

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scoping Meeting Marks Milestone for Aera Energy's Proposed Master Planned Community

*Meeting will solicit public recommendations for the scope and content
of Diamond Bar's Draft Environmental Impact Report.*

Diamond Bar, Calif. (May 16, 2007) — An environmental scoping meeting will be held today to solicit recommendations from local residents, adjacent jurisdictions, public agencies and interested groups regarding the Aera Master Planned Community. The 2,935-acre proposed community is located in unincorporated Los Angeles and Orange counties on land that bisects the SR-57 freeway between Diamond Bar and Brea.

The meeting will be held at the Diamond Bar Center inside Summitridge Park from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Scoping meetings are conducted at the outset of a proposed development's environmental review process, as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act. Comments received during the scoping meeting will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which will be prepared by the City of Diamond Bar in the coming months.

Because scoping meetings occur before development plans and environmental studies are complete, they are not intended to be a forum for expressions of support or opposition to a project, but rather an opportunity for interested parties to guide the areas to be studied in the Draft EIR.

The City of Diamond Bar, which entered into a planning agreement with Aera to explore the possibility of annexing about two-thirds of the proposed community, will manage the scoping meeting and act as the lead agency in certifying the project's Draft EIR. Los Angeles and Orange counties will be involved in the environmental review process and will retain decision-making authority over the portions of Aera's site that are outside the potential annexation boundary.

"This scoping meeting comes after years of careful planning, public input and our own completion of extensive environmental study," said George Basye, Aera vice president. "We share the city's and counties' goal of having a complete and

comprehensive EIR, so we're looking forward to the scoping meeting as an important step in making sure the public's ideas and concerns are addressed in our planning for our premier, environmentally sensitive new-home community.”

As proposed, the Aera Master Planned Community will include a maximum of 3,600 new homes of various styles and sizes, a long sought-after sports park, extensive public trails and preserved natural open space.

Overall, Aera's plan sets aside over 55 percent of the property – about 1,600 acres – for high-quality habitat and recreational open space. This includes a wildlife corridor that encompasses more than 600 acres and connects to neighboring open space preserves. The Aera plan would nearly triple the amount of open space within Diamond Bar if annexation is ultimately approved.

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