

Letter to the Editor
The Herald
The Californian
The Monterey County Weekly

Dear Editor:

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula are concerned that the Planning Commission hearing process for the County's General Plan Update discourages public participation. People who want to comment on the draft must sit through hours of laborious discussion by the Planning Commission before they can comment. The Commission received public comments at 4:00 p.m. on August 16 – three hours into the hearing process. Then the Commission limited comments to the Land Use section, only one of numerous sections.

Many people have spent time reviewing the plan so they could make informed comments to the Planning Commission. It is reasonable to expect the Commission to consider these comments before beginning their own deliberations. It was not clear how the public comments made after these deliberations would be incorporated into the decision-making process.

The Planning Commission should adopt a process that is more supportive of public participation in the process.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Maxner
President
LWV/MP

MaryEllen Dick
President
LWV/SV