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LOCAL ACTION IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

March 16, 2021

Esteemed Contra Costa County Sustainability Committee,

Every Contra Costa resident has the right to a healthy environment to grow and thrive. For far too long predominately Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities have disproportionately dealt with inequitable land use, environmental pollutants and negative health impacts. With the passing of SB 1000, the six formally designated disadvantaged communities in Contra Costa County under this new statute: North Richmond, Montalvin Manor, Rodeo/Crocket, Vine Hill, Baypoint, and Winter Island/Antioch can receive priority care and attention to ensure that these neighborhoods become vibrant and sustainable places to live.

Richmond LAND, in conjunction with frontline community members have analyzed and refined the eleven Environmental Justice (EJ) goals and are pleased to submit the attached and updated environmental justice policies and actions. As a land justice and deeply community-based organization, Richmond LAND partners with local residents to understand how land use and planning are essential in cultivating healthy communities.

Our process included attending scheduled workshops, countywide events, and a line by line revision of the draft policies and actions that includes integration of best practices such as the [CEJA Implementation Toolkit](#). We formed a resident leaders working group to review the material, and we will continue to offer policies for inclusion in Envision 2040 that come from impacted Contra Costa residents, and is informed by past recommendations from the [Resilient By Design Challenge](#), the [Climate Resilience in Contra Costa County](#) ART Report, and Just Transition studies and working group efforts.

We therefore request that the attached suggestions be incorporated in the Environmental Justice policies and actions.



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For ease of viewing the document, we've provided a table of contents.

Every child has the right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment to grow and thrive. **Our collective recommendations are based on our lived experiences in frontline neighborhoods and are one step in assuring that a sustainable and equitable future is a reality for all.**

we look forward to hearing you say that you strongly recommend our collective suggestions.

Sincerely,

Alfonso Leon, Contra Costa community resident

Jesus Contreras, Contra Costa community resident

Kapris James, Contra Costa community resident

Leticia Chavez, Contra Costa community resident

Cinthia Hernandez, Contra Costa community resident

Lynne Abram, Contra Costa community resident

Maria Lemus, Contra Costa community resident

Princess Robinson, Contra Costa community resident

Amy Barron, Contra Costa community member

Mia Carbajal, Community Land Trust Manager

Dulce Galicia, Community Planning Manager & Contra Costa resident

Valerie Jameson, Founding Director of Richmond LAND and Contra Costa resident



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Summary of NEW Richmond LAND recommendations not currently reflected in the EJ goals:

- **Action** EJ-A.8: Fund a five year pilot program that includes a community committee to lead the clean-up of illegal dumping in DAC¹ communities. This community committee will be tasked with creating a plan to decrease dumping.
- **Action** EJ-B.11: Implement a Neighborhood Assets Retention Plan that explores a rule-base development criteria that offers incentives to develop and sustain community assets such as offering planning approvals and permits for projects that meet a community benefits score and creates a plan to bring a well stocked grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables within a half mile radius of the DAC communities.
- **Policy** EJ-C.4: Initiate rule-based development criteria that creates by-right development and zoning requirements for projects with 100% affordable housing or projects that make affordable housing units for longer than 50 years.
- **Action** EJ-C.13: Create a partnership with community land trusts and housing cooperatives in disadvantaged communities to spread awareness of alternatives community wealth building and shared equity models as a way of increasing secure housing options for those who cannot pursue a traditional homeownership purchase due to credit issues or documentation barriers.
- **Action** EJ-C14: In order to promote safe and sanitary homes, County Public Works must facilitate water, power, and sanitary permits and connections, and support maintenance of these connections to the most vulnerable households.
- **Policy** EJ-D.4: Require community projects, nonprofits and businesses create and implement community benefits agreements. The Community Benefits Agreement must be required in order to approve licenses and permits. Explore the creation of a community benefits ordinance through the office of Racial Equity.
- **Policy** EJ-D.5: Create guidelines for a zoning variance program that allow small businesses out of individuals homes. This benefits vulnerable communities due to their entrepreneurial nature to economically support their families due to lack of an opportunity to make a living wage.
- **Policy** EJ-E.6: Create a plan to formally include members of DAC communities in the County's annual budgeting process to create recommendations for allocation of funds; this could be in the form of a county committee, or partnership with groups like the Budget Justice Coalition.

¹ DAC refers to disadvantaged communities (DACs) within General Plan planning areas.



