

# On-Call Planning Services



El Dorado County  
Planning and Building Department  
Planning Division

## FAQs for On-Call Planning Services

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El Dorado County's On-Call Planning Services Consultants are available to assist with discretionary permit application processing including Planning review and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation. The Consultants are experienced with the County's development requirements, State and Federal regulations, and meet professional standards.

### **Why should I use a Consultant to process my Application with the County?**

Think of the Consultants as an extension of our staff. The County has limited personnel to process all of the discretionary projects currently in-house and the amount of time to complete such processing may be too long for your project schedule. The use of an On-Call Consultant is an alternative that will allow your project to be completed in a shorter time frame.

Along with County staff, the Consultants will work one-on-one with you to clearly define the project's objectives, address concerns, and outline appropriate processes.

### **Will the Consultants manage applications according to County standards?**

Yes. They follow the County's processes, and serve as a Consultant for the County. Every aspect of the process from the initial project review for completeness and analysis through the final hearing and/or closeout documentation will be facilitated by the Consultant. There will be a County Project Manager working with the Consultant to ensure quality and compliance throughout the process.

### **Can Consultants prepare environmental documentation?**

Yes, they can prepare environmental documentation and assessments, including Initial Studies, Negative Declarations, Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), Mitigation Monitoring Programs, and technical studies to ensure compliance with CEQA. Consultants are up-to-date with current State, Federal, and County Planning and Environmental laws.

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### **Will Consultants coordinate with other departments and agencies?**

Discretionary permit application processing involves coordination and approval from many internal and external departments and agencies. The departments and agencies involved will depend on the scope of the project. The amount of coordination provided by the Consultant will be determined in the scope of work.

### **Will the turnaround time be quicker if I use On-Call Planning Services?**

If you chose to use an On-Call Consultant, your project will be processed more quickly\*. The exact timeframe will be evaluated based on the scope of the project at the time of submittal.

### **How much will this cost?**

There is an increased cost to use the On-Call Planning Services. The cost will be assessed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party Consultant, as well as administrative and review fees from the County. Please consult with County staff on estimated costs.

### **Can I receive a credit for the County's stated permit fee?**

The majority of the services for which On-Call Planning Services will be used will be charged on a Time and Materials basis, which means the actual cost to the Applicant to process the application or permit is based on a Time and Materials method of billing. The hourly rate for a Consultant will typically be higher than the County staff hourly rate. Please consult with County staff on estimated costs.

\*Processing time is always affected by the quality and timing of the necessary documentation submitted by the Applicant – the better the application materials the quicker the application can be processed.

## **El Dorado County Consultants**

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### **Ascent Environmental Inc.**

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### **Dudek**

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### **Raney Planning & Management Inc.**

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### **Michael Baker International (MBI)**

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