

Community Survey

A survey was mailed to county and city residents throughout the region to provide an additional opportunity to provide information for the Comprehensive Plan. This report presents the results from the Community Survey that was mailed out to randomly selected households throughout Doña Ana County (including Las Cruces). The survey was distributed twice, for a total of 1,600 surveys. One hundred and sixty (160) surveys were returned, for a 10% response rate.

The survey was answered by a very diverse group of individuals, particularly in terms of age, the amount of time living within the County, the annual household income, and highest level of education achieved. However, most of the people who responded to the community survey were adults living in the City of Las Cruces in a 2-person household without children. This roughly reflects the demographic characteristics of the region's population, and the fact that most people within Doña Ana County live in Las Cruces. The results of the survey were not cross-tabulated by survey respondents' characteristics.

The survey revealed a very diverse set of opinions regarding the public's satisfaction with several government services. Many people indicated that they are satisfied with police, fire and ambulance services, but dissatisfied with services related to streets. Most people also indicated that they feel they are knowledgeable about the services provided by the local governments. However, many said that they do not believe enough is being done to manage growth in the region.

When asked about the types of development that should be encouraged in the region, there was considerable agreement that activities that generate jobs are preferred. Residential development was a type of development that few individuals thought needed to be encouraged. When asked if they agree that there are areas in the community where there are land use conflicts, many people neither agreed nor disagreed. There were also no strong agreements or disagreements regarding the appropriateness of the location, type or amount of new residential, industrial, commercial and retail developments.

Finally, the survey gauged support for several planning strategies regarding transportation, environmental protection and recreation. There was considerable agreement to provide more transportation alternatives and recreational opportunities, and protecting agriculture, open space and historical resources.

Table 0.1 Survey Respondents' Personal Information

How many adults (18 or older) are living in your residence, including yourself?		1	2	3-5	6+
		22.1%	64.3%	13.6%	0.0%
How many children (under 18) are living in your residence?	0	1	2	3-5	6+
	76.9%	10.9%	9.0%	3.2%	0.0%
What is your age?	Under 19	20-34	35-54	55-64	65 plus
	0.0%	17.8%	30.3%	21.7%	30.3%
Do you own or rent the residence you are living in?				Own	Rent
				81.7%	18.3%
How long have you lived in Doña Ana County?		0-3 years	4-10 years	11-20 years	Native Resident
		19.9%	25.0%	34.6%	20.5%
Where do you live?		Las Cruces	Hatch	Sunland Park	Other (ETZ, etc.)
		70.3%	0.6%	1.3%	21.9%
Could you share your annual household income category?		Less than \$10,000	\$10,000-29,999	\$30,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000-74,999
		4.4%	24.8%	18.2%	18.2%
					\$75,000-99,999
					17.5%
					\$100,000-149,999
					11.7%
					\$150,000+
					5.1%
What is your highest level of education?		Below High School	High School Grad	Some College	Associates Degree
		3.9%	8.5%	22.2%	7.8%
					Bachelors Degree
					24.2%
					Post graduate Degree
					33.3%
I keep up with local issues			Rarely	Frequently	Always
			11.0%	55.8%	33.1%

Table 0.2 Summary of Community Survey Responses

Community And Government Services					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My level of satisfaction that the following local government services are prepared for the future is:					
Police	8.3%	56.4%	10.3%	18.6%	6.4%
Fire	11.6%	59.4%	17.4%	10.3%	1.3%
Ambulance	7.1%	56.1%	20.6%	13.5%	2.6%
Streets	3.2%	23.9%	7.7%	43.2%	21.9%
Water	7.1%	44.2%	18.2%	16.2%	14.3%
Library	9.2%	45.1%	28.1%	11.1%	6.5%
Sewer	6.6%	34.2%	32.2%	17.8%	9.2%
Parks, Trails & Open Space	7.0%	42.7%	12.1%	22.3%	15.9%
Recreation	4.5%	38.7%	20.0%	20.6%	16.1%
Planning and Building	2.6%	22.4%	25.6%	31.4%	17.9%
I feel I am knowledgeable about local government services	11.4%	46.8%	25.9%	13.3%	2.5%
In general, I am satisfied with the value of local govt. services	1.3%	40.1%	30.6%	22.9%	5.1%
I feel safe in my community	11.0%	59.4%	10.3%	16.8%	2.6%
The region is doing a sufficient job of managing growth	3.3%	20.3%	19.6%	40.5%	16.3%
Community Identity And Design					
The Doña Ana County region has a strong sense of identity	3.8%	42.3%	28.2%	20.5%	5.1%
The character and appearance of most commercial buildings in my community are of high quality	5.2%	38.1%	20.0%	27.1%	9.7%
The character and appearance of residential and commercial buildings reflect my community's identity	8.4%	41.9%	22.6%	20.0%	7.1%
My community should encourage the following types of development:					
Retail	24.3%	48.6%	17.6%	5.4%	4.1%
Light Industrial/High Technology	37.7%	40.3%	11.7%	6.5%	3.9%
Heavy Industrial	14.4%	25.3%	21.9%	20.5%	17.8%
Office Parks	19.2%	41.8%	23.3%	11.0%	4.8%
Residential	15.5%	33.8%	25.7%	16.9%	8.1%
Mixed Uses (including residential,	24.3%	36.1%	20.1%	9.7%	9.7%

