

Chapter 2 – Public Participation

1.0 Overview

Public participation is an important part of developing the City’s Housing Element. The information obtained through public meetings, surveys, and stakeholder interviews provide insight to the true needs of the community. Through the public participation process, the City can identify what issues and obstacles people may be experiencing when trying to find housing. As part of the Housing Element update process, the City implemented the State’s public participation requirements in Housing Element Law, set forth in Government Code Section 65583(c)(7), that jurisdictions “...shall make a diligent effort to achieve participation of all economic segments of the community in the development of the housing element.”

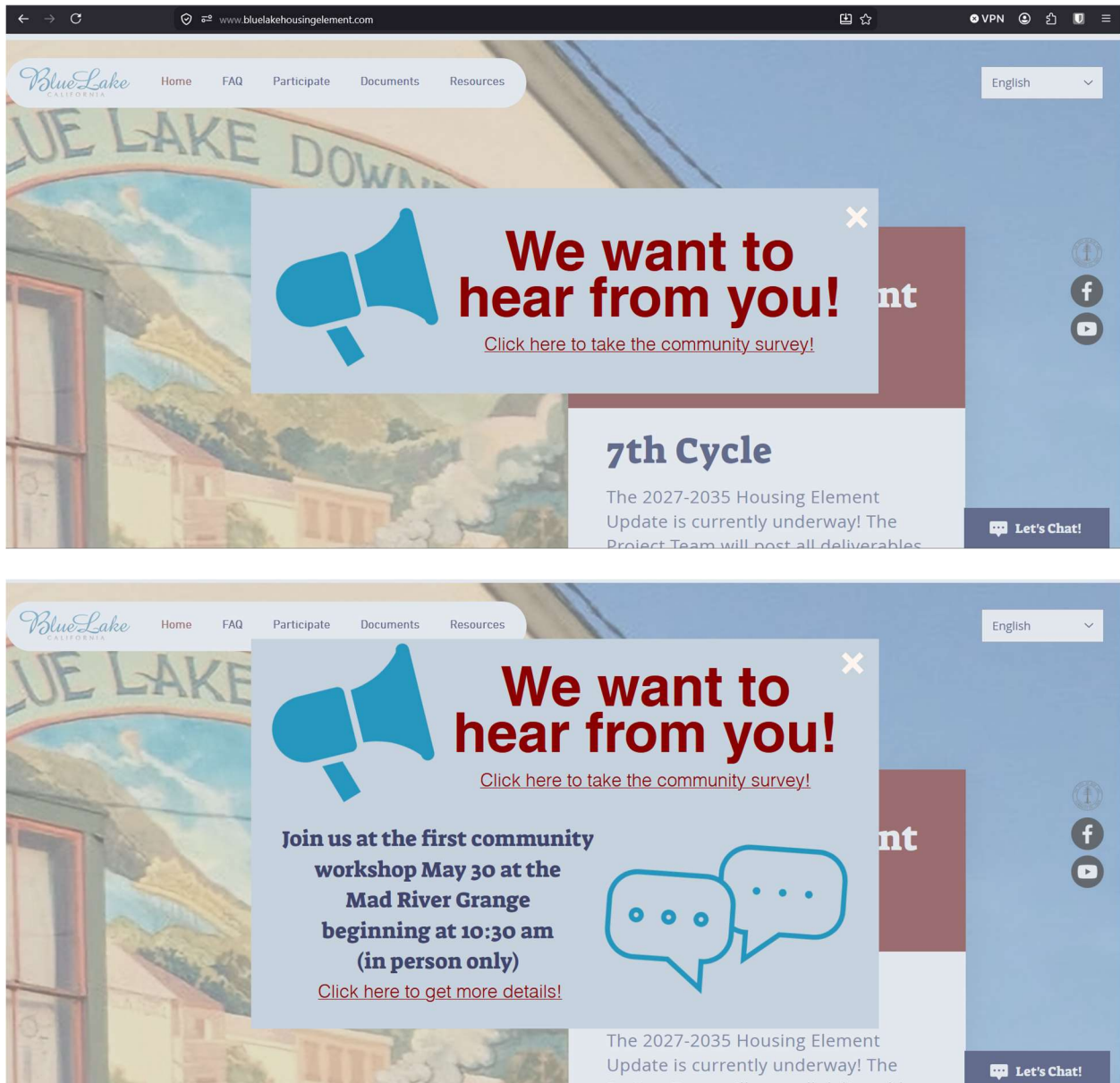
The Housing Element was developed through the combined efforts of City staff, the City Council and the City’s consultant. The inclusion of community stakeholders in the Housing Element public participation process helps ensure appropriate housing strategies are more efficiently and effectively evaluated, developed, and implemented. In an effort to involve all segments of the community, City staff and consultants developed a community outreach program including announcements on the City website, interviews, opportunity for housing element review and input at public workshops, a City Council study session, and public hearings. Public participation played a critical role in the formulation and refinement of the City’s housing goals, policies, and programs. Public comments received during public meetings and workshops, as part of the community surveys, and as written correspondence submitted to the City have been reviewed and are included in Appendix A. Received input that relates directly and is consistent with State housing element law and HCD requirements has been incorporated. The City’s outreach and engagement efforts are described below.

