

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL PLAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The City undertook a substantial public outreach program to understand community values and to establish a new General Plan policy foundation based on those values. The program began with a comprehensive public Visioning Process which involved numerous workshops, meetings, surveys, newsletters, and website information and outreach. During the preparation of the General Plan land use alternatives and element policies, the public had the opportunity to participate at many steps at General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), Planning Commission, and City Council meetings, as well as at citywide public workshops. Newsletters distributed to residents and posted on the City's General Plan website (<http://www.nbvision2025.com>) were ongoing sources of information for the public. Detailed components of the outreach process are described below.

GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) consisted of 38 community members who were selected to represent a broad range of interests. GPAC members represented a cross-section of the Newport Beach community and were involved at all steps of the General Plan Update process. Members participated in over 50 meetings during the Plan's preparation. The GPAC developed the City's vision statement that is the framework for the direction, goals, and objectives for the General Plan Update, and reviewed and provided input on the land use alternatives, preferred plan, and the policies contained in the elements of the updated General Plan. Their recommendations were based on broad community input provided throughout the Visioning Process.

VISIONING PROCESS

At the start of the of the General Plan update, a comprehensive public process that involved several components was undertaken. Between November 2001 and January 2003, the City facilitated a community Visioning Process to elicit the values, aspirations, and ideas of the Newport Beach community. Throughout the process, residents, property owners, and business owners in voiced their opinions to City leaders. Participation in the Visioning Process resulted in an expression of the community's concerns, goals and values. This process consisted of a Visioning Festival, nine neighborhood workshops held over successive weeks in March and April, 2002, a newsletter mailback questionnaire, website questions and a statistically valid community survey of both residents and business owners. Throughout this process, the GPAC met to deliberate on key questions facing the City, public input, and the statement of a new vision to chart a course into the future.

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE POLICY PREPARATION PROCESS

There were several opportunities for public input and feedback throughout the process by which General Plan policies were formulated. These included initial GPAC review, at City Council and Planning Commission meetings at a public workshop. Policy preparation of the General Plan update began with confirmation of the key planning issues, which considered input gathered during the visioning process and the conclusions of technical studies at several GPAC meetings. There were also opportunities at every GPAC meeting for general public input.

In the next step of the process, guiding principles were developed. These principles were used to guide the General Plan alternatives and policies, and cover the following topics: Circulation, Economic Development, Community Character, Affordable Housing, Environmental Conservation, and Environmental Hazards. They were developed with input from the Visioning Process, GPAC, as well as public comments heard at the GPAC meetings.

Next, the City prepared goals and policies for each General Plan element for GPAC review and comment. With feedback from the public during GPAC meetings, recommendations on the goals and policies were made and brought forward to the Planning Commission and City Council. The Commission and Council identified any modifications to be incorporated into the Draft General Plan based on GPAC recommendations and public comments. The Planning Commission and City Council meetings were noticed public meetings, where the public had the opportunity to provide input.

LAND USE ALTERNATIVES

Several land use alternatives were developed by GPAC, and updated as feedback was received from the public, the Planning Commission, and the City Council. A citywide public workshop was held on June 25, 2005 for the public to review and comment on the land use alternatives and analysis of their impacts. The GPAC reviewed the alternatives and public comments from the workshop, and recommended a preferred land use alternative. The preferred land use alternative was presented at both Planning Commission and City Council public meetings. During these meetings, the public comments heard by the Planning Commission and City Council provided a framework for their recommendations for the alternatives to be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the General Plan update.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Copies of the General Plan were distributed to contiguous local governments and other affected agencies and districts. Copies of the General Plan were available for review at the Planning Department office at City Hall and at all 4 branches of the Newport Beach Public Library. Copies were also available at the Planning

Department office for loan or purchase. The entire General Plan was available in PDF format at the City of Newport Beach Internet site at <http://www.nbvision2025.com>. The City received comments from the public and from other public agencies during review of the draft General Plan by the Planning Commission and City Council. These comments are contained in the staff reports provided in Appendix A.

The Draft EIR for the General Plan was released for public review on April 24, 2006, and the public review period closed on June 13, 2006. Copies of the Draft EIR were available for review at the Planning Department office at City Hall and at all 4 branches of the Newport Beach Public Library. Copies were also available at the Planning Department office for loan or purchase. The Draft EIR was available in PDF format at the City of Newport Beach Internet site at <http://www.nbvision2025.com>. Comments were received from 19 agencies, organizations and individuals in 20 response letters. These are addressed in five master responses (that address repetitive comments) and 425 individual responses.

VOTER APPROVAL

On July 25, 2006, the City Council directed the City Clerk to submit the General Plan to the voters as a ballot measure. At the November 7, 2006 General Municipal election, the voters approved the General Plan ballot measure.