

SUMMARY

Visioning Workshop #3 – April 25, 2011

This third Visioning Workshop focused on land use issues. The workshop was open to the public.

De Novo Planning Group presented an introduction to the General Plan Update project, including the intent of the General Plan, key steps in the General Plan Update process, and an overview of the opportunities available for public involvement throughout the General Plan Update.

Workshop attendees were provided an overview of the key themes that participants at the first workshop identified as issues and opportunities to address in the General Plan Update. Workshop attendees were then asked to participate in the first activity and to identify three issues and opportunities that should be among the guiding principles for the General Plan Update. Workshop attendees were also invited to identify additional topics that should be included as guiding principles.

De Novo Planning Group then discussed what makes a community a great place and how the built environment influences lifestyle choices. The elements of what makes a place great, whether that place is a park, community garden, school, commercial gathering area, residential street, or other area, was discussed. These elements include social aspects, types of activities available at a location, the feel or comfort of a place, and the accessibility of the location.

Workshop attendees were then divided into eight small groups based on where they lived, worked, or owned property. People that lived, worked, or owned property in one of the six specific areas in Cotati were included in the small group for that area. Workshop attendees that did not live, work, or own property in Cotati were divided into two small groups that looked at the unincorporated area around Cotati. Each small group was provided a map of their area and asked to identify the key destinations, defining features, and greatest assets of the area. Each group was also asked to identify locations where new focal areas or community gathering points should be located, appropriate land uses for the area, and other items the area may need.

Following the activity, a representative from each area presented their small group's findings to all of the workshop attendees.