



Mid-Hillside & Hillside East Community Councils  
c/o The Federation of Community Councils  
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## HALO AND HILLSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCILS

formed a group to kick start the creation of the HDP a few years ago. That was partially successful when \$100,000 was budgeted for 2005.

The group's general theme is that the HDP should be guided by what residents want. Technical studies that follow would be designed to see how to achieve those desires.

Forward motion has been in spurts since the people most involved are awful busy doing lots of other things and have at best limited experience with writing plans.

But there has been progress. There's an outline to do a scoping meeting, followed by a professional survey and followed by another large meeting after results of the first two are digested.

There was a decision to include the Basher area and to draw the boundary for the study east of Lake Otis.

The well attended meeting on September 29th provided lots of direction. A website has been set up. We're looking around for a professional to help manage things and look for money. All of this is so far without MOA support (HALO dug deep to pay \$7,000 for the newsletter advertising the meeting!)

At the same time this work has gone on, the Assembly has come up with a framework for groups like Community Councils to prepare District Plans.

As things have progressed, more people are getting involved. HALO and your Community Councils are on track to see this plan through.

For more info: <http://www.anchoragehillside.org/>

## Dueling District Plans

Not long ago, there was just a glimmer of hope that a Hillside District Plan would be written. Now we have two processes running parallel.

## THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IS ALSO MOVING FORWARD

with a HDP budget request of \$1.2 million. Wow! This is heavy with studies of

on-site water and septic, public water and sewer, drainage, transportation and trails. There's also \$160,000 for several levels of community surveys. This budget includes a project manager from the MOA and a paid consultant.

While the study topics make sense for our area, there is a tone that community preferences are at best an equal part of the equation, but not the guiding influence.

The Scope of Work envisions a MOA Project Manager hired at the end of this year and a Lead Consultant (probably a planning company) hired early in 2006. A Draft Plan is expected in the first quarter of 2007.

The boundary for the Planning Department does not include the Basher area and draws the west boundary at the Seward Highway.

At this point, it is very encouraging to see a realistic effort put forward by the Planning Department.

Are the efforts by the HALO and the Community Councils redundant if the Planning Department gets full funding for their scope of work? That remains to be seen.

For HALO and the CC's to be strong partners in the process, we'll need the legitimacy of the public process that we've already started.

If the Planning Department fails to get full funding, the public input we've already gotten should help prioritize the limited funds.

**Our next meeting is Thursday October 20 at 7:00 pm  
at O'Malley Elementary School.**