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Introduction

Purpose

In 2012, a visioning process to gather community input about Altadena’s future was initiated by the Los Angeles County Fifth Supervisorial District, Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. This input was intended to set the direction for any future updates to the Community Standards District – zoning regulations specific to Altadena – as well as provide the County and Altadena leaders with a better understanding of what community members want to see in Altadena’s future.

This vision report is a summary of the community input received through the Altadena Community Visioning Process. It describes what community members value most about Altadena, the major issues they feel should be addressed, and the kind of future that they hope to see. It is not a work program but rather a snapshot of a community discussion.

The report will serve as a reference document for the County of Los Angeles in any future planning efforts that may be undertaken when funding and resources become available. Community members may also choose to continue the conversations begun in the visioning process and pursue the suggestions that have been made.

Visioning Process

Beginning in February 2012, the County’s consultant team became familiar with Altadena and met with individuals and groups that were expected to have insight into major community issues and assets. These interviews and meetings continued throughout the process. Groups that participated included the Town Council and the Council’s Land Use Committee, Altadena Heritage, Chamber of Commerce, the Altadena Library, and Altadena Crest Trail Working Group.

A series of three community workshops was held at Loma Alta Park Gym on the evenings of April 4, April 25, and June 6; each workshop lasted about 2 hours. Efforts to promote participation in these workshops included postcards sent to every property owner in Altadena; flyers sent home in student packets through the public schools in Altadena; emails sent through community lists; notices on the Community Development Commission and Town Council websites; and articles in AltadenaBlog, the Altadena Patch, and the Pasadena Star News. Emails, flyers, and postcards were written in Spanish as well as English, and Spanish translation was available at the...
workshops.

The first community workshop gathered comments about Altadena’s “treasures,” “challenges,” and “visions” for the future from at least 135 participants through an individual brainstorming exercise followed by small group discussions about the major topics in the comments.

The second workshop (attended by at least 80 people) prompted groups to discuss the input that had been received at the first workshop, the interviews/meetings, and online. This input was presented on a set of discussion sheets that became the basis for the Draft Vision Report.

At the final workshop (attended by at least 50 people), participants heard a presentation giving an overview of the Draft Vision Report, then provided their individual comments at stations organized around the six characteristics in the “Vision for Altadena.” They provided these comments on evaluation forms, flipcharts, and Post-It Notes that they placed on large copies of the Draft Vision Report pages. A “Volunteer Station” was set up to encourage people to talk about launching volunteer initiatives to implement items in the vision report.

Report Organization

The visioning process uncovered a wealth of ideas about Altadena’s future, on a wide range of topics. Workshop summaries (see Appendix) that were produced during the process present this input in full; however, this report is intended to provide a focused list of items that community members seem to feel are most important at this time.

The “Vision for Altadena” section is the main body of this report. It is organized around six primary characteristics that describe the desired future for Altadena, as expressed by participants in the visioning process. For each characteristic, the report presents the following:

Guiding Principles – These statements, originally presented to community members in Workshop 2 and revised based on their feedback, describe a general approach for achieving or retaining a desired characteristic. They may be seen as a framework for policy or action.

Visioning Quotes – Key quotes from individuals and small groups explain in community members’ own words what they hope Altadena will achieve.
Key Topics to Address – This section provides community input regarding key topics that residents feel should be addressed. For each topic, related community concerns and suggestions are presented, along with some relevant background information and things to consider. These considerations include instances of suggestions already being implemented, potential contradictions in community members' suggestions, and other potential issues that the County and consultant are aware of.

The “Going Forward” section provides a list of initiatives that received support in the visioning process and suggests how the vision report may be used by the County and community members.

The Appendices provide more detailed descriptions of the workshops and compilations of the community input received at those workshops.

Vision for Altadena

By identifying Altadena’s “treasures” and making suggestions for the future, participants in the visioning process expressed that their desired future community should have the following characteristics:

Diverse, eclectic, unique character
Views and access to the mountains and nature
Town/district centers with thriving businesses
Safe and peaceful neighborhoods
Community cohesion and strong institutions
Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Some of these are existing characteristics that residents want Altadena to retain; others are ideal characteristics that they hope Altadena will achieve. Each characteristic is described on the following pages.
Diverse, eclectic, unique character

Residents appreciate the eclectic and unique character of Altadena. This includes places such as historical homes and properties, and locally owned businesses. It also includes an appreciation for people with a range of ethnic backgrounds and incomes, and for artists and musicians in the community.

Guiding Principles

- Preserve historic, eclectic, unique character
- Allow a variety of building types and styles in keeping with Altadena’s eclectic character
- Value the diversity of Altadena’s population
- Allow for diversity in housing types and affordability
- Respect the desire for independence and freedom

Key Topics to Address

**Design regulations and guidelines**

**Income diversity and gentrification**

Design regulations and guidelines

Background

As acknowledged by many participants in Workshop 1, Altadena has a rich history that has left a legacy of historic buildings and other sites. The Altadena built environment reflects different periods of growth throughout this history, with different building styles and standards. In the present day, development in Altadena is regulated by the Los Angeles County General Plan, Altadena Community Plan, and Los Angeles County zoning code.

The Community Standards District (CSD) adds to and modifies the underlying County zoning regulations for setbacks, signage, and other aspects of building and site design. It includes language that promotes the use of a “Mediterranean” style for buildings in the Lake Avenue area and limits base building colors to “light earth-tones and muted pastel colors” while allowing “contrasting, more colorful” colors for trim.

The CSD also provides residential regulations for Altadena which address development and grading in County-designated hillside management areas, and provide development standards for R-1, R-2, and R-3 zones. These standards include yard size requirements, required setbacks, height limits,
required number of parking spaces, maximum floor area and lot coverage allowed for single family homes, and the inclusion of decorative roofline features for multifamily buildings.

**Issues Identified by Community**

**Commercial areas** – The CSD limitations on building style and color seem inconsistent with Altadena’s eclectic and creative character, and do not “fit today’s sensibility for colors / signage / architecture,” in the words of Workshop 2 participants. Participants expressed a desire to promote unique, locally owned businesses rather than chain businesses, but others said that they wanted businesses such as Starbucks and Trader Joe’s. For more on the topic of commercial areas, also see the section “Town / district centers with thriving businesses”.

