



# Marina Workshop #1: What is a General Plan?

*Date: May 5, 2023 | Virtual Zoom Meeting*

## Attendees

- Raimi + Associates, Lead Project Consultant: Matt Raimi, Melissa Stark, Troy Reinhalter, Michelle Hernandez
- City of Marina: Alyson Hunter, Planning Services Manager
- Language Interpreters: Ivone Quintero-Cagnacci (*Spanish*), Jina Lee (*Korean*)
- Approximately 50 community members

## Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentation – Project Overview, Planning 101, and Planned Community Engagement
- Q&A with Consultant Team and City Staff
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

## Meeting Summary

On Thursday, May 5, 2023, the City of Marina hosted its first community workshop for the update to the General Plan (Marina 2045). Community members were invited to attend the virtual meeting held from 6-8 pm in the evening. The Meeting was advertised through postcards sent to each address in the city, on the project specific website (Marina2045.org), the City of Marina’s website, eblasts were sent to over 1,000-member database, physical flyers were on display at City Hall and the Marina Library, in addition to announcements made at City Council and Planning Commission meetings prior to the workshop.

The first workshop was attended by approximately 50 participants in addition to city staff and consultants. Live simultaneous translation was available to all participants in both Spanish and Korean.

The meeting consisted of an overview presentation and question and answer session with the project team. Folks were able to chat questions throughout the presentation, as well as raise their hand to ask questions audibly. In addition, Zoom polls were deployed throughout the meeting to engage participants.

Below is a summary of the meeting presentation and question and answer session. The project website – Marina2045.org – contains all presentation slides, and recordings of the event in English, Spanish, and Korean.

## Presentation

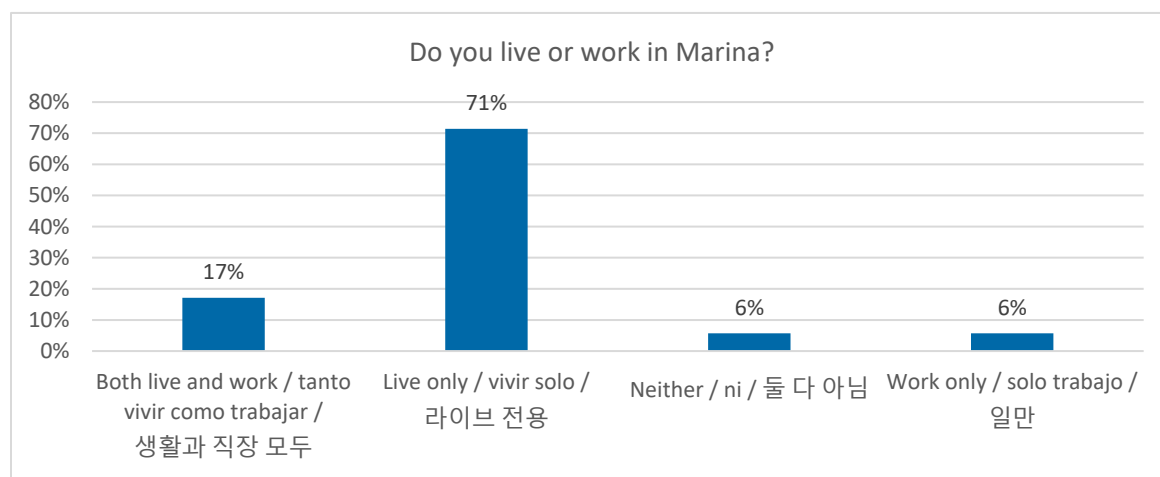
The consultant team presented an introduction to the Marina General Plan Update process, provided an overview of planning in Marina, described why it is important to update the document, explained State of California planning requirements, and described the community engagement plan.

