

Developing Carmichael's Community Plan

By Sandie Dunn

Do you pull your hair out driving down Fair Oaks Boulevard during rush hour traffic? Are you tired of looking for a cozy neighborhood restaurant to grab a bite to eat after a long day of work? Are you struggling to find a way to have your opinion about the future of the community of Carmichael heard? Well, now is your chance to speak out.

By now, you should have received in the mail an important survey from the County of Sacramento. This survey is part of Carmichael Community Action Plan and it is your opportunity to tell the County of Sacramento what you see as Carmichael's future and to let the County Board of Supervisors know what is important to you.

The Carmichael Community Plan was first adopted in 1975. In recent years, the Board of Supervisors questioned whether the 1975 Plan still reflects the views of the Community. To find out, the County Board of Supervisors approved a process to update the Community Plan. The Carmichael Community Action Plan, as it is now called, was initiated in September 2001. An important part of the planning process was the involvement of the entire community of Carmichael in what is known as deliberative democracy.

Phase I included a series of workshops throughout Carmichael in which residents and business owners were given a chance to prioritize the most urgent issues facing Carmichael.

In addition to the workshops, a survey was mailed to every household within the Carmichael planning area. A total of 2,374 community members participated in the Phase I process. Twenty-four issues were identified through this process as needing attention. These twenty-four issues were grouped into five areas: transportation; community identity and business development; land-use and zoning; public safety and code enforcement; and services

The information gathered from Phase I was used in Phase II to develop teams of volunteers from the Community to study each of the five identified issues. More than 130 people from the community participated in Phase II. The teams developed more than 150 ideas for addressing the issues identified in Phase I. Those 150 ideas have been refined into 56 policy statements.

Here is where YOU come into the picture. The 56 policy statements are included in the surveys, which have been or which are being mailed to each home in Carmichael. This is your chance to tell the County whether you agree or disagree with the policy statements

included in the survey. From the information from the surveys, the County will develop an Action Plan for Carmichael. Volunteers will be at different locations throughout Carmichael to assist in answering the surveys. So keep at look out and BE SURE TO MAIL IN YOUR SURVEYS!!!

If you want additional information regarding the Carmichael Community Action Plan visit www.communities.saccounty.net or contact Cindy Storelli, Planning & Community Development Department (916) 874-4444.