



**AGENDA
RIO DELL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING - 6:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
675 WILDWOOD AVENUE, RIO DELL**

WELCOME . . . By your presence in the City Council Chambers, you are participating in the process of representative government. Copies of this agenda, staff reports and other material available to the City Council are available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, 675 Wildwood Avenue and on the City's website at riodelcity.com. Your City government welcomes your interest and hopes you will attend and participate in Rio Dell City Council meetings often.

THE TYPE OF COMMISSION BUSINESS IS IDENTIFIED IMMEDIATELY AFTER EACH TITLE IN BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. CEREMONIAL

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

1) 2013/0424.01 - Approve Minutes of the March 27, 2013 Regular Meeting (**ACTION**)

F. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This time is for persons who wish to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. As such, a dialogue with the Commission or staff is not intended. Items requiring Commission action not listed on this agenda may be placed on the next regular agenda for consideration if the Commission directs, unless a finding is made by at least 2/3rds of the Commission that the item came up after the agenda was posted and is of an urgency nature requiring immediate action. Please limit comments to a maximum of 3 minutes.

G. SCHEDULED MATTERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/STUDY SESSIONS

1) 2013/0424.01 - Public Hearing/Approve Resolution No. 061-2013 Recommending the City Council Approve the Circulation Element (**ACTION**)

2) 2013/0424.02 - Zoning Matrix Code (**RECEIVE & FILE**)

H. REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

I. ADJOURNMENT

*The next Regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for
May 22, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers*

**CITY OF RIO DELL
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 27, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Rio Dell Planning Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Planning Commissioner Chapman.

Present were Commissioners Chapman, Angeloff, Johnson, Long and Millington.

Others present were Community Development Director Caldwell, and City Clerk Dunham.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion was made by Johnson/Angeloff to approve the consent calendar including the approval of minutes of the January 23, 2013 regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Judy Ingraham, 1151 Riverside Dr. addressed the Commission about recent problems with motorcycles riding on the river bar behind residences on Riverside Dr. and said the riders made a track which is destroying the trees and disturbing wildlife. She said the noise is very annoying, even with her windows closed. She commented that she understands that kids need a place to ride but doesn't feel it is appropriate in or near a residential area. She asked what her rights are as a homeowner.

Community Development Director Caldwell encouraged Mrs. Ingraham to contact Department of Fish & Game if the activity is disturbing plant or wildlife. He said as far as noise, the City is in the process of updating its Noise Element and if desired, the City can go out and take a reading of the noise level. If the noise is found to be above the allowed decibels, it becomes a land use violation. He said if it is determined that the noise falls within the allowable level, perhaps an agreement can be reached regarding designated hours they can ride.

SCHEDULED MATTERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Review Draft Circulation Element and Provide Staff Direction on Proposed Revisions
Community Development Director Caldwell provided a staff report and said the Draft Circulation Element was presented to the Commission at the January 23, 2013 regular meeting and is before the Commission once again for review and comment. He said there will be one more opportunity to comment on the document when it comes back to

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the Commission at the April 24th meeting; at that time he will be asking for a recommendation for approval by the City Council.

Community Development Caldwell brought to the Commission's attention that the City Council at a special meeting the previous night approved the submittal of an application for a Community Based Transportation Planning Grant in the amount of \$160,000 for the preparation of a feasibility study for an Eel River Trail Master Plan. He said the City must have shovel-ready projects to be able to secure more grant funding.

Commissioner Angeloff said he foresees a significant amount of grant money becoming available for infrastructure projects over the next few years.

Commissioner Millington commended Leroy Dazzi for his recent letter to the editor addressing the many attributes of Rio Dell.

Community Development Director Caldwell commented that the Circulation Element identifies alternative travel modes such as walking, bicycles, bus transit, and rail transit which reduces the wear and tear on our roads, conserves energy and promotes public health. He then referred to the map on page 11 of the staff report which identifies potential trails throughout the City.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the trail system includes areas outside City limits and if there will be a problem spending City monies to develop areas out of the City boundaries; Community Development Director Caldwell said the City will probably need to work with land owners and perhaps establish a JPA to provide mutual aide.

Community Development Director Caldwell noted that there is a misconception that a trail system increases crime. He said there is evidence that burglaries do not increase and noted that there is often a fence between the trail system and residential neighborhoods.

