

Marina General Plan Update

Workshop #3: Health and Environmental Justice

Summary Notes

Date: September 26, 2023, 6pm - 8pm

Location: Virtual

Introduction

On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm, the City of Marina hosted the third community workshop to engage the public in the Marina General Plan 2045 update project. The workshop took place virtually via Zoom. Over 20 residents, in addition to staff and consultants, attended the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation services were offered in Spanish and Korean for all who attended. This workshop was the third in a series of seven community workshops that will take place over the course of the General Plan update.

The meeting objectives were as follows:

- Provide background and context on health equity and Environmental Justice (EJ).
- Discuss EJ existing conditions in Marina.
- Identify primary EJ issues and challenges facing Marina.
- Begin to discuss long-term EJ strategies for Marina.

The meeting was generally divided into three parts: 1) a presentation by the consultant team, 2) a question-and-answer portion, and 3) small group discussions.

The presentation began with a formal introduction by Raimi + Associates staff (Matt Raimi and Juan Reynoso). Following the introduction, Matt provided background information on the Marina 2045 including the definition of a General Plan and an overview of the update process. Next, Matt launched interactive polls that asked questions related to attendee's demographics information. Participants anonymously provided their age, ethnic background, if they live and/or work in Marina, tenure in the city, and whether they rent or own their housing unit. Juan then presented background information on health equity and environmental justice, California environmental justice law, and Marina's existing environmental justice conditions.

Following the presentation, attendees split into two groups, each approximately 15 people in size, and discussed the following questions:

1. Are there any additional health, equity, and environmental justice issues in Marina? If so, what are they?

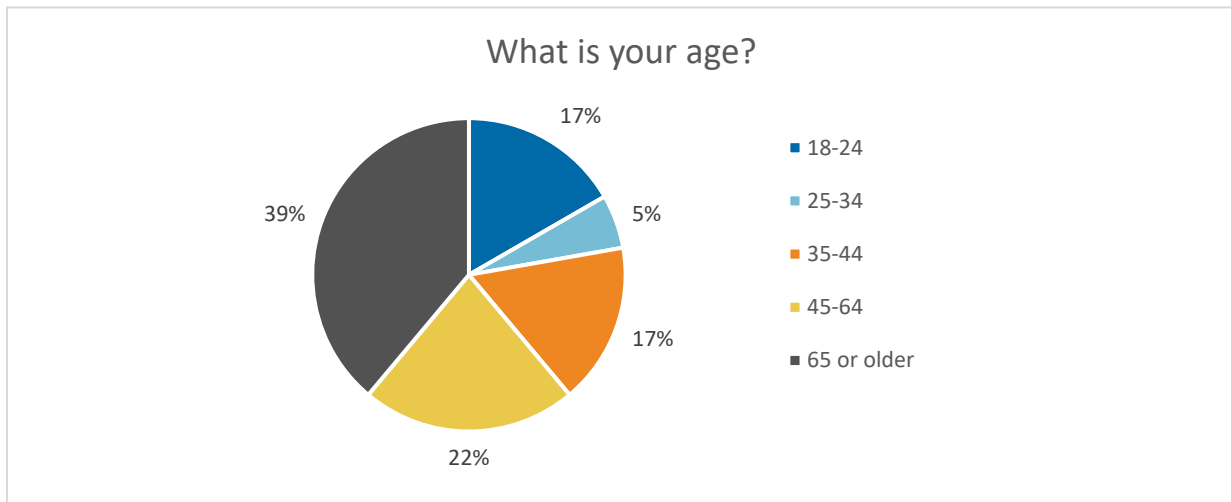
2. Which health, equity and/or EJ issues do you think the City should prioritize as part of the General Plan Update process?
3. What is your vision for a healthy, equitable, and environmentally just community? What “solutions” do you have to the issues?

After a summary of the next steps in the process, the meeting concluded at 8:00 pm. The remainder of this document summarizes the results of the workshop.

