

DATE ISSUED: April 27, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-105

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee  
Agenda of May 4, 2005

SUBJECT: San Pasqual Vision Plan Council Policy (Directive #1)

#### SUMMARY

Issue - Should the Natural Resources and Culture Committee recommend the City Council adopt a policy to comprehensively protect the water, agricultural, biological and cultural resources within the San Pasqual Valley?

Manager's Recommendation - Recommend City Council adoption.

Environmental Impact - The proposed Council Policy is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it is "Not A Project," pursuant to state CEQA guidelines Section 15060(c)(3). Future implementation actions related to this Council Policy will require environmental review at the time which they are proposed.

Fiscal Impact - None with this action. Implementation of the specific measures contained within the Council Policy will require future funding to be allocated within those departments responsible for each task.

#### BACKGROUND

The San Pasqual Vision Plan, a comprehensive approach to protecting and preserving the natural resources of the San Pasqual Valley, includes a series of ten directives intended to ensure the permanent protection of those resources. A key first step in the implementation process is Directive #1, which calls for staff to prepare a Council Policy that will reinforce the goals of the Vision Plan by setting forth a series of implementation measures. On August 4, 2004, the Land Use and Housing Committee voted 4-0 to support the Manager's Recommendation to direct that work begin on the preparation of a Council Policy. Since October 2004, Planning Department staff has been meeting with the San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Community Planning Group and the Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board on a monthly basis providing an update on the process. Concurrently, Planning Department staff has been meeting with representatives from the City Manager's Office, the City Attorney's Office, and the Water, Real Estate Assets, and

Development Services departments in formulating a draft Council Policy.

## DISCUSSION

The San Pasqual Vision Plan, presented by Councilmember Maienschein (District 5) on May 5, 2004, includes ten directives. The first of which directs the City Manager to draft, for Council consideration and approval, a Council Policy for the San Pasqual Valley that incorporates the intent of all of the directives contained within the Vision Plan. Therefore, the remaining nine directives have been broken down into specific tasks and incorporated into a series of eight implementation steps set forth within the Council Policy. The policy is to serve as the framework that will guide the City's effort to manage the San Pasqual Valley by identifying the City's roles and responsibilities as the stewards of the valley. By adopting this Council Policy the City of San Diego is taking an active leadership role in establishing a healthy, sustainable environment in the San Pasqual Valley for generations to come. The set of specific action-steps contained within the Council Policy are a product of many years of community involvement from residents and organizations from across San Diego who have always seen the valley as a place to be treasured. The implementation steps are outlined below:

### **Implementation Step 1**

Amend the Land Development Code and the San Pasqual Valley Plan, and tailor zoning within the valley to ensure appropriate land uses.

### **Implementation Step 2**

Prepare Watershed Management and Groundwater Basin Management Plans to ensure the quality of the valley's water resources.

### **Implementation Step 3**

Form a Staff Review Committee to monitor all leases in the valley and review leaseholder activities.

### **Implementation Step 4**

Work with other agencies in the development of an interpretive program and the construction of an interpretive center.

### **Implementation Step 5**

Establish a San Pasqual Land Use Task Force, comprised of both community and governmental representatives, to evaluate the leasehold process.

### **Implementation Step 6**

Seek to establish cooperative relationships with the county, cities of Poway and Escondido, as well as other organizations, to protect the watershed.

### **Implementation Step 7**

Institute a procedure that both the San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Community Planning Group and the Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board are notified of all public and private proposals affecting land use in the San Pasqual Valley.

### **Implementation Step 8**

Provide research, including legal analysis, on the feasibility of additional steps to permanently protect the San Pasqual Valley.

The Council Policy also includes a brief phasing section for the purpose of managing the various Vision Plan components so that they can be implemented in a timely manner. While it is anticipated that most of the implementation actions will be worked on concurrently, the departments involved believe that it is important to establish a basic phasing program in order to help guide their work programs. The phasing of the implementation action-steps contained within the Council Policy has been developed through discussions with all of the affected City departments at the monthly meetings with the City Manager's office.

### CONCLUSION

The implementation of Directive #1, establishment of a Council Policy that incorporates the intent of all of the directives of the San Pasqual Vision Plan, is the first step in providing for the long-term protection of the valley's precious resources. The Council Policy contains a series of eight action-steps, outlined above, in which implementation of these actions will begin immediately upon adoption of the Policy. It is anticipated that all eight steps, with the exception of the construction of an interpretive center, will be completed by December 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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Planning Director

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Approved: Richard Mendes  
Deputy City Manager

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Attachment: [Draft Council Policy](#)