AGENDA INFORMATION

Three Rivers Community Plan Update
Community Meeting
Monday April 11, 2016 6:00 P.M.
Three Rivers Veterans Memorial Building
43490 Sierra Drive
Three Rivers, CA

3. Discussion of Special Topics.

(a) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Considerations.

Background/Overview:

An Initial Study will be prepared to determine whether the Three Rivers Community Plan Update project could have a significant effect on the environment, and will be prepared under the direction of the County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency. The County of Tulare is the lead agency under CEQA, in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines and Title 14 of the California Administrative Code, as revised.

The CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist includes 18 Environmental Factors that may be affected by the project and are listed below:

1. Aesthetics
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
3. Air Quality
4. Biological Resources
5. Cultural Resources
6. Geology and Soils
7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
9. Hydrology and Water Quality
10. Land Use and Planning
11. Mineral Resources
12. Noise
13. Population and Housing
14. Public Services
15. Recreation
16. Transportation/Traffic
17. Utilities and Service Systems
18. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Discussion.

The listing of Environmental Factors above is intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the Three Rivers Community Plan Update project.

Technical Studies.
The following technical studies and general tasks are currently identified for the Three Rivers Community Plan Update project.

1. Oak Woodland Study and Biological Assessment, Bobby Kamansky, Principal, Kamansky's Ecological Consulting.

1. Oak woodland study in the Three Rivers UDB.
a. field work, mapping, inventory and ground-truthing oak woodlands;
b. Work with County GIS staff on the mapping and methodology;
c. Written methodology for the inventory and oak survey;
d. Thresholds of significance regarding development impacts in the UDB.
2. Biological Assessment/Reconnaissance-level biological survey investigating the habitat and presence of various special status species potentially occurring in the UDB, and the potential impacts from development.
a. field work and project review and history;
b. Reconnaissance-level biological survey report.

2. Cultural Resources Assessment, Planning Study Area for the Three Rivers Community Plan Update- C. Kristina Roper, M.A., RPA Principal Archaeologist / Owner Sierra Valley Cultural Planning.

Preparation of the Cultural Resources Assessment for the planning study area is divided into three phases:

(1) Pre-field research to assess the potential sensitivity of the planning study area for historic and prehistoric cultural resources and traditional cultural properties, including a complete records search with the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, local historical/museum society archives, and the Sacred Lands Files at the Native American Heritage Commission. Consult with local Native American groups, as necessary, regarding known areas of Native American concern;

(2) A windshield survey of the planning study area to ground truth records search results and identify potentially sensitive localities for both archaeological resources and the built environment (potential historic buildings, structures and features). All documented resources will be visited and records updated as appropriate;

(3) Preparation of a Cultural Resources Assessment detailing the results of the results of pre-field research, Native American consultation, and windshield inspection; and discussion of potential cultural resources constraints and recommendations for mitigation of potential effects on important cultural resources per CEQA review guidelines.

3. Traffic Circulation and Noise Impact Assessment, Georgiena M. Vivian, President VRPA Technologies, Inc.

PURPOSE

This Scope of Work, prepared by VRPA Technologies, Inc (VRPA) is intended to meet the requirements of Tulare County for a traffic circulation analysis and noise impact assessments for the Three Rivers Community Plan Update. This will include analysis of existing and future traffic and noise conditions and effects of future development on the Three Rivers Community Plan area.

TRAFFIC CIRCULATION ANALYSIS

TASK 1 AGENCY COORDINATION AND MEETING ATTENDANCE

Task 1.1 Agency Coordination

Consultant will meet with County staff and the consultant team to discuss components of the approved Scope of Services. VRPA intends to also discuss relevant transportation/circulation issues or concerns associated with the Project to ensure that they are addressed during development of tasks described below. Traffic issues and concerns include:

1. Assessment of off-street parking adequacy including ingress and egress to existing businesses along SR 198.
2. Analysis and determination regarding the adequacy of existing speed limits on SR 198.
3. Analysis of queuing problems on SR 198 associated with summer traffic entering Sequoia National Park.
4. Emergency ingress and egress for the community including recommendations for secondary access.

To insure that affected agency transportation/circulation needs and issues are addressed, we recommend review of current Circulation Analysis documents with the Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) and Caltrans, District 6 representatives. In addition, representatives of the following organizations should be invited to participate in a meeting with the consultant team:

- *Tulare County Area Transit*
- *Other representatives, as appropriate, including the Building Industry Association of Tulare County, local environmental justice representatives, the National Park Service and others interested in transportation issues in Three Rivers.*

Deliverable: On-going coordination.

Task 1.2 Meetings and Public Participation Hearings

VRPA staff will attend a maximum of four (4) meetings over the duration of the Project. The meetings are described below and referenced in the appropriate tasks in this Scope of Services.

- *1 meeting with County RMA and Caltrans staff to review the proposed Scope of Services and gather input, information, data, reports and documents*
- *1 meeting with the Three Rivers Community to review traffic and noise issues of interest to the community*
- *1 meeting with the Planning Commission to review/approve the General Plan including the Circulation Analysis documents*
- *1 meeting at the County Board of Supervisors to review and approve the General Plan document*

Deliverable: Four (4) meetings described above.

TASK 2 IDENTIFY ISSUES / DOCUMENT REVIEW

VRPA Technologies will collect background information, data, and documents/studies during the first month of the Project. Data collected and analyzed will be applied to update, reflect and document the Regional Setting and to update/assess existing transportation issues and conditions in the community. In addition, the data and analysis will be used to help refine the traffic model output, to aid in development of the future year analysis, and to help determine the benefits from various improvement projects.

