April 14, 2010. The Planning Commission will be making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for final action. The project consists of the following:

A comprehensive update of the Monterey County General Plan and its related area plans. Land Use Plans for the coastal areas will not be amended through this process. The General Plan is the long-term, comprehensive guide that addresses all aspects of future growth, development, and conservation within Monterey County. Monterey County is located on California's central coast and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west, Santa Cruz County to the north, San Benito, Fresno, and Kings Counties to the east, and San Luis Obispo County to the south. Monterey County's General Plan was last updated in 1982. This update includes goals and polices addressing; Land Use, Circulation, Conservation and Open Space, Safety (hazards, flooding, noise), Public Services (water, sewer), Agriculture (optional) and Economic Development (optional). The Housing Element, adopted October 2003, addresses a 5-year planning period through 2009 and is not part of this update. This update also includes the area specific policies for the following: Cachagua Area Plan, Central Salinas Valley Area Plan, Greater Monterey Peninsula Area Plan, Carmel Valley Master Plan, Greater Salinas Area Plan, North County Area Plan, South County Area Plan, Toro Area Plan, and Fort Ord Master Plan. A new Agricultural and Winery Corridor Plan is included that affects three planning areas.

Significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated are identified in the EIR related to the following topics: air quality, aesthetics/light/glare, agricultural resources, global climate change, transportation, population and housing and water resources.

The 2010 Draft Monterey County General Plan and Final EIR is available to view and download from the Monterey County website by going to <http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/planning/> and clicking on the "General Plan Update" link. Printed copies and/or CD-ROM of the 2010 Draft Monterey County General Plan are available for purchase at the Monterey County Planning Department, at 168 W. Alisal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, in Salinas. For those that commented on the DEIR, a CD ROM copy of the FEIR and 2010 Draft Monterey County General Plan is being provided with this notice; for all others CD-ROM of the Final EIR is available for purchase at the Monterey County Planning Department, at 168 W. Alisal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, in Salinas. Printed copies of the FEIR can be obtained by going to Copymat (Salinas), FedEx Office Print & Ship Center (Salinas), Abrego Print and Copy (Monterey), or FedEx Office Print & Ship Center (Monterey), and requesting that a copy be made at a cost established by that business. Reference documents for the Final EIR will be made available for review at the Salinas Planning Department office upon request. Public review copies of both documents will also be located at the Monterey County RMA- Planning Department (Salinas and Marina offices); Steinbeck Library (City of Salinas); and County libraries. Both documents will also be distributed to all cities in the County.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Monterey County Resource Management Agency - Planning Department  
168 West Alisal St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901  
831-755-5103 or [holmcp@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:holmcp@co.monterey.ca.us).

## Attachment 2

### 2010 Draft Monterey County General Plan Chapter 6.0 – Agriculture Element Policy AG-1.12

AG-1.12 The County shall prepare, adopt, and implement a program that requires projects involving a change of land use designation resulting in the loss of Important Farmland (as mapped by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program), or involving land to be annexed to an incorporated area, in consultation with the cities to mitigate the loss of Important Farmland resulting from annexation, to mitigate the loss of that acreage. The program may include ratios, payment of fees, or some other mechanisms. Mitigation mechanisms established through this program shall be based upon a graduated value of the Important Farmland, with mitigation for loss of prime land having the highest agricultural value. The County shall support private, nonprofit land trusts and conservation organizations to promote the policies of this General Plan, facilitate the implementation of the program, and to receive, by voluntary donation or purchase, development rights on any lands to be preserved as part of this program's implementation strategy. Until such time as the program has been established, the County shall consult and cooperate with the cities so that projects shall mitigate the loss of Important Farmland on an individual basis as much as is feasible as determined by the Board of Supervisors. The acreage within a project or annexation that is to be utilized for inclusionary housing shall not be subject to this mitigation policy. A Community Plan or Rural Center Plan that includes a mitigation program shall not be subject to this policy. Annexations or sphere of influence amendments covered by the Greater Salinas Area Memorandum of Understanding (GSA MOU) shall be consistent with and governed by the terms of the GSA MOU and with the City's General Plan.

*(From Draft Monterey County General Plan Planning Commission Working Draft – March 2010, page AG-4)*