

# Cypress

## Environmental and Land Use Planning

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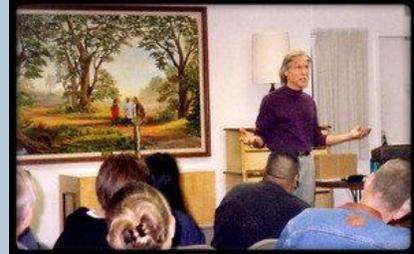
### What Cypress Can Do for You



Cypress Environmental and Land Use Planning blends the two skills of standard land use planning and environmental planning to provide multi-agency permitting, feasibility studies, project management and environmental impact analysis services for clients in both the private and public sectors. Expert services include:

- **Permitting Services** include helping you obtain local approvals ranging from a building permit for a home to a Special Use Permit for a commercial center. If State or federal approvals are needed, Cypress's skill will help you obtain a Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement, Army Corps of Engineers permit and similar approvals in a manner that meets the concerns of the agencies while meeting your needs.

- **Feasibility Studies** provide crucial information to private landowners before they invest time and money on other professionals to carry out an un-researched plan. Pre-Development Site Reviews and Pre-Purchase Site Reviews are two examples of our feasibility studies.
- **Project Management** includes creating a team of professionals and/or coordinating the work of other professionals for medium or larger-scale projects so all deadlines are met and approvals can be achieved without delay. This service includes coordinating and hosting interagency meetings and neighborhood meetings when needed.
- **Environmental Impact Analyses** are provided to assist public agencies at either the local or State level who must evaluate the impacts of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act. This service also includes preparing and implementing mitigation monitoring plans that measure the effectiveness of measures agencies have adopted to mitigate impacts of specific projects.



More information about all of these services is found at the three Services pages of [my website](#).

Call me at (831) 685-1007 if you'd like to discuss any of my services or how I might assist you or your project.



Cypress is certified as a sustainable practices business by the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Council.

## Healthy Communities - A New Concept for Land Use Planning (Part 2)



The new concept of planning for healthy communities was highlighted in my [Autumn 2012 newsletter](#). That newsletter discussed how Riverside County, California took the initiative to adopt a special additional element (chapter) in their land use General Plan to address community health. Cities and counties across the USA have joined the "Healthy Communities" movement. But how they implement it takes various forms.

Fall River, Massachusetts, another leader in the movement, has taken a different approach from Riverside County. The City has adopted a plan entirely devoted to improving the health of their community. This began with a series of public workshop visioning processes in 2003 and culminated with the adoption of a Healthy City Action Plan for 2010--2014 six years later.

The Fall River Plan is divided into five "strategies" that are very similar to "goals" in a land use General Plan. Each strategy has an adopted list of objectives. Various city departments and non-profit organizations are tasked with implementing a series of actions (programs) to achieve applicable objectives. The five overall strategies are:

- Safety and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Control
- Recreation and Fitness
- Food Supply and Nutrition
- Educational and Medical Policies
- Built Environment and Advocacy



Many of the action programs are specified in the Plan and include a clear summary of the program and who is responsible for carrying it out. Action programs include the City's New Sidewalk and Bike Lane Project carried out by the City Planning Department. New pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be created along 10 newly designated "walking routes" throughout the city. A program to achieve the "Food Supply and Nutrition" strategy is the City's Community Gardens program. New organic community gardens are being established throughout the city's neighborhoods by the local Bristol Community College and the Housing Authority. A companion program teams up with Tufts University to implement learning community gardens in the city's elementary schools.



Spreading out the responsibilities for implementing the various programs creates challenges for good coordination of the Healthy Communities Action Plan. But it may result in higher success of the individual programs as the programs are not all assigned to just a couple of public agencies to implement. More information about this approach to planning for a more healthy community can be found at the [Plan's website](#). What is your city or county doing to promote a more healthy community?

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*Environmental Planning and Analysis, Permitting and Project Management*