

City of Fresno SEDA Listening Session

Questions & Comments Noted by City of Fresno Staff
Tuesday, June 14th, 2022

Background

In response to public input received during 3 public workshops held in May of 2022, City of Fresno Planning & Development Department staff held a listening session to hear questions and concerns of residents and stakeholders from the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan area. During the session, participants expressed questions and concerns which were noted by City staff. No responses were offered, in order to devote the entire session to participant input, which is anonymously noted below.

Responses to the questions will be posted in a public comment matrix at a separate link on the webpage www.fresno.gov/SEDA.

Questions

Ag buffer -> making work

EIR- where water will come from?

Will we have input on annexation process?

What was notification process?

How will development of trails work along canals in backyard?

Will we need to connect to city utilities?

How is private property acquired for a public trail?

When will the policies be updated and where will they be posted?

When will the EIR be available for comment? (specific date)?

Where will the trails be located (detailed)?

How will our rights be protected? 2nd Amendment

How will reporting be for police + response for the area?

How to trust council to make decisions for residents?

Who instigated this project? The city /county?

Water availability?

How can we keep water table stable with new residential?

EIR – analysis what happens to existing city / to do w/this plan?

What was done with comments on prior SEGA Plan?

What will liability of trails do to cost for residents?

Why don't new homes in the area have greenspace?
Has the evaluation of water been done yet?
Will the water infrastructure come first?
Where will they get water?

Why not put greenway/trail on McKinley in order to move people?
Why is city life being valued more than country life?
Why not take this plan for an area within the city?
Where are the people who represent the 9,000 acres? (communication)

Do we have police /fire etc. to take care of expansion?
Where would the \$ (money) come from?
Will eliminating premium farmland in this area increase reliance on imported foods?
Would new shopping centers look like existing one (ex. Kings Canyon Wal-Mart)?

Comments

Timing of development: phasing should match the backbone infrastructure

Ag Buffer (East side)
Make ag + residential work to allow farming to continue + residential go in
More thought needed

Concerns about adequate mitigation (stated clearly) i.e. farming, water, air quality
Urges attendees to submit written comments on the environmental impact report

Concerned that never got notification
Confused about which is the most correct Land Use Map
-Densities don't match
Trail /bike path: how is canal going to be impacted?
Concerned about being required to hook up to City water and sewage
Along canal: opposed to trail because devaluation of property
Along canal: would like staff to look into trails to rails to keep trails off of the canal
-Grants may be available

Would like to see track changes on policies, as well as when EIR will be coming out

Would like an update on exact location of trails

How is staff going to combat loss of private rights (i.e. 2nd amendment)?

Does not like the litter + crime brought to the area by the plan

Staff should focus on inner city

Lots of room for development within the city

Church between DeWolf + Temperance

County is not aware of Plan

City should develop within City before expanding

Extreme drought is of concern

-Kings River is almost dry

-San Joaquin water limited

-Groundwater dropping

Canal trails

City/FID don't own the land along the canal

-Should find out who owns land and ask who wants the trails along the canal banks.

-Infrastructure (Temperance between

Butler + Kings Canyon)

-People drive too fast on road

-Hard to get onto Temperance

-Major issue with water

Not sure how will have enough water for 45,000 housing units

Temperance -> East + get roads and other infrastructure built out first

Concerns about water

Need to contact state water board because we need to keep water table static

Loss of ag land is of concern

-If there are residential houses adjacent to ag land, will get calls when turns on sprayers

-Can't lose ag production

Locan (between Butler + Church)

-Family has owned land for over 100 years – ag land

Area is most beautiful area ever + would be a mistake to pave over this area

Concerned about the Plan itself

-Doesn't seem like consultant was in the area

-Feels there's no concern about what's there already

-Would like plan to slow down, rethink it and find another way

Agrees with previous comments

Did not receive any notification about meeting

100% against plan + thinks plan is too far along for public comment to make an impact
Don't want to live in the city
City should spend money on the homeless instead

Very upset about what the city is doing + feels that the city is going to move forward with the plan no matter what

Lives in the inner city of Fresno

- Racial justice + equity issue is of concern-undermines existing neighborhoods with high levels of poverty within the city

This area is the most special area

- Hopes Farm Bureau defends the farmers in the area + keeps integrity of soil

Would like to see an economic analysis be completed with EIR + measure the fiscal impact on Transit Oriented Development along Kings Canyon/Blackstone

Attendees should focus their opposition to the City Council

Project started in the 80's

- if not annexed out, will end up with recycled water

Don't want city water

- Can't water 5 acres

- What will chemicals do to land

Property owners would be liable for trails-against this

City should consider moving up not out

No green spaces in development coming

- North Fresno developments have green spaces incorporated

Hard to sum 33 yrs owning property

Said planning staff is the 1st step + need to make sure planning Department is accurately conveying information to City Council

- Wildlife is gone

When housing goes in, the ag farmland is gone, wildlife is gone

Greenbelt yes, trails no

Put people (trails) on McKinley to move people around

Nobody has ever set foot in the area expect for two staff

- Can't understand without visiting

Don't like congestion

- Want to be part of County, not City

Compatibility between city + growers is a fallacy

- Pesticides an issue

- As soon as city is out in area first thing that happens are phone calls re: spraying, noise, etc- issue re: compatibility – not compatible at all

Soils are fantastic

- Once covered it is gone

- Need to remember how many people we feed-will be eating food from other countries

When look at attendees + look at the -9,000 acres in plan...

- How many acres represented in these meetings?