2.0 Website

The City created and maintained a dedicated website during the preparation and review of the Housing Element. This website provided easy access to information about the Housing Element, including general information about housing elements and details about workshops and other engagement opportunities. Project documents were posted to the website and comments were encouraged through the provided "Write us" and "Let’s chat" buttons on each page. A "Sign up for updates" button on the website allowed residents to sign up for the email list. Additionally, the website was hosted with Wix which allowed for the website to be translated into Spanish by clicking a drop down menu in the upper right hand corner of every page. Translations were reviewed and portions of the website were retranslated using the Google Translate tool into Spanish to ensure accurate correct technical term translation. The website had persistent and visible links to the City’s website, Facebook, and YouTube channel on every page.

This webpage provided easy access to project documents including Housing Element information. The website was also used to provide resources, FAQ, meeting presentations, survey link and results, and ability to submit comments and sign up for notices through the contact form. During the survey solicitation process the survey link appeared as a popup on the homepage. The popup feature was also used for notifying the public of the community workshop.

Figure 1 - Website Announcements



3.0 Social Media

Facebook. The City has a Facebook page to share City updates and public notices, including City Council agendas. The City also has a YouTube channel with recordings of City Council Meetings. The Facebook page is updated to periodically post links to the YouTube recordings. The Facebook page was utilized to announce the survey in Spanish and in English. The City's Facebook post was also reposted to other Blue Lake-related Facebook pages, such as "Molly the Resource Lady" (the personal page of the Blue Lake Family Resource Center manager) and an unaffiliated local page called "Blue Lake Community News, Events and Information (299)". Social media users who expressed concerns about housing issues in Blue Lake on this page were considered for one-on-one interviews.

Figure 2 – Community Survey Announcement Shared on Facebook



4.0 Community Survey

Community Survey: From April 7, 2026, until June 12, 2026, an anonymous community survey in English and Spanish was released to solicit input on housing needs and concerns. The survey was made available online using a platform, SurveyMonkey™ that is optimized for mobile devices. Paper copies of the survey were also available at City Hall and at the Blue Lake Family Resource Center. The City published regular reminders on their website, and Facebook page to encourage community participation. A sticker with the survey's URL and QR code was also attached to the May 1st water bill that is mailed to all City of Blue Lake customers (See Figure 3).

Figure 3 – Survey Information Attached to Water bill



A total of 50 surveys were completed. All economic segments of the community, including lower-income households, participated in the community survey, with approximately 19 respondents reporting their household incomes under \$60,000. The complete results are

contained in Appendix A. The survey questions were designed to better understand the housing experiences of residents. The responses to key questions are summarized below.

QUESTION 8: FROM THE FOLLOWING, CHOOSE THE ONE THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION?

Results. Forty-eight respondents answered this question. The majority of respondents (32) own their home. A near equal number of renters and homeowners with mortgages took the survey (14 and 13, respectively). The responses to Question 8 are tabulated in Table 2-1. Three respondents described their living situations as follows:

- Homeowner
- Live with family
- Live in family home

Table 2-1 – Question 8 Responses Summarized

Tenure	Count
Homeowner without a mortgage	19
Renter	14
Homeowner with a mortgage	13
Other (please specify)	2
Live in someone else's house/rental unit paying rent but I'm not on the lease	1
Total	48

Response. Most respondents own their home (32), and of those, most (19) do not have a mortgage. This indicates many survey respondents are likely to be long-term residents of Blue Lake and is consistent with the results of Q9 (below).

QUESTION 9: HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN YOUR CURRENT HOME?

Results. Fifty respondents answered this question. Almost half of the respondents have lived in their home for more than 15 years. The responses to Question 9 are tabulated in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 – Question 9 Responses Summarized

Years in Home:	
Average	18 years
Median	14.5 years
Min.	1 year
Max.	45 years
How long have you lived in your current home?	Count
In home 5 years or less	8

Years in Home:	
In home 6 to 15 years	18
In home greater than 15 years	24

Response. Consistent with Q8, the results indicate that many respondents are long-term residents of Blue Lake. Together, the results of Q8 and Q9 may suggest that residents have a wide range of housing cost experiences.

QUESTION 10: DOES YOUR CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION MEET YOUR NEEDS?

Results. Fifty respondents answered this question, and about 70% said their current housing situation meets their needs. The responses to Question 10 are tabulated in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3 – Responses Summarized

Does your current housing situation meet your needs?	Count
Yes, completely. I have no complaints.	35
Yes, somewhat. But I have complaints.	13
Not at all. I have complaints.	2
Total	50

Response. A majority of respondents (35) are satisfied with their current housing situation; however, 15 respondents (43%) are not. For those who are not satisfied with their current housing situation, Q11 that follows gives respondents an to share their experience.

QUESTION 11: IF YOUR CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION DOESN'T MEET YOUR NEEDS, WHAT ARE THE REASONS? (check all that apply)

Results. Question 11 gave respondents who answered Q10 either “Yes, somewhat. But I have complaints” or “Not at all. I have complaints” an opportunity to share the nature of their housing issues by selecting from a range of prompts and/or writing a long-form response. The responses to Question 11 are tabulated in Table 2-4. Twenty-six respondents answered this follow-up question to Question 10, of which 23 answered “none of the above”. Twelve respondents selected “Other, please specify” and provided long-form written responses, which are summarized in Table 2-5. Fourteen respondents chose responses from the list.

