

**CITY OF ALAMEDA  
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

**STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM NO: 9-B**

To: President Cook and  
Members of the Planning Board

From: Cathy Woodbury  
Planning and Building Director

Re: Approve a Change in the Format for a Future Public Forum  
Regarding the Housing Element and Measure A

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**BACKGROUND**

On October 8, 2007 the Planning Board approved a format for a public forum regarding the Housing Element and Measure A and recommended potential moderators and panelists (see Attachment 1).

The purpose of the forum is to provide information about City Charter Article XXVI, commonly referred to as Measure A, and how it affects the development of housing and transportation in Alameda. This provision specifically prohibits constructing multiple dwelling units, defined in the Alameda Municipal Code as three or more attached dwelling units, and restricts housing density to one housing unit per 2,000 square feet of land. City Council directed that:

- The workshop context is both the Housing Element and transportation,
- The workshop deliverables are establishing facts, limitations and benefits of Measure A and prohibits advocacy,
- The workshop obtain public input, and
- That a written account be provided of deliberations and outcomes of the workshop.

The tentative date for the forum is Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and is pending confirmation of the speakers. Moderators and panelists suggested by the Planning Board and others recommended by the community have been invited to participate. Potential speakers include local residents, as well as housing, economic, and transportation professionals. The final speaker list will be provided prior to the forum.

## DISCUSSION

Conversations with potential panelists about the workshop format raised the possibility for increasing the time for panelist and public interaction from 60 to 90 minutes to provide a greater depth of information and facilitate a more robust discussion. Increasing the time for panel discussions while maintaining a workable timeframe, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for community participants requires that another component of the forum be modified. It is recommended that the one hour and 15 minute “small group exercise” be deleted to allow more time for panel discussion.

## RECOMMENDATION

Approve changing the format for the public forum regarding the Housing Element and Measure A to expand the time for panel discussions from 60 to 90 minutes and delete the small group exercise.

### Attachments:

1. Measure A Forum: As amended by the Planning Board 10/8/07
2. Proposed Measure A Forum Format, dated 1/14/08