

MEETING NOTES

**Los Angeles County General Plan Update Overview Meeting
Westside Planning Area Workshop
Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Community Center
September 21, 2011
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Department of Regional Planning Staff:
Connie Chung, General Plan Development/Housing
Bruce Durbin, Ordinance Studies
Phillip Smith, Zoning Enforcement West
Richard Ruiz, Zoning Enforcement C-BEEP Intern

Number of stakeholders in attendance: 14

Presentation

Connie Chung welcomed attendees and introduced the staff from the Department of Regional Planning.

Ms. Chung provided an overview of the County's comprehensive efforts to update the General Plan, which will guide development in the unincorporated areas through 2035. She explained the legal requirements for preparing a General Plan, major policies proposed in the General Plan Update, the Planning Areas Framework, and the nine elements in the draft General Plan. Ms. Chung also highlighted some of the planning issues that are unique to the Westside Planning Area. The members of the public were asked to review and provide comments on the land use policy maps for the unincorporated islands and opportunity areas within the Westside Planning Area.

Discussion

After the presentation, the floor was open for questions and comments.

General Plan as a Tool for Community Engagement in Planning Issues

Members of the audience and the County staff discussed how the General Plan can directly and indirectly affect change within a community. The staff indicated that the General Plan provides a long-range, regional-scale vision for the unincorporated areas of the County. While it serves as the foundation for implementation tools, such as zoning, it does not include specific details, such as types of permits required, development and design standards, and specific uses permitted. And as a member of the audience pointed out, it will not change things within the unincorporated areas overnight. However, the staff emphasized the importance of having a document that outlines the County's vision and goals for land use and growth. The staff also emphasized that the General Plan can be a useful tool to address concerns over specific projects that are not consistent with the overall vision for the community.

Opportunity Areas—Slauson Ave.

Many members of the audience were interested in how the General Plan impacts Slauson Ave. in Ladera Heights/View Park-Windsor Hills, and how the General Plan could be used to deal

with concerns over blight in certain areas. The audience also asked about any funding programs available for neighborhood revitalization. The staff responded that there are many steps that can be taken to encourage neighborhood revitalization, including working with property owners, County staff and with the Board office. Many also recommended expanding the Neighborhood Center Opportunity Area depicted on Slauson Ave. in the Draft General Plan.

Economic Development

Another member of the audience asked about how the General Plan deals with economic development issues. The staff referenced the Economic Development Element of the Draft General Plan, but also pointed out that the descriptions of the 11 Planning Areas touch on area-specific employment related issues.

Growth Management Strategies

Some members of the audience expressed concerns over the potential traffic impacts that could result in the General Plan's encouragement of infill development and emphasis on focusing growth in the urban unincorporated areas of the County. In particular, they raised concerns over traffic and impacts to schools. The staff responded that the intent of the General Plan's approach to growth management is not to create more traffic congestion, but to reduce it by getting people out of their cars and improving areas to encourage walking.

The group had a discussion about mixed use and what that might look like. One member of the audience suggested that Slauson Ave. has a lot of potential for mixed use development, and that it would be nice to live in a mixed use area where one could grab a bite to eat without having to drive.

Coordination With Other Jurisdictions

Many members of the audience acknowledged the importance of creating a framework that would facilitate better coordination between cities and the County. For the Ladera Heights/View Park-Windsor Hills community, one member of the audience indicated that Culver City, the City of Los Angeles and the County have not been consistent in addressing planning and transportation issues along La Cienega Blvd. The staff added that it is important to coordinate with school districts.

Outreach

Members of the audience indicated that there had been some confusion over the scheduling and purpose of the meeting. The staff indicated that the General Plan Update team is available to meet with stakeholder groups to provide detailed walk-throughs of the Draft General Plan, and to provide additional presentations to interested members of the community who may have missed the meeting. The members of the audience asked that the staff provide them with a copy of the meeting notes as they become available.