Summary Action Minutes

I. PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

II. Consideration of Updated Crematorium Ordinance

Albert Lopez, Director, Planning Department, presented background information on the consideration of the updated crematorium ordinance. In addition, Mr. Lopez presented the existing language of the current ordinance as well as proposed language to update said ordinance.

The proposed language is in response to a request from Grissom’s Mortuary to erect a crematorium in the unincorporated area, which is near schools and residences.

County staff listened to public comment from area residents for and against allowing a crematorium to be erected in said area.

Lisa Grissom of Grissom’s Mortuary addressed the Committee and area residents. Ms. Grissom stated that her family had done their due diligence and received approval from various entities to erect the crematorium. Ms. Grissom stated that she hoped by the next meeting all of the residents’ concerns would be addressed.

The Committee directed County staff to obtain input from the school district(s), County Environmental Health Department and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District regarding the proposed crematorium.

Representatives from the above entities will be invited to the next meeting on May 26, 2010, to provide their expertise and answer questions.

III. 2010 Census Update

Michael Munk, Community Development Agency, gave an update on the 2010 Census. Mr. Munk provided the Committee with statistics on response rates of Alameda County residents in comparison with other counties as well as statewide.

As of April 23rd seventy-one percent (71%) of forms have been mailed back. This may be in part due to the large outreach effort of the Census Bureau.

Beginning next week, households that have not returned questionnaires will be contacted by census workers to help answer questions on the census form. The door to door enumeration for census will happen through July 2010.
IV. Alameda County Community Climate Action Plan

The Planning Department and Community Development Agency presented an oral report on the Climate Action Plan for Alameda County with a fact sheet of Frequently Asked Questions about the plan.

Background and History

The County of Alameda has taken an active role in adopting policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon dioxide levels to protect the environment and improve public health. In July 2007, Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Resolution - 2007-366, the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, which established the County's long-term commitment to reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. In addition, the County is looking to the target levels set in California Senate Bill AB32, (California Warming Solution Act) to achieve 1990 level emissions by 2020.

The County joined the international nonprofit agency, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and has committed to achieving the five milestones established through ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP) (http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=640). The Alameda County Community Development Agency (CDA), under the County of Alameda resolution R-2006-204, mandated that the unincorporated areas establish targets, develop an implementation plan, and a framework for monitoring the plan's measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Under an RFP, the county solicited proposals, interviewed and selected a consultant to help develop the plan. This project is funded in part by a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

The Planning and Community Development Agency staff accepted public comment and answered questions about the plan from community members.

There was general support for the plan, however, public comments raised some concerns among community members regarding negative impacts on the cost of doing business, as well as wanting a community driven process for development and implementation of the plan.

Recommendation of the Unincorporated Services Committee: The Planning Department staff will review public comments and make revisions to the plan based on community input. In addition, focus groups based on certain areas of the CAP will be formed to assist in the development of the plan.

V. Explanation of Beck appeal – Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, District 3, Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Lai-Bitker reported on her decision to approve a variance for a commercial property to be redeveloped as a residential property, against the decision of the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA). Supervisor Lai-Bitker stated that since the property was already located in a residential area, the conversion would add value to the property.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to May 26, 2010.

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