

CASTRO VALLEY GENERAL PLAN WORKSHOP: EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PLANNING ISSUES

November 22, 2004

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Overall Vision for the Future of Castro Valley. Do you generally agree with the overall vision statements for the future of Castro Valley drawn from comments at the first community meeting?

- A Walkable Town Center where people come together
- Rural Character preserved
- Good place to raise a family – parks, local schools, childcare, library
- Activities for adults too – Adobe Arts Center, Performing Arts Center, live music
- Views to the hills and canyon lands; creeks that run through town protected
- Streets are safe for people to walk and to get their kids to school
- Downtown has places to eat out and shop
- Castro Valley a Beautiful Boulevard
- Impacts of regional traffic and freeway have been reduced
- Still affordable relative to the rest of the inner Bay Area; with a range of different price levels available
- Additional housing has been added in a way that preserves property values, privacy, and doesn't fundamentally change the character of the area
- Livability Principles made real

Yes

No

If no, what would you delete, add, or change?

Preliminary List of Issues

The consultants presented a lot of background information about Castro Valley. The Castro Valley General Plan will identify issues and contain recommendations about each of the topics presented. For each of the topic areas, answer the discussion questions below. The purpose of the questions is to identify the specific issues that should be addressed in the General Plan. **At this meeting, we are not trying to develop solutions, just to identify the issues that are most important to Castro Valley residents and businesses.** Be constructive, and be as specific as possible.

An issue needs to be something that:

- The County Board of Supervisors can adopt a policy about.
- The County Board of Supervisors could do something about – for example adopt regulations, work with other government agencies, build something, or start a program.

Community Character and Design

The consultant has identified the following preliminary planning issues related to community character and design. Do you agree that these are issues that should be addressed in the General Plan? Are there other issues related to overall community character and design that should be considered?

- Preservation of Natural Setting
- Preservation of Rural Character
- Improving the Character of Castro Valley Boulevard
- Adding Community Gathering Places
- Historic Preservation of the Most Significant Historic Resources
- Gateways at Key Entrances to Castro Valley

Residential Areas

- Which of the types and examples of residential development presented fit in and contribute to Castro Valley neighborhoods? Which types or examples of residential development presented are inappropriate to Castro Valley?
- What types of standards or guidelines should be added to ensure that new development is good quality and fits in with the neighborhood (e.g. height, setbacks, landscaping, etc.)?
- Are there any particular areas where new residential development should be directed, or where new residential development should be prohibited?

Commercial Areas

What are the planning issues related to the different commercial areas in Castro Valley? How would you like them to change over the next 20 years? (Focus especially on the areas outside the Central Business District.)

- Lake Chabot Road and Eden Medical Center
- General Commercial Area Near Eden Medical Center
- Redwood Road Corridor
- Grove Street Corridor
- Grove and Center Commercial Area
- Neighborhood Commercial Centers

Transportation

Here are some issues identified related to transportation, a topic which includes autos, transit, bikes, and pedestrians. Do you agree that these issues should be addressed in the General Plan? What other issues should be added to the list?

- Traffic Calming on Residential Streets (Due to lack of East-West Roadway Connections)
- Cut-through traffic – Norbridge/Strobridge to Foothill
- Safe Access to Schools; School Pick-up and Drop-off – Canyon Middle School and Creekside Middle School
- Improvements to Streets that take traffic onto and off of the freeway, but are also part of Castro Valley's town center
- Opportunities and Constraints related to BART Station
- Improving streets so pedestrians can comfortably walk to schools and shops
- Lack of Bikeway Facilities
- Additional street connections, e.g. Nash Way extension opportunity

Parks and Public Facilities

Is Castro Valley adequately served with parks (considering an additional 1900 households over the next 20 years)? If not, what types of additional parks are needed?

Are there other types of public facilities that need to be added to serve new and future Castro Valley residents? What types are most important (that Castro Valley residents might be willing to help pay for)?

Creeks and Natural Resources

Here are some of the potential planning issues related to creeks and natural resources. Do you agree? Are there other issues?

- Protection for areas with creeks and natural resources
- Special Review of development projects in areas with creeks and natural resources
- Enhancement of creeks and natural resources

Natural Hazards and Public Safety

Castro Valley properties are subject to several types of hazards due to earthquake faults, slopes, and proximity to wildland areas that can be subject to fire. Many types of programs and regulations are already in place to address these issues, such as building codes, vegetation management, storm drain management, etc. Are there major issues or concerns about the level of safety from natural hazards, such that additional measures should be taken to protect Castro Valley residents and properties from natural hazards?