GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT SCREENING GUIDELINES

I. Criteria for Screening Amendment Requests

A. The following criteria will be used by the Board of Supervisors in denying the processing of General Plan Amendment requests:

1. When the proposed amendment request shares significant similarities with other amendments located in the same general area which have been previously considered and denied by the Board of Supervisors within the last 24 months.

2. When the proposed amendment request site is located in an area where the Board has directed the preparation of a land use study scheduled for a public hearing within the next 18 months.

3. When the proposed amendment request is located in an area where a newly adopted plan or similar land use policy document has been in effect for less than 12 months.

4. When the proposed amendment request would create an “island” or spot land use designation inconsistent with the intent and policies of the General Plan, and density or land uses of surrounding properties.

5. When the proposed amendment request involves land which, according to the Guidelines for Orderly Development, should be annexed to a City.

6. When the proposed amendment request would increase residential density permitted by the Ojai Valley Area Plan.

B. The following criteria will be used by the Board of Supervisors in approving the processing of General Plan Amendment Requests:

1. When the proposed amendment request has a potential for conformity with all applicable goals and policies of the General Plan.

2. When the proposed amendment request has a potential for compatibility with either existing or planned uses in the area.

3. When the proposed amendment request is in conformity with other Board of Supervisors adopted policies.
II. Rules for Applicant Presentation of Information for General Plan Amendment Requests to the Board of Supervisors

A. Discussion of the amendment request shall be limited to land use, and general plan issues and policies only. Other discussions relating to specific project design, etc., will not be permitted by the Board. Moreover, the burden of proof as to the amendment request’s conformity and compatibility with the General Plan goals and policies shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

B. The number of people involved in presenting an amendment request shall be kept to a minimum in order to ensure a clear and concise presentation of the applicant’s testimony. When determined necessary, the chair of the Board of Supervisors may limit the amount of time, number of speakers, and the amount of testimony upon a particular issue, in order to avoid the repetitious presentation of materials.

C. All items submitted as evidence to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at the public hearing (including photos, slides and written materials), shall become property of the County of Ventura.