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- **Policy** EJ-F.4: Companies hired to make multimodal transportation safe and possible should be local and must ensure local procurement or community benefits if they are outside companies.
- **Policy** EJ-F.7: Require partnership with community leaders and community based organizations to have a voice and decision making on transportation grants.
- **Action** EJ-F.5: Actively seek funding to create an increased number of bicycle parking lots throughout vulnerable communities.
- **Action** EJ-F.7: Develop a parking plan to ensure that vulnerable communities are not impacted by car heavy streets.
- **Policy** EJ-H.3: Work with County Health Services to integrate traditional healing that does not solely rely on medications and western medicine.
- **Policy** EJ-H.4: Ensure that zoning in vulnerable communities allows for healthy communities
- **Action** EJ-H.2: Minimize heavy and light industrial development in vulnerable communities that can cause pollution and contamination.
- **Action** EJ-H.3: Increase culturally relevant and competent health services throughout the county.
- **Action** EJ-H.4: Expand social workers, counselors, behavioral mental health and nurses at schools.
- **Action** EJ-H.5: During county and statewide public health emergencies, provide free mental health services to residents in vulnerable communities.
- **Action** EJ-H.6: Increase traditional healing methods, programs and services in vulnerable communities by partnering with health centers, and other community based organizations.
- **Policy** EJ-H.3: Maximize public, open green spaces in vulnerable communities by reflecting open public spaces in the zoning and land use maps.
- **Action** EJ-J.7: Prepare a plan to shield communities from unhealthy air quality and create buffers between heavy and light industrial facilities and neighborhoods.
- **Action** EJ-I.4: Create an integrated water resources management action plan in order to maximize social welfare, without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and DAC communities.
- **Action** EJ-I.5: Create a county-wide shoreline specific plan that includes a sea level rise adaptive management strategy developed through community workshops.
- **Action** EJ-I.6: With extensive public involvement, create a comprehensive long-term creek management plan to restore and maintain creeks.



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- **Action** EJ-1.7: Initiate and create a county-wide urban forestry plan for a greener and healthier Contra Costa where trees grow and thrive. The plan will seek to maximize the benefits of trees, increase native tree populations, and establish and fund a tree maintenance program in collaboration with County Public Works and community based organizations.
- **Action** EJ-1.8: Promote and create a Healthy Living Initiative (HLI) rooted in promoting health equity, healthy eating, active living and wellbeing. Efforts will center on community defined goals in partnership with schools, health centers, East Bay Regional Parks and Contra Costa Public Health Services.

Co-Created line-by-line edits² of EJ goals, policies actions:

Goal 1: Distribution of Social and Economic Benefits to Combat Environmental Pollution

1. **GOAL** EJ-A: ~~Equitable distribution of social and economic advantages among all communities in the county so that n~~No community is disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution or other hazards.
 - a. **Policy** EJ-A.1: Incentivize and streamline **public and private investment in new development**, or redevelopment, or rehabilitation that promotes community goals in disadvantaged communities, as identified in the community profiles.
 - b. **Policy** EJ-A.2: For projects that would significantly impact a disadvantaged community, pursue **community benefits agreements** that achieve the community goals identified in the community profile.
 - c. **Policy** EJ-A.3: Until **fossil fuel industries** are phased out, require any proposed project requiring a **use permit** for a fossil fuel industry or its accessory infrastructure that would impact a disadvantaged community to include early and substantial **community engagement as part of the permitting process**. As conditions of approval, such projects must include substantial community benefits that support the goals identified by the community in the community profile.

² All black text is original to the proposed language put forth by PlaceWorks. Our edits and recommendations are in green.



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- d. **Policy** EJ-A.4: Phase out existing fossil fuel industries and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer **full time, living and good-wage** jobs.
- e. **Policy** EJ-A.5: In order for an application for a **major development project** to be deemed complete, require **applicants to document** to the County's satisfaction how the project will promote **environmental justice**, including how the project will ensure the following: (a) Its costs and benefits will be shared **equitably**; (b) Its economic opportunities will be shared equitably; (c) It will **not displace existing residents or businesses** in disadvantaged communities; and (d) It will avoid direct, indirect, or unintended negative impacts on the quality of life of residents within disadvantaged communities. Source: EJ Assessment tool developed by Sustainability Commission.
- f. **Policy** EJ-A.6: Prioritize clean-up of **illegal dumping** in disadvantaged communities.
 - i. **Action** EJ-A.1: In coordination with **five stipended members of each** impacted community, workers³, and business/industry, develop and implement a plan to **phase out fossil fuel industries** and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer good-wage jobs. The plan should address site remediation responsibility and strategies to improve the health, safety, infrastructure, job opportunities, and revenue opportunities during the shift to a zero emission economy, paying special attention to helping develop new opportunities for how disadvantaged communities will realize economic, health, and other benefits.
 - ii. **Action** EJ-A.2: Develop **criteria for evaluating projects** that would potentially impact a disadvantaged community. For projects that would adversely impact a disadvantaged community, establish required project approval findings to ensure that community benefit agreements **and** ~~or other~~ mitigation efforts **would** achieve the community goals identified in the community profile. As part of this work, define what constitutes a major development **project** in or

³ What is defined as workers?



