

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 2, 2010

SUBJECT: Proposed language for the appointment of alternate Planning Commissioners

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

Direct County Counsel to review and revise the policies for inclusion of provisions for the appointment of alternate Planning Commissioners and bring revised policies forward for Board consideration by March 16, 2010

Jeff Stone, 3rd District Supervisor

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

3.2

BACKGROUND:

The County recently experienced the crippling affect of the process and the long drawn out waiting period to have someone appointed to the Board of Supervisors after the passing of Supervisor Wilson. The current process calls for an appointment by the Governor and as such completely takes the control from the County. The length of the process crippled the county on decisions that required a 4/5 vote. Agenda items had to be continued and decisions delayed for weeks. Board members expressed concern over this situation and asked county counsel to explore alternatives so that in the future the county has a more effective solution to the existing process.

The current policies governing the appointment of planning commissioners hold the same potential for delayed decisions and/or an ineffective process. The County does not have provisions in our policies for the appointment of alternate planning commissioners. In the case of an extended leave due to illness, an extended vacation or a conflict of interest we simply go with the decision of the majority. This may not have been a problem in the past; however, it now poses a concern for the Third District. The Planning Department is in the initial phases of processing the Wine Country Community Plan. The Third District Planning Commissioner may have to recues himself from the decision making process due to a potential conflict of interest. The community plan is of major importance for all aspects of development in Wine Country and merits the close attention, scrutiny, and analysis of a person representing the interest of the Third District.

I ask for your support in directing county counsel to revise the policies governing the appointment of planning commissioners to include provisions for the appointment of an alternate commissioner that can step in when the regular planning commissioner is unable to participate in the discussions and decisions of significant projects in the perspective districts. It is not have to be mandatory to appoint alternates; however, the flexibility to do so makes it possible to effectively address the planning issues of the districts.