Among respondents who are somewhat or not at all satisfied with their current housing situation high housing costs are a common theme. This theme shows up directly in the selection of “the cost of heating or electricity for my home”, and some of the long-form responses in Table 2-5. The high housing cost theme is inferred from those who desire to own a home rather than rent; the respondent whose home is in need of major repairs; a respondent

who is having difficulty accessing high-speed internet or cell signal; and in some of the long-form responses in Table 2-5.

Table 2-4 – Question 11 Responses Summarized

Housing Issue (selected from the list prompts)	Count
None of the above	23
Other (please specify)	12
I am currently renting, but would like to own a home	3
I can't afford the cost of heating or electricity for my home	3
My home is too big	2
I have no privacy	2
My home is too small	1
My home needs major repairs	1
I feel unsafe	1
I have difficulty accessing high-speed internet or cell signal	1
My home is not affordable	0
My home is overcrowded	0
I don't have reliable access to heating or electricity	0
My home is unsuitable or inaccessible for my physical needs	0
I only have temporary housing (6 months or less)	0
Total	26

Table 2-5 – Question 11 Analysis of “Other, please specify” Long-Form Responses

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
Space & Privacy Constraints	Frustrated / Cramped	Several respondents cite inadequate space—whether too small overall, lacking yard space, no storage, or living too close to neighbors in multi-unit housing.	4	"Too small. Not affordable. Heat unaffordable. Renting/would rather own. No privacy."	"Close neighbors (4 plex), no yard"
Affordability & Cost Burdens	Strained / Concerned	Housing costs—including rent, heating expenses, and the gap between renting and owning—create financial strain for some residents.	2	"Too small. Not affordable. Heat unaffordable. Renting/would rather own."	"Could use more storage and yard space" (implied cost barrier to upgrading)
Social Isolation & Housing Condition	Lonely / Concerned	Some residents face emotional challenges (isolation) or physical housing issues (major repairs needed) that affect quality of life.	2	"It's lonely."	"This does not allow multiple answers - too small, needs major repairs"
Independence & Life Stage Transition	Eager / Ready	Younger residents living with family express readiness to transition to independent housing but face barriers to doing so.	1	"I would love to live away from parents, ready to have my own apartment"	(Single response in this theme)

Response. The City included a variety of programs responding to these issues, including programs to encourage affordable rental housing, the maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock, programs that provide assistance to homebuyers, encourage special needs housing, and provide information on fair housing rights and responsibilities.

QUESTION 14: WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED WHEN LOOKING FOR QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BLUE LAKE? (check all that apply)

QUESTION 15: WHAT CHALLENGES MIGHT OTHERS FACE TRYING TO FIND A HOME IF THEY WANT TO MOVE INTO BLUE LAKE OR CHANGE HOUSING SITUATIONS WITHIN BLUE LAKE?

Results. Q14 and Q15 asked a similar question from different perspectives. Q14 was a multiple-choice question, and Q15 was an open-ended question asking respondents to share their perspectives. Table 2-6 and Table 2-7 summarize the responses to Q14. Table 2-8 summarizes the responses to Q15.

Fifty respondents completed Q14. This was a multi-choice question, and Table 2-6 summarizes the results. Twenty-three respondents selected “Other, please specify” and provided long-form written responses, which are analyzed and summarized in Table 2-7. The 48 responses to Q15 are analyzed and summarized in Table 2-8.

While many Q14 respondents did not personally face housing challenges, some respondents recognized that others in the community, especially those seeking affordable housing, do struggle. The responses to these two questions share common themes: housing costs for both rental and purchase are high, and overall supply is low. Workforce housing and housing for young families is not affordable. Some respondents note that a personal connection is essential to finding housing in Blue Lake, suggesting little to low housing mobility. Some Q15 respondents also mention condition issues with the housing stock and with landlords.

Table 2-6 – Question 14 Responses Summarized

Housing Challenges (selected from the list of prompts)	Counts
Other (please specify)	23
Cost of rent	17
Few options for rental units	17
Few options for units for-sale	16
I cannot find a home within my price range	13
Cost of mortgage payment	10
I do not have the funds for a down payment	7
Cost of fire insurance/inability to secure insurance	5
I don't have funds for up-front rental deposits	4
My income does not qualify me for a mortgage or rental	3
Lack units suitable for my physical needs/lack of ADA accessible units	2
Discrimination by landlords	1
Cost of fire insurance	0

Table 2-7 – Question 14 Analysis of “Other, please specify” Long-Form Responses

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
No Personal Challenges	Satisfied / Reflective	The majority of respondents report no housing challenges, typically because they are long-term homeowners who purchased years ago when conditions were different.	14	"no significant challenge in 1981"	"N/A, lived here too long and have high income"
Recognition of Others' Struggles	Empathetic / Concerned	Some homeowners note that while they personally don't face challenges, they recognize that others, especially those seeking affordable housing, do struggle.	3	"I own my house but others need to find affordable housing in Blue Lake."	"this is according to friends--not myself"
Market Conditions & Housing Stock	Frustrated / Observant	Those who cited specific challenges mention overpriced sales (above appraised value) and aging housing stock as barriers.	1	"Houses selling above appraised value; housing stock is old."	(Single response in this theme)
Pet Ownership Barriers	Disappointed / Practical	Pet owners face additional challenges finding housing, as many landlords restrict or prohibit dogs.	1	"It's hard for people with dogs"	(Single response in this theme)
Property Tax Burden	Concerned / Financial	Property taxes were cited as a housing-related financial challenge for at least one homeowner.	1	"Taxes"	(Single response in this theme)

Q15 was a qualitative question asking respondents to describe the types of challenges others may face trying to find a home in Blue Lake or to change their housing situation within Blue Lake. ?” Table 2-8 summarizes and analyzes the responses provided.

