



CHAPTER 25

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

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The Districts have designed a Public Participation Program for the 2015 Plan and EIR in order to integrate public and agency input into the facilities planning process. The program is intended to ensure that the 2015 Plan and EIR are as informative as possible for the decision makers and other interested parties, including those potentially affected by the proposed action. Section 15083 of the State CEQA Guidelines encourages consultation throughout the CEQA process to allow the public to provide input to the decision makers on the range of actions and alternatives to be considered, potential significant impacts of the alternatives, and feasible mitigation measures.

The Districts have identified several key periods during the preparation of the 2015 Plan and EIR at which time agencies and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the facilities planning and participate in the environmental review process. These key periods are a scoping comment period, a draft 2015 Plan and EIR comment period, and a final 2015 Plan and EIR comment period as described below.

Scoping Comment Period

The notice of preparation for the 2015 Plan EIR was distributed on April 24, 1996. The list of entities that received the NOP is included in Appendix F. A number of interested agencies provided comments in response to the NOP. The list of agencies that responded, with a summary of their comments, is also included in Appendix F.

To solicit comments and identify issues of concern from affected agencies and the public, an agency scoping meeting and a public workshop were held on April 27, 1997, and May 15, 1997, respectively.

Appendix G contains the mailing list for the agency scoping meeting and Appendix H, the list for the public workshop. The comments and questions received have been addressed in the draft 2015 Plan and EIR. The attendees at the agency scoping meeting and the public workshop are listed in Appendix I and J, respectively.

Prior to the public workshop, a fact sheet describing the Districts and the recommended project was prepared. The fact sheet, which was distributed with an invitation to the public workshop, was circulated to over 120 interested parties including the homeowners associations in the valley, environmental groups, schools, and local business organizations. In addition, the fact sheet was made available at Santa Clarita City Hall, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Santa Clarita Field Office, and libraries. The public workshop was advertised in the two newspapers of general circulation in the valley (the *Signal* and the *Daily News*), and the May 1997 *Magazine of Santa Clarita*. A copy of the advertisement is included in Appendix K.

The Districts also met to discuss the project with City of Santa Clarita Staff on October 16, 1996, and made a presentation on the project to the City Council on February 25, 1997. In addition, the Districts met separately with the Southern California Association of Governments and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in May 1997, to discuss the planning assumptions and the scope of the environmental analyses.

Draft 2015 Plan and EIR Comment Period

The comment period ended on September 3, 1997. A public hearing was held on August 27, 1997, to receive comments on the 2015 Plan and EIR. During this comment period, the Districts received written comments which have been addressed in the Final

2015 Plan and EIR (Chapter 26). Appendix M contains the list of attendees of the public hearing. A distribution list for the 2015 Plan and EIR is contained in Appendix N.

Final 2015 Plan and EIR Comment Period

Prior to consideration of approval of the 2015 Plan and certification of the EIR, the Districts prepared and submitted responses to all parties who submitted comments on the draft documents. The Boards of Directors of Districts Nos. 26 and 32 are scheduled to hold a public meeting for consideration of approval of the 2015 Plan and certification of the EIR in January 1998.

Speakers Bureau

The Districts also are planning to include information on the 2015 Plan and EIR in their Speakers Bureau Series, an ongoing forum used to educate the public about the Districts' operations. Districts practice is to contact clubs and organizations throughout the Santa Clarita Valley to inform them of the availability of speakers on this topic.