



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

January 11, 2022
Agenda Item No. 5

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Resolution No. 2022-2: Creating the General Plan Update Steering Committee (PA2017-141)

ABSTRACT:

For the City Council's consideration is the adoption of a resolution to create the General Plan Update Steering Committee (Steering Committee). With the 6th Cycle Housing Element update nearing its anticipated adoption, the City of Newport Beach (City) will restart the comprehensive General Plan update. The Steering Committee will serve as a project coordinator helping to shape the scope and oversee the future General Plan Update Advisory Committee while making periodic reports to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Adopt Resolution No. 2022-2, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Creating the General Plan Update Steering Committee (PA2017-141)*.

DISCUSSION:

The last comprehensive update to the City of Newport Beach General Plan (General Plan) was in 2006. Since this update, there have been changes in state planning law and possible shifts in the desires of the community.

On January 22, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-7 to initiate the comprehensive review and update of the General Plan. However, given the challenges and deadline placed on the 6th Cycle Housing Element (Housing Element), the City Council redirected resources to focus on revisions to the Housing Element. The Housing Element update is nearing completion and other revisions to the General Plan are necessary to implement the Housing Element.

On September 28, 2021, immediate past Mayor Brad Avery formed the General Plan Update Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) comprised of himself, Council Member Joy Brenner, and Council Member Will O'Neill. The Ad Hoc Committee met twice in November 2021. Consistent with its purpose and responsibilities, the Ad Hoc Committee identified that a small, three-member General Plan Update Steering Committee should be formed to assist staff with coordinating the comprehensive updates to the General Plan.

The Steering Committee will be purposed with the following:

- A. Ensuring there is sufficient public outreach and stakeholder input regarding the update to the General Plan;
- B. Providing guidance to City staff regarding the scope of work and preparation of a request for proposal (RFP) for a General Plan update consultant;
- C. Reviewing responses to the RFP;
- D. Making a recommendation to the City Council regarding the selection of a consultant;
- E. Providing recommendations to the City Council on the formation and membership of a subsequent General Plan Update Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) that will help guide policy changes with the General Plan update;
- F. Providing oversight and direction to the Advisory Committee to ensure the overall General Plan update process stays on task; and
- G. Making periodic reports to the City Council regarding progress of the General Plan update.

The relationship between the Steering Committee and the Advisory Committee is important. As noted in items E and F above, the Steering Committee will serve as a project coordinator for the General Plan update while the Advisory Committee will be guiding changes to specific policies and goals in the individual elements. The Advisory Committee will report to the Steering Committee and the Steering Committee will report to City Council. City staff will manage the selected consultant team and will support the work program of both committees.

Per attachment A of the resolution, the Mayor shall have sole discretion to determine the process of selecting members of the Steering Committee. If the Mayor decides for residents to apply for the opportunity to serve on the Steering Committee, then the City Clerk will publish an ad for residents to submit applications for City Council consideration.

The application window typically runs for two weeks. It is anticipated that the City Council may vote on the appointment of Steering Committee members in February 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – Resolution No. 2022-2