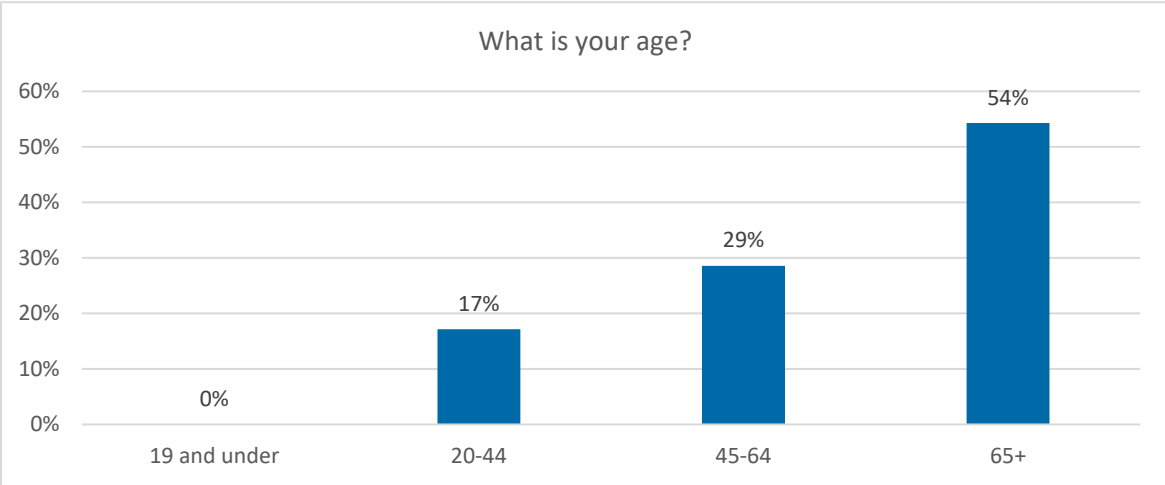
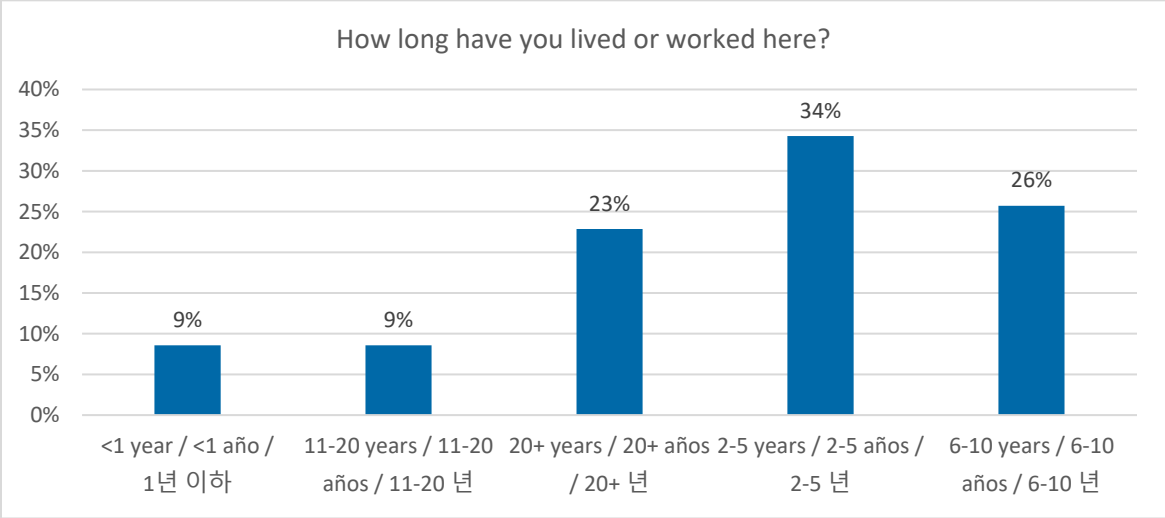
The General Plan is a long-term policy document to guide future actions and establishes the City's direction for the next 20 years. It is based around a shared community vision for the future and addresses key topics of concern. The Marina General Plan is required to have 8 elements, or chapters: land use, circulation, housing, noise, conservation, safety, open space, and environmental justice. The General Plan Update process is an incremental process which spans 6 phases: discovery, visioning, alternatives, policy framework, General Plan and EIR, and review and adoption. Community engagement occurs throughout the 6 phases of the project.

