

You spoke, we listened II.

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is committed to maintaining an ongoing exchange of information between us and you, the residents of Hacienda Heights. You have a lot to teach us about your community, your issues, and your vision for the future. We are here to provide technical expertise and to answer any questions you may have about the Community Plan Update. **When you speak, we listen.**

We've created this form to respond to questions you've asked during community meetings. The information provided is in response to inquiries received at the **July 18, 2007 Visioning Meeting**. We hope this information will be useful as we continue the Community Plan Update Process. Please let us know what you think!

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YOU ASKED: *How do unincorporated areas become cities?*

ANSWER: Unincorporated areas can become cities by petitioning to the Local Agency Formation Commission, or LAFCO. LAFCO is the county-wide regulatory agency that is responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local governmental boundaries, including: annexations and detachments of territory; incorporations of cities; formations of special districts; and, consolidations, mergers, and dissolutions of districts. LAFCO is also responsible for reviewing ways to reorganize, simplify, and streamline governmental structure. The Los Angeles LAFCO was established by state law (Cortese/Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000) to discourage urban sprawl and encourage the orderly formation and development of local government agencies. For more information on LAFCO, please visit www.lalafco.org



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YOU ASKED: *What does it mean to "go wireless" and how is it done?*

ANSWER: To "go wireless" means that information, such as Internet access, can be transferred over a distance without the use of electrical conductors, or "wires". Localities can provide wireless services by building towers in different locations and connecting them to a central location from which the wireless service is provided. Like using a cellular phone, anyone within the coverage area can connect to the Internet through their personal computers and other hand-held devices within the service area. Another method to provide wireless services is through a mesh network. Mesh networks serve smaller areas than traditional towers and rely on multiple connections, rather than a central server. Several cities in Southern California already provide, or plan to provide, wireless services within their boundaries. These include Culver City, Hermosa Beach, Cerritos, and West Hollywood. To see an example of how a locality can go wireless, please visit Culver City's website at www.culvercity.org



Sample of a Mesh Network

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YOU ASKED: *How is the open space in the Puente Hills managed?*

ANSWER: Much of the open space in the Puente Hills is managed by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority). This organization is a Joint Powers Authority with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. It was formed in 1994 as mitigation for the Puente Hills Landfill, which is its main funding source. Today, the Habitat Authority manages 3,860 acres of preserved public open space. The Habitat Authority acquires, restores, and manages the open space in the Puente Hills in order to preserve it for future generations and to protect the diverse plants and animals that are found there. The agency also endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation. To learn more about the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, including the schedule of public meetings, please visit their website at www.habitatauthority.org or contact them at (562) 945-9003.

