FOCC Input to the BOCC during their meeting of 2/2/16
General Comment on and for GMA Process: Our Preferred Alternative

Alternative #1 is compliant (McDonald analysis re-submitted) and Alternative #4 is not compliant (Thorpe Report) with the current GMA.

How are these conclusions so different from some others? One factor is that FOCC and Thorpe are using judicial findings, based on law, while others use judicial opinions stated on the way to a judicial finding. Judges (and Planning Commissioners) often state their points of view (e.g. "I am for land rights") and/or their reasoning for both sides. Then, they come back to what is compliant with current law and make their finding according to the law. Basing legal analysis on the opinion part of a decision process may lead to problematic conclusions.

1) Alternative #1 is GMA compliant and, with minor exceptions, has been set forth as the basis for their preferred alternatives by all of the cities and the Planning Commission;

2) The Planning Commission voted twice by 5-1 votes to reject Alternative #4;

3) The BOCC in 2015 insisted on hiring the independent consultant hand picked by Madore, at a cost of $45,000. According to the Thorpe report, our Planning staff was correct and most of the assumptions upon which Alternative #4 is based are invalid or partially invalid.

4) Since the majority of the assumptions contain invalid or partially invalid segments, Alternative #4 is invalid and cannot be used as the Local Preferred Alternative because the foundations upon which it is based are invalid.

5) The Council can and should adopt Alternative #1 or, otherwise, the PC Preferred Alternative that was passed by a 5-1 vote. That will allow the county can be in compliance with the state mandated deadlines of having our plan to the Department of Commerce by April 30 and adopting the plan by June 30.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sydney Reisbick, President
Hello,

For your records, please see the attached written testimony from Carol Levanen, Sydney Reisbick, and Susan Rasmussen (received during public comment on Feb 2, 2016)

Thanks!
Rebecca

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