

City of Palmdale General Plan Update Joint General Plan Advisory Committee #13 and Public Workshop: Resilience, Sustainability and Climate Change Policy Frameworks

June 30, 2021 | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom livestreamed to YouTube

Meeting Minutes (Adopted July 15, 2021)

Meeting Objectives

- Review existing setting related to sustainability, resilience, and climate topics
- Review and refine preliminary sustainability, resilience, and climate goal and policy recommendations for the General Plan Update

Attendees

GPAC Members

Present:

Juan Blanco, Lourdes T. Everett, Laura Gordon, Theresa Hambro, Aurora Hernandez, Pat Hunt, Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Sheri Kaneshiro, and Teresa Lamping

Absent: Matthew Harris, Tony Avila, Colby Estes, Jason Zink

City Staff

Carlene Saxton, Director of Economic and Community Development; Megan Taggart, Planning Manager; Ben Fiss, Senior Planner; Jay Nelson, City Traffic Engineer; Sophia Reyes, Housing Manager; and Ben Lucha, Environmental Resources Manager

City Council

Councilmember Juan Carillo

Consultant Team

Raimi + Associates: Simran Malhotra, Walker Wells, Melissa Stark, and Sami Taylor

Public

Six members of the community joined the Zoom meeting, though no public sign-in is available.

Meeting Summary

1. Introduction

The virtual meeting began with a review of the joint meeting agenda, roll call of GPAC Members, introductions of City staff and the consultant team, and recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Hunt made a motion to approve GPAC #12 meeting minutes (June 17, 2021) and Lourdes T. Everett seconded the motion. None opposed so the motion passed.

2. Presentation & Feedback

Simran Malhotra provided an overview of the General Plan which included the project schedule, summary of engagement to date, and an introduction to the policy frameworks and topics of resilience, sustainability, and climate change.

Sami Taylor and Walker Wells then led an overview of the existing sustainability and climate change setting in Palmdale including existing plans, programs, and proposed draft policies.

During the presentation, the group stopped for questions and to answer interactive polls. All poll questions—with the exception of the meeting minute approval poll—were available to members of the public and GPAC, but please note that not all participants responded to all polls.

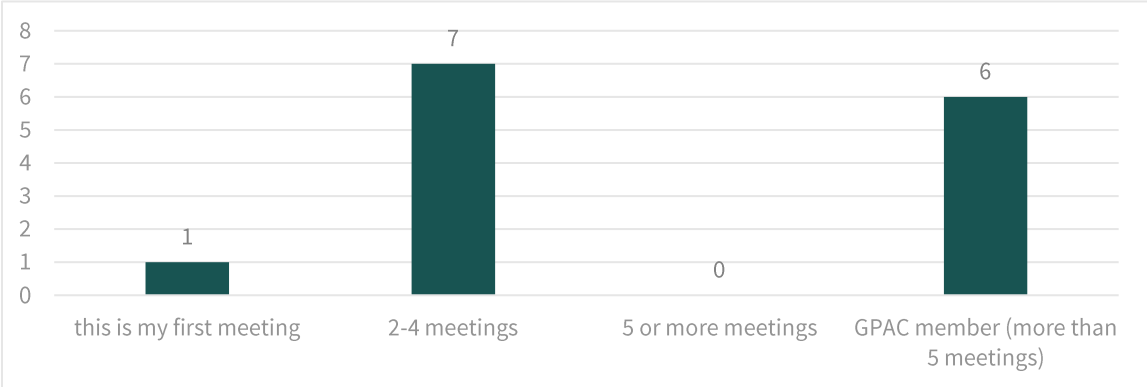
In advance of the meeting, the project website was updated with background materials including the resilience, sustainability, and climate change policy framework, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Report and Climate Hazards Assessment Report. In addition, GPAC members were emailed these materials to review as context for the meeting.

Below are descriptions of each presentation section and summaries of responses to each poll question. Poll responses are combined for GPAC members and members of the public.

