

Palmdale General Plan Update

Workshop #4 Summary

August 10, 2022 | 6:30-8:30 pm | Larry Chimbole Cultural Center

On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, the City of Palmdale hosted the final workshop and open house to present the community with the Public Draft General Plan document - Palmdale 2045.

The open house included interactive stations covering various elements of the General Plan, an overview presentation, and printed copies of the draft document for attendees to review.

Approximately 35 community members—in addition to City staff and policy makers—attended the event. Spanish interpretation was provided.



The meeting formally began with an introduction by City Staff, followed by a presentation by the General Plan Consultant Team. The presentation provided an overview of the key components of the General Plan including contents of each of the required elements.

Stations

Prior to, and following the presentation by the General Plan Team, community members were invited to visit the six stations to learn more about each element of the General Plan. Members of the General Plan Team were available to answer questions and engage in conversation.

1. The **Introduction** station included the Palmdale 2045 vision statement, guiding principles, and background on the General Plan.
2. The **Land Use and Housing** station highlighted key land use strategies, provided descriptions of the land use designations, included a large-scale general plan land use map, and overview of housing income distribution, housing cost burden and the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) with City strategy.
3. The **Circulation and Mobility** station included goals, a large-scale roadway classification map, and table summarizing the roadway classifications.
4. The **Economic Development and Military Compatibility** station included economic development strategies and key infographics, military compatibility key priorities, an overview of land use and military operations compatibility and related mapping.
5. The **Environmental, Safety, and Climate Resilience** station highlighted the City's Greenhouse Gase (GHG) inventory, significant ecological areas mapping, and safety element emergency evacuation mapping.
6. The **Health, Equity, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space** station identified future parks priority areas, and provided an overview of disadvantaged communities including mapping results for the City and its Sphere of Influence.

Stations 2-6 included an interactive component; a large format poster board listed the element’s outcomes and asked residents the following two questions:

- Do you think these are the right outcomes?
- Do you think Palmdale 2045 helps us achieve these outcomes?

Interactive Activity Results

Respondents used sticker dots to cast their vote. Below is a summary of the responses to stations 2-6 interactive activity. Blank boxes indicate no response.

Outcomes	Do you think these are the right outcomes?		Do you think Palmdale 2045 helps us achieve these outcomes?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Land Use				
Attract more jobs to promote Palmdale as a complete city.				
Continue to expand Palmdale’s aerospace industry to attract skilled employment and achieve the associated fiscal benefits.				
Attract new types of economic activity to buttress Palmdale against a downturn in any particular industry or sector.				
Leverage the predicted strong market demand for medical office, remote work, educational space, aerospace support, start-up space, etc.				
To diversify the City’s housing stock, provide more housing options, and specifically address the previous gap in allowed housing densities (between 16.1 and 30 dwelling units per acre), which functionally limit development of rental housing/ apartments.				
Take advantage of new transit investments by locating enough new residential units at moderate densities in and around the area, and to generate vibrancy and a sense of place.				
Establish new and strengthen existing Village Centers at the heart of 20-minute neighborhoods to increase availability of daily services, provide convenient multimodal access to amenities and offer the potential to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled.				
Circulation and Mobility				
Reduce severe injuries and fatal collisions on the City’s roadway network.	3			
More equitable and reliable access to public amenities, services, and opportunities.				
Increase share of trips in the city made by walking, biking, transit, and shared rides.	2			
Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita and per employee.				
Increase quality of life and economic competitiveness.	3			
Economic Development				
Foster a job market that sustains a high standard of living for workers with diverse skill sets.	3			
Create educational pathways for Palmdale residents to fully access future economic opportunities.	2			
Build a downtown core in the City where residents and businesses can participate and celebrate in the City’s economic prosperity.	2			3

Ensure that all residents and workers have access to safe and affordable housing.	2			
Provide access to economic opportunities and resources for residents and workers through transportation options.	1			
Promote a City environment that attracts and leverages new development to diversify the tax base.	2			
Military Compatibility				
Create pathways for Palmdale residents to fully access current and future economic opportunities in the aerospace sector.	1			
Reduced risk to the Palmdale community because of Plant 42 Land Use Compatibility operations.				
Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience				
Palmdale is a regional leader by integrating sustainability and climate action into all decisions and inspiring other communities to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.				
New and existing buildings are decarbonized and able to operate on carbon-free energy.				
Secure water supply and efficient use through aquifer management and increased water reuse.	1			
Ecosystems and other existing or future natural open spaces are enhanced through restoration, redesign, and ongoing maintenance practices.	1			
Impacts of urban heat island are reduced and mitigated.	1			
The most vulnerable residents are protected from climate and hazard impacts.				
Conservation				
Preservation of scenic and natural features.	1			
Minimize changes to surface runoff patterns and maintain water quality.	1			
Identify and protect historically significant resources.				
Awareness and preservation of historical, cultural, and paleontological resources.				
Cultural programs that embrace cultural identities in the City.				
Phased transition of mining operations.				
Safety				
Address increased risk related to climate change in accordance with State requirements, particularly along the wildland urban interface at the southwestern and western edge of the City.				
Ensure that soil and groundwater are not at risk from flooding, water quality, and erosion to ensure that they are suitable to support redevelopment following a large fire.				
Protection of Palmdale’s residents, workers, and visitors from fire hazards.				
Protection of persons and property from criminal activity.				
Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure				
Protection of Palmdale’s residents, workers, and visitors from fire hazards.				
Protection of persons and property from criminal activity.				
Reduce reliance on imported water from the State Water Project.				
Maintenance of a consistent level of wastewater treatment service to meet existing and new development demands.				
Equitable and Healthy Communities				
An equitable local economy that provides career pathways and economic opportunities for existing residents, especially local youth.				

Diverse housing options including mixed-use and affordable options, for existing and future residents.				
Improved health and quality of life, and lower rates of chronic diseases, among all residents.				
Improved air quality for all residents.				
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space				
Provide more publicly accessible trails.	2		1	
Provide more public parkland and open space.	2		1	
Expanded public recreation amenities and programs.	2		1	

Public Comments

After the presentation, the group paused for Q&A. Below are a summary of comments received from the public following the open house presentation.

- It is important to have a detailed zoning map created before the General Plan is approved.
- The wellness district should provide assisted living and multi-family housing opportunities.
- I am concerned that we do not have enough doctors and physicians in Palmdale.
- What is happening to Joshua Trees?
- Do land use designations include height restrictions?
- I am concerned that the wellness districts are too restrictive.
- Related to the bond release of funds, I think we should spread the costs and infrastructure across the Antelope Valley.