

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Sacramento County**

### **Community Outreach**

The housing element was prepared with public outreach and participation. To ensure the broadest community involvement, particularly among low-income and special needs groups, the County used several strategies, including:

- 15 Focus issue meetings conducted between January and April with stakeholder organizations representing a broad range of community interests (see Table 1-1 for a list of organizations invited to participate in the focus meetings). The meetings covered topics related to land availability, constraints to the production of housing, housing special needs, affordable housing development, the preservation of affordable rental housing, and housing rehabilitation.
- 5 Study sessions with the Policy Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, including special sessions on affordable and inclusionary housing and mixed housing communities conducted in March, May September and October.
- A special meeting with representatives of Community Planning Advisory Councils (CPACs) conducted in April. CPACs are task force groups representing a diverse constituency of developers, residents, nonprofit housing advocacy groups, and land-use planning professors from the college. Additional presentations were made during the spring and summer by County staff to CPACs.
- General public workshops were conducted in February to solicit early public comments and review initial findings from the collection of data and notes of previous focus group sessions, study sessions and workshops.
- Three rounds of community workshops in each of the five supervisory districts. The first round was conducted in the spring to discuss the purpose of the housing element and to identify issues of interest to the community. The second round of workshops was conducted in the summer to discuss affordable housing issues and how community members recommended affordable housing should be addressed in their community. The third round of workshops was conducted in the fall to present the draft recommendations on affordable housing to be included in the housing element.
- Workshop at the Board of Supervisors on October on the affordable housing policy and proposed implementation program.
- Community meetings were conducted in September and October to report on the final draft of the housing element.

- Public workshops and hearings before the Policy Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Public workshops on the draft housing element were conducted January through April. Public hearings were held on the final housing element at the Policy Planning Commission in February and March and at the Board of Supervisors in April, May, June and July.
- Review of the Continuum of Care Plan adopted by the County to address the needs of the homeless population in the County.
- Review of redevelopment project area implementation plans, which contain funding strategies actions, and quantified objectives for housing replacement, residential relocation, housing rehabilitation, housing development, and community revitalization in the several redevelopment project areas in the unincorporated area.

The County maintains a distribution list of stakeholder organizations, interested private citizens and public agencies (see Table 1-1), and in English, Spanish, Russian and Hmong languages mailed notices to the larger General Plan mailing list, posted public information on the County's website and at the physical location of the meetings, issued press releases, announced events on the major market and ethnic radio stations. The distribution list also includes County agencies, departments and divisions, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, individual private citizens and CPACs. The venues for the public meetings were ADA accessible and served by public transportation. The County also advertised the meetings, focus groups, workshops and public hearings in utility bills and community newsletters.

**TABLE 1-1**

Assn. of Community Organizations for Reform Now	Legal Services of Northern California
Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce	Loaves & Fishes Homeless Assistance
Asian Community Center	Meadowview Community Action
Asian Pacific Islander Counseling	Mercy Housing
Asian Pacific Islanders Network (APIN)	Midtown Business Association
Assistance League of Sacramento	Nehemiah Corporation of California
Alta California Regional Center	Resources for Independent Living
B.J. Jordan Child Care & Food Programs	Sacramento Association of Realtors
Building Industry Assn. of Superior Calif.	Sacramento Black Caucus
California Emergency Foodbank	Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce
California Hispanic Resource Council	Sacramento Chinese Community Center
Capitol Area Indian Resources, Inc.	Sacramento Cottage Housing, Inc.
Catholic Social Service of Sacramento	Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods
Community Services Planning Council	Sacramento County Disabilities Advisory Comm
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Diogenes Youth Services	Sacramento Housing Collaborative
Disabled Services of Sacramento	Sacramento Lao Family Community, Inc.
Downtown Sacramento Partnership	Sac Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Environmental Council of Sacramento	Sacramento Mutual Housing Assn.

**TABLE 1-1  
(continued)**

Family Service Agency of Greater Sacramento	Sacramento Valley Apartment Assn.
Galt Community Concilio, Inc.	Sacramento Valley & Solano City Organizing Comm
Golden State Manufactured Home Owners League	Sacramento Veterans Resource Cntr.
Greater Sacramento Urban League	Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation
Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission	Slavic Community Center of Sacramento
Human Services Coordinating Council	Southeast Asian Assistance Center
Hunger Commission	Urban Land Institute
Lennar Homes	Vietnam Veterans of California

The County also reached out to several areas of the community by attending community functions including pancake breakfasts, outdoor musical events, art walks, minor league baseball games and other events where large groups would gather. At these functions the County parked a van painted to advertise public participation in the housing element process. The van is equipped with informational resources, both video and written, explaining the housing element process and the importance of public participation in the process. The video presentation includes software that can create virtual neighborhoods and developments. This helps to captivate participation by assisting the participant to visualize what a potential development or neighborhood might look like. Comments and suggestions were captured from written surveys completed at the parked van. This input was submitted for review by the Policy Planning Commission who wrote proposed policies and action statements to be presented for public comment at follow up community meetings. Some of the action statements and policies developed become programs in the draft housing element.

### **Community Input**

The County conducted a series of focus issue meetings and community workshops to invite and gather public input regarding priorities for development, and the supply and affordability of housing in their communities. Community surveys, printed in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Russian were used as one of the tools to gather public input. The surveys gathered input on the following topics that were discussed at the meetings:

- Average response measurement on housing problems
- Proposed locations for smart growth in the County
- Proposed locations for mixed-use development
- Comments regarding streets/sidewalks, housing supply, housing affordability, jobs, government staff
- Concerns expressed about the housing element process
- Specific housing services needed in the County
- Ranking of housing priorities
- Housing overcrowding and a scarcity of parking
- High density housing design
- Programs to help renters purchase houses

- Mixed-income housing strategies
- How to overcome NIMBYism
- Ten year plan to end homelessness and services for mentally ill homeless persons
- Street design that is safer and calming for traffic
- Access to parks and other amenities

### **Community Input Helps Form the Housing Element**

The input gathered from all of the forums and meeting locations is analyzed by category and priority. The Policy Planning Commission staff categorized the housing issues and form problem statements based on the input. Program/goal statements are written for each problem statement. Policies are formulated and action statements are drafted to implement the proposed policies. After public review, the action statements become the programs set forth in the draft housing element. The public input was categorized into the following main topics for the formulation of policies and programs:

- Housing Production
- Housing Costs
- State Requirements/Administrative
- Displacement

The draft action statements are presented at several follow up community workshops and voted on by the meeting attendees. The votes are tallied and the draft action statements that garner the most votes are brought forward as proposed program statements for the draft housing element.

The County conducts ongoing community workshops during the housing element process. Community workshops are especially important after the State's review of the draft housing element. The State's review can impact propose programs and community input is needed to form a program that is not only compliant with housing element law but also meets the housing needs of the community.