



Drop-In Office Hours Outreach Event | October 04, 2018 Venice Local Coastal Program

SUMMARY

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OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW

The Local Coastal Program is a policy and regulatory document required by the California Coastal Act that establishes land use, development, natural resource protection, coastal access, and public recreation policies for the Venice Coastal Zone. The Planning Department of the City of Los Angeles is undergoing a multi-year effort to prepare, adopt, and certify the Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP) as the coastal planning tool for the area with public input.

The *Office Hours* open house event, held on October 04, 2018, was conducted by the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, and took place at the Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Public Library. The session is held as an open format in which community members are welcome to discuss any topic and meet directly with planners. This outreach event is the third in the series. The Venice LCP Planning Team is committed to providing the community with a variety of opportunities to connect with planners in order attain the information they need while learning about issues that are most important to them.



This summary documents the objectives, activities, format, and major themes from the October *Office Hours* open house event.

OPEN HOUSE OBJECTIVES

The open house focused on three objectives:

- Review the Local Coastal Program update process
- Provide an overview of the recently completed sea level rise analysis
- Facilitate the collection of community input and discussion topics that were important to the community

WHERE AND WHEN

Thursday, October 04, 2018, 4:30 pm -7:30 pm
Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library
501 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90291

OUTREACH AND ATTENDANCE

As shown in the table below, the City used the following methods to inform community members about the event and encourage participation. Although approximately 18 people attended the outreach event, 12 attendees signed in at the registration table.

<i>Outreach Methods</i>
E-mail announcements to community members using database of contacts.
E-mail invitations and phone calls to prioritized organizations, including canal area and affordable housing organizations, with request to forward invitation to members and constituents.
E-mail and announcement by Venice Neighborhood Council
Outreach via City's External Affairs Office on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and at City stakeholder meetings.
E-mail postings on Nextdoor to target Venice LCP subareas.

FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES

The *Office Hours* event consisted of an open house format where attendees could visit station boards and speak directly with city planners regarding any planning matter they wanted to discuss further. Descriptions of the open house components follow below.



Registration

Participants were welcomed at the registration table and provided information about the open house format. Light refreshments and snacks were available for the public.

Open House

Open house stations were set up in the community room at the library. These four stations consisted of the following: 1) Introduction to the Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP), 2) General Land Use Map, 3) Sea Level Rise Maps and 4) Guided online access to the Venice LCP website and materials.

Station Number	Topic
1	Venice Local Coastal Plan Overview
2	Venice Land Use Map
3	Sea Level Rise map
4	Laptop: Guided Online Access

The open house stations provided a chance for community members to ask questions and obtain answers about any planning issues pertaining to the Venice LCP area and the City of Los Angeles. Members of the Venice LCP policy team and Coastal project planning team were available on hand to answer questions, provide information, and collect input from community members. Community members were encouraged to visit all stations and provide input by speaking with planners.

INPUT THEMES

The themes below represent those that appeared the most frequently in the collected input. The themes are listed alphabetically, and their order should not be taken to suggest their priority or importance. Although the open house was designed to foster verbal communication and dialogue, a few attendees provided written comments at the event and online. Staff also made a point of taking notes to record verbal comments and concerns. A summary of all feedback received at the open house is below.



Housing

- Affordable Housing | Supportive Housing

A long-time resident shared concerns about the growing homeless population. Although the resident commented that they were in support of the different types of housing to address the issue, the resident wondered how the landscape of Venice would be changed if the proposed affordable housing and/or supportive housing were to be implemented.

Planning

- Venice LCP | Venice Community Plan

Individuals from the community had questions about the main differences between the Venice LCP and the Venice Community Plan. The community inquired how these updates will affect the filing process.

- Planning and Procedures

A local resident expressed that they would like to participate more in the planning process and inquired about the different functions of the planning department.

Sea Level Rise

- Sea Level Rise | Adaptation

Request for more information on Sea Level Rise, including how to prepare for it and insurance concerns.

Survey LA

- Survey LA | Historic Preservation

Planners continued to hear the following concerns from residents regarding SurveyLA.

- Property value: Will SurveyLA reduce the value of the home?
- Limitations: Will there be restrictions be on new development?
- Historic preservation: Lack of preservation on existing housing.
- Historical-Cultural Monument designation /African-American Historical Context: How will these policies be included in the Venice LCP?

Water Quality

- Water Quality | Litter and Waste

One resident was concerned about litter and waste along the shore and the implications on water quality. This local resident wanted to know how policies will be shaped in the Venice LCP to guide the monitoring of water quality in Venice.

Zoning

- Concern of development and potential rezoning of Open Space.



Topics of interest that were expressed through the online form

- Liquefaction and the canals.
- Building heights and volume restrictions.
- Opportunities for affordable housing and inquires about Section 8.
- Homeless and Bridge Housing.
- SurveyLA and concerns about mass, scale & character.

Venice LCP “Office Hours” Overall

The community continues to find the Office Hours format helpful and informative. A handful of residents have followed up with planners to inquire about more detailed information after the event or to schedule pre-filing appointments for projects. Topics such as SurveyLA, Sea Level Rise and Zoning are occurring themes, while emerging topics have been on affordable housing and water quality are also being discussed during this series of *Office Hours*. Attendance is constant amongst regular attendees, nonetheless the project team remains dedicated to engaging new stakeholders continually.