**Residential areas** – It may be a challenge to apply zoning and design guidelines to the unique patchwork of Altadena’s residential areas. For instance, due to current setback requirements, homeowners in the R-1 zone may need conditional use permits for home expansions if their property is significantly smaller (and therefore their setbacks smaller) than those of their neighbors. A subcommittee of the Town Council’s Land Use Committee produced a report that recommends revisions to the R-1 zoning regulations in the Community Standards District to address this issue and make other adaptations for Altadena’s neighborhoods. Community members made comments both to strengthen the mansionization ordinance and to limit the need for CUPs that it creates.

**Fence heights** – Many fences in Altadena's residential front yards are higher than what is allowed by the County zoning regulations, or have high hedges. In the past, community members have suggested using the Community Standards District to accommodate higher fences and hedges. This issue was only brought up briefly in the visioning process. Community members suggested that standards could address height, setback, opacity, materials, impacts to neighbors’ views, preserving visibility for passing traffic, and views to the front door.

**Preserving views** – Community members wish to preserve views of nighttime skies and to underground power lines that interfere with daytime views. Undergrounding could also protect power lines from wind storms such as the one that caused a major outage in December 2011.

**Community Suggestions**

- **Commercial areas:**
  - Provide design guidance that does not dictate a particular style or color scheme, but instead promotes architectural quality and creativity, and allows adaptations for the unique situations of particular sites (slope, dimensions, etc.) without burdensome permitting requirements. Limit standards or guidelines to addressing building uses, mass, setbacks, density, rear parking, and right-of-way intrusion.
  - Encourage third and higher stories to be stepped back to help preserve views of the mountains from the street. Allow building overhangs over sidewalks.
  - Promote and encourage art by revising regulations to allow distinctive murals on commercial or public buildings.
  - Consider establishing a design review process to promote innovative architecture.

- **Home additions, accessory buildings, pools:**
  - Revise setback/yard requirements in CSD so that homeowners do not need conditional use permits for types of expansions that the community finds acceptable. (For
suggested revisions, refer to the report from Land Use Committee Sub-committee for the Review of the Altadena Community Standards District Zone R1.)

- Revise regulations to be more accommodating of fences and hedges that already exist in Altadena.
- Provide more proactive code enforcement to promote better property maintenance, ensure compatibility with surrounding properties, and preserve oak trees.
- Allow more agricultural uses in residential areas. (Also see Key Topic “Sustainability”)
- Adopt a “dark sky” ordinance to control light pollution. The County recently adopted such an ordinance, which only applies to the portions of Altadena located within the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest.
- Create a long-term plan for undergrounding utilities and power lines.

Considerations
Building heights in much of Altadena’s commercial areas are limited to 35 feet, and community members have differing opinions about whether this limit should be preserved. The suggestion for stepping back stories built above the second story may partly address the concerns of people who wish to retain the current height limit.

The issue of fence- and hedge-height zoning standards seems to need further exploration. It was only touched upon in the visioning process, but the County code is not consistent with fences and hedges that were built before the code was adopted and that some community members favor.

While certain home expansions that currently require a Conditional Use Permit may be generally acceptable to community members, and there were even some calls for scaling back the mansionization ordinance, there is still community support for limiting mansionization and this should be a consideration during any revision of residential zoning.

Income diversity and gentrification

Background
Altadena is diverse in many ways, including its mix of housing options within neighborhoods that allows people with a range of incomes to live in close proximity to each other. As seen in the community quotes, this is something that people treasure.

Issues Identified by Community
Gentrification – This is a term with different connotations. It usually describes a process of transformation in an area that includes an increase in rent prices and an influx of businesses that cater to people with higher incomes. It can occur after an area experiences positive changes that have made it more desirable to live or conduct business there. However, an increase in the cost of living can lead to displacement of people and businesses—in fact, without preventative efforts displacement is likely to occur.

As the Visioning Quotes on page 4 suggest, Workshop 1 participants felt that gentrification is occurring in Altadena and they wanted to preserve the affordability that allows residents of different incomes to live on the same street. Community members also raised concerns about the affordability of
commercial rents in the Lincoln Avenue redevelopment area, child care, and produce at the farmers market.

**East/West divide** – Although Altadenans value income diversity, residents seem less comfortable with a larger difference they see between the “east side” and “west side” of the community. Community members have identified an economic, physical and social divide, including a lack of east/west connections along corridors, and they perceive differences in the quality of government services provided in these areas.

**Infrastructure and utilities** – Community members reported issues with electricity reliability, homes using septic tanks, and outdated heating systems in older homes. Further exploration may be needed to determine whether some of these issues are affecting people who need assistance in rehabilitating their homes, and whether there are particular neighborhoods in need of more attention.

**Community Suggestions**
- Defend homes against foreclosure and fine banks for unmaintained vacant homes.
- Create a community fund to help homeowners to improve or clean up their properties.
- Actions in the section “Community cohesion and strong institutions” may address some of the desires for better connections across social divisions, and for providing community supports for people in need.
- Community members made general suggestions to encourage physical connectivity between the east and west through improvements to east-west corridors and transit connections.
- Suggestions for infrastructure included extending sewer systems and providing better communications infrastructure.

**Considerations**
Some comments from community members simply listed “gentrification” as a concern, and further information is needed in order to identify what specific issues are occurring.

Written comments protested that sewer fees should not be increased in order to extend sewer infrastructure—at least not without agreement by the affected parties.
Mountain views, access to nature, and environmental stewardship

In Workshop 1, the mountains and nature were the most commonly cited treasures of Altadena. Residents appreciate views of the mountains as well as the trails that allow access to nature in the Angeles National Forest, Hahamonga Watershed Park, and Eaton Canyon Natural Area. Local parks, trees, and greenery are valued, as are peace and quiet, darker night skies, and a “rural” or “country” feeling in Altadena.

Community members also showed keen interest in promoting sustainability in Altadena’s built environment, economy, and culture. This goes beyond appreciation of nature, into more general issues of resource use and local independence. One topic in which Altadena shows special interest is the development of a local food system.

