



MEMORANDUM

June 13, 2013

TO: General Plan Update Working Group

FROM: Beth Thompson and Ben Ritchie, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: June 20th Meeting –Conservation and Open Space

DATE: June 13, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The June 20th meeting will focus on the topics of Conservation and Open Space. As these topics can be very broad and will require covering a variety of specific issues, it will be particularly important to keep the meeting focused and productive.

This meeting packet includes specific reading materials related to conservation and open space, and raises key issues to consider in preparation for the next Working Group meeting. As the Working Group is aware, it is critical that each member come to the next meeting having read the materials identified in this memo and having prepared and organized thoughts, comments, and questions related to these General Plan topics. Please direct any questions regarding the assigned reading materials or the issues to be discussed during this next Working Group meeting to Erik Nolthenius, Planning Manager. Erik can be reached by phone at: 925-516-5137, or by email at: enolthenius@brentwoodca.gov.

The Conservation and Open Space Elements are mandatory elements of the General Plan.

The Open Space Element will address topics associated with the protection of agricultural lands, habitat for plant, animal and fish species, the protection of ecologically sensitive areas, including creeks, riparian habitat, and wetlands, and areas with mineral or other natural resource deposits.

The Conservation Element will address topics associated with the protection of natural and biological resources, water quality, air quality and greenhouse gases, energy conservation, and cultural/historical resources.

As part of the visioning process that occurred in November and December of last year, residents and stakeholders were asked to identify their vision and priorities for the city's future, as well as challenges and opportunities associated with the General Plan Update. The need to preserve and

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protect the city's agricultural heritage, and the need to protect open space and agricultural lands surrounding the city were consistently cited as top priorities by the community during the visioning process. The community also expressed the need to protect local creeks and expand access and recreational opportunities along creek corridors within Brentwood.

The City's existing General Plan includes goals, policies, and action programs specifically related to conservation and open space. It is expected and anticipated that the Working Group will review these for relevancy and scope, and if necessary, expand upon them as part of this General Plan Update.

REQUIRED READING

Prior to the meeting on June 20th, please read the following items:

1. **Background Information** – Chapter 5.0 (in its entirety) of the Existing Conditions Report
2. **Opportunities and Constraints** – Section 3.1 and Section 4.5 of the Opportunities and Constraints Report
3. **Existing General Plan** - Chapter IV (Conservation and Open Space Element).

WORK EXERCISE

As the Working Group will be discussing the Conservation and Open Space items separately, after reading the materials identified above, please consider the following questions and be prepared to succinctly discuss your responses:

1. Are there areas where the City is currently deficient or needs significant improvement?
2. What are the top three priorities that the General Plan should address?
3. Please review the Key Questions contained in Section 4.5 of the Opportunities and Constraints Report, and come prepared to discuss your thoughts in response to these questions.