

# Meeting 1 Workshop Summary

## Overview

The first Lucerne Valley Community Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on February 24, 2016, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lucerne Valley Community Center. The meeting consisted of an informational PowerPoint presentation by San Bernardino County Land Use Services and Michael Baker International; an interactive strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis, and an interactive values and aspirations discussion.

## SWOT Analysis

### Strengths

- Local businesses, including Mitsubishi Cement, Omya, Specialty Minerals, market, laundry, doctor, bank, etc.
- Well-documented community history
- Rural location and character, natural beauty, clean environment and air
- Very active community volunteers and community service organizations, such as Lion's Club Shooting Range, Dry Lake Rocket Club, and King of the Hammers
- Almost a self-contained town
- Tourist destination for natural beauty
- Good local school district
- Film industry
- Lucerne Valley Economic Development Agency and Municipal Advisory Council
- Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) bus routes
- *Lucerne Valley Leader* newspaper
- Affordability of housing
- A town of characters
- Ties to community history, especially with local genealogy association
- Many long-term residents
- Frequent community events at the Lucerne Valley Community Center and senior center
- Better air quality in comparison to the rest of the Mojave Air Basin
- Connected to Apple Valley through the VVTA Route 23

- Community involvement at local schools, Citizens on Patrol hosts the Good Citizen program at Lucerne Valley Elementary School
- Lucerne Valley Unified School district has a low teacher-to-student ratio
- Strong park services, equestrian area, and bicycle motocross track

### Weaknesses

- Poor demographics; lack of diversity
- Poor road conditions; roads not paved or maintained in some areas
- Poor property maintenance
- Need turn pockets to make Highway 18 more efficient and safe
- Location in the State of California
- Lack of sufficient medical services
- Drug manufacturing and pot farms
- Lack of code enforcement presence and consistency
- Old water lines in downtown area need to be replaced
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) bureaucracy and target for solar energy projects
- Crime and drugs
- Gas stations and price-fixing cartel drives people to Apple Valley for gas and other goods
- Economically depressed area

- Poor appearance, partially due to large homeless population
- Law of solar tax
- California Department of Transportation bureaucracy
- Low high school exit exam pass rates; (only 64 percent, and only 39 percent of students score in the proficient and above ranges, in comparison to the county and California)
- Received low healthy food index score, indicating limited access to healthy foods in the plan area
- Few pedestrian and bicycle facilities are located in the city
- Crime problems include mail theft, burglary, and auto theft
- Low walk score
- Homelessness
- Public nuisances, including junk and trash, vacant structures, and illegal dumping

### Opportunities

- Development of a senior living community
- Open spaces uses, including off-highway vehicle areas
- Industries to tie into the mines along rail lines
- Become a model community for renewable energy
- There is room to grow while still remaining primarily rural
- Distributed generation assistance for local property owners
- Community choice aggregate project
- Improved infrastructure through road maintenance and more paved roads
- Develop tourism draw to the area to increase flow of outside money into the community
- Land exchange with the BLM; opportunities for creating industry and jobs
- Having a liaison deputy assigned to the community, to give a sense of ownership and safety, versus a beat deputy responding

to one or more communities within a patrol beat

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the community
- Code enforcement to close illegal businesses along the main highway

### Threats

- Government land grabs of pristine desert for renewable energy farms, marine base expansion, and wilderness designations
- More electrical transmission lines being installed
- California legislation (i.e., California fire tax in the state responsibility areas)
- Liberal agenda
- Groundwater declining north of the Helendale fault
- Big-box retail stores driving out local stores
- Area is a target for renewable energy projects
- Illegal land scraping
- Wind erosion and particulate pollution
- Poor visual appearance and lack of taxes from vacant land and abandoned homes
- High-desert corridor
- Drugs, crime, and theft
- County's opposition to hauled water
- Distance to closest medical facilities is a concern, especially considering the high median age of Lucerne Valley, longer response times, and higher instances of emergency room visits and hospitalization for chronic diseases
- Lack of healthy food options and low walkability could be playing a role in the high instances of emergency room visits and hospitalization for chronic disease
- Police response times are long due to the size of patrol beats
- Wastewater control provided by septic tanks and leach field systems, and lack of regional wastewater treatment

- Most housing consists of single family homes; lack of multifamily dwellings

### Values

- Rural desert living lifestyle and development standards
- Viewshed of surrounding open space and natural beauty
- Grocery store and other local businesses

### Aspirations

- Maintain rural way of life and development standards
- Protect open space and desert environment
- Environmental health services policy
- Hauled water to be allowed in some circumstances
- Social, economic, and environmental stability
- Increased development of a variety of job types
- Improved water infrastructure
- Appropriate planning and development codes for rural desert communities



COUNTYWIDE PLAN  
Lucerne Valley Community Plan