

Chapter 90 (Oil and Gas Regulations) of the La Plata County Land Use Code Update

- The La Plata County Planning Commission took about two hours of public comment on oil and gas regulations, including from industry supporters, but did not make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.
- The discussion on [version 2 of the Chapter 90 draft regulations](#) will continue on March 9th beginning at 6pm at the County Administration building and on zoom.

La Plata County Land Use Code Change

- La Plata County Commissioners approved a change to the land use code. LUC Sec. 66-11.I.A.2 addresses the signature requirements for submission of a development application to modify an existing plat.
- Previously, developers needed to get signatures from all the property owners on the plat in order to modify the plat. Under the newly approved code, 67% of the signatures are required.

Three Springs Village

- The City of Durango is partnering with developer GRVP to build out Three Springs Village 2 with help from a Dept of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant.
- The proposal includes funding to develop construction plans for the Wilson Gulch Road extension along with water and sewer main lines. Grant funds would be used to create a development plan and financing model for an adjacent 10-15 acre parcel on the north east side of Wilson Gulch to be developed with a mix of housing types.
- The project could yield 180-270 residential units with the majority of them being ownership opportunities.

Durango Fair Share Ordinance

- The City received a \$120K grant from DOLA to work with Root Policy Research to revamp the [Fair Share ordinance](#). The scope of the work includes plans to incorporate rental housing into the Fair Share program. The city seeks to streamline the program to clarify financial components of the program, and to assess the gap between market units and below-market affordable and workforce units.
- The city adopted the Fair Share Ordinance in 2009 as one of the strategies to address affordable and workforce housing.
- Work on the revamp began this month.

Durango City Council Election

- Two seats are open for the April 4th election. Barbara Noseworthy and Kim Baxter will not run for reelection. The following people have qualified to run:
 - David Woodruff (U), president of the Durango Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association
 - Harrison Wendt (D), youth programming coordinator at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango
 - Carter Rogers (R), Fort Lewis College Student Body President
 - Douglas Snow (D), Durango resident
 - Gilda Yazzie (D), Durango resident
- [Durango Chamber of Commerce will hold a candidate forum March 14](#) at the Doubletree at 11:30 am.

US Highway 160 Improvements

- La Plata County, in partnership with CDOT Region 5, is requesting a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund highway improvements to US Highway 160. This will be about 3 miles, from the intersection of US 160 & State Highway 172 to the intersection with County Road 225A.
- La Plata County is requesting \$25 million in RAISE funds to complete the funding package for this \$66 million project. La Plata County is not committing any funding to this grant and if successful, the project will be managed by CDOT.
- The project will widen US Highway 160 to a 5-lane section from the intersection of US 160/SH 172 across the Florida Mesa. As the highway descends to the Florida, the highway will be widened to 2-lanes in each direction plus a divided median. The bridge structure across the Florida River will be widened to 2 lanes in each direction, and the intersection of County Road 225 and US 160 will be upgraded from its current configuration to address significant safety issues. The project includes 2 wildlife underpasses to address wildlife collisions.

Meetings attended February 10 - March 2

2/13 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting 2/14 - 10 am BOCC meeting CANCELED 2.15 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time CANCELED 2/21 - 10 am BOCC Meeting 2/21 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session 2/21 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	2/22 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time 2/22 - 1 pm BOCC Study Session on Broadband 2/23 - 8 am Eggs & Issues 2/23 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission 2/27 - 5pm Durango Planning Commission 2/28 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting 3/2 - 3:30 pm LAC Meeting
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Colorado Legislature

Business / Taxation

- [HB 1004](#) - Concerning requirements regarding the language used in certain insurance documents. - Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee for a hearing March 2nd. **CAR is Monitoring**
- [HB 1006](#) - Concerning the notice requirements of employers regarding income tax credits, and, in connection therewith, requiring employers to notify employees of the availability of the federal earned income tax credit, the state earned income tax credit, the federal child tax credit, and the state child tax credit. - To Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee. **CO Chamber wants to Amend**
- [HB 1011](#) - Concerning a requirement that an agricultural equipment manufacturer facilitate the repair of its equipment by providing certain other persons with the resources needed to repair the manufacturer's agricultural equipment. - To Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. **CO Chamber Opposes**
- [HB 1017](#) - Concerning improvements to the electronic sales and use tax simplification system. - House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations. **CO Chamber Supports**
- [HB 1118](#) - Concerning fair workweek employment standards - House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only Hearing March 2nd. **Durango Chamber Opposes, CO Chamber Opposes**
- [HB 1035](#) - Concerning the statute of limitations for a violation of minimum wage laws - **CO Chamber Supports** - House Committee on Judiciary Postpone Indefinitely.
- [HB 1054](#) - Concerning real property valuation, and, in connection therewith, extending the property tax reassessment cycle beginning on January 1, 2021, to a four-year cycle; removing the dollar amount reductions to the actual value used for the valuation for assessment of lodging property, improved commercial property, and residential property; maintaining the same assessment rates for all real property besides residential real property in the 2023 and 2024 property tax years; and capping the increase in property values between the 2022 and 2025 property tax years. House Finance Committee **CAR Monitoring, CO Chamber Monitoring.**
- [SB 6](#) - Concerning the creation of the rural opportunity office in the office of economic development. - Senate Appropriations Committee. - **CAR Supports**
- [SB 17](#) - Concerning the addition of qualifying uses of paid sick leave -To Senate Appropriations Committee - **CO Chamber wants to Amend**
- [SB 46](#) - Concerning the calculation of a covered individual's average weekly wage for paid family and medical leave benefit - House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor Refer Unamended to House Committee of the Whole - **Co Chamber Monitoring**
- [SB 47](#) - Concerning modifications to the closing and settlement process for real estate transactions. - Senate Committee on Business, Labor, & Technology Postpone Indefinitely - **CAR Opposes**