Guiding Principles

- Keep hillside neighborhoods in harmony with the natural landscape
- Preserve views of mountains and hills
- Retain peace and quiet
- Allow rural/agricultural uses
- Encourage urban agriculture activities
- Preserve mature trees
- Support healthy wildlife populations in nearby wilderness areas
- Reconnect the Altadena Crest Trail and provide more public access points

Key Topics to Address

Altadena Crest Trail completion and access

Sustainability

Altadena Crest Trail completion and access

Background

The Altadena Crest Trail is an east-west trail between Hahamonga Watershed Park and Eaton Canyon Natural Area along the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Skirting the edge of developed neighborhoods, it serves as a cross-community connector and connects to other trail systems including Angeles National Forest trails and the proposed Emerald Horseshoe. The County of Los Angeles Altadena Crest Trail

Visioning Quotes

“Access to mountains, trails, nature”
– Treasure, Workshop 1

“Value the quiet - don’t hear freeway noises - do hear birds in trees, see squirrels” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Our mountains” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Continue the small-town feel, horses on streets etc.” – Vision, Workshop 1

“An expanded local economy based on camping, hiking, equestrian & mountain biking uses” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Preserve oaks and other mature trees”
– Vision, Workshop 1

“Preserve open space & ‘green’ (pastoral) recreation such as hiking, horse riding, bird watching, open air painting, wild flower walks, moonlight hikes, etc!”
– Vision, Workshop 1

“Environmental sensitivity – Go Green!”
– Vision, Workshop 1

“Altadena farmers market is the best thing to happen here. It can be done. Therefore, encourage local agriculture.”
– Comment, Workshop 3

“Altadena can create this brand: outdoor access in L.A.” – Comment, Workshop 3
Improvements Feasibility Analysis identified four gaps along the trail and evaluated potential trail segments to fill those gaps.

Issues Identified by Community
Trail completion – Community members wish to complete the Altadena Crest Trail. According to community members, historical maps show a more complete trail than what exists today and gaps have come about through neglect. Development has encroached on the trail and property owners have erected fences blocking trail use. Community members also reported that the County vacated a portion of the trail.

Trail access – Community members brought up two points regarding access to the Altadena Crest Trail. Access points are being controlled by adjacent property owners, some of whom block entry with locked gates. Also, the trail closes at dusk although Angeles National Forest trails that connect to the trail are open through the night, preventing through travel for users of the National Forest trails and nighttime enjoyment of the trail.

Community Suggestions
- Add language to the Community Standards District that supports trail easements, perhaps looking to other areas for examples (e.g. Acton, Santa Clarita).
- Assign County staff to coordinate with the Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group to work on trail easements and work cooperatively with property owners to ensure access to the Altadena Crest Trail.
- Consider allowing nighttime access to Altadena Crest Trail, like National Forest trails, or provide special night hikes as in Eaton Canyon; but limit disturbance in neighborhoods by continuing to enforce prohibition on parking between 10 pm and 6 am.
- Establish a nature center on the west side of Altadena (near Hahamongna Watershed Park / Arroyo Seco).
- Provide more trail maintenance. Organize volunteer trail maintenance crews.

Considerations
Planning for trail access points should be coordinated with planning for walking, biking, and horseback riding infrastructure in order to allow non-motorized travel to and from trailheads (see the section “Opportunities for walking...”). Nighttime access to trails should be balanced with neighbors’ concerns about safety and noise.

Sustainability

Background
At the most basic level, environmental sustainability aims for the long-term stewardship of energy, water, and other natural resources. It is often linked to other community goals including social equity and a stable economy. For Altadena, concern for the environment is linked to enjoyment and stewardship of natural areas and wildlife—as well as an interest in local food production.
Issues Identified by Community
Participants in Workshop 1 saw opportunities for greater localization and independence through promoting a local economy and food system, transportation options, renewable energy generation, and water re-use.

Community Suggestions

- Promote a local food system through community gardening, fruit harvesting and sharing, urban homesteading, farmer’s market, and a food co-op.
- Encourage more trees and greenery: tree canopy, green roofs, and living facades. Require shade trees in parking lots and use drought-tolerant plant species that withstand windstorms. Require proper maintenance of trees and landscaping.
- Incentivize sustainable business practices regarding waste, energy, and water.
- In residential areas, encourage activities that reduce waste and conserve energy and water, such as installing solar panels, retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient, capturing stormwater and greywater, using green building methods, replacing lawns with more water efficient landscaping, etc.
- Allow more agricultural uses in residential areas including gardens, small-scale commercial farming, some animal keeping, small nurseries, and food production. (Also see Key Topic “Design regulations and guidelines”)
- Create a corps to install solar panels and rehabilitate homes, perhaps through a vocational education program (suggestions for funding: Southern California Edison and County).
- Promote sustainability through a symposium, website, and sustainability “overlay”.
- Leverage youth to be ambassadors of sustainability and encourage school gardens.
- Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and corridors. Listed as an area of concern: Hahamongna watershed sediment removal route.
- Provide animal services that respond quickly and minimize suffering. Consider contracting with Pasadena Humane Society.

Considerations
Some suggestions for the local food system are already being implemented. A certified farmer’s market was launched in Altadena on May 30, 2012 and efforts are underway to plan a food co-op for the area.

The Community Standards District already requires maintenance of landscaping “through regular pruning, weeding, fertilizing, litter removal, and replacement of plants as necessary.”
**Town/district centers with thriving businesses**

While residents value the feeling of being removed from larger cities, the proximity to nature, and the sense of quiet in Altadena, there is a desire for the community to have more of the amenities associated with city life and at least one “town center” where people can shop, walk, and gather with other community members. Residents would like to see the commercial areas thriving and occupied with more businesses, expressing a desire for more convenient shopping and for more restaurants and cafes, as well as community events. Some of these comments specifically called out the major commercial corridors Lake Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Fair Oaks.

**Guiding Principles**

- Provide parking adjacent to businesses as well as shared parking areas and on-street parking so visitors can “park once” and walk to businesses
- Encourage walking and enjoyment of the streets—bring the streets to life
- Incentivize development, rehabilitation, and re-use of commercial properties
- Encourage restaurants, cafes, and other uses where people can gather
- Encourage a mix of unique and locally owned retail that serves residents and attracts visitors
- Encourage expansion of quality grocery retail
- Allow attractive and visible signage that supports local businesses
- Encourage community events, art, and performances
- Incorporate trees and landscaping

**Key Topics to Address**

- Filling vacancies and addressing blight
- Parking supply and regulations
- Streetscape improvements
- Signage

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**Visioning Quotes**

“More community friendly, locally owned businesses” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Survival of the small business that we know & love” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Redesign Lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places”

– Vision, Workshop 1

“Walkable downtown or town ‘center’ area with restaurants, local shops, gathering places” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Thriving businesses – adding in light manufacturing & service companies”

– Vision, Workshop 1
Filling vacancies and addressing blight

Background
Empty buildings are noticeable in Altadena’s commercial areas. In addition, there are some large and visible vacant lots such as the fenced lot on Lake Avenue at Calaveras. These properties are potential locations for new or expanding businesses.

