



Contra Costa County's One-Two Punch to Alamo !!

In a one-two punch, Contra Costa County plans to eliminate the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission (SRVRPC) and to create a County-appointed Alamo Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) as the new voice of Alamo for land use, roads, and planning.

The County says the Alamo MAC will substitute for the Regional Commission.

Will it?

The Alamo MAC Bottom Line

The County has structured the Alamo MAC to be more restricted and less representative of a community than the MACs of any other county we have found in California.

Contra Costa County is the only county we have found that does not let its MACs do any of the following: (1) be elected by the community, (2) communicate directly, as an entity, with non-County entities, and (3) add public members to MAC subcommittees.

The County is now considering letting the Alamo MAC add public members to its subcommittees without giving them a vote. But this arrangement would simply offer a different format for the MAC to receive public opinion – as the full MAC, or as a subcommittee – without a requirement to forward recommendations of the public members to the County.

sions about Alamo developments and subdivisions, and gives the County advice about proposed re-zoning and changes to the General Plan for Alamo.

Now, the County plans to abolish the Regional Commission and replace it with the County Planning Commission, composed of seven residents who represent the entire County. The problem? Only two representatives on the County Planning Commission are from the San Ramon Valley, and neither is from Alamo – none will be making planning decisions for Alamo that he or she must live with.

The Cumulative Bottom Line for Alamo

Far from substituting for the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission, an Alamo MAC lacks the legal authority, responsibilities, and professional staff support of the Regional Commission.

- All information and advice about planning, land use, and roads in Alamo will go through the District III Supervisor's Office, which is staffed not by professional planning staff of the Regional Commission, but by personal appointees of the Supervisor.

- The Regional Commission's legal authority to make decisions about Alamo developments and subdivisions will be lost to Alamo.

- The Regional Commission's ability to make the only legally required recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on rezoning and changes to the General Plan for Alamo will be lost to Alamo.

- The Regional Commission's legal obligation to notice neighboring properties will be lost to Alamo.

Results of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of June 23, 2009

In response to calls and e-mails from Alamo residents, the Board of Supervisors agreed to hold another Board meeting to discuss the fate of the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission. The supervisors were asked to set a specific date so that the community could plan to give input. They agreed on a meeting in August, but they didn't set a date.

What Can Concerned Alamo Citizens Say to the County?

- Professional planning services to Alamo ought not to go through a political office.

- Alamo wants to keep the powers, protections, professional staff support, and local representation of the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission.

- The Alamo MAC, as an entity, needs direct access to entities outside the County (like the Contra Costa Transportation Authority) in order to give knowledgeable advice to the County that is in the best interests of all Alamo.

- The Alamo MAC needs to expand its community representation by including voting public members on its subcommittees.

How Can Citizens Get Their Message to the County?

- Attend the meeting of the Alamo Community Council on Thursday, July 9, 5^{pm}, at Hap Magee Park and speak to staff of District III County Supervisor Mary Piepho.

- Contact Supervisor Piepho's office in Danville at 925-820-8683 or e-mail her at dist3@bos.cccounty.us.

California Counties Rules for Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs)

County	Elected Members	Non-MAC Public Members Allowed on Subcommittees	Speaking Allowed to Groups Other than County Groups
Mendocino	no	yes	yes
Placer	no	yes	yes
San Mateo	yes	yes	yes, with county approval
San Joaquin	yes	yes	no
Stanislaus	yes	yes	yes
Merced	no, but more members	undetermined	undetermined
Kern	yes	yes	yes, with county approval
Ventura	yes, except for one	yes	no
San Bernardino	no	yes	yes, with notice to county
Riverside	no	yes, with county approval	yes
Contra Costa	no	no	no

Elimination of the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission

The San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission, composed of seven residents of the San Ramon Valley – including three from Alamo – makes deci-