Deliverable: In-house review of existing documents.

TASK 3 PLAN DOCUMENT

Task 3.1 Draft Plan – Circulation Analysis

Task 3.1.1 Existing Transportation/Circulation Conditions

VRPA will coordinate with County RMA staff to identify current travel conditions. In order to supplement available traffic count data, it is proposed that AM and PM peak hour turning movement counts will be conducted at up to (2) intersections and eight (8) roadway segments in the study area during the peak summer season. The analysis of those two intersections will include an assessment of safety issues. It is expected that the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) will provide current year model files or output to VRPA to update the model volumes and level of service conditions. In addition to model results, VRPA will document the Functional Classification System and roadway geometries. Based upon the model and other information referenced above, level of service analysis will be conducted for up to two (2) intersections and eight (8) roadway segments within the community.

Deliverable: Background Technical Report.

Task 3.1.2 Future Transportation/Circulation Conditions

Projected future traffic roadway conditions will be updated using the Future Year 2040 Traffic Model results or files to be provided by TCAG. It is understood that VRPA will provide TCAG with the revised socioeconomic data (reflective of the proposed Community Plan Land Use Plan) and transportation network. Based upon results of the future year model analysis, VRPA will document future travel demand within the community, and development of projected traffic volumes and LOS conditions.

This proposal assumes that future conditions will be analyzed for Future No Build conditions and up to three (3) project alternatives

In addition to highways and roads, projected conditions related to public transit, bicycles, and pedestrians be reviewed.

Deliverable: Draft Future Conditions Document.

Task 3.1.3 Transportation Plan

Based upon results of Task 3.1.2, VRPA will identify appropriate improvement projects to address future transportation and circulation needs within the community. An emphasis will be placed on improvement projects and programs that can be readily implemented.

Deliverable: Draft Transportation Plan.

Task 3.1.4 Transit Policies

VRPA will reflect recommended policies for transit service in the Three Rivers Community developed in consultation with Tulare County Area Transit.

Deliverable: Memorandum of Recommended Transit Policies including appropriate graphics and supportive data.

Task 3.2 Plan Document Revisions and Final Plan

VRPA will assist with the Final Circulation Analysis in consultation with County RMA staff and incorporate revisions to reflect input from the community. The Final Circulation Analysis will comply with applicable provisions of relevant state laws and will be comprised of a Background Technical Report.

Deliverable: Final Circulation Analysis comprised of Background Technical Report, Future Conditions Document, Transportation Plan, and Implementation Document in format consistent with and suitable for incorporation into the Community Plan document. Appropriate graphics and data tables will be included with the following:

 Relationships to other documents including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and other regional documents, County General and other Community Plan Elements, and modal studies
 Description of highways, streets and roads including a description and review of regionally significant roads, the roadway Functional Classification System, and the LOS analysis
 Assessment of transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel

NOISE ANALYSIS

TASK 1.0 PROFILE EXISTING AND FUTURE NOISE CONDITIONS

Task 1. 1 Review Existing Documents

VRPA will collect the information, data, and documents/studies described below during the first month of the Project. Data collected and analyzed will be applied to reflect and document the Regional Setting and to assess existing noise conditions in the community. In addition, the data and analysis will be used to help refine the noise model output, to aid in development of the future year analysis, and to help determine the benefits from the project and other project alternatives.

It will be important to assess development and transportation data and information contained in current state, regional and local planning documents referenced in Circulation Analysis tasks. Each of these documents will be reviewed by VRPA to identify current and future noise conditions.

Deliverable: Draft Background/Technical Report.

Task 1. 2 Data Collection

VRPA will conduct a maximum of five (5) traffic noise level measurements and use concurrent traffic counts along the affected roadways at the exterior of houses or other sensitive receptors. The purpose of the measurements is to determine if adjustments to the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Highway Traffic Noise Prediction Model would be required. The FHWA Model is the standard methodology for calculating traffic noise levels.

If a secure location for equipment is available, VRPA will conduct continuous traffic noise level measurements for 24 hours or more during the peak summer season along major roads and at selected stationary sources within the Community including:

- *Lions Club Roping Arena (Events)/Heliport located near the old airport area when the event is in session*
- *Three Rivers Hideaway/SR 198*
- *River View Restaurant/SR 198*

- *Buckeye Tree Lodge/SR 198*
- *Lower SR 198 area Village Market area/Motels/RV Park/SR 198*
- *White Horse Inn/SR 198*

The purpose of the 24-hour measurements is to obtain the day/night proportions of traffic noise, which is used to calculate noise exposure in terms of the Ldn. If a secure location is not available, VRPA will utilize standard practices for calculating Ldn using peak hour noise levels. The analysis will also capture of impacts due to Canyon sound transmission effects and stationary sources of noise.

Deliverable: Document Data Collection results.

Task 1. 3 Calculate Existing & Future Noise Levels

VRPA will determine existing and future traffic noise exposure using the FHWA Model. Traffic noise exposure will be calculated in terms of Ldn, which is used by affected agencies to determine noise compatibility. Traffic data used in the FHWA Model will be provided from the Traffic and Circulation Analysis described above. Noise contours will be prepared illustrating existing noise impacts. Significance will be based on the standards and policies developed as part of the Noise Element. Noise analysis will be conducted for a future no build condition and up to three (3) project alternatives. Mitigation measure will be recommended as necessary to mitigate project impacts.

Deliverable: Draft Noise Technical Report.