

**Vision 2040 Regional Planning Project
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 5, 2008
Doña Ana County Government Building Council Chambers**

Attendance

Amy Johnson Bassford
Nikki Mac Donald
Tom Phillips
Charlie Scholz
Bob Hearn
Diana Bustamante
Valecia Gavin
Sandy Geiger
Herb Torres
Steve Vierck
Patrick S. Banegas
John Villescascas
Peggy Shinn

Meeting Summary

Jocelyn Gordon, from Peter J. Smith & Co. started the meeting with a presentation about the purpose of the project, the progress to date and selected facts from the inventory. After the presentation, questions from committee members were answered. The next Advisory Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, May 14, 2008. The location will be announced later. Committee members were encouraged to invite their contacts to upcoming public meetings as part of their job as committee members.

Summary of questions and answers

Q. Will sources be available for all of the information presented in the inventory?

A. Yes, each chapter will be posted separately and will include a bibliography at the end.

Q. Do you have demographic information of focus group and public meeting participants?

A. No. We have contact information for all focus group participants, since focus groups are by invitation only. Focus groups are designed to obtain specific information from individuals with specialized knowledge on certain topics. But we do not collect demographic information from them. To get an idea of where people who are attending the public meetings are coming from, we have a sign in sheet and a map where they can identify where they live. The meetings are promoted as much as possible, but we have no control over who comes to the meetings.

Q. Is there translation available for Spanish-speaking people?

A. Yes, all materials used in the meetings are available in both English and Spanish, and Ana, who is a native Spanish speaker, is available to provide Spanish translation of the presentation if necessary.

Q. What is the sample size used for the community survey?

A. 664. We typically have a 30% response rate and we send all surveys with an address and stamp to make it easier for people to send them back to us. We give two weeks to answer and return the survey.

Q. Will the inventory attempt to say what the water situation is?

A. We have attempted to get as much information there is out there.

Reply: If you have everything that is out there, you have every single opinion that exists on this topic; we want to make sure that we have the most accurate picture. The City has a 40-year Water Plan that should be reviewed alongside this process. The transcripts from the El Paso lawsuit have numbers about the amount of water available and the amount of water that can be transferred. Karl Wood, from the Water Resources Research Institute, and local attorney Steve Hubert are good resources.

Q. There is a gap between our needs and the resources we have available. Will there be a consideration of the things we pay for, funding sources, revenue and what the recommendations will cost?

A. We do look at funding sources, but we do not provide a dollar cost for each recommendation.

Q. The real value of the Vision 2040 is that the plan has teeth. So we need a draft ordinance as part of the Plan. Will you be writing the ordinance as well?

A. No, the project does not include the actual writing of the ordinance; but we will make specific recommendations for ordinances. We are also looking at the existing ordinances. The Plan also has an implementation matrix, timeframe for action, who is responsible for each action and potential funding sources that will help you get started on implementing the Plan once we're done with it.

Q. Will there be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)? We want to make sure that a specific land use selected by the public for a given area will be possible.

A. There could be one, but we are not sure at this time. We could develop a policy that states that an EIS must be done before selected types of development occurs.

Q. Now that focus groups are over, there will only be more public meetings?

A. We will continue to do telephone interviews while we are away and personal interviews and public meetings when we are back in town in May. We are open to suggestions to maximize our week here.

Reply: We want to make sure that by the time the project is completed, all the stakeholders have bought into the process and that all parts of the community have representation. We would like to have specific meetings so that stakeholders can discuss ideas.

A. We can discuss this with the City and the County. They will be doing their own outreach to each community on each subject area, and we're still learning about their plans for the coming months.

Q. Is there a section that covers education?

A. Education is not expressly designated as a chapter in the Plan. It is included under Community Facilities. We will show information about enrollment, test scores. We had public schools representatives invited to several different focus group sessions, so the issues that affect them will be addressed in various parts of the Plan.