

## **Listening Session Summary Notes**

On September 30, 2025, the offices of councilmembers Dickinson (District 2) and Kaplan (District 1) conducted a listening session. During this meeting, City staff provided an overview of local land use planning processes and asked for community input on key questions to better understand the issues. Staff distributed a handout to attendees and asked them to respond to the following questions:

- What do you like about Robla?
- What concerns/issues would you like us to know about?
- Who should City staff interview/engage with?
- Are there upcoming events where staff can meet with residents/businesses?

Meeting attendees submitted responses to these questions at the meeting and some input was emailed to staff after the meeting. Staff compiled the responses and they are listed below. Some minor edits have been made to clarify.

### **Responses to questionnaire:**

#### **1. What do you like about your community?**

- Robla Park Community Association (RPCA).
- Quasi-rural – less density in population, small-town feel, large lots, cultural diversity, affordable.
- Education: school improvements (Robla School District).
- Recreation: bike trails, natural open space (dry creek).

#### **2. What concerns/issues in your community would you like us to know about?**

- Unplanned growth (from missing middle housing).
- Balancing development with preservation of open space.
- Land use regulations don't allow for agricultural uses (like having more than three chickens).
- Would like to see more mixed-use buildings with store below housing above, more dense housing, ADUs, and additions to existing house.
- In order to provide affordable housing, there should be apartments and multi-unit buildings with for-sale units to build equity.
- Lack of opportunities for youth.
- Underutilized vacant lots that could otherwise help the economy.
- Would like to see more City sponsored community gardens at parks
- Create innovative programming in schools.
- Invest in, listen to, and care about Robla.

- Stores closing.
  - Lack of lighting at night makes it too dark.
  - More sidewalks and new paved roads in front of schools.
  - Create new crosswalks near the school for traffic safety issues.
  - If the resources needed are not available to address infrastructure needs, then the city shouldn't allow new housing. We need to have sufficient water supply, cheap electricity/utility (bills), and all other infrastructure needed to support the area and need medical facilities and food stores.
  - Provide dog poop bags in parks.
  - Establish a community gathering place and events for Robla.
  - Create a food pantry in the neighborhood.
  - Dumping is happening on streets, in parks, in local waterways.
  - Clean up viva shopping center on Norwood.
  - Demo the building by Starbucks.
  - The City should host a free dump day.
  - There is a lack of public transportation (bus system) to Natomas. It currently takes 2 hours to get from Robla to Natomas, each way
  - No safe alternatives to parking.
  - Traffic.
  - Parking.
  - Encampments for homeless include concerns near schools, including trash and substance abuse.
  - Need better engagement by City to residents.
  - Concern about unsafe bike trail conditions, including motor bikes.
  - Need to update Taylor Elementary School (flooding issues, air conditioning, small cafeteria space, and main office relocation). Restore the "safe schools" project.
3. **Who should City staff interview in this planning process?**
- Community members (canvas streets) to discuss planning with Robla residents; all ages with diverse backgrounds, socio-economic status, and lived experiences.
  - RPCA, Ms. Rene Venegas; Sharon Wright.
  - Blaine Ave residents, residents, families, business owners, churches, school staff, high school age students.
  - Measure L and U Commissions.
4. **Are there any upcoming events where staff can meet with Robla residents and businesses?**
- RPCA meets monthly: schedule City representation to discuss Robla planning.
  - Set up a meeting for feedback.

- Blaine Ave residents meet periodically.
- Harvest Festival draws lots of families on Oct. 28 at Taylor Street Elementary.
- Sierra Service Project 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- City Council representatives are always welcome to the school board meetings.
- Robla School District, annual walk to health (Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>) and family night at Robla Park.