Land Use

- [HB 1096](#) - Concerning the promotion of wildfire resilient houses in areas of the state at high risk for wildfires through expansion of the wildfire mitigation resources and best practices grant program. House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee for a hearing on 2/27 - **CAR Supports**
- [SB 5](#) - Concerning measures to expand the forestry workforce, and, in connection therewith, directing the Colorado state forest service to develop educational materials for high school students about career opportunities in forestry and wildfire mitigation; creating a timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries workforce development program to help fund internships in those industries; allocating general fund money to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund; authorizing the expansion and creation of forestry programs in the community college system and at Colorado mountain college; and directing the state board for community colleges and occupational education to administer a program to recruit wildland fire prevention and mitigation educators. Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee. **CAR Supports**

Housing

- [HB 1115](#) - Concerning the repeal of statutory provisions prohibiting local governments from enacting rent control on private residential property or a private residential housing unit. - House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee, Floor - **CO Chamber Opposes, CAR Opposes**
- [SB 1](#) - Concerning additional functions of the public-private collaboration unit for public projects that provide housing.- assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee. **CAR Supports, CO Chamber Supports**
- [SB 35](#) - Concerning the operation of the middle-income housing authority, and, in connection therewith, adding members to the board of directors and expanding the power of the authority to enter into public-private partnerships -Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments. **CAR Monitoring**
- [SB 77](#) - Concerning prohibiting the inclusion of certain terms in a broker engagement contract.- To House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee hearing March 7th. **CAR Supports**

Regulatory

- [HB 1039](#) - Concerning a requirement that electric load-serving entities periodically report about the adequacy of their electric resources. - House Appropriations Committee hearing March 3rd. **CO Chamber Supports**
- [HB 1068](#) - Concerning pet animal ownership in housing, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting restrictions on dog breeds for obtaining homeowner's insurance, providing for the manner in which pet animals are handled when a writ of restitution is executed, prohibiting security deposits or rent for pet animals, creating the pet friendly landlord damage mitigation program, excluding pet animals from personal property liens, and requiring that pet animals be allowed at a qualified development for the development to receive the Colorado affordable housing tax credit. - To House Finance Committee - **CAR wants to Amend**
- [HB 1099](#) - Concerning tenant screening documentation for residential leases. House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee, Floor. **CAR Opposes**

Local Government

- [HB 1085](#) - Concerning modification of the requirements for local governments in rural areas to adopt energy efficient building codes, and, in connection therewith, amending the definition of a rural county, defining a rural municipality, and extending the energy efficient building code compliance periods for both. - House Committee on Energy & Environment Postpone Indefinitely

Labor/Employment

- [HB 1032](#) - Concerning civil action remedy provisions or civil rights violations of persons with disabilities.To House Judiciary Committee - **CO Chamber wants to Amend**
- [HB 1078](#) - Concerning the creation of a dependent allowance for individuals receiving unemployment compensation. House Appropriations Committee. **CO Chamber Opposes**

Energy & Environment

- [SB 16](#) - Concerning measures to promote reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado - To Senate Appropriations Committee - **CO Chamber wants to Amend**
- [SB 79](#) - Concerning the inclusion of nuclear energy as a source of clean energy. Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy Postpone Indefinitely.
- [HB-1069](#) - Concerning the creation of the biochar in oil and gas well plugging working advisory group to make recommendations for the development of a pilot program to study the use of biochar in the plugging of oil and gas wells. House Committee on Energy & Environment Refer Amended to Appropriations hearing March 3.
- [HB 1152](#) - Concerning prohibiting the ownership of certain property interests by covered foreign persons that are not located in the United States. House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Postpone Indefinitely