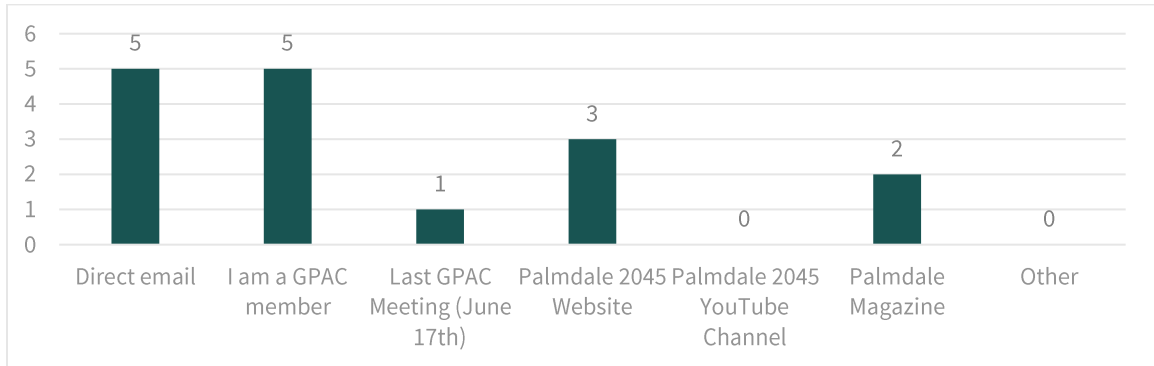
General Plan Overview

The background component of the presentation began with an overview of the General Plan process, how it is defined, the Palmdale 2045 schedule, summary of community engagement activities to date, major General Plan vision themes, and an introduction to the policy frameworks.

How many General Plan related meetings have you attended?



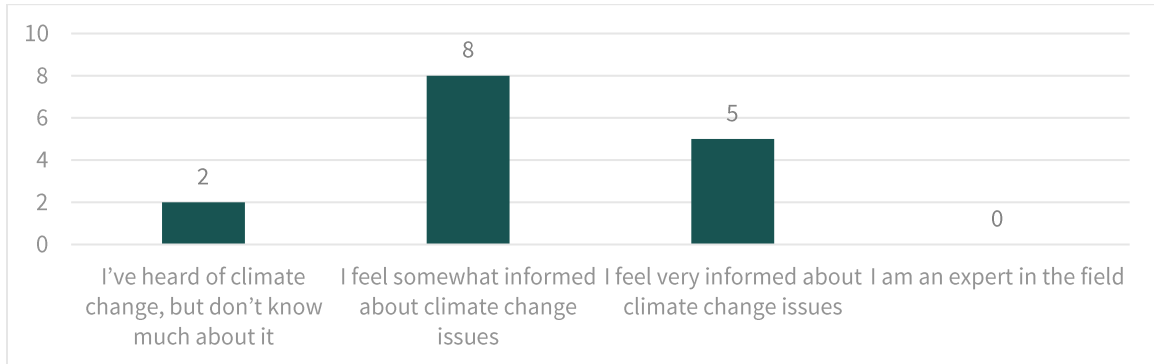
How did you hear about this meeting? (Select all that apply)



