

# West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan

## Steering Committee Meeting

June 29, 2021

6:00 – 8:00pm

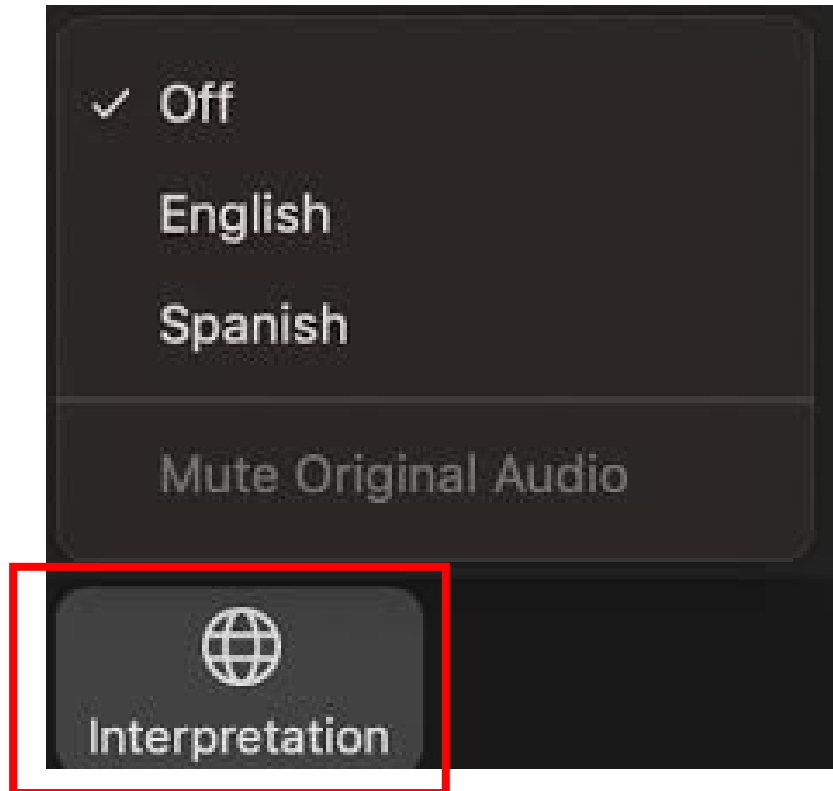
Virtual Meeting via Zoom



# 1. Call to Order



# Welcome



Translation services are available.

**ALL** participants should join a language channel in order to listen to and communicate with all participants.

- 1) Select the Interpretation Globe at the bottom of your screen
- 2) Choose your preferred language



# Welcome

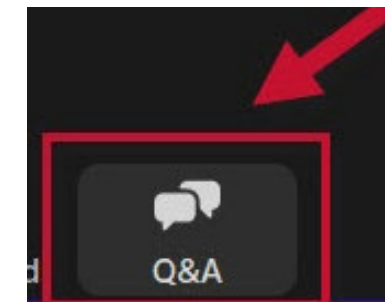
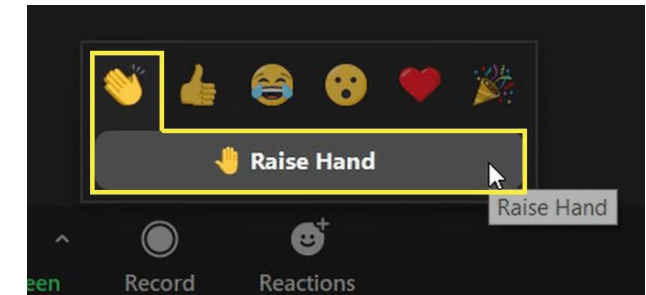
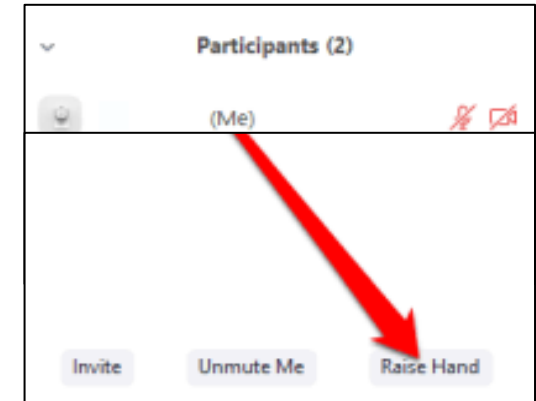
Tonight's meeting is being recorded and publicly broadcasted. It will be posted to [www.fresno.gov/westareaplan](http://www.fresno.gov/westareaplan)

