



Florence-Firestone Community Plan Draft Community Plan Workshop September 22, 2012



MEETING OBJECTIVE

For the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to present and discuss, engage the community in an interactive review of, and solicit feedback on the Draft Florence-Firestone Community Plan (Draft Plan).

EVENT DESCRIPTION

On the morning of Saturday, September 22, 2012, approximately 22 participants who live, work or play in the Florence-Firestone community attended the public meeting at the Florence-Firestone Service Center. The one and a half hour meeting was designed to present the Draft Plan to community members, initiate a dialogue about what in the Draft Plan is working and what requires more work, and provide specific instructions on how community members can review and comment on the Draft Plan.

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting opened with a welcome from DRP staff and brief orientation to the project. The Community Plan is an outgrowth of the Florence-Firestone Vision Plan, which was completed in 2009. The Community Plan provides a blueprint for future growth and development and applies to the unincorporated community of Florence-Firestone. The Plan is one tool to help realize the community's vision. Once adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Community Plan becomes the official policy document against which all future development is evaluated.

In 2011, the DRP led a series of public participation workshops and, in the process, worked with community members to develop a Community Poster Plan. The outgrowth of that was the Preliminary Draft Community Plan, which was completed in January 2012. Following the completion of several subsequent technical analyses, coupled with a cycle of comments from DRP staff and a range of county service providers, the DRP completed the Draft Plan in September 2012.

The meeting was organized into two components: (1) the presentation of the Draft Plan, which was conducted simultaneously in English and Spanish; and, (2) an open house, which allowed participants to independently explore several information stations set up in advance. Additional details regarding each component follow.

PRESENTATION

The project manager from the DRP gave a detailed presentation that included: a welcome message and introductions of staff; an overview of the day's program and some project background; a description of the contents of each of the Draft Plan's eight elements (Land Use, Community Design and Maintenance, Community Services and Facilities, Economic Development, Health and Safety, Housing, Mobility and Open Space and Recreation); a brief primer on land use, including a breakdown of each category as it is being applied within Florence-Firestone, and the importance of the land use policy map; a summary of the implementation chapter with a brief explanation of proposed zone changes; an explanation of, and instructions for, the open house; and, a recap and next steps.

OPEN HOUSE

The DRP staff prepared four stations around the meeting room for an open house style review of draft materials and background information. Specifically, the following stations were available to participants to visit according to their individual interests: (a) Project Background and Community Standards, for those wanting to refresh their memories or get up to speed on past planning efforts that formed the foundation for current efforts; (b) Goals, Policies and Implementation Items, for those who commented on previous versions, and/or those who wanted to see the process by which the DRP receives, reviews, catalogs, incorporates and responds to comments ; (c) Maps Gallery, for those who wanted to view large scale draft maps and to “mark-up” the materials with comments or corrections; and, (d) My Land Use and Zoning, to help individuals understand proposed changes to their specific parcels.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Community Plan Meeting brought together past participants as well as newcomers to receive a presentation on the Draft Plan. Attendees heard a detailed presentation on the project history, status and next steps, and then had the opportunity to explore a range of materials that preceded or supported the completion of the Draft Plan. Participants provided insightful, helpful comments on the maps during the open house, and they received instructions on how to submit their comments on the other components of Draft Plan to the DRP by November 30, 2012. Those comments will be incorporated into the next version of the Plan, which will be presented to the Regional Planning Commission during the public review and hearing process next year.

NEXT STEPS

- Summarize and share workshop results (DRP)
- Update project website with new information (DRP)
- Follow-up mailing to all meeting participants (DRP)
- Review Draft Plan and provide comments to DRP by November 30, 2012 (Community Members)

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