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adjacent to a disadvantaged community **and require consultation, collaboration, and partnership**; as indicated in other policies and actions in this General Plan, such projects may be subject to additional requirements compared to projects that don't meet that definition.

- iii. **Action EJ-A.3: Develop a checklist** that establishes criteria to evaluate how new development supports the County's environmental justice and health goals and the environmental justice and health-related community goals identified in the relevant community profile **with community members of disadvantaged communities**.
- iv. **Action EJ-A.4:** On an annual basis ~~Upon each review of the General Plan [will cross-reference Land Use Element action related to regular reviews of the General Plan]~~, work with the Contra Costa County Health Services Department to monitor health outcomes data for disadvantaged communities in order to determine the effectiveness of the County's environmental justice policies. During this review, assess any updated information related to the delineation of disadvantaged communities in Contra Costa County. Based on these reviews, update the map of disadvantaged communities and environmental justice-related goals, policies, and actions accordingly. **Contra Costa County Health Services Department will hold an annual community forum to update disadvantaged communities on the status of the health outcomes data.**
- v. **Action EJ-A.5:** Explore the feasibility of creating, participating in, or attracting a **public bank to benefit Contra Costa's economy and vulnerable community needs** such as to support economic development, affordable housing, green projects and small business lending,
- vi. **Action EJ-A.6:** **The Department of Conservation and Development will** ~~D~~develop and sufficiently fund a program to assist project applicants in disadvantaged communities in navigating the project



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- application and review process and if needed, reduce barriers to permit costs
- vii. **Action EJ-A.7:** Fund **improve code enforcement** and public works maintenance practices to keep disadvantaged communities hazard free, safe, and clean, emphasizing enforcement actions on issues identified by the community in its community profile.
 - viii. **Action EJ-A.8:** Fund a five year pilot program that includes a community committee to lead the clean-up of illegal dumping in DAC communities. This community committee will be tasked with creating a plan to decrease dumping.

Goal 2: Fresh and Healthy Foods

1. **GOAL EJ-B:** Equitable and convenient access to fresh and healthy foods among all communities in the county so that all residents find it easy to make healthy food choices.
 - A. **Policy EJ-B.1:** Increase access to fresh food in disadvantaged communities by allowing and encouraging local food production, micro agriculture, edible landscapes, rooftop gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and farmers' markets on vacant or underutilized lands, **including publicly-owned land**, and by distributing information about community-supported agriculture programs that provide affordable access to fresh food.
 - B. **Policy EJ-B.2:** Require new or substantially renovated County facilities that interface with the public and that are located in disadvantaged communities to incorporate **programs facilities** and amenities that improve the public's access to healthy food options.
 - C. **Policy EJ-B.3:** Maximize multimodal access to fresh food by encouraging grocery stores, healthy corner stores, and outdoor markets at key transit nodes and within transit-oriented developments. (Add incentives)
 - D. **Policy EJ-B.4:** Provide access to public land, ~~cleanup, and other County services~~ for farmers' markets in disadvantaged communities **with the support of county resources**.
 - E. **Policy EJ-B.5:** **Encourage** Promote and incentivize farmers and neighborhood community gardens to participate in **local farmers' markets**.



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- a. **Action EJ-B.1:** Prepare a **healthy food ordinance** that creates incentives and guidelines that support access to healthy food through land use controls, such as streamlined permitting of grocery stores. When developing this ordinance, work with Contra Costa County Health Services to collect geographic data about current health conditions.
- a. **Action EJ-B.2:** Implement a County **Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP)** with stipended residents of vulnerable communities to promote the 2010 Dietary Guidelines, federal and State food security programs, and physical activity.
- b. **Action EJ-B.3:** Develop **guidelines to support implementation** of micro agriculture, rooftop gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and farmers' markets, including seeking input from local residents on convenient and accessible locations.
- c. **Action EJ-B.4: Educate local farmers** about opportunities for participation in local farmers' markets to bring locally grown food to disadvantaged communities. In addition, encourage farmers' markets to reduce vendor restrictions or entry fees for local farmers to incentivize local participation.
- d. **Action EJ-B.5:** Contra Costa Department of Public Health will conduct nutrition workshops, health events and social marketing for low income residents to **promote healthy eating and active living**. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)
- e. **Action EJ-B.6:** Coordinate **school and after-school programs** as well as peer to **peer education** to empower families and youth to choose healthy foods, drink water instead of sweetened drinks and live an active life. This could include educational field trips to local farms, community gardens, and outdoor recreation areas. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)
- f. **Action EJ-B.7:** Participate in **local coalitions and subcontract with community partners** to collaborate with government agencies, child care centers, faith-based organizations, community leaders, food retailers, other businesses and schools to support programs and policies that mitigate child obesity and improve access and intake of healthy foods and physical activity. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)
- g. **Action EJ-B.8:** Encourage **worksite wellness** through access to healthier food choices in vending machines, **enforcement of breaks**,



