

SAN PEDRO URBAN GREENING PROJECT – UPCOMING DESIGN WORKSHOP #2

By Larry E. Smith, Community Development Director for the LA Conservation Corps

SAN PEDRO, October 2 - After just over a year of early planning and community outreach, the Greater Downtown San Pedro Urban Greening Project is poised to deliver an ambitious far-reaching Urban Greening Implementation Plan. On 1st Thursday, October 2nd from 6:00 – 8:30 pm, the Warner Grand Theater will host Design Workshop #2 where the Project Team of LA Conservation Corps, Clean San Pedro and Melendrez Design Consultants and members of the Urban Greening Advisory Committee will present the elements of the Draft San Pedro Urban Greening Plan.

This represents the initial results from the Community Based Planning Process. This process has been designed to ensure that the results of the Final San Pedro Urban Greening Implementation Plan truly represent the input from the diverse array of San Pedro Community Stakeholders. Through this process the Project Team has gone directly to the community to give community stakeholders the opportunity to give direct input to determining the goals of the Project, the types of “green improvements” they would like to see in their community, the location of these “green improvements”, and the more refined character of such improvements.

Thus far, these meetings have included an Open House for the entire community on June 5th, Design Workshop #1 on June 21st, monthly UGAC Meetings; and presentations directly to the Neighborhood Councils, Chamber of Commerce, and various local Park Advisory Board or informal park support groups from September 2013 through September 2014.

Design Workshop #2 will actually be done in a format that will allow participants to walk through several displays to give their input on the overall Draft Greening Concept Plan Layout for San Pedro, as well as the more specific “Urban Greening Typology Concepts” that are designed to respond to the highly variable urban landscape seen along the streets of San Pedro and in the number of unique local environments within the San Pedro Community.

Participants at Design Workshop #2 and subsequent meetings with the various local community stakeholder groups previously identified will have a chance to give their input on how well they feel the proposed conceptual design framework addresses the priorities and concerns expressed in responses to a Public Opinion Survey distributed over the past 3 months.

Results from Design Workshop #2 will be used to prepare a Final Draft San Pedro Urban Greening Plan to present to the Community at Design Workshop #3 on November 6th. Based on the feedback and discussions from that Workshop a Final San Pedro Urban Greening Implementation Plan will be developed and distributed for public and agency review and comment. This Final Plan will provide a “road map” for the actual development of the “prioritized urban greening opportunities” identified in the Final Plan.

“Our focus is on pushing the envelope on what is possible in the way of urban greening in San Pedro while ensuring that the Plan itself is doable”, said Larry Smith, Community Development Director of the LA Conservation Corps and Project Manager for the San Pedro Urban Greening Plan. “The goal is to make sure the Plan represents the views of the Community and meets the urban greening needs of the Community, while laying out the path to implementation.”