Table 2-8 – Question 15 Analysis of the Responses

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
High Cost & Affordability Crisis	Frustrated / Alarmed	Housing prices, both rental and purchase, have soared beyond what most residents can afford, with prices rising far faster than wages and creating financial strain for renters and would-be buyers alike.	33	"Prices are way too high; rental units are generally old and outdated but rent at high prices due to the lack of units on the market. There are several predatory landlords that own a number of the rental units; they collude on pricing to keep rents high and unit improvements minimal."	"Inflation has far surpassed my initial rent. I live on my pension and social security. Now thanks to Trump, if my landlord raises the rent by even \$200 I will become homeless."
Extremely Limited Housing Supply	Resigned / Concerned	There is simply very little housing available in Blue Lake, few units on the market, limited rental options, and no room to build except ADUs, making it nearly impossible to find anything.	20	"There's just nothing available."	"Very few places available"
Landlord Practices & Rental Conditions	Angry / Vulnerable	Renters face predatory landlords who raise rents without making repairs, impose unrealistic income requirements, and prioritize profit over tenant wellbeing.	6	"greedy landlords that just want your money and care little of repairs or upkeep but have no remorse continuously upping the rent."	"Three times rent as income qualifier for rentals is too much"
Hidden Costs & Infrastructure Gaps	Practical / Overwhelmed	Beyond housing costs, residents face high utility bills, the need for a car, and the lack of services,	3	"Taxes"	"Lack of inventory; cost of water, sewer, garbage; cost of

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
		which add significant expenses that make Blue Lake less affordable than it appears.			transportation to get to job, grocery, medical."
Exclusivity & Structural Barriers	Critical / Observant	Finding housing often requires insider connections, while outside cash buyers (from the Bay Area) and an aging homeowner population create barriers that exclude young families and newcomers.	3	"impossible to find an in, you have to know someone"	"High income cash buyers (from Bay Area) taking available. No rentals, a population that does not want young people."

Response. The City included a variety of programs responding to these issues, including programs to encourage affordable rental housing, programs that provide assistance to homebuyers, encourage special needs housing, and provide information on fair housing rights and responsibilities.

QUESTION 16: WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST NEEDED TYPES OF HOUSING IN BLUE LAKE? YOU CAN CHOOSE AS MANY AS YOU THINK ARE NEEDED? (you can choose as many as you think are needed)

Results. Forty-eight of 50 survey respondents (or 96%) completed Q16, a multiple-choice question, and the results are summarized in Table 2-9. While the survey provided an “Other (please specify)” option, no respondents provided a long-form answer. The top responses to Q16 are consistent with the answers to Q14 and Q15. From the range of prompts given in Q16, respondents most agreed that the most needed housing types were “affordable rental options” (33), “more housing to buy” (28), and workforce housing” (22). These top three are followed by “ADUs” (19), “senior housing” (18), and “housing of any type, we just need more homes” (18).

Table 2-9 – Question 16 Responses Summarized

Housing Types (selected from the list prompts)	Counts
Affordable rental options	33
More housing to buy	28
Workforce housing. Workforce housing is intended for households that earn too much to qualify for traditional subsidized affordable housing, but market prices and rents are unaffordable. [The question provides the annual gross household income ranges for workforce housing.]	22
Accessory dwelling units (sometimes called ADUs, granny flats, second units)	19
Senior housing	18
Housing of any type, we just need more homes!	18
Mixed-use developments that combine commercial and residential homes	16
Housing that is accessible for people with physical disabilities	14
Supportive housing for persons with special needs, this could include persons with developmental disabilities	11
Housing for large families	11
Stationary tiny homes	11
Manufactured homes	9
RVs, trailers, and tiny homes on wheels	7
Temporary or short-term housing for people who do not have a home or need to suddenly leave their home or household situation	2

Response. As mentioned above, the City included a variety of programs responding to these issues, including programs to encourage affordable rental housing, programs that provide assistance to homebuyers, encourage special needs housing, and provide information on fair housing rights and responsibilities, and programs to facilitate ADU and JADU, and improving the visibility of ADUs as a housing options.

QUESTION 21: WHAT ARE TWO THINGS YOU LOVE ABOUT LIVING IN BLUE LAKE?

QUESTION 22: WHAT ARE TWO THINGS THAT BLUE LAKE DOES NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDE?**QUESTION 23: IF YOU HAD A MAGIC WAND, WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT HOUSING IN BLUE LAKE IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS?**

Results. This series of questions sought input from respondents on Blue Lake’s community assets, potential gaps and unmet needs, and future priorities, while also providing an opportunity for non-housing-specific input. The results of Q21 are summarized in Figure 4 and Table 2-10; Q22 responses are summarized in Figure 5 and Table 2-11; and Table 2-11 provides an summary and analysis of responses to Q23.