Issues Identified by Community
Vacant/underused properties – Besides the smaller vacant storefronts, community members would like to see development or rehabilitation of some large and visible properties including those at Lake and Calaveras, Lincoln and Altadena, and the Rite Aid shopping center. Some are concerned about having too many religious uses occupying storefronts since these spaces could be used by businesses that draw more foot traffic (on most days) and add to the tax base. However, others feel that these uses add value.

Blight – Undeveloped properties and empty buildings are a concern, as well as a lack of property maintenance including weeds and trash/debris, unmaintained landscape, dirty windows and sidewalks, lack of paint, and “ragged” fences.

Regulatory issues – It is difficult for new uses to occupy buildings that do not conform to zoning, which discourages the re-use of these buildings. Additionally, it is difficult for businesses to meet parking requirements, thus discouraging them to open in the community. This is described further in the next section, “Parking supply and regulations”. Also see Key Topic “Design Regulations and Guidelines” for other regulatory issues.

Community Suggestions
- Strongly discourage property owners from allowing their properties to remain vacant, unfinished, or unmaintained. Raise fines for property maintenance violations, and enact a tax on vacant buildings equal to the general fair market rent of the area. Create incentives for landlords to fill vacancies. (Also see Key Topic “Income diversity and gentrification” for vacant properties in residential areas.)
- Create a one-stop shop / ombudsman to help businesses through the permitting process to start and expand in Altadena. Comment from Workshop 2: “County needs to remove roadblocks.” Lower fees for permits.
- Assist businesses with code compliance before imposing fines. Encourage a working relationship between the County and Chamber of Commerce to provide this assistance. Lower fines for code violations that do not cause blight.
- Expand allowed uses to include light manufacturing, and encourage artist enterprises.
- Grandfather original zoning to allow street front retail businesses to open in nonconforming buildings. Allow existing uses on transfer or sale.
- Plan for and incentivize redevelopment of North Lake around the Ralphs and Rite Aid lots.
- Establish a Business Improvement District to pursue positive changes such as addressing undermaintained properties.
- Consider temporary uses to occupy vacancies, such as agricultural uses on undeveloped land.
- Provide alternative “graffiti safe” locations for graffiti artists.
Considerations
Although community members suggested enacting a moratorium on the uses of storefronts for religious purposes, this is not likely to be legally defensible and others in the community have already objected. Given the amount of attention this issue received, however, further exploration is suggested to address the root concerns surrounding these uses: “dead space” and unused parking spaces in commercial areas during the week.

Some community members feel that adding residential uses in close proximity to commercial areas would add to the vitality of these areas, either through mixed use or higher-density residential development. Others strongly oppose this idea.

Parking supply and regulations

Background
Smaller parcels in Altadena’s commercial areas have limited on-site parking, and larger parking lots are not shared. County zoning requires that businesses provide a certain number of spaces, so for a smaller parcel this can mean that a new business will need a conditional use permit to open.

Issues Identified by Community
Parking requirements – The cost and processing time for obtaining a conditional use permit are prohibitive. At Workshop 2, a community member wrote, “Until parking restrictions are resolved new businesses like restaurants cannot open.” Groups in Workshop 2 said that addressing the issue of parking should be a priority.

Community Suggestions

• Revise parking requirements to reduce the need for businesses to obtain Conditional Use Permits:
  • Allow businesses to count spaces in common.
  • Issue parking permits to limit overflow into residential areas.
• Create public parking spaces:
  • Add diagonal parking on Mariposa Street and Lake Avenue. (See Streetscape Improvements topic for details.)
  • Create parking lots on County-owned land. Suggestion: Empty lot on El Molino Street between Sheriff and fire station.
  • Relocate bus parking/idling areas to free more space for vehicle parking.
• Establish mechanisms for shared use of existing and future parking among commercial, public and non-profit entities:

Case Study: Pop-Up Retail
An experiment in the city of Oakland has made headlines with the simultaneous opening of 6 new stores on a single block that had long-term vacancies. A new business incubator called Popuhood negotiated a deal with the landlord to allow the businesses to occupy his buildings for six months without rent. Popuhood also helped the businesses with the permitting process and securing a grant from the city for tenant improvements. May 4, 2012 marked the end of the six months, when three of the businesses signed long-term leases.
A similar approach could be helpful in areas with multiple vacancies where new businesses may have difficulty attracting attention and foot traffic.
• Allow businesses to meet parking requirements by leasing parking on adjacent / nearby parcels.
• Seek to use the parking lots of religious operations when they are not busy.
• Promote alternative modes of transportation to and from commercial areas. (Also see Key Topics related to “Opportunities for walking...”)

**Considerations**
Some participants suggested completely eliminating parking requirements. However, parking standards are in place to limit the number of cars that compete with surrounding uses for street parking. These uses may be other businesses or residences.

**Streetscape improvements**

**Background**
“Streetscape” here refers to the space that lies between the faces of buildings on either side of a street—including the roadway, sidewalks, and amenities such as trees and benches. Community members have made suggestions for beautification and changes to the streetscape in the town/district center areas that they believe will slow traffic, provide parking, and encourage pedestrian activity.

**Issues Identified by Community**

**Pedestrian safety** – Commercial areas are not comfortable for pedestrians, and crossing streets in front of downhill traffic can feel unsafe.

**Street parking** – Current parallel parking on streets does not provide a sufficient number of spaces (see Parking topic).

**Community Suggestions**
• Create parking/gathering space in the middle of the Mariposa Street right-of-way (similar to the new median in Lancaster’s downtown, or a row of diagonal parking).
• Create diagonal parking on Lake Avenue as part of a redesign that narrows the street and calms traffic. Consider feasibility of a single lane each way.
• Use urban design and landscaping to make pedestrians feel safe and create gathering spaces.
• Encourage outdoor dining.
• Add trees and landscaping. (Also see Key Topic “Sustainability”)
• Incorporate water/stormwater features that help prevent flooding while allowing stormwater to replenish groundwater resources and adding aesthetic value. (Also see Key Topic “Sustainability”)
• Work to organize art projects such as large scale murals that community groups and local schools can participate in.
• “Brand” business districts (e.g. NOLA for North Lake Altadena) and promote the brands through locally designed banners on the light poles.
• Improve the median on Woodbury Road.
Considerations
Past proposals to modify the roadway have been discouraged due to County staff concerns or policies—for instance, safety concerns about any diagonal parking that would result in cars backing into downhill traffic. However, as seen above, community members continue to believe that changes are needed.

