



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS REPORT

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DAN KALMICK, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE: MARCH 15, 2021

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF TWO STAFF LEVEL COMMITTEES – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE AND SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

As part of the City Council's 2021 Strategic Planning workshop held on January 5, 2021, one of the approved goals involved assessing the City's overall structure for its boards and commissions. In line with that identified objective, there are two committees that I believe can be eliminated quickly, which if approved would help to streamline existing City processes while also cutting red tape for those looking to develop or redevelop their properties.

The Environmental Assessment Committee (EAC) – not to be confused with the Environmental Board – is comprised of one staff member each from the Community Development Department, Public Works Department, and the City Attorney's Office. The EAC typically examines a project very early in the process so that the appropriate CEQA document and public review period can be advertised prior to action by the higher decision-making body. However, such a determination is wholly made by staff via existing regulations and does not need to be coordinated through an additional formalized EAC process.

The Subdivision Committee (which I served on as a Planning Commissioner, and which I attended a few times during the past eight years) consists of three Planning Commissioners and a representative from the Fire, Public Works, and Planning Departments. The body reviews each tentative map for compliance with the Subdivision Map Act, as well as City standards and policies. The Committee is advisory only and in my experience has been a pro forma body. If eliminated, any approvals currently considered by the Subdivision Committee could be rolled into reviews by the Zoning Administrator, the Planning Commission, and/or the City Council.

Eliminating both committees would streamline the entitlement process by eliminating several currently required steps.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

I recommend that the City Council direct staff to prepare the ordinances and/or resolutions necessary to comply with relevant State law to eliminate both the EAC and the Subdivision Committee and to roll those existing functions into the appropriate review body.