

# Cabazon Community Plan Update

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## West Desert MAC Meeting Summary

August 2, 2018

- August 2, 2018 –West Desert Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting held at the James A. Venable Community Center in Cabazon from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.
- MAC Members – Kerri Mariner, Diana Morris, Maxine Israel, and Janet Workman,
- The Presentation – Ken Ryan from KTGY Group presented a powerpoint of the Cabazon Community Plan Update to a group of about 40 neighbors in attendance. It was followed by a Q&A session with Jason Gavin from KTGY Group taking notes.
- County Representatives – Mickey Valdivia (legislative assistant to Supervisor Marion Ashley), Peter Hersh, Phayvanh Nanthavongdouangsy, Ruben Villapando, and Adam Hermanson from the County of Riverside were in attendance.

### Comments from attendees

- A grocery store was strongly desired by all residents.
- Some in attendance thought the expansion of the outlet mall was a negative.
- The idea of manufactured homes has a negative connotation, needs further explanation.
- Robert Link comments:
  - Described “broken window syndrome” (things progressively getting worse)
  - Illegal dumping is a major problem
  - Concerned about truck traffic and speeding on Bonita Avenue heading to Arrowhead facility.
  - Would be helpful to have bridge/freeway access on Elm Street to service semi-trucks at the Arrowhead plant and future industrial uses.
  - Wanted a sales tax increase of 2% from outlet mall/casino to keep money in Cabazon.
- Squatters parking trailers on vacant lots and the dangers of some illegally tapping into the electric street lights for power. Adding to the blight of the community.
- Martin Sanderson (former MAC Vice-Chairman) submitted a letter in regards to the sales tax from the outlet mall.
- North Cabazon resident (lives between outlet mall and casino) comments:
  - No street lights, 50+ kids living in the area, speeding an issue.
  - Mall trash comes into their yard
  - Would like sidewalks and speed bumps
- Maxine Israel (MAC Member) – Expressed concern for immediate improvements that included paved streets and street lights for safety.
- Resident expressed that basic needs are not being met.

- Where are people going to work? Need for more employment opportunities.
- Gridlock on freeway an issue
- Jobs/Housing balance – can local residents afford the new homes based on the business areas proposed
- What is going to happen to the existing community residents?
- How do residents voice their concerns? No city council representation.
- Blight to the area getting worse, illegal dumping, burnt homes, abandoned cars.
- How much land will the Morongo Tribe own or influence in the Community Plan area? Water rights are an issue.
- What are the community elements for kids? There was a desire by multiple residents to have a Splash Pad for kids to play.
- Are the Arrowhead trucks paying to use County roads? Consideration of direct freeway access to the Arrowhead plant.
- Utility improvements being done for Morongo should benefit Cabazon residents.
- Speed controls on local streets, think about lowering the speed limit.
- Mikey Valdivia responded to many non-community plan concerns:
  - Encouraged residents to continue attending MAC meetings to voice concerns.
  - Sanitation & community clean up has limited amount of trash bins
  - Stop signs added to Esperanza area based on resident letters to the County
  - Code enforcement, go to website and log a complaint and receive a case number
  - Supervisor Marion Ashley is retiring, 2 finalists (Russ & Jeff) in attendance
  - Living in the County requires assessments for services and improvements
  - Outlet/Casino sales tax dollars paid a portion of the school and community center
  - The I-10 Bypass Lifeline being studied for mitigation by City of Banning
  - Importance of coordinated planning effort with the tribe
- Peter Hersh, County of Riverside:
  - Summarized the planning effort as being opportunity-based with new development concepts having to be implemented by the community and developer interests. Cooperate with Tribe on identifying roads, water, and sewer needs, will be critical for financing and implementation.
- Adam Hermanson, Code Enforcement Officer spoke:
  - County's limited resources, Report-a-Violation online form
  - "Home Expo Financial" company buying local distressed properties, cleaning them up and renting them out. They already bought 10-12 of the worst properties.
  - Old Spanky's Restaurant will be a new Mexican Restaurant
- Marty Bauer, Carols Kitchen:
  - Two kitchens in Cabazon, serves hot meals to families no questions asked
  - Corporate and individual funding
  - Morongo Casino hosting a fundraising event on October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Supervisor Marion Ashley to attend