



Feedback from Community Meeting and Town Council/Planning Commission Study Session

November 15, 2021

Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee

Town of Portola Valley



Community Engagement Update

Community Meeting

- First community-wide meeting held on October 14, 2021
- ~ 70 participants
- Topic: Introduction to Housing Element and feedback on four questions
- Six breakout rooms of 10-12 participants; 30 mins of discussion



Community Meeting Summary

- Wide-ranging opinions
- Common themes:
 - Housing for people who work in the town (teachers, fire fighters, Town employees, Sequoias staff etc.)
 - Housing for the elderly and those with special needs
 - Diversity of housing choices and affordability levels to meet range of needs



Community Meeting Summary

- Common themes:
 - Fire safety – concerns about evacuation with increased population
 - Objection to State dictating Town's housing interests
 - Impact of ADUs (past and future) on RHNA and streamlining permitting process
 - Improving existing Town infrastructure and public transportation



Community Meeting Summary

- Common themes:
 - Maintain Town's rural character and open spaces; new housing that blends in
 - Multifamily housing along main corridors Alpine and Portola roads
 - Affordable housing units located along main roads, proximate to shops and services



Committee Member Feedback

Several members attended community meeting:

1. Impressions of meeting format, community feedback?
2. Suggestions for future meetings



Town Council/Planning Commission Joint Meeting: Discussion Questions

- What are some of the Town's key housing needs and challenges?
- What policies and programs have the most promise to meet the Town's housing needs?
- Would you rather see new units (aside from ADUs) spread throughout the Town or fewer projects in more concentrated locations?
- Imagine it's the year 2031. What does success look like with this Housing Element update? What words describe the housing in your community now?



Town Council/Planning Commission Joint Meeting

Council and Planning Commission
Representatives to the Committee attended
– feedback for the Committee?

