



CITY OF LA PALMA

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
October 22, 2012
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New Council to Take Up General Plan Update

LA PALMA, Calif. – At their October 16, 2012, meeting, the La Palma City Council forwarded the next steps in the General Plan update process to the new City Council who will take it up next spring. The City Council's action followed an extensive public outreach process indicating more alternatives were needed to address public concerns.

California law requires cities to periodically update their General Plan which establishes policy direction regarding housing, commercial business development, infrastructure, public services, and parks. The City Council examined the results from the public outreach process and four possible options, including forwarding the next steps to the newly seated City Council after the November election.

The options also include making no land use changes; making changes to all areas previously identified under redevelopment as opportunity areas for new development or reinvestment (about 10% of the city), and a staff recommended lesser change option which provides for more development flexibility on some opportunity areas, but with lower levels of development and potential residential density. City Manager Ellen Volmert indicated, "The recommended option was developed to respond to resident concerns. It reduced the scale and density of possible changes while adding flexibility and possible senior housing to create opportunities for residents to age in place."

When the City Council takes up the General Plan in the spring, they will review and select an option for a Draft Plan which will then be the focus for the impact study. Regardless of the option selected, the study must also look at an option with less change and a no change option. The study is anticipated to take about six months with the impacts then returning for more public and City Council review before a new General Plan can be adopted.

Additional information on the General Plan Update process is available on-line at www.cityoflapalma.org. Citizens are encouraged to explore this information and new information on the Plan as it is added to the site. Residents wishing to be notified of upcoming planning meetings and events can sign up by clicking on the Notify Me button on the City's home page.

La Palma is a city of about 16,000 in northwest Orange County with an area of just under 2 square miles. For more information on the General Plan process, contact Associate Planner Scott Hutter at scotth@cityoflapalma.org

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