As shown in Figure 4, Blue Lake’s weather and climate, the community, and its people, were the most common themes in responses to Q21. The most common community needs cited in the responses to Q22 were for a local grocery store, and restaurant/dining options as illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 4 – Question 21 part 1 Summary of Responses

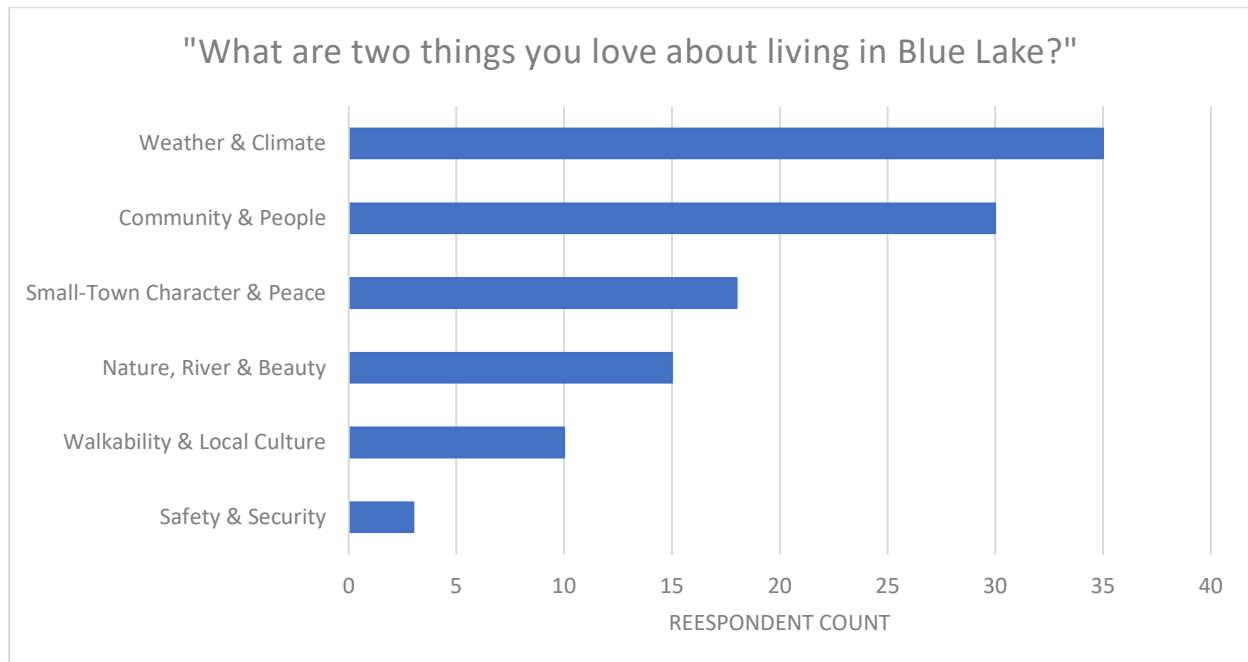


Figure 5 – Question 21 part 2 Summary of Responses

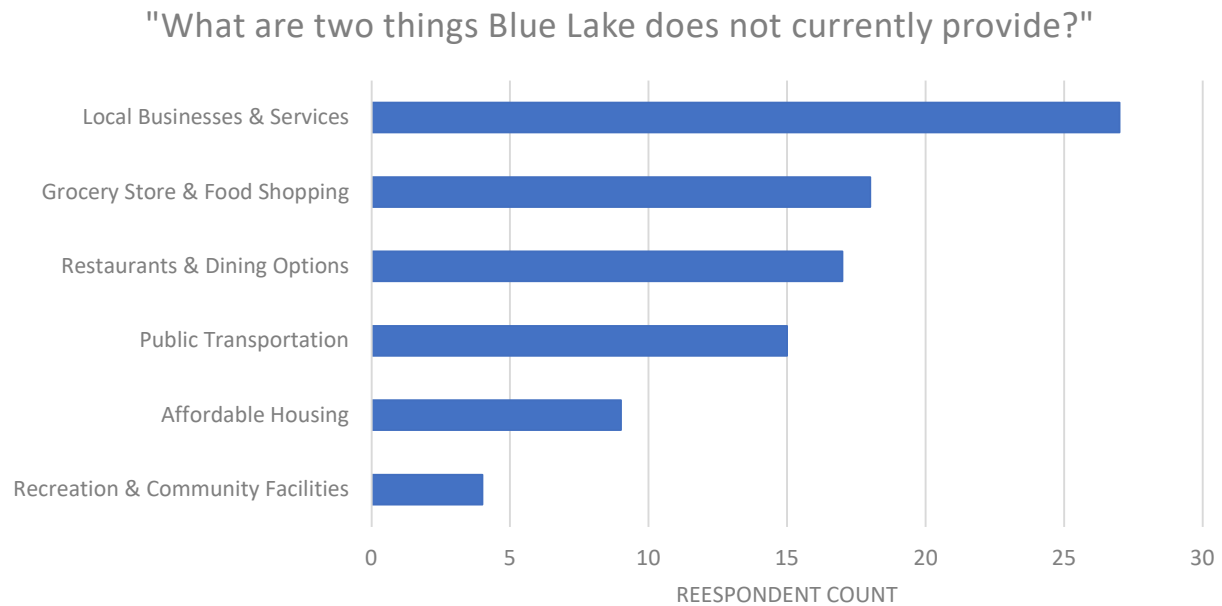


Figure 6 – Question 22 Summary of Responses

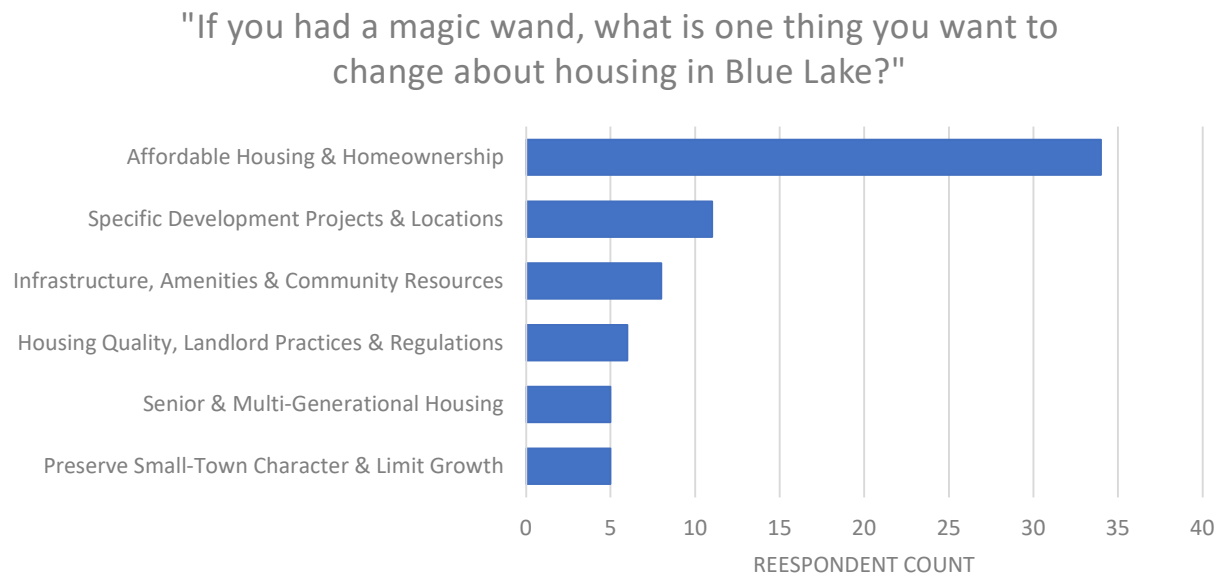


Table 2-10 – Question 21 part 1 Analysis of the Responses to "What are two things you love about living in Blue Lake?"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
Weather & Climate	Delighted / Grateful	Blue Lake's sunny, warm climate is the most frequently cited reason residents love living there—the sun literally "adds to happiness" and distinguishes it from foggy coastal areas.	35	"Quiet at night!! The sun really makes a difference - it adds to my happiness!"	"THE LAND & THE SUN"
Community & People	Warm / Connected	Residents deeply value their friendly, close-knit community—knowing neighbors, volunteering together, and feeling a strong sense of belonging and mutual support.	30	"I love the small community (knowing my neighbors and going to community events). I love the public parks and land that I have within walking distance of my house."	"Volunteers at local organizations and everyone who shows kindness to others."
