

Delay the general plan vote

December 17, 2014

Fresno has returned to normal: rain falling, fog forming and our City Council jamming a major vote through during the holidays when everybody's too busy to pay close attention. Yes, it's a wonderful life, and we're all living in Pottersville.

The point most people are missing about today's scheduled council vote on the 2035 General Plan Update is that it is also a vote on the plan's Environmental Impact Report. You know, the document that assesses the plan's impact on people's health.

The key phase being cut short is when we finally get to read the city's official responses to public and government agencies' concerns. The administration dumped more than 3,000 pages of documents on a Friday night less than two weeks ago. Health advocates had less than 72 hours to prepare for the Monday night Planning Commission meeting, and public comment at City Council came three days after that.

While spending much of the past year running for statewide office, Mayor Swearingin assured us she had a great team in place. She was wrong. It's becoming clear that the plan fails to sufficiently protect public health. The City Council should postpone its decision for 30 days.

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