



San José's New Distinctive Neighborhood Program

San José residents will have the opportunity to provide input on a new city policy that is being developed by the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement. Funding was approved for the development of a "Distinctive Neighborhood Program" that would add further protection and enhancement to San José's unique residential neighborhoods.

The goal of the Distinctive Neighborhood Program is to define the characteristics of distinct neighborhoods based on input from the community, review existing protections and propose potential revised and/or new protection policies.

A total of five community outreach meetings have been scheduled throughout the city where residents are encouraged to explore questions such as "What changes to the neighborhood would adversely affect its character?" and "Should policy be city-wide or neighborhood specific?" During these public meetings, residents are guided through a comprehensive slide presentation that explores existing permitting processes, case studies from other cities, examples of potential distinct neighborhoods and potential policy options. To view the Distinctive Neighborhood Program outreach presentation click here: http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/distinctive_neighborhood/.

Three public meetings have already been held and the next community meeting will be held in District 1 from 6 – 8 p.m., tonight, Monday, December 1, at the West Valley Branch Library. I encourage you to take this opportunity to provide input on a new city policy that could affect your own neighborhood. If you cannot attend tonight's meeting, the final outreach meeting will be held from 6 – 8 p.m., Thursday, December 4, at the Vineland Branch Library (1450 Blossom Hill Rd.).

Our city administration plans to report the results of their initial community outreach to the City Council in January of next year. Once they evaluate all of the various policy options they will conduct additional public outreach to present their options and recommendations to the community. Final recommendations will be heard by the City Council in June 2009. To get involved with the process and receive updates please subscribe by clicking here: http://www.sanjoseca.gov/development/subscription/email_updates.asp.