



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Resource Directory Provides Important Message About Building More Sustainable Communities

NEWPORT BEACH – Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) is pleased to announce the launch of its General Plan Resource Directory. The Directory was created as a part of the group’s Green Vision Project and has been in the works for two years. The focus of the Directory is to relay important information about the relationship between local planning efforts and building sustainable communities.

“The Resource Directory provides cities and organizations with the foundation to understanding how local policies can create more sustainable communities,” said Melanie Schlotterbeck, Green Vision Project Coordinator. “It also includes relevant and timely information on sustainable policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce vehicle miles travelled, create convenient and vibrant communities, and ensure our natural resources are protected.”

A General Plan is the long-term “blueprint” of what, where, and how the jurisdiction envisions the community will grow. It must address needed capacity for roads, sewers, water lines, park acreage, and residential density, among other factors. Many cities hope to become more sustainable, but need assistance in creating good policy language. With 46 pages of policies pulled directly from existing Orange County General Plans, cities can incorporate more innovative language in their General Plan and now have the resource to simply “copy and paste” from the Resource Directory.

“Cities are in the unique position of helping guide and direct staff and receive feedback from the public on how the community will grow and evolve,” said Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks President Jean Watt. “It is because of the generous support of our supporters, our Coalition, and our funders, specifically the Boeing Community Partner Program, that this project was possible—and has been so well received.”

All of Orange County’s 34 cities plus the County were evaluated, with the exception of cities that were undergoing a General Plan update. This exercise was to determine the existing innovative and sustainable policies already adopted. Though geared for decision and policy makers this document will also help the public understand General Plans, their role in the process, and how new laws impact the decisions their city leaders are making.

Since 2000, FHBP has united conservation and community voices throughout Orange County through its Green Vision Project. Currently more than 80 organizations support the effort to increase the funding for parks, water quality, and open spaces in Orange County.

Learn more about the Resource Directory at: <http://www.fhbp.org/publications/resource-directory.html>

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