



## Southeast Area Specific Plan Community Advisory Committee

### First Meeting Summary

March 26, 2014

The first meeting of the Southeast Area Specific Plan Community Advisory Committee (Committee) took place on March 26, 2014 at Best Western Golden Sails Hotel Seafarer Room at 6285 E. Pacific Coast Highway. The meeting took place from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and was open to the public, who were also invited to attend.

Click the links below for the agenda and presentation.

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

The meeting was facilitated by Lewis Michaelson of Katz and Associates (one of the project team consultants). The meeting kicked off with introductions from the committee members and project team.

#### **Project Team Members in Attendance:**

PlaceWorks- Lead Consultant

Wendy Grant- Project Manager

Karen Gulley

Suzanne Schwab

Katz and Associates

Lewis Michaelson

Joan Isaacson

City Staff – Development Services

Amy Bodek, Director

Angela Reynolds, Deputy Director

Craig Chalfant, Planner

Brant Birkeland, Planner

#### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Gregory Gill                      Commercial Property Owner

Raymond Lin                      Commercial Property Owner

Rod Astarabadi                      Commercial Property Owner

John McKeown                      Commercial Property Owner



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Peter Zak	Commercial Property Owner
Randy Blanchard	Commercial Property Owner
Pat Towner	Homeowner Association - UPENA
Kristi Fischer	Homeowner Association - Del Lago
Michael Roddy	Homeowner Association - Marina Pacifica
Steve McCord	Homeowner Association - Belmont Shore Mobile Estates Park
Elizabeth Lambe	Community Organization - Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
B. Thomas Mayes	Community Organization - Long Beach Marian Boat Owners Assoc.
David Salazer	Agency - CSULB
Mary Parsell	Agency - El Dorado Audubon Society
Karissa Selvester	Agency - Long Beach Transit
Dianna Watson	Agency - Cal Trans
Charles Durnin	Community Member at Large
Edward Kutik	Community Member at Large
Laura Lindgren	Community Member at Large
Bill Davidson	Community Member at Large

### **Not present:**

Roberta Smith	Homeowner Association – Alamitos Heights Improvement Association
Mark Stanley	Agency – Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Approximately 50 community members attended the meeting.

Following introductions, the group reviewed the Committee's role and responsibilities, which included the [Committee Mission Statement](#). An overview of principals of participation helped the group to understand how to communicate their interests in the area while listening and considering what other had to say.



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City staff and the consultant team gave a short presentation on the background of the project. This included a quick overview of the grant received from the California Department of Conservation. Next City staff highlighted some of the existing and proposed development including an Environmental Impact Report for a proposed project at PCH and 2<sup>nd</sup> street.

The consultant team led the charge in reviewing the [timeline](#), work plan, and [process chart](#) for the project. An overview of the outreach efforts to-date included a recap of the [February Pop-up Outreach booths](#) as well as the project's online engagement tool, [Long Beach Town Hall](#).

The Committee and public were then asked to participate in a visioning exercise. Participants were broken out into groups and asked to draw their [visions for Southeast Long Beach](#). Each group was given a few minutes to present their visions.

#### **Committee Visioning Recap:**

##### Group #1:

Oil consolidation, wetlands, smart development, healthy habitats, educational opportunities, safe access trails, harmony with LCP, AES upgrade that supports local biology & quality of life, community/family, alternative transportation, environmental restoration, village atmosphere, purple mountains, canoeing, boating, free flowing traffic

##### Group #2:

Walkways, water, boats, wetlands – walking paths, tours, education, opportunity for stunning gateway into LB, classy development, small boutique hotel, high-end residential development, apple store, boutique retail, oil stay, fix traffic, data-driven process

##### Group #3:

Wetlands preserved, oil wells – lower them or use technology to lesser visibility, add residential around to enjoy, quality of retail, want more residential – less traffic, swap pch/second property with city so that residential could be on water, also add restaurants and shopping on water, lights always green

##### Group #4

Focus on traffic, pedestrian-friendly, wetlands restoration, activate city-parking lots by marina, mixed use, height-restriction (85 feet), bike paths, convert AES site to green space

Several themes emerged from the dialogue:

- Improved traffic
- Wetlands enhancement
- Protecting the scenic environment
- Providing a gateway to Long Beach



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- Creating a pedestrian accessible environment
- Allowing for a mix of land uses
- Retaining Building height limits
- Attracting upgraded commercial and retail
- Consideration of oil operation consolidation
- Creating healthy habitat

After members of the Committee finished their presentations a review of the next steps for the project was provided. The upcoming [community workshops](#) were announced and the Committee was asked to help promote the workshops and to attend if possible. The group also decided that meeting on Wednesdays worked best for them. The next Committee meeting has not been set yet, the consulting team is still working on data collection for existing conditions and will schedule the next meeting once complete. The Committee is scheduled to meet a total of five times.

The Committee was also asked to come up with suggestions for a new name for the project. Currently the Specific Plan is referred to as SEADIP (Southeast Area Development Improvement Plan).

As the meeting concluded the floor was opened for public comment. Groups from the community that participated in the visioning exercise also presented their [visions](#) at this time. The same visioning exercise will be held at each of the April [community workshops](#).

#### **Public Comments and Visions:**

Diversity – need to focus on wetlands, but commonality to include habitat/education/funding, get investments for good return which could help restore wetlands- look to the future

Retain beach community, no high-rise no dense development, need landscaping – should be drought tolerant, revitalized wetlands with monetary support from developers & federal agencies, in exchange for raised Studebaker road, new developments required to include wetlands

Add Welcome Signage to this area and create a gateway to Long Beach

EIR – clarify schedule

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority- in process of designing restoration plan

Not in favor of extending Studebaker Rd



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Connectivity – bridge to the Lagoon, science center, outside path around wetlands, oil still continues but along the edges, bring green to development side, and link other open space areas, think blue and green

Process – need to know what coastal act requires

Expect niche retail not high-end, want best way to get wetlands restored

Preserve mineral rights but move to the edge of the property to preserve the wetlands

Create more bicycle connections