

Planning Commissioners Training
Thursday, September 20, 2007
100 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
9:15 am – 3:30 pm

- 9:15 am** **Opening Comments with Session Overview**
Catherine Showalter, Director, UCLA Extension Public Policy Program
Jim Hammer, Deputy District Director, Caltrans
- 9:30 am** **How to Read an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**
What should you spend your time on when presented with an EIR? This session will give you ten things you should look for when reviewing the often times massive document so that you are informed and ready to discuss the pertinent elements. Understand why alternatives are there.
- Laurence Wiener, JD**, is a partner with Richards, Watson & Gershon in Los Angeles, specializing in land use law, infrastructure financing, and CEQA. He provides legal counsel to city councils, planning commissions, and redevelopment agencies. He serves as City Attorney to Beverly Hills and Hidden Hills.
- 10:30 am** **MORNING BREAK**
- 10:45 am** **Demystifying the Traffic Study**
Did you think the traffic study was a "neutral black box"? A cold scientific analysis with no flexibility or discretion in the analysis? This section will explain how it really works, and will show how many important "planning" policies are being made by others as part of that study. Learn how to make it a more effective tool for your community.
- Mark Winogrand, FAICP**, Principal with Planmark Associates, is a strategic land use consultant to public, academic and nonprofit organizations. He served most recently as Interim City of Los Angeles Planning director. He was previously Chief Administrative Officer of Culver City, and Community Development Director for three Southern California cities.
- 11:45 am** **HOSTED LUNCH**
- 12:30 pm** **How Developers Evaluate Transit Oriented Development Sites**
Planning Commissioners are being asked to consider transit-oriented development (TOD) as one way to address the impacts of growth and congestion in their communities. What is the developer's perspective and how does it relate to the role of the planning commission in reaching such decisions? What are the triggers that a developer looks for in deciding whether a property "pencils out" to counter any financial risks associated

with the development effort? This session will provide a forum to discuss the barriers and incentives to implementing TOD in California.

Katherine Aguilar Perez is the Vice President of Development for Forest City Development. Her focus is on transit oriented development and development in emerging communities. Before coming to Forest City, Ms. Perez was the co-founder and Executive Director of the Transportation and Land Use Collaborative (TLUC) of Southern California where she created the Latino New Urbanism Project which has promoted more culturally sensitive development and planning practices.

1:30 pm AFTERNOON BREAK

1:45 pm Parks/Open Space Planning Issue

As cities grow and communities change, how can planning commissioners be certain that some land is designated for parks and open spaces? Urban development means different things to different populations but making land available (with supportive financing) for simple pleasures such as playing in the park or strolling in open green spaces should be a common priority in land use policy decision making. Through the use of case studies, this session will demonstrate how sustainable regional planning is sensitive to human and environmental interests across neighborhoods.

Robert Garcia, Executive Director, The City Project, is an attorney and nationally recognized leader in the urban park movement. He has influenced the investment of over \$20 billion in underserved communities, working at the intersection of social justice and sustainable regional planning. He helped build and lead diverse alliances to create the state parks in the Chinatown Cornfield in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, in Taylor Yard as part of the greening of the Los Angeles River, and in the Baldwin Hills in the heart of African American Los Angeles.

2:45 pm Roundtable Discussion

3:30 pm Closing Comments