commercial and office in one area) within walking distance of my home					
I feel a sense of community while living in Doña Ana County	9.7%	45.5%	20.0%	19.3%	5.5%
Land Use					
My community has areas where land use conflicts exist	16.4%	21.7%	44.7%	11.8%	5.3%
My community offers a broad range of housing types to meet residents' needs; including housing that is affordable	9.2%	40.1%	18.4%	23.0%	9.2%
The location and type of new residential is appropriate	9.2%	38.2%	23.0%	17.8%	11.8%
Are there particular areas where new residential should be concentrated? Yes/No (circle). If yes, where? Are there areas where higher densities would be appropriate?		Yes 37.2%		No 62.8%	
The location and amount of industrial, commercial, and retail development in my community are appropriate	3.3%	31.4%	30.1%	28.1%	7.2%
Are there particular areas where industrial, commercial, or retail should be concentrated? Yes/No		Yes 66.1%		No 33.9%	
Protecting open space from development should be a priority	42.6%	20.6%	19.1%	11.8%	5.9%

Table 1.2 (cont.)					
History and Culture					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The region should preserve historic buildings where feasible	43.2%	40.0%	9.7%	5.2%	1.9%
The region should provide for additional cultural facilities and programs (concert hall, theater, music, art)	44.2%	31.8%	11.7%	9.1%	3.2%
Transportation And Circulation					
The quality and safety of our regional road system is adequate	4.5%	30.3%	16.1%	35.5%	13.5%
It is easy and safe to walk in my community	10.5%	40.1%	17.8%	23.7%	7.9%
It is easy and safe to ride a bicycle in my community	6.6%	30.9%	23.0%	28.9%	10.5%
Public Transportation is adequate in my community	1.3%	19.3%	42.0%	25.3%	12.0%
To mitigate some traffic issues , the region should increase funding for:					
Sidewalks to connect neighborhoods and/or retail	29.9%	41.7%	21.5%	4.9%	2.1%
Pedestrian/bike/walking trails	40.5%	40.5%	12.2%	4.1%	2.7%
Public transportation (bus, trolley, light rail)	38.1%	34.7%	16.3%	8.8%	2.0%
Additional road connections	39.6%	36.8%	15.3%	5.6%	2.8%
Environment					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Identifying and protecting the region's environmentally sensitive lands should be a priority.	48.3%	32.9%	12.8%	4.7%	1.3%
Agricultural land should be protected where feasible	48.1%	39.0%	9.1%	3.2%	0.6%
Our water supply is too limited to handle projected growth	37.0%	26.0%	28.6%	6.5%	1.9%
Water conservation should be a high priority for the future	49.0%	42.3%	4.7%	3.4%	0.7%
The region is doing a sufficient job to address the following issues:					
Water Conservation	8.1%	21.6%	26.4%	33.8%	10.1%
Flood Control	8.1%	28.4%	25.0%	26.4%	12.2%
Air Pollution	7.5%	29.9%	29.3%	24.5%	8.8%
Waste Management/Illegal Dumping	6.0%	17.2%	23.8%	32.5%	20.5%
Appropriate steps are being taken to address erosion, storm water runoff, and other sources that pollute water resources	4.0%	16.8%	36.2%	32.2%	10.7%
I would support more, simpler recycling opportunities	46.7%	39.3%	8.0%	3.3%	2.7%
The region should support "green"/renewable building design	44.9%	38.8%	8.2%	2.7%	5.4%
Recreation					
Additional parks are needed in the region	34.2%	30.3%	23.7%	7.2%	4.6%

More passive recreational opportunities (bird watching, nature watching) are needed in my community	18.2%	28.4%	33.8%	12.8%	6.8%
More active recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, golfing) are needed in my community	28.1%	41.8%	19.0%	6.5%	4.6%
Additional outdoor sports facilities (baseball/softball, soccer, skatepark, pool, etc.) are needed in my community	24.0%	30.5%	27.9%	11.7%	5.8%
Additional indoor recreation facilities (community center, youth center, etc.) are needed in my community	32.0%	39.3%	16.7%	7.3%	4.7%

Table 1.2 (cont.)					
Economy And Business Services					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The region should support workforce development to better train local residents for employment preparedness	44.4%	45.0%	6.6%	4.0%	0.0%
More needs to be done to attract living wage jobs here	55.2%	36.4%	3.2%	3.9%	1.3%
Agriculture is vital to our region and should be encouraged	50.0%	39.0%	8.4%	1.9%	0.6%
Our region should promote itself as a travel destination	24.0%	44.7%	20.7%	8.7%	2.0%
Our region should do more to capitalize on its proximity to El Paso/Mexico	19.9%	23.2%	27.8%	16.6%	12.6%
I believe the following developments will have a positive impact on the region:					
Spaceport	24.3%	35.5%	17.1%	9.9%	13.2%
White Sands/Fort Bliss Expansions	39.2%	37.3%	13.7%	5.9%	3.9%
New Mexico State University Expansion	45.3%	37.3%	10.0%	5.3%	2.0%