ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	PAGE
PROCESSING OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS	500-2	11/3/86 Rev. 8/1/94	1 of 2

Background

The General Plan constitutes the official policy of the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa with regard to physical development of the City. The City Council may, at its option, amend the General Plan or any element thereof. On August 2, 1982, the City Council enacted Resolution 82-65 adopting "General Plan Administration and Implementation Policies and Procedures". These procedures provided that regularly scheduled General Plan review hearings would be held at the first Planning Commission meeting in February, June, and October. Since that date, State Law has been amended to allow elements of the General Plan to be amended four, rather than three, times during any calendar year. Due to the increased workload on Staff, Planning Commission and City Council resulting from the review of General Plan Amendment applications, the City Council wishes to review the type and number of such applications prior to acceptance for processing.

Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to:

1. Establish dates for the hearing of General Plan Amendments.

2. Establish guidelines to assist the City Council in providing direction to Staff with regard to processing privately initiated General Plan Amendment applications.

Policy

Privately initiated General Plan Amendment applications shall be heard at the first Planning Commission meetings in February, June, and October. A fourth date for the hearing of General Plan Amendment applications may be assigned by the City Council at its discretion for either privately initiated or City initiated General Plan Amendments.

The City Council shall review applications for amendments to the General Plan and shall direct Staff to either proceed with processing of the applications or to return all materials to the applicant and refund the application fee. A list of applications, including the name of applicant, location of

property, and request shall be submitted to the City Council by the Planning Staff in sufficient time to be heard by the City Council at the second Council meeting following the application deadline.

The following criteria shall be used as guidelines for the City Council to determine which applications will be accepted for processing. An application should be accepted if:

- A General Plan Amendment is necessary to resolve inconsistency between General Plan designation and zoning.
- A General Plan Amendment is necessary to provide a uniform land use designation on a single parcel or development site.
- A General Plan Amendment would result in decreased traffic impacts from the property.

An application for amendment to the General Plan should not be considered if:

- The request applies to a single small lot or a small area, especially if the change would make the property inconsistent with surrounding properties.
- The property is located in the Redevelopment Area (requires action by the Redevelopment Agency to amend the redevelopment plan).

No General Plan Amendment shall be accepted which would increase the overall, City-wide development cap. However, General Plan Amendments which would result in development exchanges or transfers, may be considered.

As these are simply guidelines, the Council may deviate from them if there are other important reasons for accepting or rejecting a particular application.