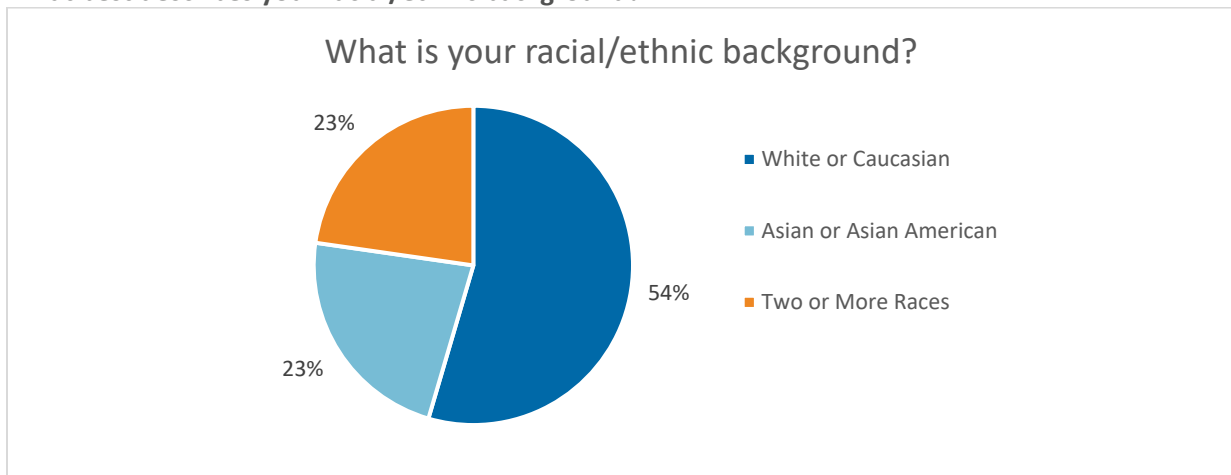
Demographics

The following is a summary of the demographic profile of residents who attended the workshop. This information is used to track participation in the General Plan update process and to target future outreach to underrepresented groups.

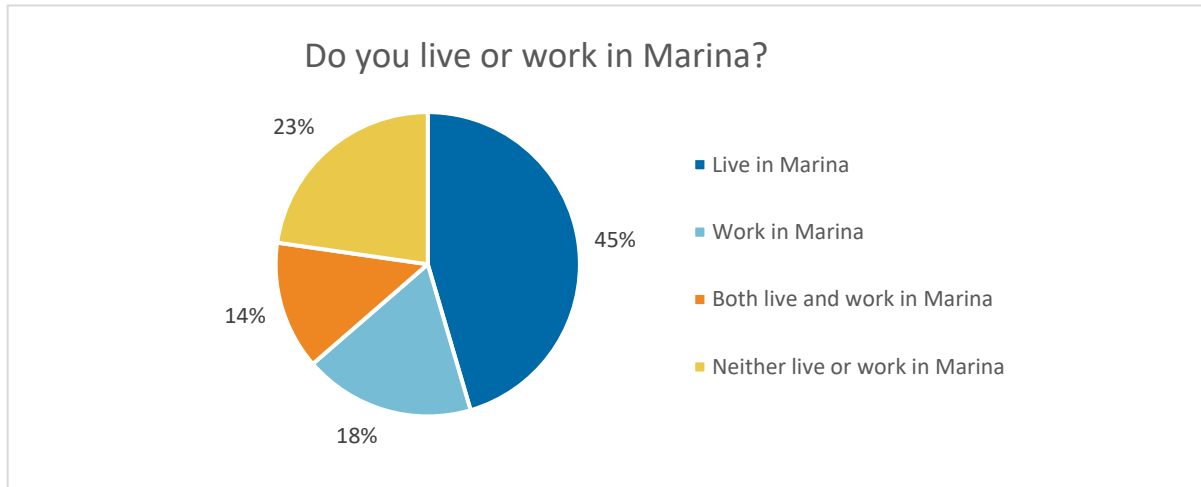
What is your age?