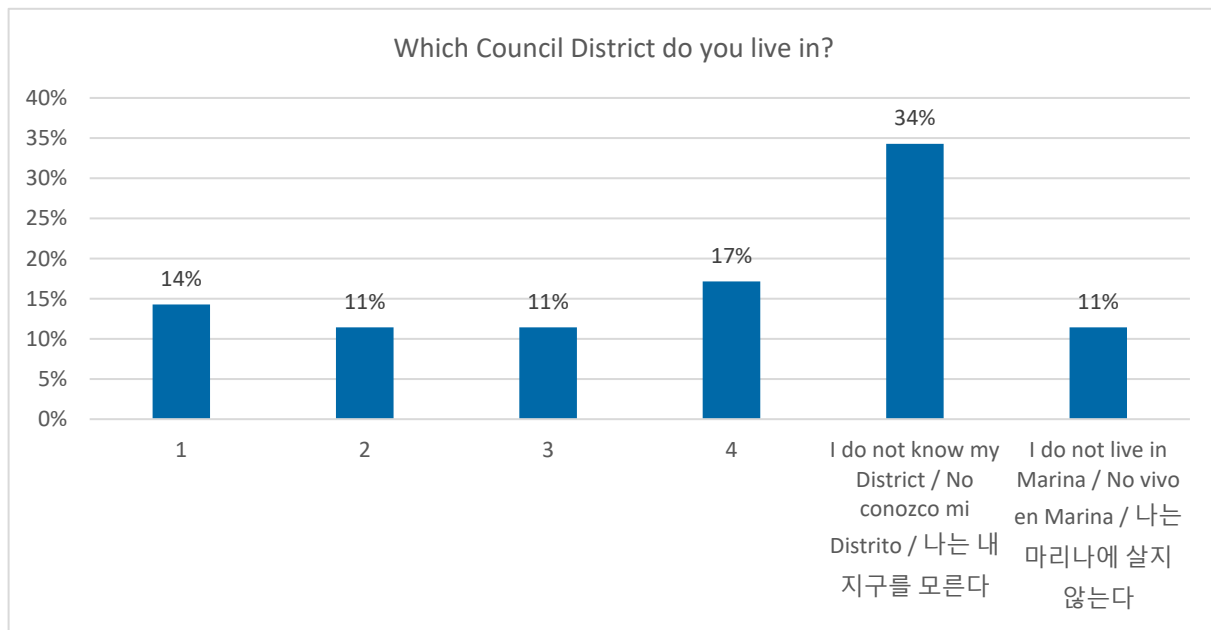
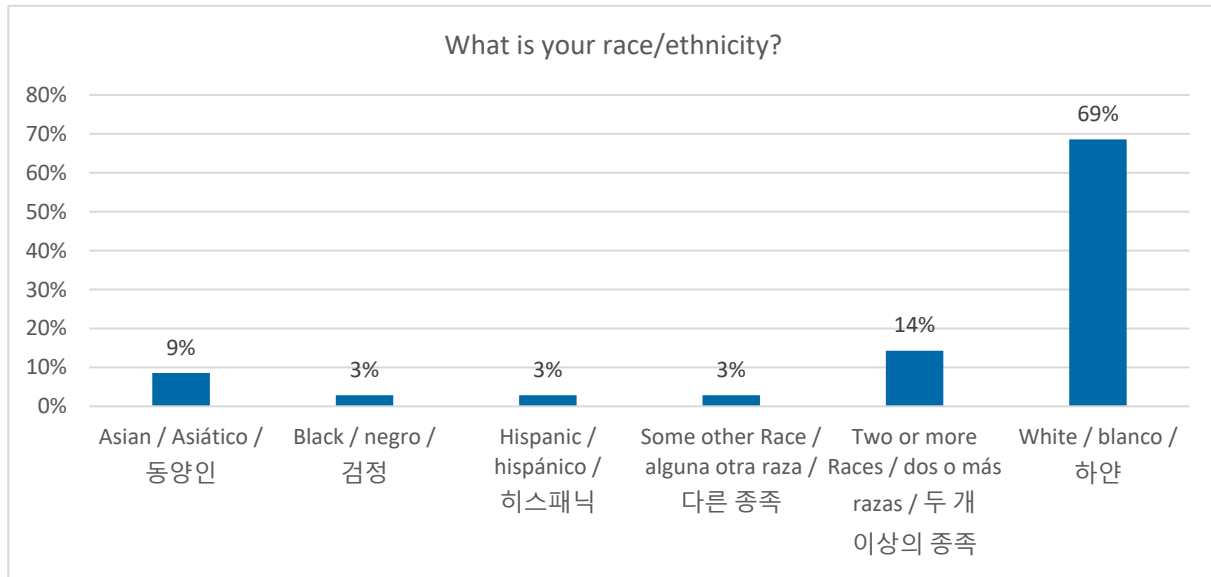
The community engagement plan for the General Plan intends to inspire the community to share ideas to guide Marina's future, offer a wide variety of ways to participate, target groups traditionally not involved in the planning process (i.e., youth, students, non-English speakers), and conduct culturally appropriate engagement activities to reach a diverse cross section of the community. The engagement plan involves outreach activities that are meant to inform the community about the General Plan and planning process (i.e., announcements on social media, flyers, postcard mailers) and it involves engagement activities meant to receive feedback on Plan content from community members (i.e., the General Plan Advisory Committee, workshops, pop-ups, stakeholder interviews, surveys, focus groups).