Signage

Background
Both the underlying County zoning code and Community Standards District (CSD) regulate signage according to community desires that have been expressed in the past, and the CSD contains standards for sign size, height, placement, as well as what types of signs are allowed. For instance, the CSD prohibits roof signs in the Lake Avenue area, and freestanding signs such as sandwich boards are not permitted on sidewalks or the public right-of-way.

The CSD prohibits billboards in the Lake Avenue area and “West Altadena Area” (Lincoln Avenue between Figueroa Drive and Woodbury Avenue; Woodbury Avenue between the City of Pasadena and Lincoln Avenue). However, billboards that were present before the CSD was adopted are still present.

Under the County zoning code, murals are prohibited as a form of advertising.

Issues Identified by Community

Sign regulations – Altadena businesses find the current regulations too restrictive. They would like more freedom to promote their business, including the use of sandwich boards and other temporary signs to advertise events such as sales.

Billboards – Several billboards remain in Altadena, including billboards that are not being maintained.

Murals – Comments supported allowing or encouraging art murals in Altadena’s commercial areas.

Community Suggestions

- Allow temporary signs, sandwich board signs, and permanent window signs. Limitations on signage should be minimal but promote attractive signs. Suggestions for limits: no profanity, pornography, obstruction of another business, obstructing pedestrian flow, or political signs.
- Create a process for phasing out billboards, especially those that are not used or maintained. Suggestions: buyout; allowing construction of a single new large billboard elsewhere in exchange for removing multiple smaller billboards.
- Promote and encourage art by revising regulations to allow distinctive murals on commercial or public buildings. If necessary, make a distinction between art and advertising/signage to allow art murals.

Considerations
In general, sign regulations are intended to promote an attractive and uncluttered commercial environment. They can also assist businesses in communicating effectively with customers. Elimination of sign regulations could restrict the ability of the County to enforce signage maintenance and cause a disorderly appearance. Poorly placed sandwich boards can also interfere with pedestrian movement on sidewalks when there are other items blocking the right-of-way such as poles. Further discussion could help find a balance that promotes business communication while making commercial areas inviting.
Safe and peaceful neighborhoods

In Altadena's neighborhoods, residents seek safety from crime, hazards, and nuisances that impact quality of life. Community members cherish the sense of quiet and peace in Altadena, and value good neighbors who take care of their properties.

Guiding Principles

- Promote safety from crime, speeding, and hazards
- Improve appearance of neighborhoods
- Improve commercial areas adjacent to neighborhoods

Key Topics to Address

- Safety
- Liquor stores
- Noise

Safety

Background

A number of neighborhood associations and Neighborhood Watch groups are active in Altadena. The Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA), formed in 2010, serves as a forum for these groups to network and share ideas and best practices.

Issues Identified by Community

Crime – Although at least two Workshop 1 participants said that the feeling of safety was one of the things they valued about Altadena, several others brought up safety as a concern, including challenges with theft, burglary, drugs, guns, and gang activity. A group in Workshop 2 identified crime as a priority issue for neighborhoods.

Emergency preparedness – Participants cited spotty cell phone coverage and the lack of an urgent care center north of the 210 as safety issues for emergencies.

Speeding – This was raised as an issue for neighborhoods and is a Key Topic discussed in another section of this report. (See Key Topic “Speeding and traveler conflicts”)

Commercial activity – Community members raised concerns about commercial vehicles parking overnight in residential

Visioning Quotes

“Neighborhoods are friendly and relatively safe” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“I want to feel SAFE walking at night / leaving the house – I want Altadena theft/robbery down!”
– Challenge, Workshop 1

“Gangs” – Challenge, Workshop 1

“Better street lighting, neighborhood watches, safety for all citizens & visitors”
– Signals of Success, Group Discussion, Workshop 1

“Well kept homes” – Vision, Workshop 1

“A safe neighborhood to raise your child”
– Vision, Workshop 1

“Quiet neighborhood where people feel comfortable walking”
– Vision, Workshop 1

“Only you and your neighbor can make your neighborhood ‘safe + peaceful’.
Reach out and meet your neighbor to do this.” – Comment, Workshop 3
areas and blocking views of homes, about filming past 11 pm, and about large supply trucks for the Super King market using residential streets.

Community Suggestions

- Encourage more communication and coordination between neighbors to discourage crime. Promote neighborhood block parties as opportunities for neighbors to work together on a project and get to know each other better.
- Provide support and information for Neighborhood Watch activity and promote greater visibility of events such as National Night Out.
- Increase patrolling by officers and surveillance by residents.
- Improve street lighting, while seeking preservation of dark night skies.
- Set up a reverse 911 system for communications about major emergencies.
- Facilitate opening an urgent care clinic in Altadena. Suggestions: New add-ons to existing health care facilities or a new CHAP Care clinic.
- Encourage a local business (e.g. real estate firm) to organize disaster preparation meetings.

Considerations

Los Angeles County has implemented an emergency mass notification system that will be used to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages or e-mail messages in case of emergency. More information is available about Alert LA County at alert.lacounty.gov.

While some community members desire better cell phone coverage, others have opposed the installation of more cell towers. Aesthetics and maintaining views should be considerations for any proposed wireless telecommunication facilities.

Liquor stores

Background

The Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA) hosted a meeting in 2011 which addressed liquor store regulation. In this meeting, a representative of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control shared statistics showing that Altadena has a lower number of liquor stores per person than Pasadena and other communities (“ACONA looks at filming, liquor stores, and coyotes at Tuesday night's meeting,” Altadenablog, August 10, 2011). However, that statistic is for the community as a whole and does not offer any information about the locations of stores within the community.

Issues Identified by Community

Number and concentration of stores – Residents have expressed concerns about the number and concentration of liquor stores in Altadena, due in part to undesirable activities that take place around those stores such as drug dealing and fights.

Community Suggestions

- Limit the number or concentration of liquor stores; consider a moratorium.
• Restrict operating hours, strongly discourage loitering, and require stores to provide security. Suggestion: discourage loitering through fines and elevator music.
• Explore ways to encourage new uses to replace existing stores.

Considerations
Given the desire for additional grocery retail and negative community sentiment about liquor stores, there is a possible win-win situation if some liquor stores can be persuaded to convert their operations into corner grocery stores. Financial incentives related to food access and health may be available to assist in this conversion. A community member cautioned that while there is a desire for restrictions on liquor stores, liquor licenses should still be provided for restaurants.

Noise

Background
Noise is an issue that has come up in Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA) forums.