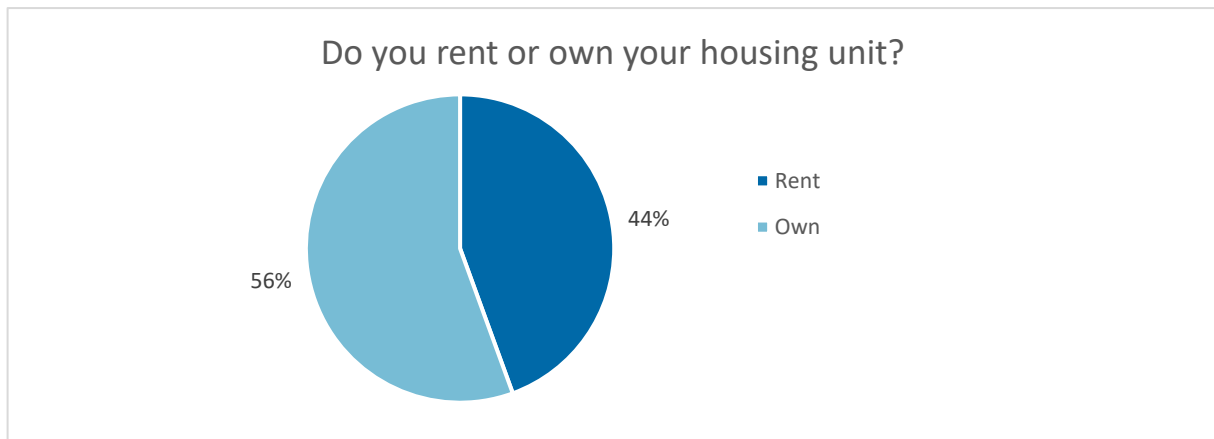
What best describes your racial/ethnic background?



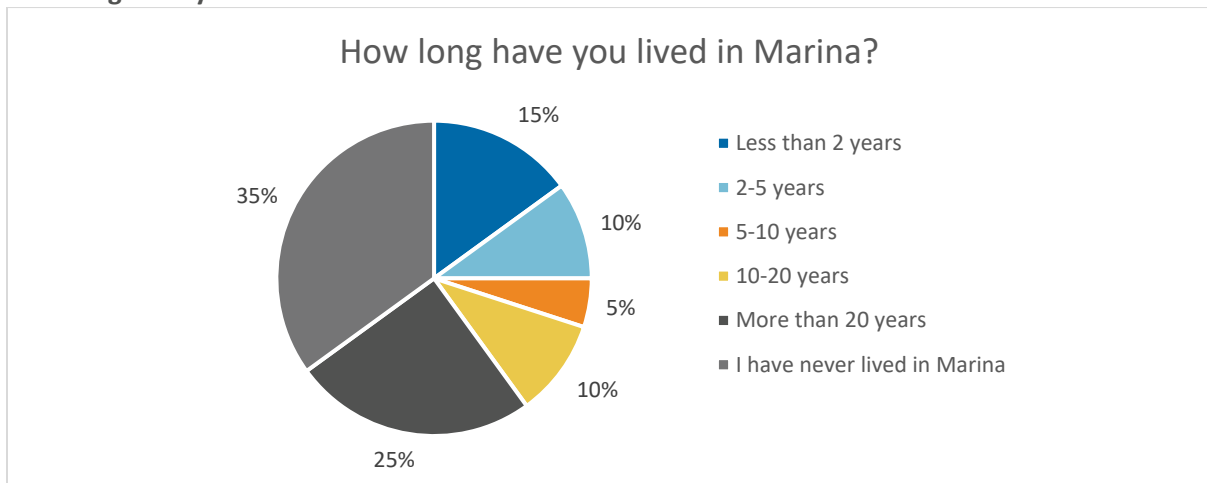
Do you live and work in Marina?



For those who live in Marina, do you rent or own?



How long have you lived in Marina?



Opinions on Key Environmental Justice Issues

Before the section regarding the environmental justice existing conditions of Marina, the presenters asked participants to share their thoughts on the following question in the chat box: “What do you think are the key health, equity and environmental justice issues in Marina?”. The following are the ideas entered into the chat by participants:

- Good, high-paying jobs
- Water supply
- Fort Ord cleanup, hazards, and water contamination
- Equity/diversity through housing
- Dump and its proximity to town
- Affordable housing
- Food access/equity
- Childcare
- Neighboring cities in Monterey County regard Marina as a dumping place while they show NIMBY (not in my backyard) attitudes
- Shoreline erosion from Cemex sand mining

Small Group Activity Results

The following is a summary of the results of the small group discussions, organized by discussion question.

