

District 9—Chalfant Community Visioning

Project Summary

Caltrans District 9 and Mono County, with assistance from MIG, engaged residents of Chalfant in discussions about the future of this rural 600-person community located 15 miles north of Bishop, on US Highway 6. The process featured three community workshops that yielded a vision statement and set of principles that will guide County land use planning decisions through 2030.



Project Success

In addition to benefiting the community of Chalfant, the documents resulting from the visioning process were incorporated into the Mono County General Plan. They will also be used by Caltrans to inform future potential rural blueprint planning for the region, including the Regional Transportation Plan, the Benton Area Plan and the Mono County Environmental Assessment Report.



Outreach Methods

- Advertise in local newspaper
- Write and distribute Public Service Announcement (PSA) and community calendar announcements to local radio stations
- E-mail announcements through existing lists
- Post-meeting announcement on County website



Public Involvement Tools

Red, Yellow, Green Cards

Colored cards were used during facilitated large group discussion to gauge the level of community acceptance for any type of proposal (policy statement, development type, design strategy, etc.). Following the presentation of a concept, participants were asked to raise a red, yellow, or green card to indicate their level of agreement. A green card indicated agreement, a red card indicated disagreement, and a yellow card indicated a need for clarification or possible support for the concept with certain modifications. This technique allowed the meeting facilitator to quickly move through proposed concepts.

Comment Cards

MIG provided comment cards for participants who did not wish to speak publicly. Participants could fill out the cards and turn them in at the workshop itself or mail them afterward.

Graphic Recording

Wallgraphic recording is a hallmark of MIG meeting facilitation whereby workshop comments are recorded with colored markers on a large sheet of paper. This method allows participants to see that their comments have been noted and serves as a useful tool to guide the conversation as well as serving as a formal record following the meeting.

Facilitated Large Group Discussion

MIG staff facilitated three large group discussions around questions designed specifically to solicit input that could be utilized by Caltrans planning staff.

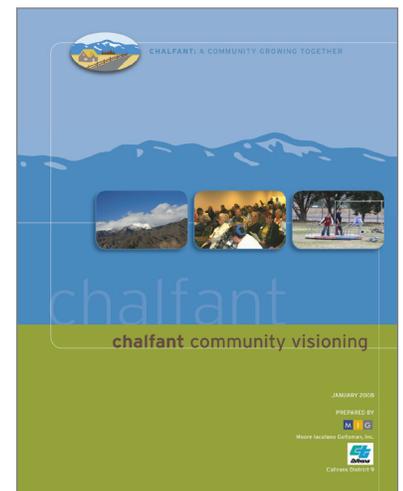
Environmental Justice Community Involvement

Meeting invitations were sent to all residents of the rural Chalfant community, which is an environmental justice community by virtue of being both rural and largely low-income.



Lessons Learned

Projects outside of Caltrans' responsibilities may have a significant impact on the process. In this case, the local school district was considering siting a new school in Chalfant. The school's location could have a significant impact on what was proposed in the future; however, the school district was not fully ready at the time of this process to identify specific school locations and related impacts.



Deliverables

Meeting Summaries
Final Project Report