

County of Ventura  
 Planning Commission Hearing  
 Case No. PL23-0033  
 Exhibit 7 - Public Comments Received at Virtual Public Meeting on February 22, 2024

ID	Commenter Name	Question/Comment	Response
1	Mary Ann Krause	What happened to consideration of a buffer around Mission Rock Road? San Bernardino had a buffer staff was going to review.	Staff stated that staff had initially considered a buffer around DDCs. During the Board hearing, staff informed the Board about pursuing research on buffers. Staff is still planning to pursue this research and examples from other jurisdictions. This research will be part of a separate General Plan program to review DDCs.
2	Lucero Cruz	<p>Entonces si el programa es aprobado Oxnard entraría en ese programa? y como nos afectaría?</p> <p><i>If this program is approved in Oxnard, would Oxnard be included in this program? How would it affect us?</i></p>	Staff displayed the areas to be included as DDCs in the Oxnard Plain. Staff stated that the project covers unincorporated areas and includes 3 mobile home parks, 1 farmworker housing development, and Laguna Vista Elementary. The project does not cover areas within the City of Oxnard because the County does not have authority to identify DDCs within cities. However, cities are required under state law (SB 1000) to identify disadvantaged communities when they update their General Plans. Regarding how communities are affected by the DDC status, staff referred to the benefits and limitations in the presentation slides such as grant funding, enhanced infrastructure and public services, and limitations on future new development. Protective environmental policies would be applied to future projects to avoid, minimize, and reduce environmental pollution in or near DDCs.
3	Alondra Mendoza	What are more specific examples of what type of services can be provide with these funds for these DDCs?	Staff stated that there are several different grants. Some examples include grants related to improving internet broadband connections within DDCs, helping nonprofit organizations conduct public outreach on various issues like environmental justice, and improvements to water infrastructure. There is currently a grant that is looking for water conservation projects that specifically benefits DDCs.
4	Carol Bows	Can you please show the Santa Paula & Ventura slides again?	Staff displayed the slides and gave an illustrative walkthrough of the areas to be included.
5	Anonymous Attendee	Did any of the Valley Vista residents have follow up questions or concerns after the BOS meeting? Do we know if any of them registered for this workshop?	Staff stated that the Valley Vista residents have not officially submitted comments after the Board meeting. Staff does not know if any has registered for this meeting. Staff has reached out to Valley Vista residents for this meeting and continue to keep in contact with the Valley Vista residents.
6	Anonymous Attendee	What will the DDC re-review next year entail? For areas for example like Saticoy?	Staff stated that program LU-R requires review of all DDCs in unincorporated areas. The review includes consideration of updated CalEnviroScreen data, income data, updated state regulations, policies, or guidance. Areas subject to review include Saticoy, El Rio/Del Norte including Nyeland Acres, Piru, any areas that are officially incorporated into the General Plan as DDCs, and all

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			unincorporated areas currently not designated. Consideration of the buffer will also be included in the review.
7	Juan Carlos Diaz	Is this recording available in Spanish somewhere? If we want to visit this presentation again? thank you for the information shared!	Staff stated that this meeting is being recorded in English and Spanish. The meeting presentation and recording will be posted early the following week on the project website at <a href="http://vcrma.org/ddcstudy">vcrma.org/ddcstudy</a> .
8	Beatriz Ruettgers	Does grant funding for environmental impacts include improving infrastructure for capturing groundwater and adding storm drains in problematic areas?	Staff stated that there are several grants that focus on capital improvement projects and public infrastructure in DDCs. The Proposition 1 WaterTalks grant is currently active and focuses on water conservation and water quality in DDCs. The grant is currently looking for project proposals. Staff offered to provide more information if the commenter would like to provide contact information. Staff also stated that the community of Saticoy benefited from grant funding several years ago to upgrade sewer lines and sewage treatment plant. The Ventura Regional Sanitation District was able to score higher in the grant application due to Saticoy's DDC status.
9	Dina Ontiveras	Will you be considering increased pollution due to industrial processes and long-haul trucking near to DACS?	Staff stated that CalEnviroScreen takes into consideration hazardous waste generators and facilities. Industrial processes that may generate hazardous waste or materials are included in the data. Traffic is considered is also considered in CalEnviroScreen, as are diesel emissions and air quality. Staff considered these CalEnviroScreen indicators for the project.
10	Dina Ontiveras	Storm drains are considered part of water runoff, not drinking water.	Acknowledged.
11	Dina Ontiveras	Amazon trucking, Proctor & Gamble and the PH Harbor using Santa Clara Avenue as the "Golden Route" has severely negatively impacted Nyeland Acres, not only for poor air quality but also crazy truck driving speeders.	Acknowledged. Staff stated that Nyeland Acres and El Rio/Del Norte are already included as DDCs in the General Plan.
12	Vanessa Terán	Will the County apply to grants that the state is making available for DDCs?	Staff explained that Board authorization is required to authorize the County to apply for grants, including grants in partnership with community organizations. If Planning staff finds a grant opportunity, staff will try to inform and coordinate other County agencies that are appropriately situated to apply for the grant. For example, the Public Works Agency is best suited for infrastructure projects. General Plan policies and programs would be reviewed to determine whether grants meet the objectives of the policies or programs. DDCs can score higher in grant applications. When and how the County applies for grants depends on

