



ORANGE COUNTY  
**OC Public Works**  
 MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** September 14, 2022

**TO:** Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan Review Board

**FROM:** Justin Kirk, AICP, Planning Division Manager (714) 667-8895 or [justin.kirk@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:justin.kirk@ocpw.ocgov.com)

**SUBJECT: Potential modifications to the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. Receive and file the staff report; and,
2. Discuss potential modifications to the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan and provide consensus direction on the changes requested by the Review Board.

**DISCUSSION**

The Review Board has expressed a desire to modify the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65453. (a) A specific plan shall be prepared, adopted, and amended in the same manner as a general plan, except that a specific plan may be adopted by resolution or by ordinance and may be amended as often as deemed necessary by the legislative body. To revise the specific plan, the following steps would be required:

1. Solicit direction from the Legislative Body, i.e., the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed amendments.
2. Upon Receiving direction to proceed with the amendment, preparation and completion of the proposed Amendment would be next. This process would be potentially managed by OC Public Works Staff in consultation with County Counsel.
3. Following the completion of the amendment, initiation and completion of SB 18 Native American Consultation would follow. SB 18 consultation is statutorily required whenever a General Plan or Specific Plan is proposed to be amended. This process consists of obtaining a list of recognized Tribes within the area of the proposed changes from the Native American Heritage Commission and requesting consultation on the proposed Amendment and is concluded upon written concurrence of the proposed Amendment by any recognized Tribe who had requested consultation.
4. Any proposed Amendment would also need to access for consistency with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), minor modifications may qualify for an exemption, whereas more complex modifications may require the preparation of an Initial Study and potentially a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report.
5. During the environmental review process staff would conduct several Community Outreach meetings to garner feedback and provide a resource to explain the proposed changes and answer any questions.
6. Once adequate public outreach had been concluded, the Amendment would begin the formal review consisting of review by the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan Review Board (Recommending Body), Planning Commission (Recommending Body) and the Board of Supervisors (Decision Making Body).

While there are several procedural steps involved, once started the process works efficiently. There are numerous opportunities for public outreach to avoid potential concerns with the proposed changes. Should the Review Board provide specific direction on potential amendments to the Specific Plan, staff would then reach out to the Third District to discuss the changes and process and obtain direction on the amendments.