

Frequently Asked Questions, 2007

What is the Kona Community Development Plan? (CDP)

The Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) will translate the broad goals and policies of the County's General Plan, adopted in 2005, into specific actions and priorities for specific geographic areas in the districts of North and South Kona. The CDP will deal with all the elements included in the General Plan such as the economy, energy, environmental quality, flooding and other natural hazards, historic sites, natural beauty, natural resources and shoreline, housing, public facilities, public utilities, recreation, transportation, and land use. The CDP will give emphasis to those elements most applicable to the issues and conditions of the Kona planning area and is the first to be enacted under the General Plan. It is designed to be a model for future CDPs on the island.

The County has retained a consultant team to develop the CDP led by the Wilson Okamoto Corporation, based in Honolulu and includes: The Environmental Simulation Center, Ltd. (focusing on Planning and Information Technology); ACP – Visioning & Planning, Ltd. (Public Involvement); David Paul Rosen (Affordable Housing); and William L. Allen (Environmental Planning).

What is the Kona Community Development Plan Steering Committee?

The Kona CDP Steering Committee is composed of a broad cross-section of the community. The Steering Committee was appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council on February 1, 2006. Since then, they have been meeting on the second Wednesday of each month in order to monitor and provide guidance in the preparation of the Plan. Once the draft Kona Community Development Plan has been completed by the consultants, Kona CDP Steering Committee will provide their recommendation to the County Planning Commission.

What kind of Community involvement has taken place so far?

The KCDP process was designed to involve the public in an inclusive manner before drafting of the Plan began. By involving the public extensively in the process, the KCDP will not only address critical issues related to policy and public investments but it will also embody the community's vision of the future, define how the community wants to manage future growth, and facilitate implementation of the Plan.

Large public meetings were designed so that the results of each meeting informed the content of succeeding meetings. This ensures the public will be involved in making all critical decisions for the CDP. Public involvement opportunities that have occurred are described below:

Structured Interviews: In September 2005, the consultant team conducted a series of focus group interviews with a variety of stakeholder groups including community representatives, special interest groups, business leaders, representatives of the development community, property owners, and representatives of the tourism

industry. These interviews provided an understanding of attitudes and issues as well as strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in the Kona area.

Public Meetings: Over 100 individual public meetings were held throughout Kona from November 2005 through January 2006 and were offered on-demand. Meetings were scheduled throughout Kona and targeted to ensure balanced demographic and geographic participation of residents. Trained volunteer facilitators conducted each meeting to ensure consistency in the results and fairness and transparency in the process.

Over 3,500 ideas gathered during these meetings have been databased and divided into categories. All ideas are available for review on the project website, at hawaiiislandplan.com. The ideas gathered in the public meetings will be used to develop the goals and strategies for the CDP and form the foundation of the community vision which will be reflected in the Kona Community Development Plan

Working Groups

Between May 2006 and November 2006 there were approximately 80 Working Group meetings held. These meetings were made up of community members with an interest or special knowledge about specific planning topics and reflected the Elements making up the County of Hawaii General Plan. All ideas and information supplied by the Working Groups have been provided to the KCDP Consultants as part of the research program leading to the drafting of the Kona Community Development Plan.

Large Public Meetings

Mapping the Future: The Stakeholder Workshop (February 2006) had two aims: To address “Critical Questions” related to policy and implementation issues as raised by ideas generated at the public meetings, and to initiate the process of “Mapping the Future”. The Mapping the Future exercise asked a simple question: Given what’s unique about Kona, where should future growth go? The public was asked to recommend appropriate locations and desirable patterns of development for specific areas of the community. The ideas were compiled into preliminary development scenarios that became the basis for technical work and inform future public meetings.

How do we Grow? Part 1 (March 2006)

The purpose of the *How Do We Grow? Part 1* workshop was to initiate a process that determines how future growth will occur. It consisted of a presentation followed by an interactive session. During the presentation, the consultants introduced the preliminary alternative development scenarios recommended in *Mapping The Future: The Stakeholder Workshop*. During this three-day interactive session, participants will be asked to review and provide detailed comments on the preliminary scenarios and to articulate their preferences. At the same time, they will work with images that illustrate the type of development patterns that could be created in each scenario. Participants expressed preferences on the appropriateness of the proposed development patterns or “building blocks”.

How Do We Grow? Part 2 (June 2006)

How Do We Grow? Part 2 was also a three-day event. It started with a public meeting where the consultants presented all the information gathered up to that point (ideas, responses to critical questions, development scenarios, and future growth building blocks preferences). The comments received in *How do we Grow? Part 1* was summarized in the form of three-dimensional development patterns. The public helped measure the performance of those patterns based on a number of indicators and will help identify a preferred future development scenario for Kona. In addition to the public meeting, the public can participate in informal Open Houses that will be held throughout the three-day period. At the end of day three, the consultants will hold a public meeting to present the results and gain final feedback from the public, the Steering Committee, and stakeholders.

Why map where to grow? Doesn't the General Plan already provide recommendations?

The General Plan contains Urban Expansion Areas where future growth should occur. But it does not deal with *where or how* growth should happen *within* those areas, nor does it address the *type* of growth that should occur. Specific locations and types of future growth are a responsibility of the KCDP.

Where is the process now?

Currently the Consultants and the County are reviewing public input, research material, input from other County departments and agencies and reports from sub-consultants. All of this work will provide the ingredients of the draft Kona Community Development Plan. This draft is expected to be completed in the summer of 2007. Prior to being submitted to the County Planning Commission, the draft will be presented to the Community.

How can I get more information?

The website hawaiiislandplan.com provides material that has been gathered in preparation to drafting of the Kona Community Development Plan. This ranges from the results of input gathered from public meetings, maps, to drafts of reports submitted by consultants and Steering Committee Agendas and Minutes. If you have questions, please phone the County Department of Planning at: 327-3670.