At various points throughout the presentation, Zoom polls were held. Several of these questions were icebreakers or intended to learn more about participants knowledge of Marina. When asked about the year the City was incorporated, 58% of poll participants correctly answered 1975. When asked about the population size of Marina, 67% correctly answered 21,500.

Additional polls were geared towards learning more about the demographics of meeting attendees.







## Q&A Discussion

The planning team invited participants to ask questions about and provide feedback on the presentation, the project, the proposed engagement strategy, and the topics they find the most important to address in the General Plan. The notes below capture the discussion and the Zoom chat from Workshop #1 Q&A.

### What questions do you have about General Plans or other planning documents?

- How do we go about the Environmental Justice Element? Does the assessment of environmental justice in the General Plan carry any weight for other state entities and agencies' decisions?
  - A: Part of the methodology of the analysis is prescribed by the state but the planning team works with community members of those disadvantaged areas, and the entire city, to

develop policies and programs to address those impacts and concerns. The EJ element does not force other agencies to take certain actions.

- To what degree is the final plan binding for city officials, developers, planners, etc.? How can we as Marina residents be sure that those in power are held accountable for following the plan?
  - A: The GP can't include every topic and idea the community has because we don't know what will happen in the future, it needs to strike a balance between generality and specificity. It does include directional policies that require the City to take certain actions. On accountability, the community engagement portion is critical in forming that shared vision that residents want and can use it to hold their elected officials accountable for following and respecting the General Plan.
- Who can amend the General Plan?
  - A: The City Council can amend the General Plan up to 4 times per year.
- Is the General Plan considering 30/30 Plan or Land Back?
  - A: Great question, do not have an answer at this meeting, but City staff will investigate options.

### What are the most important topics to address in the General Plan and why?

- There is concern about youth access to open space for bettering their mental health. Cities in Europe have a lot of open spaces and parks where youth can engage in eco-therapy. I would like to see our open space better used and would like to see the City and community work together to support community-wide health and wellness.
- How does/will the plan inform and constrain what can be done with the land at the end of Dunes Drive and the area south of Reservation, east of Salinas Ave, north of Sea Haven, and west of Preston Park? Many open spaces, particularly the area at end of Dunes Drive, have been closed off to the public.
  - A: The first area is owned by the regional parks district, so the City is unsure why it was closed. There are some environmental concerns about the second property, which is City-owned, in expanding recreation uses but the City is evaluating it.
- Some low-income veterans are homeless within our community, and it appears that support is needed to address this issue. Homelessness should be incorporated into the General Plan.

### What are the best ways to engage the community in the process?

- A lot of families attend the library "Dads Read" event. It would be a great location for a pop-up workshop.
  - A: The planning team will be tabling at Dads Read in June!
- Monterey Weekly reaches lots of community members and would be a great place to advertise for events and online outreach.
- How do individuals know that their ideas have been recorded?
  - A: The meeting will be recorded and will be referred to as we move forward. Everything produced as part of the project will be publicly available online. All the ideas gathered at engagement events will be used to develop a vision and guiding principles, and the community will have an opportunity to influence their development.
- Who are the General Plan stakeholders?

- A: It is a broad term, everyone involved in the process is a stakeholder. The consultant team works with the City to identify people from who we can gather the bigger picture of Marina - its issues, opportunities, and strengths - to get the planning process started and get the team oriented to the different perspectives in the city.

### Other Chat Comments

- Is the second GPAC meeting open to the public, is it online or via zoom?
  - A: It is open to the public to attend in person but will also be streamed through Zoom.
- What are the plans for public transportation and for water use? Is desalination part of the plan? Will there be a metro line along Hwy 1 to Monterey in the future?
  - A: The General Plan considers decisions that have already been made, such as transportation plans, but it can't control regional transit. The General Plan and the planning team can only provide advice and guidance. The team does have to analyze water sources and understand how that availability will impact future development planning as a part of the process.
- The most important topic is how to engage more people in Marina to participate
- Marina needs a grocery store and gas station near Target.
- Marina needs to work on addressing the traffic on Imjim Parkway