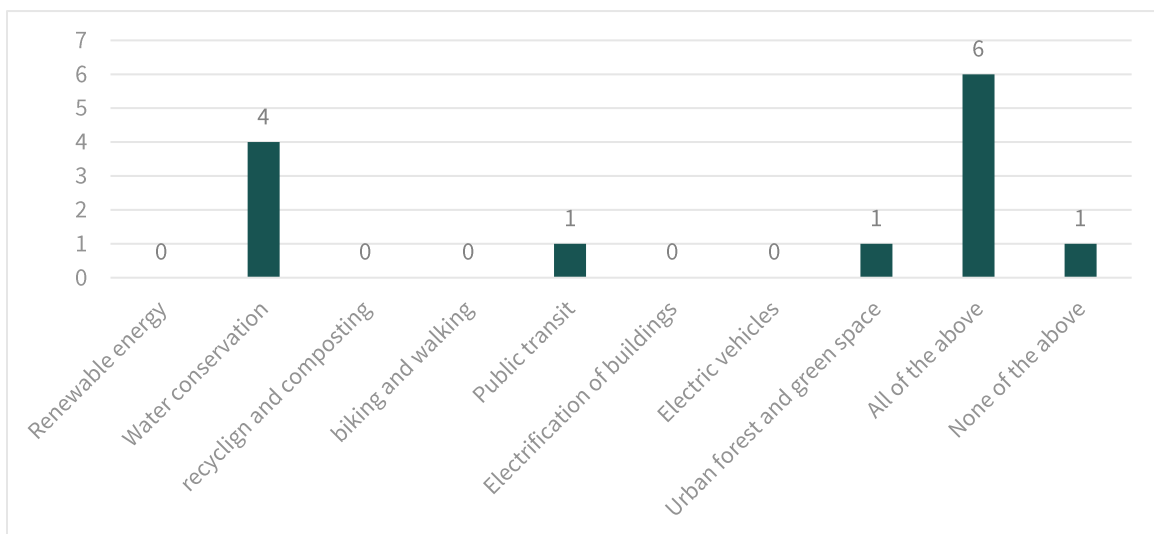
Existing Setting

As a precursor to the draft goals and policies, Sami Taylor reviewed the definition of sustainability, ways of achieving sustainability and levels of action, and climate projections and impacts in Palmdale. Sami continued to cover environmental policy in California, noting the several recent requirements for cities, followed by a review of Palmdale GHG emissions.

How would you describe your knowledge about climate change?

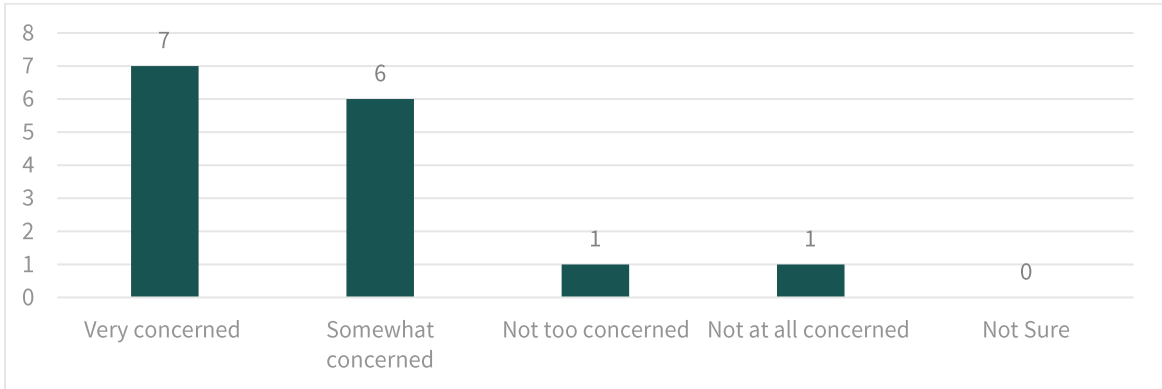


Which of the following climate-related issues is of importance to you?

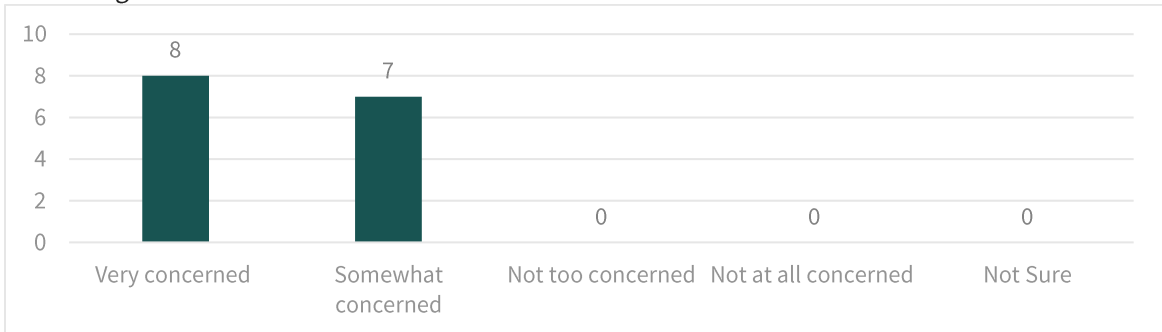


How concerned are you about the possible impacts of climate change in Palmdale? Please tell us whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each one.