Small-Town Character & Peace	Appreciative / Protective	The quiet, peaceful, small-town atmosphere—away from mainstream hustle, low traffic, and feeling "out of the main stream"—is cherished as a core part of Blue Lake's identity.	18	"The Beauty that surrounds us every morning you wake up, peaceful, quite, out of the main stream."	"The scale of the town (not sprawling, walkable, residential oriented) and the open space surrounding the town (forest, agricultural land,

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
					riverine habitat)."
Nature, River & Beauty	Joyful / Grounded	Access to the river, forests, natural beauty, gardens, and the surrounding landscape provides residents with daily connection to the outdoors and a beautiful living environment.	15	"Small town sense of community. River, forests, easy access to the natural world."	"Walking to the river and the people"
Walkability & Local Culture	Engaged / Proud	Residents love being able to walk to trails, parks, the river, local venues like Dell'Arte theater, the Logger Bar, and community events—creating a vibrant, accessible lifestyle.	10	"I love being able to walk my dogs to the river and then walk to the Logger or tap room with them. I love having live theater walking distance to my house @ Dell'Arte"	"Community events, weather, inclusive neighbors. River access, cultural events: da, logger, brewery"
Safety & Security	Reassured / Grateful	Residents appreciate feeling safe in Blue Lake—low crime, the ability to leave doors unlocked, and a secure environment for children.	3	"Community and safety are incredible. Also very clean!!!"	"I loved the small town safety for my kids."

Analysis of 50 responses from Blue Lake Housing Element Survey

Note: Respondents were asked for two things they love. Most responses mentioned multiple themes. Weather + Community was the most common pairing (appeared in 20+ responses together).

