

General Plan 2000-2020

Surface Water

(Storm Water & Natural Drainage Systems)

PARTICIPANT IDEA-GATHERING SHEET

Workshop #3-Wednesday, September 26, 2001 – 7:00-9:30 PM

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Workshop #4-Thursday, September 27, 2001 – 7:00-9:30 PM

***PLEASE NOTE:** Each bullet point represents one participant's comments.

You have completed the Surface Water Exercise. What ideas does the exercise learning process generate as you think about the community's future environment and what it will be like in 2020 regarding Surface Water management and the potential use and enhancement of the natural habitat associated with our creeks and the Petaluma River?

- ▶ We need to develop solutions to the flooding problems that allow for compromise with some floodplain development, some housing removal and a lot of money.
- ▶ Flood control, development and environment have to strike a delicate balance.
- ▶ We seem to be on the right track. The idea of a gate to close the River mouth at low tide when flood conditions prevail seems worth checking out.
- ▶ If you don't build in the floodplain, we could have a great central Petaluma park that would be the envy of all other cities.
- ▶ I see an automated flood management system with rain and stream gages operating drainage detention basins and pump systems.
- ▶ The City would have walk/ride paths along the Petaluma River and will have an educated population working to prevent pollutants (or reduce) in the stormwater runoff.
- ▶ Petaluma must monitor the complete watershed and anticipate the flooding effects from any development in the watershed, i.e., Rohnert Park expansion into the river watershed.

- ▶ Take a lesson from European River towns--deep rivers, canals bordered by granite walls or earthen berms with architecturally appropriate buildings along banks.
- ▶ Utilize the wisdom of neighborhoods. People know the issues in their individual neighborhoods. By 2020 neighborhoods will be happily cooperatively proactive, with public meeting areas in each neighborhood.
- ▶ Greater control of low-flow condition pollutant discharge. Revised ideas about what are acceptable surface flow conditions, i.e., maybe 6" vs. the 3" requirement. In other words, can we live with 6" of water in our streets 1% of the time in the year?

What are the current opportunities and challenges that will likely have the greatest impact on our community's ability to meet the Surface Water management needs and its interaction with the natural environment?

OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Let's do a positive solution for both flood control and enhancing the environment.
- ▶ Undeveloped areas.
- ▶ Improve pollutant control. Use floodplain for open space issue, which was so strong at visioning night.
- ▶ Economic development.
- ▶ It's there. Reduces flood disasters. Grants for restoration, habitat, pollution control and parks.
- ▶ Everybody can stay high and dry.
- ▶ We have a concerned citizenry.
- ▶ Reduce flood impact potential. Enhance river and create access to river. Maximize land.
- ▶ Enhance to set aside or purchase open space for retention ponds. Chance for retention ponds to recharge aquifer. Chance to increase wildlife habitat on riparian corridors.

- ▶ Use re-written General Plan to guide. Use County workshops to get a handle on upstream water issues. Elect Council with no conflicts of interest.
- ▶ Parks and ball fields in the flood plain.
- ▶ Use neighborhoods to help guide the community. To create two huge public areas—Corona Reach and Grey property tertiary treatment that might even rival the size of the Golf Course land.
- ▶ Flood control.
- ▶ New (actually old) ideas about what is flooding. Also revising restrictive “standards” required by cities and counties.

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Getting all to agree or buy into a solution. With the Urban Growth Line, can't go out, so infill is needed.
- ▶ Retrofitting existing systems.
- ▶ Education of public.
- ▶ Getting along with each other's governmental regulations.
- ▶ Development pressure. Funding. Existing development.
- ▶ Floodplain management FIRM Map update. Surface water management.
- ▶ To fund reduction of pollutants and flow of floodwaters.
- ▶ Costly corporation operations and maintenance. Ensure flood passage.
- ▶ Willing sellers of land. Willing landowners that will lease land for retention ponds. Ability to manage wildlife habitat along creeks not channelized.
- ▶ Keeping development interest in the cage. Generating interest and money. Surviving current bad decisions of current majority on City Council.
- ▶ Get over building at any cost.
- ▶ Being unselfish. Considering the larger picture beyond what affects me personally.
- ▶ Achieve consensus.

- ▶ First, cities tell us to put water into pipes. Then cities get the idea to take water out of the pipes. Our big problem in design is dealing with “standards.”

As we move forward in this planning process, what do we need to keep in mind to maximize our success?

- ▶ That we will come to a good solution.
- ▶ Keep searching for “out of box” solutions.
- ▶ Use my comments.
- ▶ Listen to people and give feedback. Don’t just go through the motions.
- ▶ I don’t know where to start.
- ▶ Design and implement plan and ensure management of operations and maintenance.
- ▶ Provide walking tours of projects in construction, completed and 5- and 10-year growth.
- ▶ Resources place limits that require we deal with facts, not some agenda focused on profits.
- ▶ Find ways of including lots of people—how, I don’t know.
- ▶ Continue workshops.
- ▶ The big picture - are we doing this for us or Petaluma residents 20 to 50 years from now?

*PLEASE NOTE: Personal comments regarding City officials were not included.