

Week One Workshop Summary

Overview

The first Baker Community Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on November 29th from 6 – 8:30pm at the Baker Community Services District. The meeting consisted of an informational PowerPoint presentation by San Bernardino County Land Use Services (LUS) and Michael Baker International and several interactive exercises, including a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis, a Values and Aspirations discussion, and the drafting of preliminary goals and objectives. The SWOT and Values and Aspirations are presented as written by workshop attendees. Changes were made to remove specific names, titles or inappropriate comments or to simplify a comment.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Not near gout
- Kids are safe
- Everybody knows everybody
- Good water system
- I-15
- People can find jobs
- Natural beauty
- Clean air
- No gangs
- Peaceful
- Close knit community
- Small town positive “vibe”
- Safe community
- Low crime rate
- Open space
- School District implementing PBIS (research based positive intervention and support framework)
- Excellent customer service
- Hard working community
- Dumont Dunes adventure events
- Biggest thermometer

Weaknesses

- County problems with subdividing
- County problems with permitting
- County problems with checking on road requirements

- I-15 accidents pulls services
- No access to medical (clinic in process)
- Parcels cannot be subdivided
- Rules need to be more flexible for this area, small communities
- Emergency services lack of EMT transport
- Lack of resources
- Lengthy planning review process
- No newspaper
- Poorly designed sewer system greets tourists if wind is strong
- Lodging (lack of)
- Housing
- Lack of housing and growth
- Housing (lack of)
- Need more things for adults and children to be involved in
- Many buildings on boulevard closed or in disrepair
- No public library
- Lack of medical care
- Lack of local stores (example, big box)

Opportunities

- Take advantage of freeway
- Sit down full service restaurant
- Traffic requirements include signal, stopping development – to expensive
- Hotels

- Take advantage of movie grow demand
- Potential for mobile home residents to move into homes if they could build (regulations)
- Additional development if you can subdivide
- Small lot sizes
- Small class size school
- Jobs available
- Career/technical opportunities (pathways) for high school students (internships, etc.)
- Plenty of opportunities for new businesses and increasing variety of offerings
- Jobs available
- To provide transportation to Barstow for community college attendance, and other local needs
- Implementing Barstow College promise first 2 years of college threats

Threats

- Stateline is competition
- Legalizing gambling
- Reduce traffic
- High speed rail
- Solar wanting to take the water supply
- High traffic volume on weekends
- Emergency services
- Economy reliance of highway traffic
- Human (potential threat) trafficking already exists in San Bernardino, Riverside, Victorville
- People get stranded here and they can pose a threat
- Crime
- Emergency response
- Vandalism from people passing through

Values and Aspirations

Values

- Open space
- Quiet
- Safe community
- This is kind of like Mayberry
- Family-oriented
- Hardworking
- Community pride
- Small town feel
- Freedom, less restrictions
- Long-term relationships in the community which builds trust, collaboration, and the ability to “get her done!”
- Safety
- Hardworking individuals that care about the community
- Law enforcement has a close relationship with the community builds trust
- Peace and quiet
- No noise
- Safety
- Reliable law enforcement

Aspirations

- Keep it the same feel
- Additional commercial grocery
- See the restaurants and hotels come back

- Better internet and fiber access
- Nice to have boulevard with sidewalks
- Widen freeway
- Community resource center with WiFi café
- Classes for adults and students –upholstery, dance, etc.
- Park and recreation offerings
- Parks and Recreation with many activities
- A working hotel
- Proper housing
- A gym
- Attract more events
- Diverse job opportunity different trades
- Access to fresh produce (used to be produce truck delivered weekly)
- Proper medical care
- Health care available
- Normal facilities like banks, grocery store, produce available locally
- Housing opportunities
- Development
- Media coverage
- Free electricity from solar power
- Instructors for Parks and Recreation activities

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Attract manufacturing or other large employer

Goal: Local sales tax (TOT)

Goal: Building single-family houses and subdivide land

Goal: Work with Public Works to solve traffic studies and requirements

Goal: Already providing facility for medical clinic

Goal: More activities for kids after school

Goal: More after hour programs in School District

Goal: Shuttle service to Barstow for people to get to schools, job, training

Goal: More playground equipment for the park

Goal: Address aging

Goal: Swimming pool

Goal: More housing opportunities at more income levels

Goal: Attract diverse companies (tech, manufacturing) to work here/establish presence at Baker

Goal: Establish a community resource system

- More flexible regulatory processes for development
- Consider zoning allow for diverse housing and business developments