Table 2-11 – Question 21 part 2 Analysis of the Responses to "What are two things Blue Lake does not currently provide?"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
Local Businesses & Services	Longing / Pragmatic	Residents miss having local shops, banking, employment opportunities, and services—noting that the small population and lack of drive-by traffic make it hard for businesses to survive.	27	"Does not provide work, any small businesses, or a small grocery shop. I wish there was a small grocery stop that wasn't the gas station."	"fully connected bike path to arcata and more small, local brick and mortar shops (e.g. outdoor store, farm stand, etc.)"
Grocery Store / Food Shopping	Frustrated / Urgent	The lack of a local grocery store is the most frequently cited gap—residents must drive out of town for basic food shopping, creating hardship especially for those without cars or on limited budgets.	18	"Just two...Blue Lake is lacking so many things that it used to have...We don't have access to groceries and have extremely limited food options. There is no retail or	"The ability to not have a car, there's no grocery store for example"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
				small shops to support."	
Restaurants & Dining Options	Disappointed / Hopeful	Residents strongly desire local dining options—cafes, family-friendly restaurants, and healthy food choices—beyond the casino, recalling beloved spots like the old burger bar or Stardoughs.	17	"A decent restaurant not the casino and small grocery store. there is so little space for housing."	"A Cafe or something like the old burger bar or stardoughs"
Public Transportation	Concerned / Practical	Limited and infrequent bus service creates barriers for residents who cannot drive, including seniors, youth needing to reach high school, and workers commuting out of town.	15	"adequate transportation options for people who work out of town or kids needing to get to high school"	"Enough public transportation (I know there are too few riders -- but there aren't enough bus options for people to ride regularly)"
Affordable Housing	Urgent / Advocacy	Several residents explicitly call out the lack of affordable and workforce housing as a	9	"Affordable housing!!! An atm or bank	"Workforce housing, effective City governance"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Respondent Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
		critical gap that limits who can live in Blue Lake.		branch would be nice."	
Recreation & Community Facilities	Hopeful / Community-Minded	Some residents desire community gathering spaces, recreational facilities like a pool or gym, and places for activities and socializing.	4	"A community pool or recreation center"	"More gathering spaces for events"

Analysis of 49 valid responses (1 "no opinion" excluded) from Blue Lake Housing Element Survey

Note: Most responses mentioned two items as requested. Counts reflect all mentions of each theme. Groceries and restaurants often appeared together in the same response.

Table 2-12 – Question 22 Analysis of the Responses to "If you had a magic wand, what is one thing you want to change about housing in Blue Lake?"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Response Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
Affordable Housing & Homeownership	Urgent / Hopeful	Residents want more affordable housing options—particularly for young families, workforce, and low-income residents—with many expressing personal desires to own rather than rent.	34	"Make it more affordable and more of it. More people should get the chance to live here."	"i want to own a home"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Response Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
Preserve Small-Town Character & Limit Growth	Protective / Cautious	Many residents want to preserve Blue Lake's small-town feel, opposing large apartment complexes and preferring appropriately-scaled development that maintains community character.	5	"Some more housing is good but the charm of Blue Lake is being a small town, so no large projects."	"I don't want it to become overpopulated it's a small town"
Housing Quality, Landlord Practices & Regulations	Frustrated / Demanding	Residents are frustrated with predatory landlords, poor housing conditions, and lack of tenant protections—calling for code enforcement and rent control.	6	"greedy slumlords, making it if they don't repair and make living livable then they are not allowed to charge outrageous fees"	"I would love to own a home in Blue Lake and have a rent control policy be implemented."
Senior & Multi-Generational Housing	Forward-Looking / Inclusive	Some residents specifically call for senior housing options or multi-generational	5	"Affordable housing for seniors"	"More rental units without retail space, mixed housing, seniors, ADUs, families"

Theme	Core Sentiment	One-Sentence Summary	Response Count	Verbatim Quote 1	Verbatim Quote 2
		communities that allow aging in place while welcoming young families.			

Analysis of 48 substantive responses (2 blank excluded) from the Blue Lake Housing Element Survey

Question 23 asked respondents to choose between the following two options, all 50 respondents said they wanted to continue living in Blue Lake.

- ☐ I want to stay living in Blue Lake.
- ☐ I want to move to another city or community in Humboldt County.

Question 24 consisted of three prompts that asked respondents to complete three statements about the kind of place they want Blue Lake to be. The responses extend beyond housing production and identify desired outcomes for everyday life, family well-being, and community cohesion. Example comments include:

- *“Afford to live, have friends, and get what I need when I’m no longer able to drive”*
- *“Live for generations (in multiple kinds of housing)”*
- *“All work towards similar goals and take care of our vulnerable friends”*
- *“Thrive and be independent from having to leave the area for basic amenities”*
- *“Walk freely enjoy neighbors watch children play listen to music and enjoy theater and art events. Grange very important”*

Table 2-13 – Question 24 Responses Summarized

Q24 Prompts	Response Themes
I want to live in a place where I can...	Walkability/bikeability/trails/non-car access (18), safety/security (12), community connection/belonging (10), peace/quiet/nature access (9), and access to services/amenities (8)
Where my family can...	Thriving/well-being (22), safety/security (12), affordable housing/walkability (10), community connection/belonging (7), outdoor recreation/nature (6)
Where my community can...	Gathering/events/connection/fun (15), thriving/prosperity/growth (24), mutual unity/civility/participation (12), support/care/service (7), safety/peace/inclusivity (7)

5.0 Community Workshops

May 30, 2026 In-Person Public Workshop. This workshop was noticed on the City’s website, included in the Participation section and as a pop-up on the Housing Element Update website. Flyers were distributed online with print copies sent to water/sewer customers with their next bill and posted at City Hall.