- Maybe communication not great or failure to communicate

Was not notified about these meetings

Need to publicize so that people can represent their opinions so that 9,000 acres in the plan are represented so that people are aware of what is going on

- (Locan N. of 180)

- All 2 acre min in the area-

- City wants to put more money in their pockets by raising taxes + taking land

City needs to stop

- Against Plan + what city wants to do

Emphasize opposition to City taking land

- Ag families are hard working

Have areas in the North to put housing

Should not ruin soil

- We are prime ag producer and don't want lose that and end up eating food from other countries

Is a dollar that important?

When called County Supervisor, said they did not have very much info

Folks were not notified + feels city is doing this behind people's backs

Affordable housing

- All cramped

- Not that affordable

- Not wanted

Should consider getting a lawyer to oppose

Advice:

- EIR will analyze everything thoroughly

- Lawyer would be looking at this

Council members are the decision makers to care about constituents

- Only 2-4 year terms + the impacts of this plan span longer than this
 - Advocates within City are their constituents + should connect the dots + reach out to them to talk about the impacts of the plan
- EIR is the actionable document

County Supervisor

Did not acknowledge folks + when asked to talk about plan asked “what is your concern?”

- County supervisor does not care about constituents

Olive/Locan

Have lived there for a long time

Moved to get away from city

Doesn't want high density, grocery stores, gas stations, close to living quarters

- Was not notified (nor were neighbors)

- Move out of area + leave area alone

Urban dwellers are our allies

Fresno has experienced leap-frog development (abandoned Central Fresno)

Money better spent improving central Fresno

Concerned about their properties zoned mixed use

Residential not compatible with what is there now

Leap Frog development

Could wait to do this in 13 years

This will pull resources from areas in the City and other specific plan in the area

Concerned about rails

- Preserve Ag way of life,

- Subcontracted out to someone to do this plan who ever set foot in this area, why are his ideas better than ours? Why can't their land uses be altered? We've seen it done in other plans,

- Canals – why rails near these water ways? Canals are dangerous, Bad ideas to encourage people to walk next to them.

Participant lives along trails. Sherriff has been out there finding dead bodies. Use rails to trails policy. Where are updates to these policies we commented on?

Participant doesn't want this plan implemented.

- Registered voters opposed what is geographic area? How do you protect shooting and 2nd Amendment rights?
 - Import crime, homelessness, traffic + gangs-- this is why we left the city-- that is your solution for our area?
 - Increasing roads, onto our properties, and put us on city water we don't want this? Don't want to be under dysfunctional City Council?
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Participant at Church and DeWolf-

- Traffic has increased to several 1,000 a day, truck traffic, 70-75 miles /hour
- Moved from Concord take over and also moved to country outside of Fresno. Does want to live or have his business in city of Fresno. Improve road ways
- 75% of this plan I'm against. City can't take care of what they have. Messed up West and North Areas. They just want Prop 13 taxes.

Participant at Olive and Temperance.

- Bicycle and traffic and roads concern for me. Need signal at Olive and Temperance. Bike accident nearby, recently, water is an issue. Concerned about losing well access. Develop this area and it will make water condition here worse.
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All you want to do is generate money.

Concerns

- (1) water shortage. Add 250,000 people onto what the city already has. Don't take our water!!!
- (2) Best Ag land in Calif and possibly the world. Don't develop on this land. Ends do not justify the means Don't take Ag land!!!

Thanked city for their diligence in preparing this plan.

- Owns 60 acres at shields & Highland/ Acquired knowing that one day I would develop by the city, Clovis is developing nearby. Infrastructure timing range is critical
- Circulation doesn't show Shields coming through
- Trails and canals area liability problems, should cover canals (underground)

Take flexible approach to implementing the plan and grow in a responsible way.

- 2006 SEGA now SEDA. Had several sessions of public outreach what happened to those comments?

-Current housing developments around us compare to North Area and there seen 2nd class higher density, lower class , no green spaces, parks, not as nice as North Fresno and concerned about the kind of development that will come out here

Participant at McKinley and Dewolf.

-Do Like RC-6.1 water evaluation. Has this been done yet?
-Do water infrastructure planning, first, where are you going to get the water. I don't want this plan!

Bought property in 1990, built home in 1994, no one has ever said out here that they want multifamily out here

-Speaking, to Supervisor Mendez, City hasn't worked with county at this. No valuing our country way of life. Don't like this arrogance. No one planning this area lives here. You are planning to destroy something precious + pure. This is an insult!!

-Would like to see staff + council speak to Ryan Jacobson from Farm Bureau on their opinion on this plan/ This plan does not respect farmland

Appreciates wanting to make the city valuable. This plan will double the city size. Where is the city going to get money for police, fire, etc..? Don't think City is ready, for expansion.

-Water: Saturday Walmart shot down. Same day my pump stopped pumping. Now need to lower pump and that's 6 months out. All these new people where will water come from?

-Water from river takes away from farmers, water from aquifer takes away from our well water.

-Where are all the people? I've been out this since 14 years ago. People feel like city is going to do what they want to do. We can't fight city hall. It's as if you think we are idiots and are not responsible. I've been responsible w/water Jennifer, you need to talk to your superiors and tell them

Supervisor Mendez will listen and return phone calls. Contact him.

We will lose our rights and will never get it back. Will lose our way of life. You have no right to do this. We will fight this legally. You wouldn't do this to your area where you live.

I don't see shopping in SE Fresno, and we could use shopping out here. Need nice shopping.