

**CITY OF ST. HELENA  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT 1480 MAIN STREET- ST. HELENA, CA 94574  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**July 19, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**SUBJECT:** A second public hearing to receive verbal comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the update to the City's General Plan

**PREPARED BY:** Victor Carniglia, Planning Consultant

**REVIEWED BY:** Noah Housh, Planning Director

**LOCATION OF PROPERTY:** City-Wide

**APPLICANT:** City of St Helena

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**BACKGROUND**

On June 21, 2016 the Planning Commission held a public hearing to receive verbal comments on the General Plan Draft EIR. At this June 21, 2016 hearing only one person spoke, in effect asking for additional time to review the General Plan Draft EIR. It was noted by Commissioners at the June 21, 2016 hearing that the General Plan Draft EIR had been published just two weeks prior to the hearing. As a result, the Commission felt that an additional hearing to receive verbal comments on the DEIR was warranted. Given this direction, staff prepared and distributed public notices to hold a second public hearing to allow the public to make verbal comments on the General Plan DEIR

It should be noted that while State law does not require that a public hearing be held to receive verbal comments on a Draft EIR, such a hearing is encouraged by the State. The purpose of this hearing is to receive verbal comments on the General Plan Draft EIR in compliance with State goals, and to maximize the opportunity for the public to become involved with and comment on the environmental document.

**ANALYSIS:**

It is important to emphasize that while the function of this public hearing is to receive public comments on the General Plan Draft EIR, responses to the verbal comments made at the hearing will **not** be provided at this hearing. Instead, as required by State law, City staff and consultants will be capturing in writing the verbal comments made at

the hearing. Any and all verbal comments made at this hearing, along with all written comments received during the 45 day public review period, will then be compiled by City staff. Next, the verbal and written comments received will be addressed and responded to in the "Response to Comments" document. This "Response to Comments" document, in conjunction with the General Plan Draft EIR, taken together constitute the "Final EIR" (FEIR) for the General Plan.

Copies of the General Plan DEIR are available on the City's web site (link below), and at City Hall.

<http://www.cityofsthelena.org/content/general-plan-0>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Planning Commission hold the second public hearing to allow members of the public to make verbal comments on the Draft General Plan EIR.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None