



News from the City of Compton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Compton City Unveils Blueprint for Smart Growth

Compton, CA—October 27, 2008— A new Vision for the City of Compton blueprint was presented in a meeting with Compton City Council on Thursday, October 16. Decision makers within the City’s agencies, Planning Commission, City Council and development community participated in four days of intense and focused meetings, called a charrette. “The goal of these meetings, which were held from October 13-16, was to move quickly and build upon the community’s existing vision while working directly with the City and the development community, said Kofi Sefa-Boakye Ph.D., director of Compton’s Community Redevelopment Agency.

The charrette and the corresponding activities were led by consulting team ICF International, which recommended Compton focus on developing a city center that provides a hub of activities for residents, as well as capitalizing on the City’s assets including the vast offering of transportation options and the brickyard area. “The residents need an ‘it’ place. A place where they can shop, dine and be entertained. This will be a place where they meet with friends or take visitors from out of town, located in a central area of the city of Compton. We think Compton Boulevard, between Wilmington and Santa Fe is a good location,” said Rick Williams, a partner in the urban design firm of Van Meter Williams Pollack, a subcontractor of ICF. Williams added that the vision had already been identified in the first phase of redevelopment planning, therefore this phase was designed to gather and absorb input from stakeholders and sharpen the focus.

Another recommendation called for developing the “Atkinson Brickyard” area to include a retail shopping center, townhouses, and green spaces. The ICF consultants also highlighted the need for the City to capitalize on the transit center

located in the heart of Compton. “Accessible public transportation is important for residents. It’s a key element of the infrastructure that will support the success of the new urban center” stated Williams.

The four-day charette was part of the Smart Growth Strategic Implementation Plan, which is the second phase in Compton’s Vision for A New City campaign. The first phase of this process began over a year ago with planning meetings involving Compton City Council members, Compton City Mayor and community stakeholders. From these meetings the “Vision for the City of Compton” document emerged detailing the strategic development opportunities within twelve subprojects areas throughout the city.

“Compton already has incredible assets, they have developable land, major transportation access corridors, proximity to several highways and more importantly the City is on board and the residents are involved. No one needs to be sold on the value of implementing this plan” said Scott A. Broten, the ICF regional manager on the Compton project.

“The charette helped create an outline for development goals and a road map for a process to achieve the “Vision for the City of Compton” as set by the City officials and community members,” stated Dr. Sefa-Boakye. While the final report is not expected until the end of November, according to Dr. Sefa-Boakye, all involved parties are eager to expeditiously take the next steps on the Smart Growth Strategic Implementation Plan.

Known as the “Hub City” because of its unique position in almost the exact geographical center of Los Angeles County, Compton is strategically located along the Alameda Corridor, a passageway of 25 percent of all U.S. waterborne international trade. Compton is rapidly emerging as a large industrial center in Los Angeles County for transit, distribution, business services, high technology, home and lifestyle products, metals, financial services, and textile manufacturing.

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