Issues Identified by Community
Nuisance noise – In the visioning process, concerns were raised about nuisance noise from barking, leaf blowers, music, and nearby non-residential uses such as schools, parks, and commercial areas with special events—including noise at night.

Community Suggestions
• Limit days/hours for leaf blower use, and mandate electric blowers. An Ojai ordinance provides a possible model; it limits hours to 8 am - 6 pm and prohibits gas blowers in residential zones. The City of Los Angeles prohibits the use of gas-powered blowers within 500 feet of residences.
• Limit hours for music in parks and other public areas near neighborhoods.
• Adopt an ordinance to address nuisance barking. Begin with education and training for pet owners, then use fines if necessary. An ordinance of the City of L.A. provides a possible model.
• Increase law enforcement efforts to address nuisance noise.

Considerations
County parks have hours of operation after which any use is not allowed, including activities that make noise.

Suggestions for limiting leaf blowers attracted a mix of comments, both supportive and cautionary. One comment urged that fines for leaf blower use should be directed at homeowners who hire gardeners, not at the gardeners. Another felt that electric leaf blowers would strain an electric grid that already has issues.

A community member pointed out that shifting more trips from driving to walking and bicycling could decrease street noise.
Community cohesion and strong institutions

Residents value the sense of freedom in Altadena and attitude of “live and let live,” while also valuing the “small town feel,” good neighbors, and the other people who get involved in community affairs. Workshop participants spoke up for community institutions including schools, the library, and senior center. Participants expressed the desire for greater community cohesion—between the east and west sides, between community leaders, and between neighbors in both residential and commercial areas.

Guiding Principles

- Promote neighborliness
- Maintain communication between County and community members
- Maintain cooperative community relationships with law enforcement
- Value small town character and foster a culture of “good neighbors”
- Support the library and senior center as community hubs
- Support community schools with community services as hubs for neighborhoods
- Coordinate joint use of public facilities and shared services between PUSD schools and County
- Improve communication within Altadena
- Encourage volunteerism and community involvement
- Provide resources and opportunities for seniors and youth

Key Topics to Address

Community institutions
Code complaints
Community involvement and consensus

Community institutions

Background
County facilities in Altadena include a Community Center that is used for Town Council meetings and as office and meeting space for several nonprofit organizations, as well as a senior center.

Visioning Quotes

“Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Cranky activists” – Treasure, Challenge, and Vision, Workshop 1

“Neighborhood units organized for: parties, neighborhood watch, CERT disaster” – Vision, Workshop 1

“I would know my neighbors even better – working on projects & having ‘parties’ regularly” – Vision, Workshop 1

“The library is great!”
– Treasure, Workshop 1

“Community sending kids to public/local schools” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Consensus will be difficult to gain on many issues. Should we try to always get it?” – Comment, Workshop 3
center. There is a library that is supported by its own independent district, which has a main location by the senior center and a branch by Charles White Park. The library is seeking to make physical improvements that are needed for safety and ADA compliance, and would benefit from additional parking spaces.

Public K-12 schools in Altadena are within the Pasadena Unified School District, which recently closed two elementary schools in Altadena. Concerns about schools have led to the formation of an Education Committee which is reporting to the Town Council.

Issues Identified by Community

Schools – Community members cited concerns about access to local schools, as well as the quality of education and safety at schools. Residents would like to see more community connection with public schools: more community support for schools, and schools offering more community services, and joint use agreements for public recreation.

Library – Because the library is a valued asset of Altadena, community members want improvements to be funded.

Urgent care – The lack of an urgent care center north of the 210 to provide emergency health services was a concern.

Group homes – Community members were concerned about insufficient oversight and standards for group homes, as well as the impact on schools needing to provide additional supports to children in group homes.

Community Suggestions

- Offer a variety of services through schools that support children and their families.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships for schools.
- Engage the community at large and County Supervisor in education oversight and support.
- Provide staffed school libraries, arts education, and resources for student health.
- Recruit more tutors. Suggestions: retired teachers, AARP Experience Corps participants, and Pasadena City College students.
- Develop joint use agreements to make school grounds available for community recreation when not in use by schools, and to make community facilities available for school use. (See Key Topic “Recreation facilities and activities”)
- Re-use closed campuses for educational purposes. Suggestion: adult school.
- Promote youth involvement in community projects such as public art and promoting sustainable practices.
- Work with school principals to have the surrounding neighborhood “adopt” schools and help with cleanup, graffiti removal, etc.
- Tighten standards and licensing for group homes and hold them accountable for children's outcomes.
Considerations
The library is operated by its own district which provides funding, and thus is not under the jurisdiction of the County. However, the County could assist in the library’s improvement efforts by facilitating the permitting process.

Code complaints

Background
Enforcement of the zoning code is a reactive process in which the County responds to complaints that are registered. These complaints may be registered by anyone, and the County keeps that person’s information confidential.

Issues Identified by Community
Use of complaint process – Community members are concerned about incidents of anonymous code complaints which appear to be registered for vindictive purposes rather than stemming from legitimate concerns (dubbed “code bombing”), and about individuals submitting excessive numbers of complaints.

Community Suggestions
• Help resolve conflicts before they escalate into code violation complaints by providing a process such as mediation.
• Revise the complaint process to discourage excessive code-related complaints from a single anonymous individual.
• Proactively enforce the zoning code rather than relying on community complaints.
• Create a community fund to help homeowners to improve or clean up their properties.

Considerations
Limiting the ability to make complaints about code violations may conflict with other community members’ desires to see more code enforcement efforts.

Community involvement and consensus

Background
As an unincorporated community in Los Angeles County, Altadena is governed by the County Board of Supervisors and represented by the Supervisor of the Fifth District, whose local office is located in Pasadena.

Each Census tract in Altadena may elect two representatives to the Town Council. As stated in the Town Council by-laws, “The Purposes of the Altadena Town Council are: (1) to act as an ombudsman for the neighborhoods of Altadena, conveying the needs and wishes of the residents to any county state or federal governmental body or agency, and (2) to provide a forum for a town meeting in which to discuss issues of concern to the Altadena Community.” The Town Council has two standing committees—the Executive Committee and the Land Use Committee—and may create other special committees.

The people of Altadena have created a number of organizations to improve the community and provide services. A list of some of these organizations appears at the end of this report, in the “Going Forward” section.
Local news coverage is provided by Altadenablog, the Altadena Patch, and the Pasadena Star News. Representatives from the online news sources Altadenablog and Altadena Patch were present at all three visioning workshops and posted several news items related to the visioning process, including polls and notes from the workshops.

