

County of Santa Clara Department of Planning and Development



PLN02 021406

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DATE: February 14, 2006

TO: Supervisor Don Gage, Chairperson
Supervisor Pete McHugh, Vice-Chairperson
Housing, Land Use, Environment, & Transportation Committee (HLUET)

FROM: *Valentin Alexeeff*
Valentin Alexeeff
Director, Department of Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Status to Referral from the Board of Supervisors on December 6, 2005
Transmittal ID BOSD5 120605-01.2 Green Building Program – Public Information, Item 17B.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept report regarding status of the report back concerning development of a Green Building Program by the Department of Planning and Development.

(Referral from the Board of Supervisors D5 on December 6, 2005)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications related to the acceptance of this report.

CONTRACT HISTORY

Not applicable.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

At the December 6, 2005 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Kniss requested the Department of Planning and Development and the Facilities and Fleet Department to develop a program and work plan, including costs, using models in other jurisdictions as guides for a report through the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation Committee within 60 days.

BACKGROUND

Over the past five years "Green Building," Sustainable Development, Energy Saving Development and related efforts have been gaining momentum across the United States. Institutes and non-profit organizations have been springing up to help expedite the process. The term "Green Building" is defined as a design and construction practice that promotes the health and well being of family, the community and the environment for years to come. Green Building is intended to accomplish the following:

- Save money in water and energy bills
- Promote more comfortable living through good energy design, proper insulation and efficient heating and cooling systems
- Create healthier indoor environment by using materials, paints and finishes that eliminate sources of air pollution
- Reduce maintenance by using premium materials that require less upkeep
- Reducing the need to consume unnecessary natural resources.

Planning and Development supports these objectives by the nature of its mission.

Actions to be taken by the Department

1. Build It Green brochures are available at the Development Services Counter with additional brochures on order.
2. The department has obtained the San Mateo Countywide Guide for Sustainable Buildings and Alameda's New Construction Green Building Guidelines and Home Remodeling Green Building Guidelines.
3. Staff has been assigned to modifying these workbooks for Santa Clara County.
4. Draft workbooks should be available by the end of March, 2006.
5. As interest in "Green Buildings" increases, staff will attend "Green Building" training to offer value added assistance at the counter. The "Green Building" program can be added to Quarterly Reports.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Board of Supervisors will not be informed of the Department actions towards developing a Green Building Program.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

None.

ATTACHMENTS

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