

The City held two public workshops on April 2, 2009 at two different times. This was done to assure that anyone interested in attending would be able to do so. The first workshop was held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the second workshop was held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Both workshops were held at Lathrop City Hall which is accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. Notification of this workshop was provided in both English and Spanish. Additionally, a Spanish language interpreter was available to assist residents in understanding the purposes of the workshop and to relay their input.

The businesses and organizations invited by the City included public service providers, churches, mobile home park owners and managers, developers, apartment managers, and non-profit housing advocates. These groups were notified to attend the workshop through a direct mailing sent March 16, 2009. The public was notified of the workshops through the publication of notices in the Tri-Valley Herald, the Sun Post, and The Lathrop Rush. The public workshop notice was also posted at City Hall one week prior to the workshop and the City posted the notice on the City's website.

In addition to the public notice, the City of Lathrop also placed a large notice "ad" in the Lathrop Rush encouraging citizens, service providers, and interested parties to attend the April 2, 2009 public workshops. At the first public workshop the manager of one of the City's largest mobile home parks stated that she copied both the English and Spanish public workshop notices and gave them to all of residents in the mobile home park.

The public workshops were attended by City of Lathrop residents, the real estate community, a media representative, mobile home park manager, and City staff. These workshops were conducted early in the Housing Element process to find out from the community and housing advocates what their concerns are, share ideas on housing types, and discuss preliminary findings.

Summary comments from the City's April 2, 2009 public workshops included:

- Senior citizens need more housing opportunities.
- There needs to be assisted living housing for senior citizens so they can stay in Lathrop.
- The City needs some nice apartments.
- The City needs more apartments.
- The City needs to investigate lowering the Mello Roos bonds so the property tax bills are not so high.
- The City needs more mobile home parks.
- There has been an increase in families moving into the mobile home parks because they lost their homes in Lathrop due to foreclosures.
- Foreclosures are a big problem in the City.
- There are entire blocks of empty homes.
- Homes used to sell for over \$400,000 and are now selling for \$100,000.
- The City needs to look forward and plan to be different than just a city of suburbs.
- Harlan Road needs work.
- Investors are buying homes and renting them out.
- Can the City get funds from the Housing Authority to help with foreclosures?
- Can the City get funds from Community Development Block Grants to help with foreclosures?
- The mobile home parks provide affordable housing for low income seniors and families and they should be counted as providing this type of housing.