



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Santa Lucia Chapter
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April 1, 2013

- Re:
1. Unanimous Planning Commission and LUCE Task Force recommendations for the consultant to use the existing LUE goals to develop and assess “alternatives”
 2. Meaningful Community input

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

We support the unanimous Planning Commission and LUCE Task Force recommendations for the consultant to use the existing LUE goal to develop and assess “alternatives.”

We applaud your Council’s direction for beginning the Land Use and Circulation Element update with detailed surveys of more than 25,000 City households and city business owners. This provides assurance to both residents and business owners that they are central to planning the City’s future.

For these reasons, **we respectfully request that the City Council give direction to the consultant team that they be specific when referring to “community input” supporting a recommendation or proposal.**

The issue is one of appropriate weighting. The responses of more than 2,100 city resident households and business owners to the City’s LUCE Survey, for example, should be weighted more heavily than the input from some of the approximately 50 residents who participated in the first LUCE workshop at the Monday Club or other “lightly attended” open houses and workshops.

This passes the “common sense” test. An assertion that there is community input supporting a particular recommendation or position is virtually meaningless without the provision of some numerical measurement to give an indication as to the actual level of that support. Unfortunately, it has frequently been the case in the process thus far that statements have been made asserting support based on “community input” without this essential accompanying detail.

We understand that the task force discussed this issue at its last meeting and that there was no disagreement with the request that references to community input supporting a recommendation or position be more specific. This should be a requirement going forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Andrew Christie
Chapter Director