



CITY OF CLOVIS

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June 7, 1999

Gina Francis
Fresno County Public Works
And Development Services Department
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

SUBJECT: Response to Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact
Report for the Fresno County General Plan Update

Dear Ms. Francis:

The City of Clovis looks forward to reviewing the Draft Fresno County General Plan Update and related EIR. Because we will not have the opportunity to review the Draft General Plan Update prior to commenting on your Notice of Preparation, our response must be very general in nature. We anticipate that a full environmental assessment will be completed for the General Plan Update, as provided under the California Environmental Quality Act and its related guidelines. The General Plan represents the most comprehensive level of planning done by local government and, as such, it is a key determinant of the future form of development in Fresno County.

It is our understanding that the County proposes to have a parallel track between the development of the Draft Fresno County General Plan Update and the Draft Environmental Impact Report. It is our request that as the County goes through this iterative review process, that the City of Clovis be given the opportunity to comment on the content of the Plan and the EIR at each critical stage.

Since the County is not proposing to update the Housing Element or any of the Regional Plans, incorporated cities/community plans, unincorporated community plans, Fresno-Clovis Community Area Plans or Specific Plans, both the General Plan Update and the Draft Environmental Impact Report should address the issue of consistency of these documents with the proposed General Plan Update.

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The Notice of Preparation is not clear on the description of alternatives. The difference between the "2020 Project", which assumes a population of 1.1 million, and the "Project" discussed at "Build-Out" is not clear. What would be the build-out population of the County? It's not clear whether or not a project alternative using a 2020 population of 1.4 - 1.5 million will be included with any detail of analysis. This alternative should be a consideration of a high growth alternative using the previous Department of Finance and White Paper estimate of 1.5 million population in the year 2020. It would provide a useful comparison for the other alternatives and the preferred "Project" scenario.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We anticipate that once we have had an opportunity to view and analyze the physical form recommended for the Fresno County General Plan Update we will better be able to discuss issues related to the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,



Kathy Millison
City Manager

Cc: John R. Wright, AICP, Director of Planning and Development Services