State: California
Community Name: City of Solana Beach
Population Size: 12880
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 23
Community Structure: City
Other: Community Type: Urban, Suburban (offices, apartments and shops), Suburban (mostly residential)

Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Lesa Heebner
Title: Mayor
Office Mailing Address: 635 S. Highway 101, Solana Beach, CA 92075

Community Contact
Name: Dan King
Email: [Redacted]
Position: Assistant City Manager
Telephone: [Redacted]
Role: City Contact is the staff liaison to spearhead the age-friendly initiative for City of Solana Beach, working in tandem with the technical assistance consultants from SDSU Social Policy Institute. City Contact will attend and participate in monthly meetings to engage older adult residents, service providers, and staff in developing a comprehensive Age-Friendly Action Plan. The Mayor and City Council will be provided status updates and opportunities to participate in the planning process. Post planning, City Contact will provide guidance and support to implementing the identified actions to meet the needs of the aging beach community.

Older Adult Involvement: Initially, the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and domains of livability principles were brought to the attention of city leadership by a concerned older adult resident. After researching the membership and engagement process, the City has identified a technical assistance consultant, SDSU Social Policy Institute, to ensure robust community engagement. Older adults will be involved in the community’s efforts to become more age-friendly in a variety of ways. An AARP CA, Livable Communities Advisory Team Member, Bob Prath has been invited to join the Age-Friendly Solana Beach Leadership Team. AARP CA will be requested to assist with outreach to all AARP members residing in 92075 in the planning and community
engagement process. A comprehensive community needs assessment survey will be conducted in both English and Spanish to engage all residents over the age of 50 residing in 92075. The survey will be distributed in both on-line and paper formats, utilizing a multi-prong approach by working with an extensive community network. The aging network of providers include: County of San Diego Health and Human Services- Aging & Independence Services North County distribution list, local non-profit and faith-based organizations serving older adults in Solana Beach, housing complexes designed for older adults, and City of Solana Beach community centers and library, eblasts to residents and social media outreach platforms Instagram and Facebook. The City will host Listening Sessions and Action Planning Sessions, either virtual or in-person depending on community health requirements, which will be geared to reflect on the community needs assessment survey and to engaged older adult residents. These will be publicized and hosted in conjunction with identified local community partners. That draft Age-Friendly Action Plan will have a public comment period where residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback prior to the plan going to City Council.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:
The City of Solana Beach’s comprehensive, resident-informed efforts to become more age-friendly will increase collaboration and coordination among relevant community agencies and departments by jointly developing and implementing an Age-Friendly Solana Beach action plan. By having a unifying action plan, spearheaded by the City of Solana Beach, all parties will have the ability to work together towards specific goals and objectives and share a common vision. Through collaborative engagement efforts in developing the action plan, the County of San Diego, AARP CA, city staff representing various departments, and local community agencies will be regularly working together during 2022, building trust and mutual understanding which will be foundational to future work together. Once the plan is completed and adopted by City Council, the Age-Friendly Solana Beach leadership team anticipates maintaining and expanding upon the collaboration and coordination efforts to implement the plan starting 2023 and beyond. Regular communication between all parties and with local residents will be essential to implementing a creating a culture of accountability. The City is excited about the programs and systems-level changes that this dynamic partnership could create to address the community’s shifting demography and create more livable environments for people of all ages. Promoting and sharing in successes towards becoming more age-friendly is incredibly unifying and is anticipated to being incorporated into regular City happenings.

AARP Team Member Contact Info: Tiffany Zhang, AARP Program Analyst, Bob Prath, AARP CA Livable Communities Advisory Team,

Most Instructive Area of Work: The City of Solana Beach is a small, compact north county coastal community within the County of San Diego. The diverse mix of
older adults reflects a socioeconomic divide ranging from resident who are wealthy, to those living in poverty. The goal is to engage older adult residents over the age of 50 across levels of diversity, in both English and Spanish. In addition, the County of San Diego has been asked to participate in the Age-Friendly Solana Beach leadership team to create and recognize synergies between the County and City age-friendly efforts. This community collaboration model with its attention to diversity within the community could be useful to other communities in the network.

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