

San Lorenzo Creek Task Force Meeting Summary

HARD Building
1099 E Street
Hayward, CA 94541
October 4, 2007
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Presentation by Wendy Cosin, Deputy Director of Planning, City of Berkeley

Presented items that worked for the Berkeley Creek Task Force:

- Established a work plan
- Firm deadlines on all processes along with consequences if not met
- Task force driven
- Long education process by providing speakers from many jurisdictions
- Developed value statements and areas of consensus using “gradients of agreement” to establish the consensus.
- Recommends not actually writing the ordinance, but focus on recommendations on issues which once approved can be turned into ordinance language.
- Hold Public Hearings judiciously.
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Ordinance changed significantly after this process and reflected what the Task Force had worked on. Creek controversy has subsided. The Task Force was a 2-year process.

Presentation by Linda Bennett on Boundary Creek Concerns

Circulated the Draft and Final EIR and also circulated aerial view of existing homes and businesses.

- Draft EIR submitted without plans to Planning Department.
- Violation of Brown Act – Field trips without Public Notice
- Stormwater Concerns – not reviewed prior to 1st Planning Meeting
- Stormwater Treatment and Maintenance
- Safety, Fire, Flood, etc.
- Who should implement ordinance/oversee sitework
- Conflicts within different departments: land use, Grading, Watercourse – conflicting comments.
- Does specific plan supersede Zoning
- Need for Developer to re-do maps several times due to omissions defined by various departments
- Inconsistency and lack of policy has led to arbitrary applications and ambiguity in approvals.

Definitions that were issues when they came through:

- Riparian corridor
- Riparian zone
- Watershed
- Watercourse set-back
- Areas of Environmental significance
- Creek Bank set-back – 20’ from what

Task Force should look at and define how the creek bank set back is determined. Another issue includes how to define “public interest” – who/what determines what is in the public interest or the public good. How is “indefensible space” defined? Maps were a huge problem – they were different at every public hearing. Concerns raised about the differences in Planned Developments and Zoning Regulations and Ordinances.

**Discussion with Alameda County Planning:
Sandra Rivera, Liz McElligott and Chris Bazar**

Sandra gave a presentation of the general process within the County and answered questions. There was extensive discussion of process, terms, definitions, how complaints are processed, monitoring and enforcement of regulations and ordinances.

Public Comment

The issue of Shaffer Ranch Development was raised – 500 homes – has no stormwater run off plan even at final map stage – these homes will drain directly into the creeks.

Task Force Calendar circulated.

Seth announced “Livability – Town Hall Meeting” at San Leandro Library at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 24, 2007, to give people an opportunity to raise issues and determine if they want to be part of the Creek process.

Diane announced “Senator Ellen Corbett’s Walking Town Hall Meeting” at Coyote Hill Regional Park at 9:00 AM also on Saturday, October 24, 2007.

Sharon announced Public Works website is up and running for the Creek Task Force, includes Agendas and will eventually include meeting notes.

Meeting Evaluation

A suggestion to conduct a field trip to actually look at what is being discussed in the meetings, including Boundary Creek Development (on Crow Creek), Watershed from San Lorenzo Creek, etc. was presented. Discussion about opening the tour to people outside the Task Force as well. It was agreed that a field trip would be arranged.

Items to be posted on the website will include Site Review Checklist and flow charts from the Planning Department.

Items for future agendas presented:

- Task Force direction
- Scope of work
- Establish Workplan
- Identify Budget

It was agreed that a good portion of the next meeting be spent on discussing Scope of work and establishing a Workplan.