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Environmental Review of Downtown Plan Ready

By Cathy Tyson

Lafayette residents dying to start a new novel are in luck - the Downtown Strategic Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is complete. Available free from the city's website or via complimentary disks at the City Offices, those without computer access can read hard copies at the Library or City Offices. It's a little on the dry side, no exciting plot twists, but after hundreds of hours of meetings and an astonishing amount of public input this non-fiction work of potential future municipal development is ready for prime time.

Because the document is so very large, it's broken up into several subsections. The Final EIR Report Summary is a good place for readers looking to cut to the chase. It spells out the proposed project highlights and the environmental impacts of implementing the Revised Draft Downtown Lafayette Specific Plan. "B. Areas of Controversy" on page 2-2 of this section addresses concerns of many residents: aesthetics, land use, population and housing, public services and transportation and traffic. Also interesting is the "D. Alternative to the Plan" portion of the Report Summary section.

Meetings on the matter continue on Tuesday, September 7, when the Planning Commission discusses the Final EIR at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Following that the City Council will receive an update at the September 13 City Council Meeting also at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. To download the documents, go to www.lovelafayette.com or visit Lafayette's City Office at 3675 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, #130; open 8:00 - 5:00 Monday through Friday. Call for more information, (925) 284-1968.

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