Caldwell proceeded by stating that bike lanes within the City are badly needed and explained the difference between a Class I Bike Path; a Class II Bike Lane; and a Class III Bike Route.

Commissioner Angeloff asked why the meandering sidewalk at the north end of Wildwood Ave. couldn't be used as a shared path for pedestrians and bicyclists; Community Development Director Caldwell said that bicyclists used to not be as considerate as they perhaps are today so that concept might be hard to sell.

Commissioner Angeloff said having a bike lane up Monument Road will be difficult; Community Development Caldwell indicated that it would likely be signed but not striped. He pointed out that this plan is only an idea until it comes to fruition.

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Community Development Director Caldwell noted that James Cortazar has expressed his willingness to include trails at the Dinsmore Plateau and said his conceptual designs for development of that area are very impressive. He added that Mr. Cortazar is very approachable and wants to encourage business development to provide services for residential development.

Commissioner Johnson asked if it would be possible for staff to perhaps arrange a tour of the proposed development area on the Dinsmore Plateau; Community Development Director Caldwell agreed to explore that possibility and offered to email Commissioners the renderings for potential development of the Dinsmore Plateau.

Related to rail efforts, Commissioner Angeloff said Fortuna and Loleta are working cooperatively to get speeder rides from Loleta to Fortuna and his goal is to extend them to the Eel River Industrial Park. He said if that happens Rio Dell will need to coordinate a shuttle to and from the Industrial Park.

Community Development Director Caldwell said essentially the goal is to establish trails from Rio Dell to Trinidad connecting with the Hammond Trail.

Discussion continued regarding public transportation. Community Development Director stated the Humboldt Transit Authority operates the Redwood Transit System which provides bus service from Trinidad to Scotia. He said the mainline route includes three stops in Rio Dell however, the stop on Center St. does not have bus shelters and the bus stop on Rigby and Davis does not have a shelter on the northbound route on the east side of Rigby Ave. He indicated that the need for additional bus shelters was identified in the Unmet Transit Needs Regional Transportation Plan. Other identified modes of transportation included boats, ferries and air travel.

Commissioner Long asked where one could find information regarding river dredging; Community Development Director Caldwell said Rob McLaughlin from Eureka Sand & Gravel is involved in CHERT (County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team) and agreed to make a phone call to obtain some information.

Community Development Director Caldwell said probably the most important aspect of the Circulation Element is the Goals, Policies and Programs. He said the draft element proposes several goals and policies to support additional important roadway functions. The first goal he said is to develop and maintain a balanced vehicular and non-vehicular transportation system to meet the mobility needs consistent with General Plan and land use goals and policies.

Community Development Director Caldwell said one of the policies is to explore the potential of designating one-way streets on narrow streets to enhance traffic flow and

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emergency access. He said the Traffic Committee discussed at length the concept of one-way streets on First and Second Avenue and conducted an exercise where they took fire apparatus on those streets. The overall consensus of the Traffic Committee was to recommend to the City Council to not change those streets to one-way and that one-way streets tend to lead to higher traffic speeds. They suggested repainting the existing no parking zones to potentially improve some of the current access issues, and to evaluate creating additional no parking areas where there have historically been access problems for emergency vehicles.

Community Development Director Caldwell said the Traffic Committee also discussed potential changes to the southbound Highway 101 off-ramp at the north end of town and changes to the intersection of Scenic Dr. and Eeloa Ave.

Joe Enes from 30 Belleview Ave., asked if the Traffic Committee could do anything with Pacific Ave. stating that most areas on Pacific are subject to one lane traffic most of the time. He also noted there are 3 basketball hoops along the street within a 2 block area on Pacific Ave. which adds to the problem with the flow of traffic.

Commissioner Angeloff asked about the composition of the Traffic Committee and whether it includes a member of the planning commission; Caldwell said the membership was established a number of years ago and does not currently include a member of the planning commission. He agreed to discuss the matter with the City Manager to possibly query the City Council for a consensus to consider changing the composition.

Discussion continued regarding improvements to existing streets. Community Development Director Caldwell offered to email commissioners a copy of the City's Draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He pointed out that all City projects are now subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage which adds even more to the cost of capital improvement projects.

Commissioner Angeloff referred to *4.9 Rail Transportation* and said it might be wise to include language to identify rail opportunities to and from as a goal, and also to mention under goals and policies that according to the 2013 State Rail Plan by the year 2025, rail transportation will triple. Commissioners agreed; Community Development Director said he will draft language to encourage rail via cargo, day trips or passenger trips and run it by Commissioner Angeloff before bringing it back to the Commission in April.