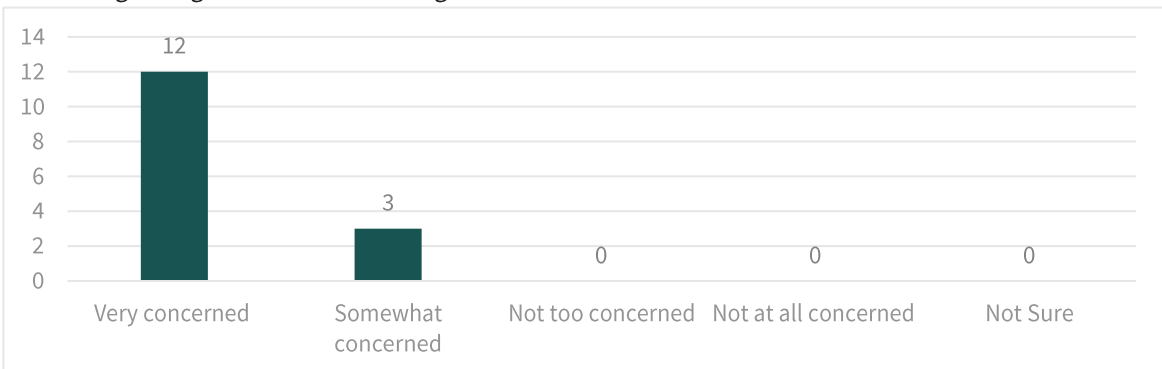
Worsening air quality



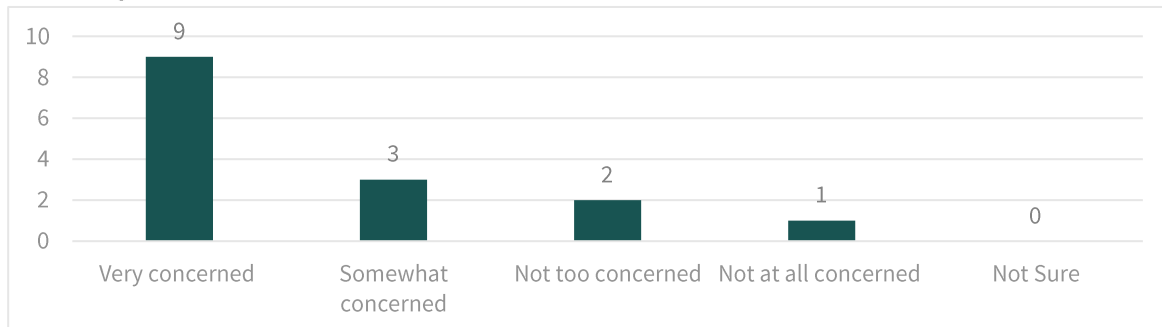
Worsening wildfires



Worsening drought and water shortages



Worsening heat waves



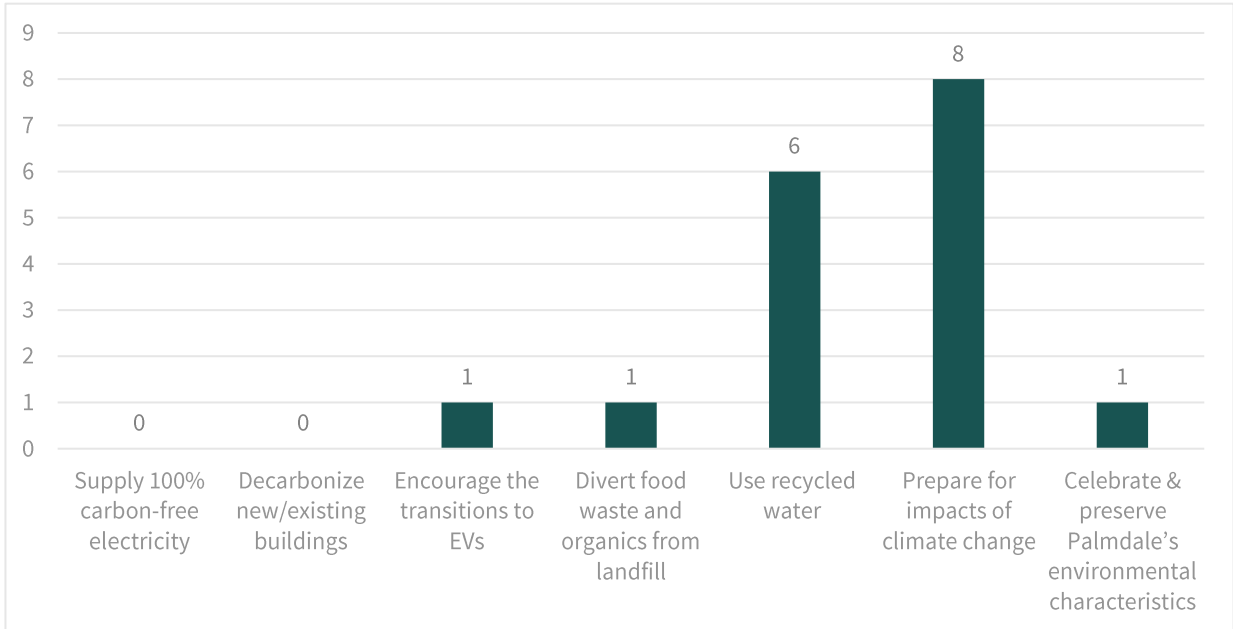
Existing Plans/Policies and Feedback from Community Engagement

Walker Wells reviewed existing plans and policies noting the progress made in Palmdale, and highlighting community feedback related to sustainability, resilience, and climate change.

Policy Framework

Proposed goals and policies were introduced in this section of the presentation. Simran provided an overview of the framework structure, followed by review of desired outcomes, performance metrics, and draft goals and policies led by Walker.

What is your top climate and sustainability action priority?



Other Questions and Comments

Throughout the presentation, GPAC members and members of the public asked questions and provided various comments.

- Does the City of Palmdale or Waste Management offer a composting program?
 - *Palmdale has an organics proposal from commercial businesses, it is not yet available for residential uses.*
- We should work with plant stores and nurseries to provide free composting for customers.
- Can Palmdale do anything to reduce single-use plastics?
- Building into hillsides can lower building temperatures, like what was done by Frank Lloyd Wright in Tucson, AZ.
- Increasing use of renewable energy will require more battery backups for solar.
- Solar screens were not effective in lowering my utility bills, but options for reducing emissions is helpful.
- We should be cautious about the energy demands on the electric grid.
- How do we mitigate power outages?
- Batteries produce hazardous waste.
- Should consider hydrogen fuel options in the future.

- Wind issues are important to consider.
- Educational resources for gray water landscaping would be helpful.
