



Architectural Review Board

Staff Report (ID # 6912)

Report Type: Action Items **Meeting Date:** 6/2/2016

Summary Title: Comp Plan EIR sub-committee brief

Title: Comp Plan Update: Request for approval of Architectural Review Board Subcommittee comments as formal ARB comments for the Comp Plan Update Draft EIR.

From: Jonathan Lait

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) take the following action(s):

1. Forward comments on the Comprehensive Plan Update Draft Environmental Impact Report to the Director of Planning and Community Department.

Background and Discussion

On April 21, 2016, staff presented the Draft EIR to the ARB. The staff report can be viewed on the City's website: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/51945>. At the hearing, the ARB decided to comment on the EIR as a group and formed a sub-committee to draft initial comments for review by the whole Board. The sub-committee is now presenting the Board with their initial comments for review and approval to send to the Director of Planning for inclusion in the EIR. All written comments must be received by June 8, 2016.

The Draft EIR was prepared for the Comprehensive Plan Update to examine four alternatives at an equal level of detail, allowing for an informed decision to adopt one of these alternatives at the end of the process, or potentially a blend of the alternatives if desired. A fifth scenario will be further defined by the City Council after the close of the public comment period on the DEIR, and is expected to include slower job growth than any of the other scenarios, as well as implementation of sustainability measures. The Final EIR will include written responses to all substantive comments received on the DEIR and the subsequent analysis of a fifth scenario. The Final EIR must be certified prior to any final decision on the Comprehensive Plan Update.

A copy of the DEIR is available for review online at <http://www.paloaltocompplan.org/eir/>. The public is invited to comment on the DEIR at this time. All substantive comments received during the comment period will be responded to in a Final EIR. An orientation brochure for the

DEIR and the planning process is also available on the Comp Plan website: <http://paloaltocompplan.org/OurPA2030/index.html>.

Public Notification, Outreach & Comments

The Palo Alto Municipal Code requires notice of this public hearing be published in a local paper. Notice of a public hearing for this project was published in the *Palo Alto Weekly* on May 20, 2016, which is 12 days in advance of the meeting.

Next Steps

The ARB's comments, public comments and agency comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the close of business on June 8, 2016. Following the close of the comment period, Staff will return to the Council for a discussion regarding specific components of the fifth scenario and will prepare and circulate an analysis of that scenario for public comment prior to preparation of the Final EIR. All substantive comments and questions on the Draft EIR and the supplemental analysis of a fifth scenario will be responded to in the Final EIR.

Alternative Actions

In addition to the recommended action, the Architectural Review Board may:

1. Recommend ARB members submit individual comments.

EIR Contact Information

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ARB Liaison & Contact Information

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Attachments:

- Attachment A: ARB Sub-Committee Draft EIR Comments (DOCX)