Commissioner Chapman asked for public input on the Draft Circulation Element.

Judy Ingraham from 1151 Riverside Dr. asked how the City plans on putting in bike lanes with the streets being in such poor condition; Caldwell explained one possible way will

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be to establish Local Improvement Districts (LID's) throughout individual neighborhoods.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the City has ever established an LID; Caldwell said none have yet to be established but that Finance Director Beauchaine will be attending a workshop in June to explore alternative financing mechanisms.

Motion was made by Angeloff/Johnson to continue the matter to the April 24, 2013 regular meeting and direct staff to develop revised goals and policies regarding rail transportation and also develop policies encouraging off-highway vehicle opportunities including potential motorcycle tracks. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to the April 24, 2013 regular meeting.

Gary Chapman, Chair

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk

675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532



For Meeting of: April 24, 2013

To: Planning Commission

From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director 

Through: Jim Stretch, City Manager 

Date: April 17, 2012

Subject: Circulation Element; General Plan Amendment

Recommendation:

That the Planning Commission:

1. Receive staff's report regarding the proposed Circulation Element;
2. Re-Open the public hearing, receive public input and deliberate;
3. Adopt Resolution No. 061-2013 recommending that the City Council approve the Circulation Element.

Background and Discussion

Staff presented the Draft Circulation Element at your January and March meetings. Staff's intent was to allow the Commission adequate time to review the document prior to the next meeting.

The Circulation Element is one of seven mandated elements of the General Plan. As previously reported, the current Circulation Element was adopted in 1977.

The Circulation Element identifies the guiding principles for moving people and goods within the City and identifies the infrastructure necessary to assure that the transportation network will serve the City at General Plan build-out.

At our meeting of March 27th, we discussed the recommended Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures. Your Commission suggested including Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures encouraging the re-establishment of rail transit services, including freight and tourist service and the establishment of an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park in the area. Accordingly, staff has developed the following Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures:

Goal CE 5

Promote and support re-establishing regional rail service in and out of the County.

Policy CE 5-1

The City supports re-establishing regional rail service, including cargo/freight and tourists excursions in and out of the County.

Implementation CE 5-1.a. Encourage re-establishing regional rail service in and out of the County.

Responsibility: North West Pacific Railroad (NWPR), Northern Counties Logging Interpretative Association, (NCLIA) the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG), CALTRANS, Community Development, Public Works and the City Engineer.

Timeframe: Ongoing.

Resources: Public/Private Partnerships, Local, State and Federal transit funding.

Goal CE 6

Promote and support the establishment of an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park for City and County residents and visitors.

Policy CE 6-1

The City supports the establishment of an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park.

Implementation CE 6-1.a. Support the establishment of an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park.

Responsibility: California State Parks, Division of Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation,
County of Humboldt, City of Rio Dell.

Timeframe: Ongoing.

Resources: Grant funding, including Green Sticker Funds, Public/Private
Partnerships

Procedures for Plan Amendments

California Government Code § 65350-65362 contains the following procedural requirements to amend a general plan:

- Prior to action to amend a general plan, the proposed action should be referred to and circulated for 45 days to: the City, County, school districts, LAFCo, regional planning agencies, any federal or state agencies, water providers, and Native American tribes with traditional lands located within the City;
- The Planning Commission shall hold at least one public hearing before approving a recommendation on the amendment;
- The Planning Commission shall make a written recommendation on the amendment;
- Prior to amending the general plan, the City Council shall hold at least one public hearing;
- The City Council shall amend the general plan by resolution, which shall be adopted by not less than a majority of the legislative body;
- City Council may approve, modify, or disapprove the Planning Commission recommendations, however any substantial modifications not previously considered by the Planning Commission shall first be referred to the Planning Commission for its recommendation;
- Copies of the adopted general plan amendment shall be made available for inspection by the public one working day following adoption;

- Within two working days after a request, copies shall be furnished to those so requesting;
- Any specific plan or other plan of the City that is applicable to the same areas or matters affected by a general plan amendment shall be reviewed and amended as necessary to make the specific or other plan consistent with the General Plan;

Plan Amendment Required Findings:

1. The proposed amendment(s) are deemed to be in the public interest.

The State has determined that the preparation and adoption of a Circulation Element is in the public interest in that it identifies the guiding principles for moving people and goods within the City and identifies the infrastructure necessary to assure that the transportation network will serve the City at General Plan build-out.