Issues Identified by Community

Communication and involvement – To promote involvement in civic affairs and community events, some residents feel that more communication is needed about matters that affect them or opportunities to participate, including new development and other matters that come before the Town Council, County decision makers, and County staff. A community member suggested that lack of awareness of Town Council activity could be one reason that two Council seats were left vacant in the recent election.

Lack of consensus – Some people voiced concerns about a lack of community consensus about where the community should be headed, or a feeling that a small group could derail efforts with larger community benefits. One Workshop 1 participant listed “cranky activists” as a treasure of Altadena, a vision for the future, and a challenge. Although Altadena is fortunate to have community members who care enough to get involved in civic affairs, different groups may sometimes work at cross purposes.

Community Suggestions

• Create mechanisms for sending announcements from the Town Council such as a community-wide email database, blog, and social media accounts. Make the blog into a virtual “town square.”
• The Town Council should adopt the Brown Act to ensure fair and open meetings.
• Create communication tools to better connect residents with government. Suggestions include a hotline for reporting graffiti, parking violations, and code violations; and an Altadena app for smart phones.
• Endeavor to hold meetings in Altadena for County matters that are specific to Altadena, to make it convenient for residents to attend.
• Offer more community events, in parks, in town/district centers, on temporarily closed streets.
• Encourage neighborhood block parties as opportunities for neighbors to work together on a project and get to know each other better.
• Publicize future activity related to the Vision Plan.

Considerations

The Town Council has a website at http://altadenatowncouncil.org/ with a blog on the front page where news items are posted and community members can post comments. There is also a Town Council Twitter account, @Altadenag1001. A graffiti hotline at (800) 675-4357 allows Los Angeles County residents to report graffiti to the Department of Public Works.
Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Given their appreciation for the mountains, it is not surprising that community members expressed the desire for more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors on foot, bike, and horseback. They also want to use these modes of transportation to safely get around town, in conjunction with transit service that supports the ability to travel without a car. Participants listed parks as community treasures and have hopes for more recreational activities and facilities.

Guiding Principles

- Provide and maintain pathways throughout Altadena for safe travel on foot, bike, and horseback
- Promote safe sharing of streets between people using different modes of transportation
- Encourage expanded transit service
- Provide disabled access to public facilities and commercial areas
- Expand recreation facilities and activities

Key Topics to Address

**Speeding and traveler conflicts**

**Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding**

**Recreation facilities and activities**

Speeding and traveler conflicts

Background

Speeding is a concern in many communities, but the sloped north/south streets of Altadena may facilitate speeding downhill. Speeding negatively impacts the feeling of safety in neighborhoods; makes it less appealing to walk, bike, or ride a horse on the street; and challenges pedestrians attempting to cross streets in commercial areas, including school children.

Vehicular speeding is a specific instance of a more general issue raised by community members concerning conflicts between different modes of travel, and the need for different users to do a better job of sharing right-of-way.

Issues Identified by Community

Speeding – Speeding traffic in neighborhoods and in commercial areas makes people feel unsafe when crossing or walking along the street. Locations where speeding was cited

Visioning Quotes

“Safety issues for children who must walk to school on streets with no sidewalks + speeding cars” – Challenge, Workshop 1

“A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks – slower traffic” – Challenge, Workshop 1

“Road repair” – Challenge, Workshop 1

“Public transportation – to Meadows, to top of Lake, etc.” – Challenge, Workshop 1

“Bicycle friendly community” – Vision, Workshop 1

“I want to walk and cycle in Altadena...to stores, library, school, etc.” – Comment, Workshop 3

“Loma Alta Park is fantastic – playground, pool, baseball, equestrian, garden, tennis, etc.” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“More community activities in Farnsworth Park” – Vision, Workshop 1

“More parks & recreation facilities” – Challenge, Workshop 1
as an issue: major north/south streets; Marengo Avenue between Loma Alta Drive and Altadena Drive; Lake Avenue; traffic coming out of La Vina; Windsor Avenue; and Chaney Trail near Alzada Drive. A community member also raised a concern about drivers running stop signs.

**Traveler conflicts** – Specific comments about conflicts included drivers and bicyclists passing horses too quickly or closely, mountain bikers speeding toward hikers on trails, and insufficient width on trails for different users to safely pass. (Also see Key Topic “Altadena Crest Trail completion and access”)

**Community Suggestions**
- Use traffic control and calming devices around neighborhoods such as stop signs, roundabouts, and speed bumps
- Enforce speed limits more aggressively with speed trailers and officers.
- Use streetscape redesign in commercial areas to slow traffic (see Streetscape Improvements topic).
- Use educational articles, events, meetings, and signs to promote understanding of how different users can safely share roads and trails.
- Install more informative signs about travelling safely around horses. Suggestions: “Slow for Horses,” “Pass Horses Slowly,” or “Keep Safe Distance from Horses.”
- Alert drivers to the presence of horses and children on streets, e.g. on Altadena and Loma Alta.
- Try to ensure sufficient width on trails for different users to pass each other safely, balancing this objective with the risk of trail erosion. (Also see Key Topic “Altadena Crest Trail completion and access”)
- Landscape the east side of Windsor Avenue.

**Considerations**
Some community members do not feel that traffic calming devices should be a priority for public investment.

**Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding**

**Background**

**Infrastructure for walking** – The presence of sidewalks varies from neighborhood to neighborhood within Altadena. Commercial areas have sidewalks; however, the wide streets and cars speeding downhill can discourage people from wanting to cross the street. Few trees offer shade in these areas.

**Infrastructure for biking** – The County of Los Angeles adopted a Bicycle Master Plan in March 2012, which shows a network of proposed bikeways through Altadena as well as the segments of existing bike routes in the southeastern part of the community. These segments on Allen Avenue, Washington Boulevard, Altadena Drive, and New York Drive are evidently the only designated on-street bike facilities in Altadena.

**Infrastructure for horseback riding** – Horsekeeping is allowed throughout Altadena for properties of a certain size; more horses are allowed on properties within the Altadena Equestrian District in west Altadena. Loma Alta Park has an equestrian arena and there are commercial stables located in this part of the community as well. Horses and their riders share the road with other users on their way to nature.
trails such as the one accessed at the west end of Altadena Drive, another north of the Loma Alta arena, and Chaney Trail.

Issues Identified by Community

Expanding infrastructure – Community members saw the need for more designated bike lanes, sidewalks, and horse trails in Altadena.

