

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 18, 2006
TO: Community Planning Group Chairs/Community Planners Committee
FROM: Betsy McCullough, Acting Planning Director
SUBJECT: Community Planning Restructuring

Attached, please find an April 6, 2006 memo from Deputy Chief James T. Waring to the City Council regarding the restructuring of the Community Planning Section of the Planning Department.

As stated in the memo and discussed at the Community Planners Committee (CPC) on March 28th, the Planning Department remains committed to providing quality service to City-recognized community planning groups. However, given significant budget reductions, a reassessment of level of service is necessary.

As described in the memo, the Planning Department will provide service to community planning groups through teams assigned to one of four geographic areas (see attached map). You will continue to have one planner who is assigned as your primary contact. Attendance by planners at community planning group meetings will, by necessity, be reduced. Planners will not be able to attend every meeting and the time available for meetings will be limited. However, planners will work with planning group chairs to target their attendance at the most critical meetings and assist with information as otherwise needed for those they cannot attend.

The Planning Department remains committed to our support of the City's community planning group program and looks forward to our continued working relationship. Thank you for your understanding as we attempt to deal with significant budget shortfalls.


Betsy McCullough

BAM/mpw

Attachment: April 6, 2006 Memo from Jim Waring to the City Council

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 6, 2006

TO: City Council President Peters and City Councilmembers

FROM: James T. Waring, Deputy Chief of Land Use and Economic Development

SUBJECT: Community Planning Restructuring

This memorandum is to inform you of a restructuring being implemented in the Community Planning section of the Planning Department in response to budget reductions.

As City departments and programs have experienced budget cuts in recent years, the Community Planning section has experienced a disproportionate level of staffing reduction due its reliance on the General Fund. In addition, attrition without the ability to rehire into all vacancies, and the need to allocate resources to fully staff the General Plan update, has resulted in a one-third reduction in Community Planning staff over the past three years.

The Planning Department has therefore restructured the Community Planning section to maximize the use of available staff resources. Community Planning staff have been assigned to one of four geographic subareas, as shown on the attached map. Each subarea has a team of two, three, or four planners who will continue to perform a variety of planning tasks including community planning group support, development review, public contact, plan monitoring, etc.

Some of the planners' assignments remain the same while others have been changed to maximize effectiveness of limited staff resources. Chairs of recognized community planning groups and City Council staff members are being notified of changes in planners' assignments.

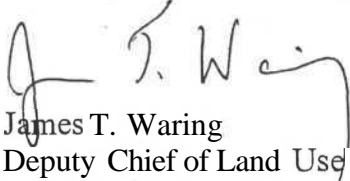
Each of the four planning teams will work together to most efficiently balance the work of the team. Within each subarea, a planner is identified as the primary support to each community. In some cases, this may mean that planners will rotate their attendance at planning group meetings and/or their review of development projects. In other cases this will mean that the teams will work with planning group chairs to determine which meetings are critical to attend and which are not critical to attend in any given month. The amount of time planners spend at each meeting may be further reduced. The staff's goal continues to be providing the most effective planning support to communities with the resources available.

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City Council President Peters and City Councilmembers

April 6, 2006

The Planning Department remains committed to the support of the City's community planning group program. Please do not hesitate to contact Betsy McCullough, Acting Planning Director, at (619) 236-6139 with any questions.



James T. Waring

Deputy Chief of Land Use and Economic Development

JTW/BAM/MPW

cc: ✓ Betsy McCullough, Acting Planning Director
Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
Ronne Froman, Chief Operating Officer
Planning Department Managers
Gary Halbert, Development Services Director

Attachment: Community Planning Assignment Area Map with Staff Assignments