

**MARIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
MARIN COUNTYWIDE PLAN UPDATE 2004**

March 4, 2004

EIR PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

Purpose of the Scoping Session

The County is holding this public scoping session to facilitate maximum public participation in the development of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Marin Countywide Plan Update 2004. This scoping session is being held pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to provide early consultation with the public on the EIR being prepared for the Plan. This early consultation is typically called scoping.

The purpose of this public scoping session is to provide individuals, organizations and agencies an opportunity to raise concerns about the environmental effects of the proposed project. Comments will be recorded and be made part of the formal EIR record. There are likely to be questions raised by speakers at the session, although in the interest of giving everyone a chance to speak, any questions asked will be responded to through the EIR process rather than at this meeting. Responses to comments and questions will not be provided at the scoping session since the purpose of the session is for the public to provide information to the County.

Comments must be limited to the scope of environmental effects to be studied, rather than commenting on the merits of the Plan at this time. CEQA defines environmental effects as direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the natural and man-made environment affected by the project. Effects analyzed under CEQA must be related to a physical change in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines sections 15358 and 15360.)

Comment Procedure

At the public scoping session, members of the public will have the opportunity to submit written comments and/or to make oral comments during the session. Those wishing to speak should fill out a green testimony sign-in card.

In anticipation of a good turnout and limited time, and in order to allow everyone an equal opportunity to speak, each speaker will be limited to three minutes, more or less, depending upon the turnout. Signs will notify the speaker when remaining time is one minute and at the conclusion of the three minute period. Members of organizations are encouraged to select a spokesperson from the organization to speak on the group's behalf to avoid repetition of the same concerns.

Comment forms are available for those who wish to submit written comments on the scope of the EIR either to supplement or take the place of oral comments at the session. Comment forms may also be used to indicate agreement with specific speakers or organization environmental issues in lieu of orally repeating similar concerns. Written comments about the scope of the environmental report will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2004. Please hand in any written comments you have on the scope of the EIR to County staff at the scoping session, or mail to the attention of Tim Haddad at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903. Comments by FAX or E-mail may not be able to be confirmed as officially received and accepted before the end of the comment period deadline. **Commentors are advised to mail written comments postmarked on or before March 17, 2004.**

The draft plan is posted on the County's website at www.future-marin.org and is also available for review at all public libraries and the CDA office. Plan copies in CD format or hard copy are available by calling the CDA office at (415) 499-7874 or (415) 499-6269 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Other Opportunities for Public Comment

The public will have additional opportunities to comment during the EIR process and hearings on the merits of the proposed Countywide Plan Update. Notices will be sent to everyone on the scoping session sign-up sheet indicating the availability of the Draft EIR and the time and location of public hearings on the proposed Plan.