Are there any additional health, equity, and environmental justice issues in Marina? If so, what?

- Pollution
 - Sewage plant and all the waste coming from the northern facilities
 - Trash dumping impacting the water supply
 - Water pollution issues from various activities in the area
 - Concerned about the pesticide use in the area and associated cancer rates
 - Bad smell after rain and the dump in the area – Methane plume
 - Congestion and noise from PCH 1 due to new development
 - Noise wall or trees would be good to mitigate impacts
 - Desalination facility
 - Highlight if Marina carries a disproportionate pollution burden compared to the region
 - Explore opportunities to stop other communities trying to use Marina as a place to dump their pollution
 - What verbiage can be used in the General Plan to protect Marina residents?
- Housing
 - Low-income and affordable housing with early childhood development in mind when designing development
 - Housing for low- and middle-income households

- Increasing the low-income housing development and funding process
- Childcare
 - Equitable access to high quality, affordable childcare
 - Child development centers
- Active transportation and active lifestyles
 - Accessible walkways to schools
 - Bad sidewalk infrastructure in Marina currently
 - Traffic is fast leaving to safety concerns for active transportation
 - Create accessible activities for children of various ages
- Health Outcomes
 - Asthma rates in the City are high, but the pollution rates seem low. Advised to investigate further.
 - Higher rates of depression in Marina and connection to fog
 - Explore opportunities for health clinics can look and track rates of vitamin D.
 - Conducting a longitudinal study of the health of those who are living in other areas compared to Marina to solidify background and ground findings
- Food access
 - Food access through SNAP eligibility versus enrollment
 - Zone for food access through interventions like community gardens and urban agriculture
 - Explore opportunities to incubate food entrepreneurship for economic development
 - Exploring opportunities to support mom and pop shops, mobile businesses, and community kitchens
 - Putting limits on fast food chains
 - Explore other opportunities in the city to access food
 - Corner stores to sell California grown produce
 - Potential to increase space at local farmer's market
 - Increasing language accessibility that reflects the diverse language of Marina that goes beyond the current customer base
 - Cooking education for residents and simple diet changes to make
 - Potentially partnering with CSUMB students and Blue Zones
 - Increase outreach regarding free food distribution at the library
- Tobacco use
 - Smoking and lack of tobacco control
 - Add tobacco control language and policy language in general plan
- History and Equity
 - Need for equitable treatment for residents in Marina
 - Give historical context to the environmental issues and racial disparities

- Miscellaneous comments
 - Not all regional facilities listed in the presentation, add all the regional facilities in the area
 - How do we get marginalized communities excited about the general plan update process?
 - Is Marina considered “weak” due to multicultural population and historical implications?

Which health, equity and/or EJ issues do you think the City should prioritize as part of the General Plan Update process?

- Historical background information on residents
 - Was there historical racism that impacted the development of the City?
 - Check with the County’s historical society for more information
 - Community annexed when the military base was built
 - Those of diverse backgrounds were “sent to live” in Marina
- Facilities that address the full lifespan of child development
- Tobacco language and background on impacts from tobacco exposure
- Healthcare access through ordinances and zoning
- Limit the negative health outcomes through ordinances on industries like tobacco use
- Comparison of health outcomes of multiple cities in the area
- Dump / waste disposal
- Water pollution from the pesticides and waste facility
- Pesticide use
- Noise pollution
- Cancer rates in Marina

What’s your vision for a healthy, equitable, and environmentally just community? What “solutions” do you have to the issues?

- Conduct an analysis of the impacts to Marina residents from regional facilities that are located in or near the City; find ways to move facilities to other regions to avoid pollution burden for Marina residents
- Noise wall and green infrastructure to combat pollution and noise from the freeway
- Promote organic farming to reduce exposure to pesticides for Marina residents (Note that the strawberry fields in north Marina largest in the world)
- Create a safe walking experience on Imjin Parkway; improve traffic signal especially coming out of Sea Haven
- Eliminate common allergens from the City’s approved tree list to decrease asthma
- Require building orientation for maximum sun exposure to combat depression
- Traffic calming to increase regional walkability
- Burying the electric cables in Marina to minimize impacts from storms and to improve aesthetics