**Participating in this meeting will be considered consent to be recorded.**



# Using Zoom

1. During public comment use the “Raise Hand” button or press \*9 on your phone
2. The Q&A feature is on. Questions will be incorporated into an updated FAQ online at [www.fresno.gov/westareaplan](http://www.fresno.gov/westareaplan)



# Standard Meeting Procedures

1. The Committee Chair announces the agenda item
2. City staff makes a presentation, if applicable
3. Committee members discuss the item
4. Members of the public provide comments for the item
  - Comments may be limited to 3 minutes
5. The Committee takes action, if applicable



# Roll Call

David Peña (*Chair*)

Deep Singh (*Vice Chair*)

Jeff Roberts

Bill Nijjer

Gurdeep Shergill

Joseph Martinez

Eric Payne

Dennis Gaab

John Kashian

Cathy Caples

Tiffany Mangum

Tina McCallister-Boothe  
(*Alternate*)



# Vote

April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes



## 2. Informational Session on CEQA



# CEQA: AN OVERVIEW

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City Attorney's Office  
June 29, 2021

- California Environmental Quality Act
- Applies to all Government Agencies in CA
- Cal. Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq.
- CEQA Guidelines §§ 15000-15387
  - CCR Title 14, Div. 6, Ch. 3

# CEQA - GOALS

- **Inform** Gov't and Public About Environmental Impacts of Decisions
- **Identify** Ways to Avoid/Reduce Impacts
- **Prevent** Significant, Avoidable Environmental Damage
- **Disclose** to Public Why a Project Was Approved Despite Impacts
  - (PRC §§ 21000, 21001)

# CEQA DOCUMENTS/FINDINGS<sup>4</sup>

- Prepared and Adopted by “Lead Agency”
  - Gov’t Agency that carries out Project or has primary approval authority (15051)
  - Note: CEQA findings, including exemptions, should be adopted before project approval.
- May be prepared by City or Consultants
- Finding adopted by approving authority
  - E.g., Director, CM, Planning Comm’n, Council
- Finding made prior to approval of Project
- Finding will need to be supported by record
- Record is open until Project approved.

# “PROJECT”<sup>5</sup>

- The whole of an action/activity which may cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.
- Could be:
  - Action taken by Gov't Agency.
  - Action by private party but supported by Gov't through contract, grant, loan, etc.
  - Action by private party requiring Gov't approval - permit, lease, license, entitlement.
    - (PRC 21065, Guidelines 15378.)

# ENVIRONMENT

- “Environment”
  - Means the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed Project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance. The area involved shall be the area in which significant effects would occur. Includes both natural and man-made conditions.  
(21060.5)

# SIGNIFICANT IMPACT?

- “Significant Effect on the Environment”
  - Means substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment (21068)
  - Economic or social change unrelated to physical change is not significant effect (15382)
  - “Effect” and “Impact” are synonymous (15358)

# SIGNIFICANT IMPACT?

- Cumulative Impacts
  - Cumulatively considerable – incremental effect considerable when viewed in connection with effects of other past current and future projects. (21083(b).)
- Growth Inducing Effects (15126.2(d).)

# SIGNIFICANT IMPACT?

- Tools
  - Lead Agency's Adopted Thresholds of Significance (15064.7)
  - Mandatory Findings of Significance (21083, 15065)
  - Appendix G – CEQA guidelines (Initial Study)

# INITIAL STUDY

- A preliminary analysis prepared by lead agency to determine whether it is reasonably foreseeable that the Project will result in a significant impact and, if so, which significant impacts need to be studied in EIR. (15365)

# SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- Enough relevant information and reasonable inferences from this information that a **fair argument** can be made to support a conclusion even though other conclusions might also be reached. (15384)
  - Includes facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts, and expert opinion supported by facts (15384)
  - Not argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, erroneous or inaccurate evidence (15384)
  - Not public controversy (15064(f)(4).)

