

## Walking Tour and Mobile Workshop

Marina del Rey

June 1, 2013

### Event Summary

#### Overview

On Saturday, June 1, 2013, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning hosted a Walking Tour and Mobile Workshop from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Marina del Rey. The primary purpose of this event was to give the community the opportunity to tour areas of the Marina with County staff and provide input on how they might improve these and other locations. Participants also collaborated in breakout groups to generate ideas to enhance areas of the Marina not covered on the tour, including Marina (Mother's) Beach. Over 30 community members participated in the tour and breakout group discussion session at the Marina del Rey Hotel.

Upon registration, attendees received comment booklets to take with them on the tour. Comment booklets contained an aerial map of the Marina and site-specific questions designed to stimulate participants to become critical observers of the built environment. The booklets contained spaces to record observations, feedback, and questions. Participants were also randomly assigned numerically to different tour groups comprised of 12-14 community members led by County and outreach staff. These tour leaders were equipped with facilitator booklets which contained guiding questions to spur thoughtful discussions on Marina del Rey pertaining to such topics as accessibility, visitor experience, and pedestrian comfort.

Each group leader provided a brief introduction to the walking tour activities and proceeded to walk to the first tour location. After the groups were led through the Admiralty Way portion of the tour, participants loaded into vans and headed to the Channel Entrance for further observations and recording of feedback. Upon completion of this stop, groups boarded the same vans to drive to the Marina del Rey Hotel. Once at the hotel, tour leaders convened groups in the Regatta Room for further discussion on ideas for Marina Beach and other areas of Marina del Rey. Participants recorded their suggestions on large tabletop aerial maps, which were posted on the wall at the conclusion of the session for full group viewing.

The following is a summary of the primary issues, ideas, and suggestions that emerged during the course of the event.

## Key Themes from the Tour and Breakout Discussion

### ***Mobility & Accessibility***

Mobility and accessibility refer to ease of movement through the Marina, whether on foot, bicycle, car, and even boat. Participants commented that Marina del Rey is a strong County amenity, but has circulation issues that need to be addressed.

#### Admiralty Way

- Resolve pedestrian vs. bicycle conflict.
  - Participants split on pedestrians having to share sidewalks with bicycles
  - The Promenade is more of a pedestrian thoroughfare than Admiralty Way
  - The appropriate place for bicycles is at Yvonne B. Burke Park across the street from Admiralty Way
  - The Promenade should be widened and run uninterrupted to enhance the pedestrian experience and improve Marina connectivity
- Address functionally and aesthetically-insufficient wayfinding.
- Integrate uses along Admiralty Way with water's edge.
  - Remove barriers that block water views

#### Marina Beach

- Improve access to walkways.
- Create better landside connectivity to the rest of the Marina.
  - Need a continuous and uninterrupted bike path and Promenade around the Marina Beach linking to other parts the Marina

#### Channel Entrance

- Limit the area's isolation.
  - Channel entrance feels isolated from the rest of the Marina
  - Signage is not helpful in guiding visitors
  - Remove physical pedestrian barriers on the Promenade (and throughout the Marina)

#### Other areas of the Marina

- Bring back water taxis.
- Provide means for pedestrians and bicycles to navigate continuously around the entire Marina.
- Enhance Marina circulation with better transit and/or shuttle system.

### ***Community Character***

Community character was important to all the participating groups. Community members offered many suggestions for enhancing the Marina's sense of community and civic identity through branding and enhancement of gateways.

#### Admiralty Way

- Create a community civic center near the library.
- Activate spaces.

- Experiment with opening Promenade to sidewalk vendors or temporary sidewalk dining

#### Marina Beach

- Accommodate the needs of the local boating community with better access and facilities.
  - Provide more boat racks and boat storage on or very close to the beach
  - Local boating community is an important part of the Marina's identity

#### Channel Entrance

- Revitalize Fisherman's Village.
  - Fisherman's Village is a revenue generator, but is underutilized and in need of redevelopment
- Provide a better mix of residential/office/retail uses.

#### Other Areas of the Marina

- Enhance gateways around the Marina.
  - Maintain visual access to the water
  - Use clear and consistent branding to let visitors know they are entering the Marina
  - Make entrances visually appealing and well landscaped
- Maintain visual/physical access to the water not only at gateways, but around the Marina
- Include a civic center or facility somewhere in the Marina.

### ***Amenities and Services***

Marina del Rey is unique in that there are a number of different amenities that help make it a destination for all types of users. Some examples of amenities and services include public restrooms, storage facilities, bicycle lockers, benches, barbeque pits, tables, restaurants, and retail options. Tour participants noted that some amenities may be present but could be more strategically located.

#### Admiralty Way

- Create more opportunities for public open space.
- Improve street landscaping.
  - Consider additional landscaping/trees along the sidewalk to enhance the walking experience
- Incorporate more restaurants with varying price points.

#### Marina Beach

- Enhance public facilities.
  - Provide new/update existing changing areas, restrooms, showers, as well as barbeque pits
  - Look at making available more bicycle parking and storage
  - Provide additional beachside boat storage and racks

### Channel Entrance

- Encourage a mix of retail and entertainment uses.

### Other Areas of the Marina

- Include more outdoor/waterside dining opportunities.
- Promote the connection to nature with markers indicating local wildlife.
- Add more street furniture, public art, rest areas, and pocket parks.

### **Recreation**

Marina del Rey attracts visitors from all over the County who are looking for multiple recreational options. Recreation as it relates to Marina del Rey includes such activities as boating, kayaking, enjoying park spaces, swimming, biking, walking, and passive recreation opportunities like sitting and “people-watching”.

### Admiralty Way

- Consider passive recreation uses.
  - This area could benefit from spaces to allow for sitting and idle activity

### Marina Beach

- Resolve space and use issues.
  - Marina Beach feels crowded when multiple groups are hosting events simultaneously
  - Permitting process is confusing

### Channel Entrance

- Relocate the Department of Beaches and Harbors office.
  - This is prime real estate for recreational/community use
- Install transient boat slips at Fisherman’s Village.
- Recognize importance of UCLA Marine Aquatic Center and maintaining a relationship with UCLA community.

### Other areas of the Marina

- Create opportunities on the Promenade for people to enjoy views and sit.