

For immediate release

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Kennecott Land

**Salt Lake Area Community Leaders Show Support
for the Revised West Bench Master Plan and Vision**
Public Comment Period Begins in 2006

(Salt Lake County, UT) - More than 125 community leaders from throughout Salt Lake County have agreed on a vision for the Salt Lake Valley's West Bench that involves walkable communities, open space, a potential ski resort and major job centers all linked with good transportation options.

Under the direction of the Salt Lake County Council of Governments (COG), Salt Lake County led a series of four land use planning summits in collaboration with Kennecott Land. The purpose of these summits was to engage local leaders in creating a master plan for Kennecott's 75,000 acres of land along the West Bench of the Salt Lake Valley. Kennecott's land holding represents more than half of all the developable land left in the Salt Lake Valley.

"This process is one of the most valuable things we can do as community leaders," said Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon. "It is our chance to work together as a community to define what is important to us and ensure that those values are preserved for future generations."

The COG summits concluded today with participants showing their conceptual support for two important documents: a West Bench Master Plan that lays out an integrated mix of residential communities, commercial centers, open space and multi-modal transportation options; and a set of 12 guiding principles designed to guide long-term growth along the West Bench.

Nationally recognized land planner, Peter Calthorpe, led the group through a series of workshops and individual surveys to refine Kennecott Land's guiding principles:

1. Plan for transportation options
2. Preserve and enhance open space
3. Respect the landscape
4. Demonstrate environmental responsibility
5. Implement watershed management and water conservation

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6. Provide for schools and educational opportunities
7. Create economic opportunities
8. Utilize and optimize existing infrastructure
9. Build a sense of community and place
10. Design for public safety and health
11. Focus on sustainability
12. Design for social equity and diversity

“Our goal was to obtain meaningful input from key stakeholders early in the planning process,” said Peter McMahon, President of Kennecott Land. “The feedback resulted in valuable improvements to the plan. Kennecott Land will move forward in the spirit of openness and collaboration, which were the hallmarks of these summits.”

The summit feedback has led to several changes in the proposed master plan which was released to participants on October 12. Ranking surveys identified areas of planning importance and spending priorities which led to changes in the plan. For example:

- Public transit was rated the #1 in planning importance. The plan was revised to better evaluate and place transit line locations, the Mountain View Corridor location and consider options of East/West connectivity as well as focusing neighborhoods around transit lines.
- Economic development was rated the top spending priority. Feedback created a more balanced layout of proposed employment areas. In addition, locations were identified for schools and colleges.
- Parks, environment and open space ranked #3 on priorities and #6 on spending. Changes were made to the plan to provide more regional trail connectivity and identifying space for major parks.

The next steps for Salt Lake County and Kennecott Land include compiling a report that summarizes the outcomes of the four summits. Kennecott Land will begin the formal general planning process with Salt Lake County. The West Bench Master Plan will be made available for public review through planning commission, community council and County Council public hearings.

Anyone who is interested in following this process can request email updates by sending information to westbench@kennecott.com or by returning a business reply card found at all Salt Lake County Libraries.

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