# NOTICING

12

## ***Environmental Impact Report (EIR)***

- Notice of Preparation  
(30 Day Comment Period)
- Notice of Availability of Draft  
EIR  
(30-60 Day Comment Period)
- Notice of Determination  
(Within 5 Days After  
Certification)

# MITIGATION

- **Avoid** impacts by not taking action
- **Minimize** impacts by reducing degree
- **Rectify** impact by repair, restore, rehab
- **Reduce or Eliminate** impact by preservation or maintenance
- **Compensate** for impact by replacing or providing substituted resources
- (15370)

# MITIGATION

- Not to be deferred (15126.4(a)(1)(B).)
- Can provide objective performance standard rather than exact mitigation
- Still need to comply with *Nollan/Dolan*
- CEQA does not provide any authority to impose mitigation agency doesn't have
- Can provide alternative mitigation

- Notice of Preparation (NOP)  
(30-60 day comment period)
- Scoping Meeting  
(During NOP Comment Period)
- Prepare Draft EIR  
(with comments from NOP, Scoping, technical studies, analysis of expert environmental analyst)
- Notice of Availability of Draft EIR  
(30-60 Day Comment Period)

# EIR STEPS

- Prepare Final EIR  
(Comments on DEIR, Response to Comments, and Errata)
- Certify EIR  
(Findings re Feasibility of Mitigation and Alternatives and Statement of Overriding Consideration)
- Approve Project
- File Notice of Determination (NOD)  
(within 5 days of certification)

# EIR

- Shall focus on significant effects on environment. Significant effects should be discussed with emphasis in proportion to their severity and probability. Effects dismissed in initial study as clearly insignificant and unlikely need not be discussed (15143)
- Goal is to be less than 150 pages

# EIR

- Different Types:
  - Project (Standard EIR-15161)
  - Program (15168)
  - Master (21156/15175, et. Seq.)
  - Focused (21158/15179.5)

# PROJECTS AFTER EIR

- Tiering
- Change in Conditions: (15162)
  - Supplemental EIR (major changes)(15163)
  - Subsequent EIR (smaller changes)(15162)
  - Addendum to EIR (some changes, but no subsequent EIR required) (15164)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

