



**MARIN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

ALEX HINDS, DIRECTOR

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
MARIN COUNTYWIDE PLAN UPDATE 2004

**Thursday, March 4, 2004**

**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Marin County Planning Commission Chambers  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #328  
San Rafael, California**

Marin County will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the comprehensive update of the 1994 Marin Countywide Plan (CWP). The Countywide Plan Update encompasses the unincorporated territory of Marin County. Marin's total land and water area is approximately 606 square miles, of which about 87 % (527 square miles) is unincorporated.

The Draft updated CWP has been substantially reorganized and revised, and includes implementing program concepts for updating both the 1980/81 Local Coastal Program Units I and II and the 2003 Development Code. The purpose of the Plan is to set policy guidelines for future conservation and development in the county and to address changed conditions since the last revision of the Plan. The Plan establishes an overall framework and set of goals for countywide development in the unincorporated area of the County.

The overarching theme presented in the CWP update is sustainability. To address this theme, the CWP has been substantially reformatted into three main elements: Natural Systems Element, Built Environment Element, and Socioeconomic Element. The seven mandatory General Plan Elements required by the State Planning and Zoning Laws (Conservation, Open Space, Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Noise, and Safety) and the five optional elements in the previous 1994 CWP (Agriculture, Community Facilities, Parks and Recreation, Trails, and Economic), have been updated and incorporated into the reformatted three main elements of the CWP update. Recent updates of the Economic and Housing Elements of the CWP were adopted prior to this Draft CWP update. These adopted elements are summarized and included in the overall CWP update.

The CWP update retains the "corridor" concept of the prior Plan, dividing the County into designated regional units based on specific geographic and environmental characteristics and natural boundaries formed by north/south trending geomorphic ridges. In addition to the Coastal Recreation Corridor, Inland Rural Corridor and City-Centered Corridor retained from the 1994 CWP; the update now designates a fourth environmental corridor, the Baylands Corridor. This corridor encompasses tidelands, marshes and diked lands along the Bay shoreline designated to provide for increased protection of environmental characteristics of the historic bay margins.

Pursuant to state and local guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), please be advised that the Marin County Community Development Agency - Planning Division will be the lead agency for the CWP update EIR. The EIR will focus on the following topical issues:

|                         |                               |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1) Land Use & Planning  | 6) Transportation/Circulation | 11) Public Services  |
| 2) Population & Housing | 7) Biological Resources       | 12) Utilities & Service Systems                              |
| 3) Geophysical          | 8) Energy & Natural Resources | 13) Aesthetics/Visual Resources                              |
| 4) Water                | 9) Hazards                    | 14) Cultural Resources                                       |
| 5) Air Quality          | 10) Noise                     | 15) Social & Economic Effects<br>Related to Physical Impacts |

So that the EIR will address any additional issues that may be of concern to the public for this proposed project, the County will conduct the public scoping meeting on March 4, 2004, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in the Planning Commission Chambers, at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #328, San Rafael, California. Interested members of the public are invited to attend this meeting and share any environmental concerns they may have on this proposed project.

If you have any questions, or want additional information concerning the scoping meeting, please contact Tim Haddad, County Environmental Coordinator. Please direct questions about the CWP update to Michele Rodriguez, Principal Planner. They can be reached at (415) 499-6269.

Alex Hinds  
Agency Director

Tim Haddad

