



## REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
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**Staff Report**  
**October 14, 2008**

**Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council**

**Title: Interactive GIS Planning Project Information on City Website**

**Location/Council District: Citywide**

**Recommendation: Information Only**

**Contact:** David Kwong, Planning Manager, (916) 808-2691; Greg Bitter, Principal Planner, (916) 808-7816; Joshua Cannon, GIS Specialist, (916) 808-5036

**Presenters:** David Kwong, Joshua Cannon, and Greg Bitter

**Department:** Development Services

**Division:** Planning

**Organization No:** 21001010

### **Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** The Interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Planning Project information tool is another tool of transparency that can be accessed 24 hours a day/7 days a week via the City's website. This tool was developed to provide our many customers information that is often asked and in a convenient and user friendly form of information. To the extent that this type of information is often being requested by consumer research firms, community and neighborhood groups, brokers and realtors, developers, etc...having this information available on the City's website can be the first source of information regarding an active planning project application.

The tool provides information on the project, the applicant, applicant information and staff assigned to the project. The tool also shows the location of the proposed planning project and the surrounding area. This tool works by using standard information that is entered into the Accela permitting system through the planning entitlement process. This information is then tied into the Google Earth program. The result is an interactive aerial photo of the site that can be adjusted by the user to suit their needs. The viewer can use the map to "zoom" in on a particular geographic area of interest to them as well as display the



information by Council district, MATRIX product type, and Community Plan area.

**Policy Considerations:** The tool provides information about project location and information that can be accessed beyond the typical office hours and can be viewed in the comfort of one's home. This tool can generally answer fairly typical and easy questions such as "where is it" and "who's the applicant". This tool also assists in reducing staff time in answering these types of general questions regarding a project. Currently, staff has input Planning Commission level projects and anticipates inputting other applications types such as Design Review and Preservation projects in the next fiscal year.

Since Google Map's debut in July 2008, it has been very successful. The site was visited 744 times in July, 588 in August, and 408 times between September 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Environmental Considerations:**

##### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):**

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, continuing administrative activities do not constitute a project and are therefore exempt from review.

**Sustainability Considerations:** This tool of transparency allows for the public 24/7 access to project information. Making this information web accessible avoids the need for the public to make vehicular trips to the City offices for this information, and reduces the need for staff to answer telephone inquiries for this data. The online map also reduces the amount of requests for paper copies of this information from the public.

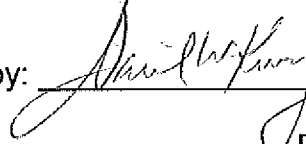
**Commission/Committee Action:** This tool has been presented to the Development Oversight Commission and will be presented to the Planning Commission for their input and information. No formal action is required.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Staff is not recommending any action at this time, this is for informational purposes only. The Interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Planning Project information tool will allow for easier public access to information, reduce staff time and cost associated with answering inquiries for this data, and promotes the City's effort to remain "transparent" in its operations.

**Financial Considerations:** This tool was developed with the intent of providing a service that utilized existing City tools, software and staff. It was created by our creative City GIS staff and planners. The estimated amount of staff time to create this tool was 120 hours. The ongoing maintenance of the Google Map displaying only current planning projects is estimated to be 8-10 staff hours monthly. In the future, when additional disciplines are added it is expected to take 8-10 hours monthly for the maintenance of each added discipline.


**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by:



David Kwong  
Planning Manager

Approved by:



William A. Thomas  
Director of Development

Recommendation Approved:



Ray Kerridge  
City Manager

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