

AGENDA NO. 5

PLANNING COMMISSION



STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 24, 2011
TO: Chairperson and Members of the Planning Commission
FROM: Development Services Department
SUBJECT: **REVIEW OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the City of Oceanside Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, and forward it to the City Council for approval.

BACKGROUND

In 1997, the City of Oceanside created its first traffic calming program, the Oceanside Neighborhood Traffic Action Program (ONTAP). The program was initiated to address common neighborhood traffic concerns including speeding, traffic accidents, unfriendly pedestrian and bicycling environments, and cut-through traffic. Over the past several years, the traffic calming program has been continually updated by City staff to incorporate new methods of evaluating traffic-calming. In March 2009 the City of Oceanside Development Services Department, Transportation Section, sent out requests for proposals for professional services to develop a citywide neighborhood traffic calming program. This updated program will be a uniform process for reviewing traffic calming requests.

A professional services agreement was approved with RBF Consulting in May 2009 in the amount of \$49,940. This agreement was for the development of a neighborhood traffic calming program and the evaluation of its effectiveness within a test neighborhood. This professional services agreement with RBF Consulting was approved by the City Council at the September 9, 2009 meeting.

Staff presented the updated traffic calming program to the Transportation Commission on November 16, 2010. The Commission approved the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and recommended the program be forwarded to City Council.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the City of Oceanside Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is to establish new traffic calming goals, policies, and guidelines that supplement the existing standards set by the current program. The new goals and objectives of the traffic calming program will aid in the development and implementation of future traffic calming plans:

Goals:

1. Improve street safety, promote community character, and enhance the quality of life in Oceanside neighborhoods.
2. Educate residents on the traffic calming process and make available tools that would address their concerns.
3. Actively involve the community in identifying solutions that achieve desired results for their neighborhood.

Objectives:

1. Provide a structure to clearly identify the traffic problems along a street or in a neighborhood.
2. Provide a clear and concise list of tools that may be used to resolve traffic-related issues.
3. Provide a structure for residents through the process of initiating traffic calming on their street or in their neighborhood.

The City of Oceanside Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program was developed to create a specific evaluation and implementation process for traffic calming devices on a street or within a neighborhood; establish a traffic calming toolbox that lists the various types of applicable traffic calming devices; and create design guidelines.

There is also a section in the new program that covers new development within the City. It is a way for City staff to be proactive in potential residential traffic concerns such as anticipated vehicular speeding, vehicular volume, and/or pedestrian conflicts. The section has guidelines for staff to review when determining whether there is a necessity for traffic calming on a local street or neighborhood.

To test the effectiveness of the program's process and traffic calming toolbox, staff used a test neighborhood that had been requesting traffic calming just as staff was starting the process of updating the current traffic calming program. At the completion of the trial run within the test neighborhood, any corrections or adjustments needed to complete the program were made.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost for the project was \$49,940.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article 18, Statutory Exemptions, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies.

SUMMARY

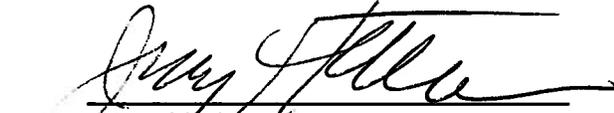
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