

**STAFF REPORT TO AMADOR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
FOR JOINT PANEL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015**

CONTINUED AGENDA ITEM - Public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared for the adoption and implementation of the County's proposed Draft General Plan which represents the County's policy for determining the appropriate physical development and character of Amador County, and establishes an overall future development capacity.

This is the second of two public meetings scheduled to take public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact report (DEIR) for the County's comprehensive update of its General Plan. The Amador County General Plan is the document that guides land use decisions within the unincorporated areas of the County. The proposed 2030 General Plan (Draft General Plan) is a comprehensive update of the policies in the County's current General Plan to reflect a new vision for future growth and development within the county and recent State law requirements.

The Draft General Plan will consist of nine elements, or chapters, that together meet State requirements for a general plan. These elements are: 1) land use, 2) circulation, 3) economic development, 4) conservation, 5) open space, 6) noise, 7) governance, 8) safety, and 9) housing. The Draft General Plan will also include an introduction chapter and a glossary. The Housing Element will not be considered in this EIR as it is proceeding on a separate timeline from the balance of the Draft General Plan Update. Therefore, the County will complete a separate environmental review process for the Housing Element Update. The Draft General Plan represents the County's policy for determining the appropriate physical development and character of Amador County, and establishes an overall future development capacity.

The Draft General Plan is the culmination of 27 General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings, 4 workshops on the Land Use Map Alternatives and the Land Use Element text, 2 meetings for the identification of the Town Centers, and 20 Joint Panel Meetings.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) contains the environmental impact analysis based on the change between the existing conditions and those associated with likely development in accordance with the Draft General Plan by 2030. A Notice of Preparation was distributed to various state and local agencies for comments or concerns regarding the proposed Draft General Plan. Those comments along with those received from the public during the NOP comment period and at the Scoping Session held by the Joint Panel are addressed in the DEIR. The DEIR has been submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to relevant responsible and trustee agencies for their review and comment.

This joint public meeting was scheduled to provide an opportunity to take any comments the public may have, at this time, on the DEIR. **No action will be taken.** This meeting is only for the purpose of taking comment on the DEIR; not for debating the merits of the General Plan Update. That will take place at future public hearings. Responses to all comments received on the DEIR during the public comment period will be prepared by the EIR consultant as part of the Final EIR.

Written comments may be submitted up to the close of the comment period which is **5:00 PM on Friday, January 30, 2015.**

NOTE: The DEIR, as well as the Draft General Plan, are available on the County website at www.amadorgov.org and also may be viewed by interested parties and agencies during normal business hours at:

- Amador County Planning Department, 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA;
- Main Branch (Jackson) of the Amador County Library located at 530 Sutter Street,

Jackson, CA;

- Ione Branch of the Amador County Library located at 25 Main Street, Ione, CA;
- Pine Grove Branch of the Amador County Library located at 19889 Pine Grove, CA;
- Pioneer Branch of the Amador County Library located at 25070 Buckhorn Ridge Rd., Pioneer, CA; and
- Plymouth Branch of the Amador County Library located at 9375 Main Street, Plymouth, CA.