- How can we hold the State of California accountable for forest management planning?
- Need for better fire road access and wildfire prevention planning.
- Would like to work with restaurants in Palmdale to reduce the amount of plastics and encourage businesses to be more sustainable.
- California borrows a significant amount of energy; how can we solve some of the existing issues we have now?
- Trash sorting should be more widely available in Palmdale.
- The City’s trash hauler should increase the number of recyclables they will take.
- Encourage regular neighborhood clean-up events to remove illegal dumping in the desert.
 - *Weekend clean-up events have been paused due to rattlesnake seasons, but the City will revisit it later in the year and will discuss with the Illegal Dumping Task Force.*

While the agenda called for breakout group discussions and a brief “report out,” the group opted to maintain one large discussion and summary of feedback with the allotted remaining time.

3. Public Comment

Members of the public who joined the meeting were invited to share public comments—in addition to those offered during stopping points throughout the meeting—however, none provided comments.

4. Policy Framework Comments

Melissa shared how to comment and review the policy framework document, by visiting the Palmdale2045.org website and clicking on “Policy.” All policy framework documents will be uploaded to the website and will remain open for review and comment through August 2021.

5. Next Steps and Wrap Up

Simran shared upcoming meetings and next steps at the close of the meeting. The next policy framework meeting will take place on Thursday, July 15th at 6:30 pm and will cover land use, housing, and mobility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

A recording of this meeting is available on the [Palmdale 2045 YouTube Channel](#)