

PORT of SAN DIEGO

Understanding the Public Outreach Process – The Vital Role of Public Input

Integrated Planning / Port Master Plan Update

Overview

Good planning includes extensive outreach, seeking feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders in the community. The Port of San Diego's Integrated Planning initiative began in 2013, and since then its public outreach program has been recognized as industry-leading with awards from the American Planning Association and the Public Relations Society of America. Efforts to date have included:

- More than 100 individual and group interviews
- More than two dozen presentations to civic and community organizations
- Boat and bus tours for stakeholders
- An online survey

The Port of San Diego is committed to continuing public outreach as it begins the next phase of Integrated Planning, an update to the Port Master Plan. The Port Master Plan Update (PMPU) is a key document that will serve as the future blueprint for planning and development. The Port wants to hear from you as this process continues!

This document summarizes the next steps in the public outreach process and how to ensure your voice is heard as the PMPU is drafted and goes through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review process.

Drafting of the Port Master Plan Update

Board Workshops/Meetings

Between March 2017 and May 2017, the Board of Port Commissioners will conduct a series of workshops focused on critical elements of the PMPU. At these meetings, there will be multiple opportunities for public input, including:

1. In-person public comments before the Board.
2. Comment cards for written comments. These cards will be provided to the Board of Port Commissioners and Port staff for review.
3. Online comments submitted through portofsandiego.org. These comments will be provided to the Board of Port Commissioners and Port staff for review.

Public Open Houses

Two Open Houses are planned in the first half of 2017 to give the public the opportunity to engage more closely on various elements of the updated Port Master Plan. They will include several breakout information stations where the public can engage with Port staff on specific topics. The public will also have an opportunity to provide written comment on topics of interest.

Release of Port Master Plan Update Discussion Draft

Prior to the formal release of the PMPU for public review as part of the Draft EIR, the Port will release a PMPU draft discussion document for a period of two weeks. While release of a discussion draft is not required, the Port is providing this additional opportunity for public review.

California Environmental Quality Act Environmental Review

NOP/Scoping Meeting

In late March 2017, the Port will distribute a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to notify responsible agencies, trustee agencies, involved federal agencies, and the general public that it plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the PMPU. The NOP is the first step in the CEQA process and is intended to solicit input as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Agencies and the public will have 30 days to provide written comments on the NOP. As part of the NOP process, the Port will hold a Public Scoping Meeting in mid-April. At this meeting the public is encouraged to provide written comments related to the scope and content of the EIR. It is important to note that Port staff will not answer specific questions about the EIR at this meeting, but will be gathering written input on recommended areas of study for the EIR.

Draft EIR Publication

Following the release of the PMPU discussion draft, the Port will publish the Draft EIR for public review. The document will be posted online and be available for review at the Port offices. This will initiate a 45-day comment period. All comments must be received in written form and each individual comment will be responded to in the EIR prior to a formal certification.

Final EIR Certification and Port Master Plan Update Approval

Responses to all written comments received during the Draft EIR comment period will be included in the Final EIR. Staff will then present the Final EIR to the Board for certification along with the draft PMPU for approval. The Board's consideration of certification of the Final EIR and approval of the draft PMPU is targeted for late 2017/early 2018, after which the PMPU will be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for processing.

For questions about the public outreach process, please visit portofsandiego.org.