On May 30, 2026, the City of Blue Lake held a Housing Element Workshop at the Mad River Grange in Blue Lake to provide information to the public regarding the Housing Element process. The workshop attracted 15 community attendees and provided four stations with interactive posters to better understand community opinions regarding housing, development, and Blue Lake’s future.

The first station, “Understanding community experiences and aspirations,” was fully interactive and invited participants to share why they chose to live in Blue Lake, what they value, what they feel is missing, what changes they would like to see, and their experiences finding housing. Four posters were displayed, allowing participants to write and post their responses directly on each poster.

The second station, “Demystifying the Housing Element,” provided information about how the Housing Element works and the limited local discretion available in the process. Posters about RHNA, Housing Element goals, and income levels were provided.

The third station, “Planning for housing that works for Blue Lake,” provided posters explaining the density required to meet Housing Element needs, displayed visuals of different housing types, and offered an interactive poster to receive feedback on what types of housing community members would like to see developed in Blue Lake.

The final station featured an interactive map of Blue Lake where residents identified the types of housing they would like to see and where they thought it should be located. Participants used three dot colors to represent different housing sizes: 1–4 units, 5–14 units,

Figure 7 – Workshop Flier, English



Figure 8 – Workshop Flier, Spanish



and 14 or more units. Most participants favored smaller developments of 1–4 units, including ADUs, in areas that already contain single-family homes. Some participants expressed interest in medium-sized developments of 5–14 units and larger developments of 14 or more units outside existing residential areas, toward the outskirts of Blue Lake.

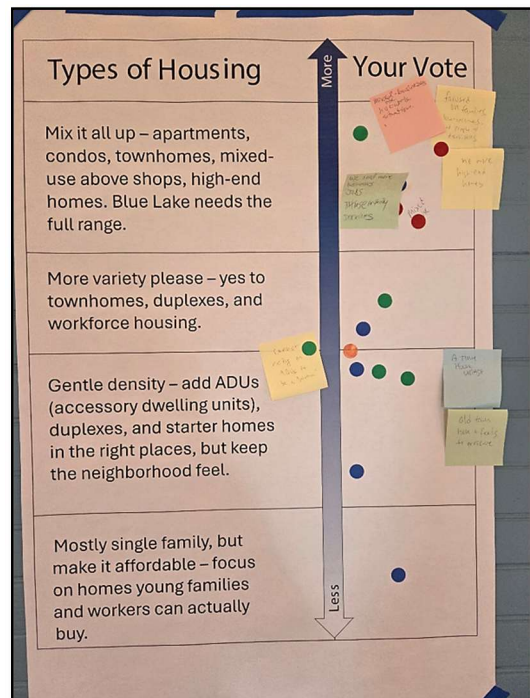
Participants identified several major themes in this workshop. They emphasized the importance of Blue Lake's strong sense of community, small-town rural character, access to nature, walkability, and safety. Participants also noted that housing in Blue Lake is increasingly difficult to find because of high costs and limited supply. They expressed support for more affordable and diverse housing options, including apartments, live-work spaces, senior and ADA-accessible housing, mixed-use development, ADUs, and small-scale development that preserves Blue Lake's historic character and small-town feel.

August 1, 2026 In-Person Public Workshop-City Council Study Session

This City Council study session and community workshop was noticed on the City's website, included in the Participation section and as a pop-up on the Housing Element Update website. Flyers were distributed online and posted at City Hall. Like the May 30th workshop, it was held at the Mad River Grange, a community venue. Key topics discussed at study-session and workshop included:

- Clarified that the RHNA numbers start fresh for this cycle of the Housing Element.
- Clarified the importance of objective design standards and how they can include guidance on setbacks and a menu of architectural styles that developers can reference.
- Discussed annexation as an action that could be considered to accommodate growth and plan for future cycles of the Housing Element.
- Attendees were curious about how the Housing Element can support housing rehabilitation and conversion of commercial structures in partnership with home/landowners and landlords – potential to explore HOME and CBGB funds.
- The Humboldt County 2024 Point in Time count does not reflect workshop attendee's lived experience with homelessness in the area – it seems high and may be grouping Blue Lake with other areas of the County.

Figure 9 – May 30, 2026 Workshop, Housing Types Voting Poster



6.0 Noticing

The City does not have a newspaper of general circulation. Therefore, the City posts paper notices on three public bulletin boards mounted to the exterior of the respective buildings at City Hall, the post office, and the Mad River Grange. These postings have been supplemented by notices posted on the City's Facebook page, City website, and Housing Element Update website.

7.0 Public Hearings

On September 17, 2026, the Blue Lake City Clerk posted a notice of public hearing on October 6, 2026, for the Blue Lake City Council to accept and consider public input on the draft Housing Element, dated September 14, 2026. On October 6, the City's housing element consultant presented an overview of the draft 7th Cycle Housing Element, focusing on the proposed programs. While councilmembers had questions for staff, the Council did not direct staff to modify the draft Housing Element. After closing the public hearing, the Council voted 4-1 to approve Resolution 1273 authorizing staff to submit the September 14, 2026, draft Housing Element to HCD to complete the mandatory 90-day compliance review.

[[summaries of future public hearings will be inserted here]]