# Steering Committee Comments



# Public Comments

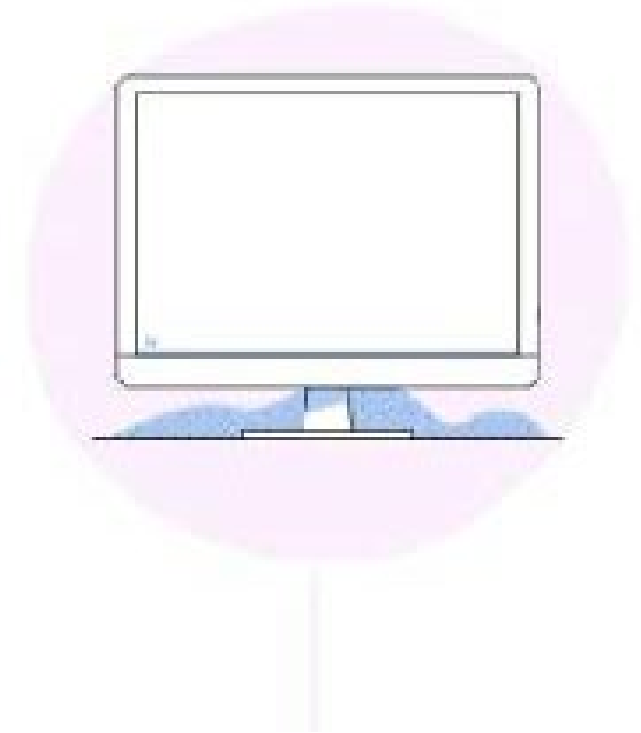


### 3. Update on Outreach Activities



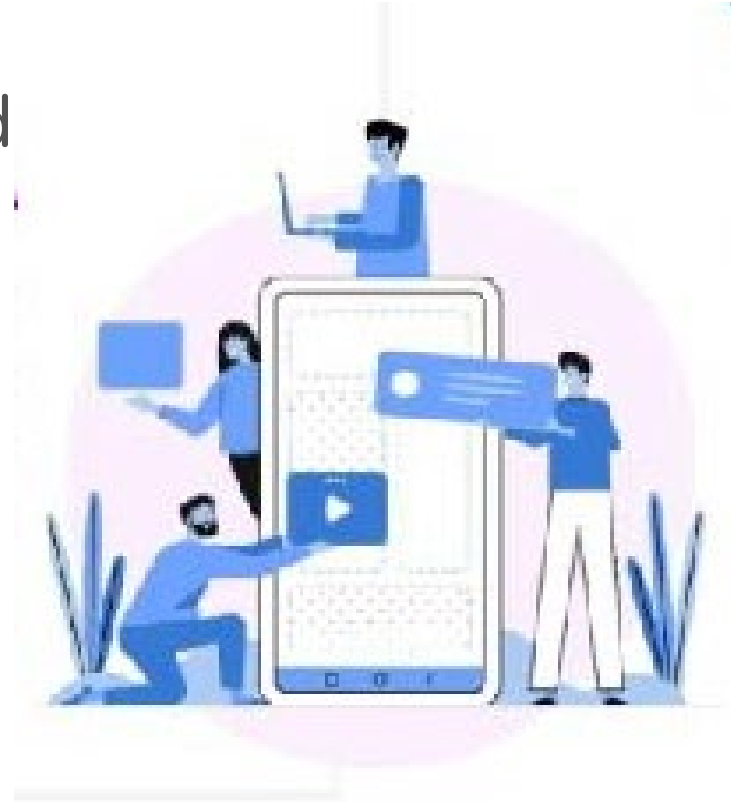
# Attendees

Long-Range Planning staff held a series of community meetings throughout the months of April, May, and June. **193** attendees tuned in to learn more about the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan. Additionally, **23** subject matter experts joined staff to engage with members of the community.



# Social Media

A total of **9** social media posts were created to promote community meetings and the release of the Draft Specific Plan. The social media content was primarily posted to the City of Fresno's Facebook and Twitter pages and received **6,000+** impressions and more than **160+** likes and shares.



# Mailers

Beginning in mid-March, mailers were sent to **14,396** residents and property owners in the West Area. The mailers were translated into English, Spanish, Punjabi, and Hmong. The mailers contained a map of the Plan Area, the April Steering Committee meeting date, the schedule for the Community Conversations Zoom Series, and a link to the Plan's webpage.



# Presentations

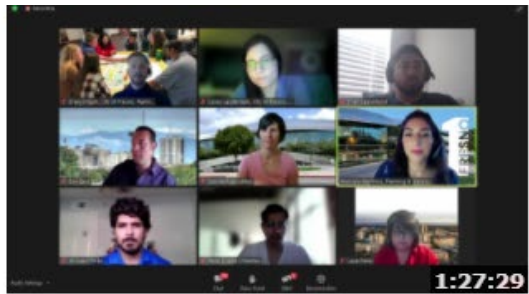
Staff presented to **7** Committees/  
Commissions, including the Project Review  
Committees for Districts 1, 2, and 3.

Staff also tabled at **2** food truck events,  
held office hours, and were guests on  
Radio AM 900 – Punjabi Radio USA.





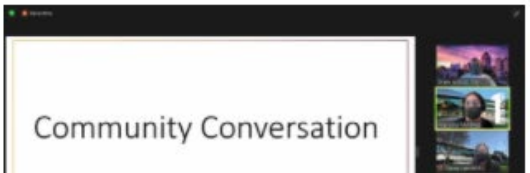
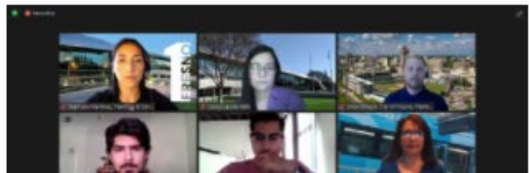
**Specific Plan Community Conversations: Community Requested Topics**  
City of Fresno  
1 week ago



**Specific Plan Community Conversations: Implementation 6/1/21**  
City of Fresno  
3 weeks ago



**Specific Plan Community Conversations: Transportation & Infrastructure 5/25/21**  
City of Fresno  
4 weeks ago



# WEST AREA

## NEIGHBORHOODS SPECIFIC PLAN

The Specific Plan will guide future development in the area that lies west of Highway 99, north of Clinton Avenue, and east of Garfield Avenue.

The Plan is available for public comment until August 1st.

For information about the Plan, upcoming meetings, virtual office hours, and more visit [www.fresno.gov/westareaplan](http://www.fresno.gov/westareaplan) or scan the QR Code to the right



# Next Steering Committee Meetings

- Tuesday, July 20, 2021: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Wednesday, August 25, 2021: 6:00pm to 8:00pm



# Extending Outreach Efforts

What other ideas do you have to help get the word out and receive input on the Draft Specific Plan?



# Contact

Plan webpage:

[www.fresno.gov/westareaplan](http://www.fresno.gov/westareaplan)

Project liaison:

Casey Lauderdale, Planner

Casey.Lauderdale@fresno.gov

(559) 621-8515

City of Fresno:

Long-Range Planning

2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065

Fresno, CA 93721



# Steering Committee Comments



# Public Comments



## 4. Steering Committee Announcements



# 5. Unscheduled Communications



# 6. Adjourn

