



A.1 Introduction

This General Plan was prepared by City staff and a consultant team. The project start-up began in September of 2014 and involved ongoing collaboration with City staff and the community. From September to November of 2014, the consultant team conducted extensive background research to gain a better understanding of the City. Three reports were prepared: an Economic Development report, a Mobility report, and a third report to address the remaining General Plan topics including land use, health and safety, conservation, parks/open space, noise, and public utilities.

The next step in the public engagement phase involved ongoing community outreach that included a series of public workshops, a community questionnaire, pop up outreach efforts (such as community blackboards), a student essay contest, and observations from City Staff. Throughout development of the Plan, residents, City Council members, stakeholders, and many others shared their ideas about the opportunities and issues facing Indio as well as how they envisioned the future of the City. Each outreach activity is discussed in the following sections.





A.2 General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Meetings

A General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) was established with representatives from the City Council and the Planning Commission. Regular meetings with the GPAC occurred to review existing conditions, elicit thoughts on the key issues facing Indio and desires for the future, and define the objectives for the General Plan Update.

A.3 Joint City Council/ Planning Commission Sessions

General Plan Update joint session meetings with the Planning Commission and City Council provided an opportunity to present findings, provide project updates, and elicit feedback from the decision makers and members of the general public. Joint session meetings occurred at strategic points throughout the General Plan Update process.

A.4 General Plan Update Webpage and Social Media

The City's webpage was regularly updated with work products as well as presentations and summaries from public meetings. This webpage provided notices regarding upcoming community engagement opportunities and instructions for members of the public to submit their comments electronically.

In addition, the City's Facebook and Twitter pages were used to notice public meetings and other community participation opportunities. These platforms also provided the public with another avenue to provide input.



A.5 Community Questionnaire

A community questionnaire was developed to assess Indio's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for the future, and potential challenges to achieving desired goals. Hard copies of the questionnaire were distributed at the Tamale Festival, Date Festival, Chalk Festival, public workshops, a Chamber of Commerce mixer, and other venues throughout the City. It was also accessible online via the City's website from December 2014 through May 2015. The questionnaire was available in both English and Spanish. To encourage participation, participants were entered into a drawing for a chance to win gift cards to local businesses. A total of 132 questionnaires were received.

CITY OF INDIO COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you a resident of Indio?

- Yes
- No

2. Please indicate your age.

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 55-65
- 65+

3. What do you like most about Indio?

4. What do you like least about Indio?

5. How could Indio be improved?

6. What potential challenges stand in the way of improving Indio?

WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD!

If you would like to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 GIFT CARD, please provide your name and phone number or email address.

NAME: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



A.6 Public Workshops

From January to October of 2015, three public workshops were held at various locations throughout the City. Outreach for these meetings included flyers distributed at local festivals and various venues, mailings to affected property owners, email blasts, press releases, and postings on the City's website and social media pages. Refreshments and raffle prizes were provided at the workshops to encourage people to attend the meetings.



On January 17, 2015, the first public workshop was held at the Indio Teen Center. This workshop provided the community with the opportunity to discuss current concerns as well as their vision for the future of Indio. Large scale aerial images of the City's subareas were displayed, allowing members of the public to point out specific aspects of each neighborhood that they enjoy as well as where they would like to see improvement. Comments were recorded directly on the maps.

On April 16, 2015, the second public workshop was held at the Indio Senior Center. This workshop included several different interactive stations. One station included a board displaying various types of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Participants were asked to identify what types of facilities they prefer and which roadways would be most appropriate for each type of facility. Another station displayed the existing and draft land use maps. Workshop participants were given the opportunity to make comments or suggestions on the proposed land uses. A third station had copies of the draft vision and guiding principles for people to review and comment on. A fourth station displayed a large scale map of Indio's subareas and a large flip chart was



provided to record participants' ideas regarding how each subarea should develop as well as any other ideas for Indio's future.

On October 15, 2015, the third public workshop was held at the Indio Senior Center. This workshop engaged the community in discussions regarding the draft mobility network maps, preferred land use plan, and the future parks and recreation system. Workshop participants were also asked to provide their definition of sustainability as well as describe actions that Indio can take to become a more sustainable community. Additionally, attendees were asked to provide their thoughts about steps that Indio can take to promote public health and well-being.



A.7 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Process

On August 20, 2015, an EIR scoping meeting was held at the Indio Teen Center. Attendees received a brief presentation regarding the EIR process and were provided with an opportunity to speak to members of the consultant team regarding topics that they would like to see included within the EIR analysis. Participants also shared their ideas for the General Plan Update.

NOTE: This section is not yet complete. It will be updated as we continue through the process.

A.8 Community Blackboard

Community blackboards were provided at various locations throughout the City to gain additional feedback. These blackboards were active from January to May 2015. These blackboards displayed questions (in both English and Spanish) to help generate a vision for the General Plan. The blackboards were available at the Indio Teen Center, Shadow Hills High School, the Date Festival, the Chalk Festival, City Hall, Amistad High School, the Indio Community Center, the Indio Senior Center, Indio High School, the Indio Municipal Golf Course, Shadow Hills Country Club, and Indian Palms Country Club.





A.8 Student Essay Contest

The City of Indio sponsored a writing contest for high school students to submit an essay describing how they want Indio to look in the future, what their highest priorities are, and how they would advise City leaders to achieve their vision. Cash prizes were offered to encourage participation. A total of 44 essays were received. The top three finalists were recognized at a City Council meeting on May 6, 2015. The first place winner received \$300, second place received \$150, and third place received \$50.



A.9 Other Public Outreach Efforts

To elicit additional input, City staff and members of the consultant team attended other community events to speak to the public about the General Plan Update. These other opportunities for the public to share their ideas occurred at the Tamale Festival, the Date Festival, the Chalk Festival, and a Chamber of Commerce mixer, as well as additional public venues.



A.10 Public Hearings

NOTE: This section is not yet complete. It will be updated when the project get to this point.