



NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

January 17, 2019
Agenda Item No. 5

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Resolution No. 2019-7: General Plan Update Initiation and Creation of a Steering Committee (PA2017-141)

ABSTRACT:

Initiate amendments to the General Plan and Local Coastal Program to review and update the policy documents and establish a General Plan Update Steering Committee.

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;
- b) Adopt Resolution No. 2019-7, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Initiating Amendments to the General Plan and Local Coastal Program and Creating the General Plan Update Steering Committee.*

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

Updating the General Plan will require significant funding over time and exact costs are not known at this time. The current adopted budget does not include any funding to start the update process. Consultant assistance for public outreach, preparation of the General Plan update, technical studies, fiscal analysis, and environmental review will likely exceed \$2.5 million dollars. Once proposals are received from consultants, the City Council may be asked to approve a budget amendment for the anticipated expenses through this current fiscal year. The remainder will be funded through future budgets.

DISCUSSION:

On January 8, 2019, the City Council held a study session regarding the review and update of the General Plan. During the meeting, there was a consensus to initiate the amendment process and establish a Steering Committee.

The attached resolution initiates the amendment pursuant to City Council Policy K-1 and establishes a General Plan Update Steering Committee consistent with the Council's direction. The initiation includes necessary amendments to the Local Coastal Program (LCP) to maintain consistency with the two policy documents.

The Steering Committee will be composed of the Mayor and five residents of the community. The Mayor will be an ex officio member (without the power to vote on items). If a resident is interested in serving on the Steering Committee, they will be able to submit applications to the City Clerk. Interested residents must be a registered voter and be able to make the time commitment to serve on the committee.

The selection of the committee members will be done by an ad-hoc Appointment Committee composed of the Mayor and two other City Council Members. The two Council Members will make committee member recommendations to the Mayor. The Mayor will appoint the committee members, and the appointees will be confirmed by the City Council.

The Steering Committee will end once the "Listen and Learn" phase of the project has been completed. The Steering Committee members will have an opportunity to continue working on the General Plan update through future committees. Detailed information on the formation, selection and responsibilities of the Steering Committee are provided in the attachment to the resolution (Attachment A).

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.

Adopting an update of the General Plan will require the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the CEQA.

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. 2019-7