

City planning launches study into growth, citizen's concerns

■ **EUGENE:** The growth study will comprise three phases; all are intended to determine the concerns of area citizens

By Melissa Lebahn
Community Reporter

Concern about the increased economic and population growth in Eugene during the last two years has prompted the city's Planning Commission to start a growth-management study, which will assist the commission by providing it with a set of recommendations for future action.

The last growth-management study for the City of Eugene was completed in 1978. Since that study was completed, the city has experienced cycles of both economic and growth stagnation and economic and population growth, according to a growth-management packet.

The population has increased and this growth has created a demand for new residential, commercial and industrial development. In 1992 the city issued 12,000 building permits, and in 1995 they will have issued about 36,000. This increased development has created some

concern within the community about the nature and effectiveness of the city's growth-management efforts and programs, according to the packet.

The planning commission decided to perform the study because they now have some free time to devote to it and the community has shown some increased concern during the last several months. The Hyundai issue shows some of that concern, Jim Croteau, project supervisor, said.

"There have been many years since the community has had a discussion," Croteau said. "This is an open-ended process."

First, the planning commission will ask citizens what their concerns are and how they feel about Eugene's growth. Once it gets that information the planning commission will hold a forum, which would discuss how people would deal with these issues, Croteau said.

A mailer tabloid will be sent to every address in Eugene. This tabloid will present citizens with information about the growth-management study, outline the various phases of the project, obtain initial information on public perceptions about growth and let people know how to

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Planning and Development

become involved in the process.

The planning commission wants to know what the people want to see, Rosie Pryor of Planning and Development, said.

Is this going to be the city the community wants it to be in the future? Pryor asked. "What's my quality of life going to be? Does the community want to continue to go on the way we have, or do they want changes?"

These are questions that the planning commission hopes the community will help provide answers to.

The growth-management study will have three phases: agenda/goal setting, strategy development and strategy review/prioritizing.

The first phase, setting the agenda, will

have a mailer sent out to every address in Eugene with a questionnaire with basic questions that gauge community perceptions and concerns about growth in the community. It will have a community forum to generate citizens' comments and hear their perceptions and concerns about growth.

Developing strategies, the second phase, will send a mailer with another questionnaire that will generate public response to phase-one results. The community forum will comment on the phase-one report and focus on providing direction for future growth-management activities and include a process for reviewing goals and developing strategies to implement those goals.

The final phase, making decisions, will send out another mailer that will inform the public about the results of the phase-two analysis. The community forum will review proposed strategies and provide an opportunity for public discussion on the phase-two report.

From that point, the planning commission and the City Council will hold two public hearings on the draft growth-management study before it is adopted.

Hikers: Search efforts hampered

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ing the two alive.

"If he's not injured, and he's coherent, they may have a good chance," he said. "They did have their packs with them, so there's always the opportunity that they crawled in a rotten log to seek shelter and are still waiting for the storm to blow over."

Chuck Koehn, the incident commander, remains optimistic as well.

"Our hunch is they've holed up and waited as they've been instructed to," Koehn said.

Miller said the two could be dealing with a variety of hazards including hypothermia.

Approximately 60 searchers were involved in Wednesday's search that was called off until daybreak Thursday.

Search efforts have been hampered by weather conditions. After heavy snowfall the first days of the search, rain fell on Wednesday, causing 18 inches of slush.

The terrain is difficult to search on as well, Miller said.

"It's a big area with steep terrain and falling rocks. There are many, many hazards," Miller said.

The chances of the pair surviving are better because one of the students, Allard, is an experienced outdoorsman, said Jim Blanchard, director of the Outdoors Pursuits Program. Allard has taken several of the classes in the program.

Kaci Elder, Allard's friend and sophomore English major, said he has gone on many hikes but has never hiked in the Sisters area before.

In a statement released on Wednesday, University President Dave Frohnmaier said, "Our hearts go out to the families and many friends of Frank Allard and Michael Casey as searchers continue looking for the two University of Oregon students."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



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