

**February 18, 2010**

Alameda County Training & Education Center

125 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, CA

San Leandro Conference Room

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**LAKE MERRITT STATION AREA PLAN**  
**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEETING #2**  
**REVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND KEY ISSUES REPORT**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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28 members of the Community Stakeholders Group attended the meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm for an overview of the Existing Conditions and Key Issues Report, which will be available for public review February 26, 2010. Dyett & Bhatia provided a project overview including review of the schedule, of future Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) meetings and opportunities for public input, and the scope of the Existing Conditions and Key Issues Report (Report).

**Overview of Comments**

Comments and concerns regarding the existing conditions report included clarification of the extent of information included in the report and implications of certain information (such as whether the number and types of jobs are included; if parking strategies are included; what implications to property owners might be regarding opportunity sites; and concern regarding using ABAG Projections).

A common theme was the degree to which the assets and history related to Chinatown would be included, such as the concentration of services and community resources (both locally and regionally), the historic relevance and changing boundaries of Chinatown, and the ways that the plan would affect the survival of Chinatown.

Several members expressed concern regarding how historic resources were presented in the Report. They wanted to know about how older homes that are significant to history of Oakland were included, and if they should be included in priority areas. There were comments regarding the extent to which the group should focus on historic resources in areas and how far the Plan would go in terms historic preservation. There was also concern that the importance of community and neighborhood history be reflected in the Report, such as showing the historic boundaries of Chinatown.

Concerns regarding the planning process focused on the CSG having sufficient input in the overall plan process and schedule. In particular, members requested that they receive documents for review in advance of meetings, and have longer than two weeks to review and provide meaningful feedback on the Existing Conditions Report. Members also suggested that additional time would be needed for discussion of the

Report after they had a chance to review it. It was also suggested that copies of the Report should be available in various locations (Library, Asian Health Services).

Members decided that the future meetings will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and that future meetings will promptly begin at 5:30 p.m. so that sufficient time is available for discussion. Peralta offered their facilities for future meetings.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

Participants went around the room introducing themselves and stating who they were representing at the meeting.

### **Introduction**

Dyett & Bhatia provided an overview of the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan project, including review of the schedule, of CSG meetings and opportunities for public input, and the scope of the Existing Conditions and Key Issues Report.

### **Presentation and Discussion of Existing Conditions and Key Issues Report**

Dyett & Bhatia presented an overview of the Existing Conditions and Key Issues Report, focusing on major topics and key findings; next steps were also included in the presentation. Comments were encouraged throughout the presentation.

Specific comments included:

- Does the report talk about kind of jobs or number of jobs? Does it discuss workforce preparedness and look at new jobs versus the preservation of existing jobs?
- What are the total acres in planning area? What is the percentage of land owned by Peralta?
- How are you going to address the issue of parking?
- What is other? What is removed from Planning Area? Water? Roads? (Land Use Map)
- Look at service concentration in Chinatown.
- Should Peralta be considered the same way Lincoln School is? (Active Ground Floor Uses Map)
- Are we recommending height limitations?
- Schools to include in Report – Pre-schools, Charter Schools.
- What about older homes that are significant to history of Oakland? Do we want to include them in the priority areas?
- Group should focus on historic resources in areas.

- How far should we go in terms historic preservation?
- Will there be an effort to revisit historic designations through the Planning Process?
- Need to document historic boundaries of Chinatown.
- Need to acknowledge historic communities/neighborhoods
- There is particular interest in the 3 blocks of Madison Park, BART, BART parking. How did these properties evolve?
- Should show historic tracing of Chinatown on maps (look at UC Berkeley study).
- Chinatown as a neighborhood has historic relevance.
- Discussion of Chinatown as community resource (shopping, social services, etc).
- Discussion of Chinatown as regional attraction.
- Chinatown infrastructure is older; property owners may want to see growth, height, expansion.
- How is plan going to affect survival of Chinatown?
- Want this project to benefit Chinatown, Laney, etc.
- How are you achieving the opportunity sites capacity?
- Are affordable housing sites included in the opportunity sites criteria?
- Should be cautious about ABAG Projections about jobs; their numbers are not good.
- Housing close to freeway is possible (look at San Francisco) due to new technology that allows residential near freeway. Should look at construction methods of existing residential near freeway.
- Sites that are designated as opportunity sites – what are the implications to property owners?

### **Process**

- Need much more than 2 weeks to meaningfully comment on the report. Should have more flexibility in the project timeline and members should have some control over the project timeline.

*However, need to maintain project timeline because of funding arrangements was emphasized by staff. Also, there will be many other reports coming in the near future.*

- Should provide copies of Report in different locations (Library, Asian Health Services).
- Should invite more stakeholders (Oakland Museum, Oakland Orchestra, Schools in area).

*It was noted that the selection of the existing CSG group entailed an extensive process and the City is confident that the existing CSG adequately represents stakeholders in the Planning Area. In addition, the newsletter will be widely disseminated in order to engage a larger group in the process.*

- As a group, should have dialogue with each other about the plan.
- Staff should provide copy of Report before meetings.
- Need more extensive discussion about Existing Conditions.
- Peralta offered facilities for future meetings.
- Future meetings are to be held from 5:30 to 7:30. The meetings will promptly begin at 5:30.
- Should revisit timeline to ensure report gets to people in advance.

## COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEETING SIGN-IN

February 18, 2010

Name	Agency/ Company	Email Address
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