Atascadero City Council
Staff Report – Community Development Department

Development Services
Permit Streamlining Program
Update Presentation

RECOMMENDATION:

Council receive and file the report.

DISCUSSION:

Since 2000, the Community Development Department has been committed to streamlining and improving the entire development reviewing and permitting system. In 2002 Phase I of the Permit Streamlining Program was completed. Phase II of the streamlining program was completed in 2003. Since 2004 staff has been engaged in a number of on-going improvements to the permitting process. This Phase III process has been a joint effort of the Community Development Department, Public Works Department, and Fire Department.

Staff’s goal has been to continue to improve customer service, speed up the permitting process, and improve the quality of projects. Maintaining the efficiency of the permitting process is an on-going effort that is never finished. The annual increase in the number of permits and new requirements, such as affordable housing, threaten to cancel out improvements in other parts of the permitting process.

Staff will present a report updating the status of the latest efforts to improve the permitting process.
Permit activity level remains at near record levels in 2006. However, permit activity levels dropped in 2006 for the first time in nine years.
Phase II of the permit streamlining program occurred from 2003 to 04. The chart above summarized the scope of changes that were made to the permitting process and Community Development Department.
Phase III of the Permit Streamlining Program was a joint effort among the Community Development Department, Public Works Department, and Fire Department. The three departments worked together on a series of improvements to the permitting process. Improvements were made to Customer Service, Plan Check Routing, Plan Check Review, and Project Quality.