Pedestrian crossings – Residents said that pedestrian crossings in commercial areas are difficult and also identified the following pedestrian crossings as needing improvements: Fair Oaks Avenue and Harriet Street intersection, Altadena Drive and Holliston Avenue intersection, mid-block crossing on Lake Avenue by Ralphs, and Lincoln Avenue near the community garden. Residents also said that the trail/street intersection around the Villa Zanita bridge on Lincoln Avenue did not make trail users visible enough to drivers. Visibility at intersections in neighborhoods was raised as a concern, without citing specific locations.

Transit service limitations – Community members listed shortcomings of the current bus service such as the infrequent nighttime service, limited weekend service, and limited service north of Altadena Drive.

Community Suggestions

- Create a coordinated master plan for bikes, pedestrians, and equestrians that identifies desired routes and facilities for these modes of transportation. The master plan should seek to integrate the local network of bike paths with adjacent cities and planned routes in the County Bicycle Master Plan.
- Provide bike racks at businesses, schools, parks, and trailheads. Suggested locations: along Lincoln Avenue between Woodbury and Altadena; on Fair Oaks in the vicinity of Mendocino Street and Mariposa Street; and on Lake Avenue south of Altadena Drive, at Mariposa Street, and at Calaveras Street.
- Encourage shared parking between Eaton Canyon and Gerrish Swim & Tennis Club to keep parked cars out of the bike lane on New York Drive. (Note: this business is in Pasadena)
- Provide more sidewalks in business districts and ensure sufficient right-of-way to maneuver around newspaper stands, utilities, signs, and benches.
- Provide for safe pedestrian and equestrian crossings. Suggestion: Install pedestrian-activated blinking crosswalks on major streets such as Fair Oaks Avenue, Altadena Drive, Lake Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue. Suggestion: Provide cat walk across Lake Avenue by Mariposa.
- Expand community-wide and inter-community bus service to serve Altadena, and improve transit stops with clean, sheltered benches. Ensure transit connections to Gold Line stations.
- Provide local transit for town/district centers such as street car, trolley, shuttle, or horse-drawn wagon.
- Provide dirt horse trails along roads, for instance along Lincoln where there appears to be excess right-of-way. More than simply dirt shoulders, these pathways should provide unobstructed right-of-way and not be cluttered with roadside debris; ideally, they would be separated from the roadway with a rail or fence.
- Remove horse manure from public areas, with horse owners paying for the service. Suggestion: Contract with solid waste service provider.
• Work with property owners to eliminate encroachments into roadway right-of-way that could be used for trails.
• Encourage walking by installing signage for pedestrians indicating walking times to different landmarks.
• Provide more thorough street cleaning service and only require cars to stay off one side of the street on any given day.

Considerations
Bus connections to the Gold Line stations at Del Mar and Lake Avenue can be found on Metro’s online Trip Planner.

Recreation facilities and activities

Background
Public parks in Altadena consist of County-owned Charles S. Farnsworth Park, Loma Alta Park, Charles White Park, and the Altadena Golf Course. Other recreation facilities exist on school grounds and on private property, but may not be accessible to the public. There are natural parks on either side of Altadena as well as Angeles National Forest land.

Issues Identified by Community
More recreation opportunities – Residents asked for more recreation facilities, community events, and activities in parks.

Community Suggestions
• Expand Farnsworth Park by developing the plot next to the park, while preserving oak trees. Create a community center building, tennis center, and off-leash dog park.
• Offer more community activities and events, including events at parks and street fairs.
• Convert unused or vacant lots into small neighborhood “pocket parks” such as dog parks, meditation parks, and other spots for gathering and recreation.
• Increase activity and safety at parks by providing more staff and offering free classes and league play.
• Develop joint use agreements to make school grounds available for community recreation when not in use by schools, and to make community facilities available for school use. (Also listed in Key Topic “Community institutions”)
• Consider options for a new park in Altadena. One suggested location: East of Lake Avenue.
• Use vacant lots for community gardens.

Considerations
Participants who made the suggestion to expand Farnsworth Park were under the impression that the adjacent plot is publicly owned. However, it is privately owned.

The desire for peace and quiet in neighborhoods should be a consideration when expanding recreational facilities and activities.
Going Forward

This vision report is a starting point for community discussion and action, not an end. There are unresolved differences of opinion about how to maintain the things that people love about the community and how to make improvements, including different ideas about the types of regulation that are appropriate. However, some potential next steps can be identified.

Community members indicated support for the following initiatives:

- **An update of the Community Standards District**, especially to address issues with parking;
- **Increasing access to parking in town/district centers** through management of existing spaces and/or additional public spaces;
- **Business development**, including offering assistance with permitting and making efforts to capitalize on local assets such as nature, artists, and food production;
- **Street improvements** to support people walking, biking, and horseback riding, especially to promote walking in town/district centers;
- **Changes to County processes**, such as code enforcement, and development review in areas along Altadena Crest Trail;
- **Organizing volunteer efforts** for youth and other community members, including cleanups, Neighborhood Watch, trail maintenance, and tutoring;
- **Creation of community hubs or centers**, whether these are town/district centers, schools, other public facilities, or community events.
County Involvement

As stated in the Introduction, this document will serve as a starting point for any future County planning efforts that may be undertaken when funding and resources become available. Although there have been no staff or resource commitments for such efforts in the near term, the County of Los Angeles has demonstrated an interest in learning community members’ aspirations for Altadena by conducting this Community Visioning Process. With a better understanding of what is important to Altadena residents, the County can be a better advocate for Altadena’s interests.

Community Involvement

The capacity of the community to carry out suggestions made in the visioning process may be limited by the lack of staff and other resources. The Town Council is not a body for governance or implementation, but rather the community’s elected representatives who gather public opinion and speak for Altadena’s interests by making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles. Community organizations in Altadena tend not to have their own dedicated staff, but rely instead on the efforts of volunteers.

However, the people of Altadena have demonstrated their passion for this special place and their willingness to roll up their sleeves to make it better. Following are some of the local organizations that may be interested in pursuing suggestions from the visioning process, if they are not already doing so. They are listed here as potential resources.

- Altadena Bicycling Club
- Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA)
- Altadena Community Center
- Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group
- Altadena Heritage
- Altadena Historical Society
- Altadena Library District
- Altadena Senior Center
- Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy
- Chamber of Commerce
- Christmas Tree Lane Association
  Pasadena Unified School District & Schools
- Residential In-season Produce Exchange of Altadena (RIPE Altadena)
- Town Council
- Town Council Beautification Committee
- Town Council Education Committee
- Town Council Land Use Committee

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