

Interim Ordinances & Guidelines

Interpretive Guidelines

Interpretive guidelines can provide relevant policy interpretation guidance for “dated” or general Comprehensive Plan policies. In 1999, the Board of Supervisors adopted interpretive guidelines for the Lompoc Valley (see attached) to provide policy interpretation guidance for land use policies related to recreation, public services, fuel management, etc. The Guidelines were intended to provide interim guidance until a future Lompoc Community Plan was funded. This is a tool that is useful for burnishing existing policy in light of community concerns or changed setting in an area, such as the ability to provide adequate services, since the adoption of the original policies. These guidelines are typically reviewed by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for adoption, however, no special findings are required since no new policy is adopted through this process.

Moratoria and Urgency Ordinances

The State Government Code (§65858) allows a local jurisdiction to enact a temporary urgency ordinance to protect the public safety, health, and welfare by prohibiting any uses that “may be in conflict with a contemplated general plan, specific plan, or zoning proposal that the legislative body, planning commission or the planning department is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time.” Moratoria are usually directed at specific uses that are considered detrimental, such as sexually oriented businesses or medical marijuana clinics, or in the case of the lack of basic public services such as water or sewer service.

A four-fifths vote is required by the Board of Supervisors to enact an ordinance for 45-days, with a possibility for an extension of up to two years. The urgency measure shall require a finding that: “...there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, and that the approval of additional subdivisions, use permits, variances, building permits, or any other applicable entitlement for use which is required in order to comply with a zoning ordinance would result in that threat to public health, safety, or welfare...”.