2. The proposed amendments are consistent and compatible with the rest of the General Plan and any implementation programs that may be affected.

Section 1.4 of the Land Use Element of the General Plan includes a policy, P1.4-2 that requires the preparation of "...additional General Plan Elements to refine and improve the Plan." In addition, Section 1.5 of the Land Use Element of the General Plan calls for the preparation and adoption of a Circulation Element. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendment (Circulation Element) is consistent with the General Plan.

3. The proposed amendments have been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

State law requires that any amendment of a general plan comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The primary purpose of CEQA is to inform the decision makers and the public of potential environmental effects of a proposed project. The Circulation Element itself will not result in any potential environmental effects. The Circulation Element does not include any new roads or road networks within the City. The City currently imposes conditions of approval, including road improvements, sidewalks, trails etc. on development

projects. Any potential environmental impacts associated with the development of new roads, sidewalks and trails are evaluated at the time of application. As such, staff believes Based on the nature of the project, staff has determined that the project is Statutorily Exempt pursuant to Section 15061(b) (3) of the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Pursuant to Section 15061(b) (3) of the CEQA Guidelines this exemption is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a **significant** effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the project is not subject to CEQA. Based on the nature of the proposed amendment and the discussion above, staff believes there is no evidence to suggest that the amendment will have a significant effect on the environment.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Resolution No. 061-2013 recommending that the City Council approve the Circulation Element.

RESOLUTION NO. PC 061 – 2013



RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL
RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT GENERAL PLAN
AMENDMENT:

WHEREAS the current Circulation Element was adopted in 1977; and

WHEREAS the Circulation Element is one of seven mandated elements of the General Plan; and

WHEREAS in 2010 the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), published the *Update to the General Plan Guidelines: Complete Streets and the Circulation Element*; and

WHEREAS Assembly Bill 1358 (AB 1358, Chapter 657, Statutes of 2008), the California Complete Streets Act, required OPR to amend the *2003 General Plan Guidelines* to provide guidance to local jurisdictions on how to plan for multimodal (automobile, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian) transportation networks in general plan circulation elements; and

WHEREAS Staff considered and addressed the changes in preparing the Circulation Element.; and

WHEREAS the City has reviewed and processed the proposed amendments in conformance with Sections 65350 – 65362 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS the City finds that based on evidence on file and presented in the staff report, the proposed amendments are deemed to be in the public interest; and

WHEREAS the City finds that based on evidence on file and presented in the staff report that the proposed amendments are consistent and compatible with the rest of the General Plan and any implementation programs that may be affected; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendments have been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS the proposed Design Review Ordinance has been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS the City has determined that the establishment of a Design Review Ordinance is Statutorily Exempt pursuant to Section 15061(b) (3) of the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission of the City of Rio Dell recommends that the City Council approve the proposed Circulation Element.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing Resolution was PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Rio Dell on April 24, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Gary Chapman, Chairperson

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. PC 061-2013 adopted by the Planning Commission of the City of Rio Dell on April 24, 2013.

Karen Dunham
City Clerk, City of Rio Dell

675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532



For Meeting of: April 24, 2013

To: Planning Commission
From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director 
Through:  Jim Stretch, City Manager
Date: April 18, 2012
Subject: Zoning Use Matrix

Recommendation:

That the Planning Commission:

1. Receive staff's report regarding the proposed Zoning Use Matrix;
2. Receive public input and deliberate;
3. Continue consideration of the Matrix to your meeting in May.

Background and Discussion

One of our tasks this year is to prepare a Zoning Use Matrix to identify the principally and conditionally permitted uses of the each of the various zoning districts. The intent is to not only identify the principally and conditionally permitted uses of the each of the various zoning districts, but to identify use types that are not provided for in any of the zoning districts. In addition, it will allow us to identify those use types that are not currently defined within the Zoning Ordinance and those uses which may not be compatible with other allowed uses in the same zone and the intent of the zoning district itself.

Staff will distribute the Draft Zoning Use Matrix at the meeting for your review and consideration. It is staff's intent to briefly review and discuss the Matrix and continue the item for further detailed discussion at your meeting in May.