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			availability of grant opportunities. Staff provided another example of a grant collaboration with the Naval Base about sea level rise.
13	Vanessa Terán	For example, let's say, there's recent storms in San Diego, pipes and waterways weren't cleared in time and caused flooding. If we choose the right county department and identify a vulnerable community, can partner with CBOs to advance more equitable infrastructure to prevent future disasters or limit risk. Is that what you're trying to say in the context of collaboration to apply for a grant?	Staff confirmed. Staff offered anyone or representatives of community groups in the meeting to discuss opportunities with staff, as staff can help coordinate a time with the appropriate County agency or department to discuss the opportunity further and learn more. Staff explained that environmental justice directives in the General Plan is not just carried out by Planning Division. It is a directive for all County agencies. Staff encouraged everyone to reach out to discuss further or suggest grant opportunities for staff to explore.
14	Dina Ontiveras	Will you be adding a bridle path from Auto Center Drive on Santa Clara Avenue to Wells Road?	Staff does not know if there are plans to add a bridle path.
15	Dina Ontiveras	Will you please add that to the plan?	Staff stated that if there are no plans for a bridle path, staff can work to identify the appropriate agency to see if this can be incorporated into a future plan.
16	Anonymous Attendee	Is there a way to expand DDCs that communities believe haven't been identified?	Staff stated that it is possible to consider adding DDCs or expanding boundaries during the 5-year review.
17	Vanessa Terán	Is there anything closer to El Rio or Saticoy that are identified as a DDC? Sorry if I missed that.	Staff stated that Saticoy, El Rio, and Nyeland Acres are all included as DDCs in the General Plan. Staff illustrated these locations on a map on the presentation slide.
18	Vanessa Terán	We have community representatives here who reside in those areas, like Dina Ontiveras whose led work around water justice in that area. I represent a CBO known as Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project. There's a lot of room for improvement in water quality due to old infrastructure. We could identify this as a project in the future between CBOs and the County.	Acknowledged. Staff stated that the Planning Division is working on an update to the El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan. A background study has been conducted and there are plans to engage with the community on the results of that study. The update will consider aspects of DDCs, infrastructure, housing opportunities, and more. Staff offered to add anyone interested to the interested parties list for the El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan update project.  <i>A few commenters provided contact information, which has been added to the interested parties list for the El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan update project.</i>
19	Dina Ontiveras	Does County have control over infrastructure in El Rio? Such as Vineyard Avenue?	Staff stated that certain aspects of El Rio are under County control. However, the County does not have direct oversight over the water distribution system as it is made up of a number of water purveyors. Staff stated that a portion of Vineyard Avenue is within the City of Oxnard. Thus, the County would not have any authority for the portion within the city. However, coordination between the

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			County and the City occurs along Vineyard Avenue for improvements like curbs and sidewalks.
20	Dina Ontiveras	Would it be possible to plan for a pedestrian bridge over Vineyard Avenue for the children and parents that walk across Vineyard Avenue?	Staff stated that these are good items to raise within the context of the El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan update project. Staff will share this comment with staff working on that project.