

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #3 SUMMARY

The third and final scheduled Community Workshop for the Community Plan Update was held on Thursday, June 20, 2002 at Planada Elementary School. Butch Cope, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development; Steve Hamilton, Deputy Director of Public Works; Robert King, Planner III; Greg Forest, Planner I; and Heather Huovinen, Planner I, represented the County of Merced. RRM Design Group was represented by Gary Conte and Nicol Rister.

Community Workshop #3 was presented in an open house format with interactive exhibits for participants to learn from and share ideas through. All exhibits were presented in both English and Spanish. Bilingual staff was available to ensure that the concerns of the entire community would be addressed. An attendance roster was provided at the building entrance. Approximately 25 community citizens attended the workshop, of which 18 signed the attendance roster.

The workshop was broken down into eight interactive stations. Guests were free to walk around at their leisure and encouraged to ask questions and to share their comments. Stations 5, 6 and 7 also allowed an opportunity for participants to provide written comments on the material provided.

The following is a summary of the eight interactive workstations presented at the workshop.

STATION 1: Open House Welcome

This station explained the Community Plan Update Process and progress to date. An explanation of the purpose of the open house and how guests may participate in the planning process was provided.

STATION 2: Community Overview

This station provided background information on the Community of Planada. Included was an aerial photo of Planada and maps depicting the County's existing General Plan Land Use Plan, and Land Use Inventory for Planada.

STATION 3: Opportunities and Constraints

This station identified the physical and environmental opportunities and constraints that need to be considered in preparing the Community Plan Update.

STATION 4: Community Workshop #2 Results

Four Community Land Use alternatives that were initially presented at the previous community workshop were displayed at this station along with what the community had to say. The land use alternatives provided an opportunity for the community to identify a broader vision for land use strategies preferred in the community and how the community should be developed.

At the second workshop, workshop participants were divided into several groups. Each group was given the land use alternatives to review and select a preferred alternative. A list of the groups' preferred land use concept and comments was presented at this station. Please refer to the "Land Use Alternatives" and "Workshop #2" Sections of this workbook for the land use concepts and the list of the groups' preferred land use concept and comments presented at this workshop, respectively.

STATION 5: Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan

This station provided the opportunity for participants to comment on and critique the Preliminary Draft Land Use Map. The Preliminary Draft Land Use Map is based on community input received on the four land use alternatives presented at Station 4, above, and numerous meetings with the Planada Municipal Advisory Council.

Written Comments:

- Two comments supported implementing a train station as a gateway for rail travel to Yosemite.
- "Don't forget the train station! Planada is the closest point to Yosemite from the Santa Fe tracks and we're ready for the high speed train to stop in Planada."

STATION 6: Community Character

This station provided conceptual ideas on how Planada may develop over time. Colored illustratives of Broadway and the Highway 140 corridors, and a residential neighborhood were displayed.

Written Comments:

- One participant encouraged Planada to remain a small bedroom community with small shops, cafes and open spaces.
- "No 'cell towers' taller than the highest existing building."

STATION 7: Community Vision

The Community Vision Statement derived from the community values compiled from the Community Survey and expressed at previous Community Workshops. Please refer to the "Preliminary Draft" section of this workbook for the Community Vision Statement, presented at the workshop. Participants were encouraged to share their comments and suggestions, and to write down their opinions.

Written Comments:

- "Keep the Vista View! Save it for future generations."
- "Planada supports Agriculture!"

STATION 8: Community Forum

This station provided an opportunity for participants to write down their comments regarding the information presented and any general overall comments regarding the Community Plan Update process, however, no responses were received.