

# Week One Workshop Summary

## Overview

The first Newberry Springs Community Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6 – 8:30pm at the Newberry 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

- We are a gateway community to the newly designated Mojave trails monument
- Expansive natural beauty
- Cal Poly students/Cal Poly Pomona Study
- Good elementary school/schools
- Newberry mountain wilderness is in our backyard
- Rural lifestyle
- We have great frontage road along Route 66 with an on and off freeway access
- Lakeside living
- Relaxing community collectiveness
- Almost anything grows
- Stars at night
- Quiet
- Independent lifestyle
- Farming
- Clean air
- Bagdad Café brings visitors
- Water ski
- Hunting
- Off road riding
- Mojave desert
- Agriculture
- Cost of living
- Freedom

### Weaknesses

- Minimum public services
- Homeless inhabitation of vacant dwellings
- Communication
- Lack of high speed internet
- Loneliness
- Wind
- Distances between homes, shops, etc.
- Distance between law enforcement
- County fees and regulations stifle growth and local beauty
- Vacant homes subject to vandalism
- CSD – weak and argumentative
- Lack of opportunities
- Lack of services
- Lack of recreational facilities
- Community division
- Roads/dirt roads unmaintained
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Land clearing
- Marijuana farms bring criminal cartels
- Water supply
- Blight
- Shifting job status, fewer full time jobs and more part time jobs
- Residents not involved
- Lack of volunteering
- Lack of parks within walking distance

## Opportunities

- Unlimited opportunities if we have water and money
- Provided we are not governed as if we were a city. The county is too big, one set of rules does not fit all.
- Cottage industry
- Great for Airbnb sites
- Tourism along Route 66
- Ecotourism
- Business growth, shopping, restaurants
- Education/partnering with community leaders to work toward planning measurable programs
- Adjust County development and standards to match rural resources
- Water quality
- Improve emergency services and ISO ratings
- None
- Youth/after school programs–summer programs
- Economy

## Threats

- Water usage upstream on Mojave river is hurting all forms of our lives and any growth
- Aquifer supply
- Water rights
- Rail road crossing are currently closer together than 1.5 miles long trains, thus potential for part of Newberry being isolated from first responders
- No access from rail road crossing
- Crime
- Wild dogs
- Invasion of large solar and wind projects
- Restrictions unreasonable taxes for small scale commercial businesses
- Aging population
- Losing young families
- Drug busts
- Cooperation from county agencies
- Sewage sludge – related health issues
- Dune buggies and motorcycles tearing up roads
- Lack of funding
- Education for community development
- Soil and sand erosion in the river
- Fees for growth
- Rail road crossing
- No health care facilities
- Lack of water
- Pot farms

## Values and Aspirations

### Values

- No traffic
- Easy access
- Expansive landscape
- Large properties
- Serenity
- Rural living
- Good people, communication, and helpfulness of neighbors
- Self-sufficiency
- Independence
- Agriculture
- Night skies
- Air quality
- Beauty and peace

### Aspirations

- Confidence in water services
- Newberry Springs to be a Route 66 destination
- A thriving cottage industry community
- Ecotourism
- Huge farmers market
- Splash pad
- Jobs/activities
- Co-ops between crafts and agriculture
- Profitable home businesses
- Development, community services
- Well-developed housing
- Improve community standards
- Protection of your investment

## Goals and Objectives

### *Goals:*

- Promote and support the Newberry Springs economic development association
- Farmers market
- Increase tourism
- Establish sustainable water plan
- Develop comprehensive road plan
- Improve emergency services and medical services
- Improve community park
- Create a Newberry shopping village (hub) to increase tax base based on civic/commercial services, digital technology, tourism, and cottage industry
- Work with the county on a sustainable water plan to ensure water supply in Newberry Springs
- Need grade separation to keep railroad from splitting railroad
- Bring community together, and more involved to better the community
- Develop full service community
- Influx of grant money
- Build a community garden
- Increase volunteerism – community involvement
- Expand youth activity summer program

### *Goal: Public Safety*

- Develop area/community water system with storage for fire protection
- 40,000 gal water tank within 5 miles
- Better sheriff protection and presence
- Need to add living quarters at main fire station (need 2 more locations)
- ISO rating of 7 or 8
- Neighborhood watch
- Ask BNSF railroad to stop extensive crossing blockage

### *Goal: Smart Government*

- Building and safety ombudsmen program
- Reduce streamline government bureaucracy
- Create a municipal advisory council to achieve a closer relationship to the county
- Mentor program with county training local government staff
- Reduce government fees in rural areas

### *Goal: Water*

- Water conservation ordinance
- Lahontan has very lackadaisical attitude toward around– water pollution in N.S. they need a kick in the rear

### *Goal: Infrastructure*

- Medical clinic community park
- Improve broad band
- Connect to level 3 communications fiber cable along natural trail Hwy
- More paved roads but no curbs on sidewalks
- Build a public library (from Carnegie foundation possibly)

- Allow CSD to grade unmaintained roads (without liability as per government code) as done in Baker

*Goal: Economic Development*

- Good 40 hour skilled jobs
- Vocational training in schools
- Need more tourism related restaurants and motels
- Promote increased Hwy 66 tourism
- Improvement
  - More code enforcement by the county i.e. trashy properties

*Objectives*

- Econ. dev. strategy for farmers market and tourism
- Secure grants/County funds to support community development for roads, parks, emergency services
- Capitalize on Route 66
- Ecotourism
- Have a local grocery store – trader joes, fresh and easy
- EMS certification with volunteer fire department
- Have a local ambulance service