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- and promotion of physical activity **in the workplace**. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)
- h. **Action EJ-B.9: Collect data** for grant funding, program planning and evaluation of interventions to improve access and consumption of **healthy food and physical activity**. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)
 - i. **Action EJ-B.10: Every three-five years**, review the existing **Alcoholic Beverage Sales Commercial Activities Ordinance** to ensure disadvantaged communities are not experiencing disproportionate concentrations of or impacts from new bars and liquor stores. To support implementation of this ordinance, set up and maintain a **shared data system** between the Health Services and Conservation and Development departments that identifies the locations of current establishments, along with information about public safety and public health.
 - j. **Action EJ-B.11: Implement a Neighborhood Assets Retention Plan** that explores a rule-base development criteria that offers incentives to develop and sustain community assets such as offering planning approvals and permits for projects that meet a community benefits score and creates a plan to bring a well stocked grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables within a half mile radius of the DAC communities.

Goal 3: Safe and Sanitary Homes

1. **GOAL EJ-C:** Equitable access to safe, stress free, livable and sanitary homes among all communities in the county so that no resident has to live in a stressful, unsafe or unhealthy place.
 - a. **Policy EJ-C.1:** Ensure that future improvements in disadvantaged communities will not produce a **net loss of affordable housing** or the displacement of residents by creating programs to stabilize existing residents such as an affordable housing preservation fund or in a neighborhood and preserve affordable housing .
 - b. **Policy EJ-C.2:** Ensure **adequate living conditions** for tenants through ongoing and effective code enforcement, with priority given to rental properties in disadvantaged communities, and the neighborhoods impacted the most with consistent health and safety concerns.
 - c. **Policy EJ-C.3:** Coordinate with the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County, affordable housing developers, and other organizations to **transition vacant, unentitled land in disadvantaged communities into**



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- affordable housing**, with an emphasis on programs that offer lasting affordability, ~~which could include many~~ and a range ~~types~~ of innovative housing products. This should include homeownership opportunities to help residents build intergenerational wealth as well as community wealth building opportunities that allow for community stabilization.
- d. **Policy EJ-C.4:** Initiate rule-based development criteria that creates by-right development and zoning requirements for projects with 100% affordable housing or projects that make affordable housing units for longer than 50 years.
- i. **Action EJ-C.1:** Conduct ~~bi-monthly~~ ~~periodic~~ outreach in disadvantaged communities to inform tenants of their rights and responsibilities. Written outreach efforts should be translated into appropriate languages, and ~~multiple spoken languages should be available~~.
 - ii. **Action EJ-C.2:** Update the County Health and Safety Code to establish a framework for the County to protect residents' access to secure housing through ~~the execution of expanded jurisdictional powers to enact~~ eviction moratoriums, rent and mortgage forbearance or cancellation, and the suspension of restrictions for rapidly housing the unsheltered and marginally housed, ~~or~~ and other mechanisms when the County and/or State declared states of emergency due to natural or human-made disasters, including epidemics and pandemics.
 - iii. **Action EJ-C.3:** Obtain funding for, address barriers to, and increase participation in the **County's weatherization program** through the **Community Services Bureau** for extremely low, very low, and low-income homeowners, landlords, and renters, as well as in other programs like the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, to provide resources to bring older properties up to Code and improve their livability, make minor home repairs and energy improvements, and improve health and quality of life. Focus these resources on homes in disadvantaged communities, and in particular rental housing and high density housing including elders, and homes with children. This information must be mailed to all county households in multiple languages.
 - iv. **Action EJ-C.4:** Create a **County** bulk buying program that allows people to purchase air conditioners, air purifiers, heaters, and other electric appliances at wholesale prices ~~or minimal cost~~ to increase energy efficiency and replace hazardous appliances. Work with



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volunteer groups to help people install air conditioners and other electrical appliances if they are unable to do so themselves, focusing on disadvantaged communities and other areas with high levels of vulnerable people. Consider augmenting energy efficiency programs to reduce electricity use and help offset the cost of operating electrical appliances.

- v. **Action EJ-C.5:** Partner with a local solar company, **nonprofit, or cooperative** to enact a solar group buy program to purchase solar panels and battery storage in bulk for installation in disadvantaged communities, including the establishment and subsidization of community solar programs for joint membership, which aggregate multiple consumers' electricity sourced from a single photo-voltaic solar location. The program should include an educational component to teach the community about the benefits and process of solar installation and give them the opportunity to sign up for the program at a discounted rate.
- vi. **Action EJ-C.6:** In collaboration with **local residents, community groups, and nonprofit and for-profit** developers, obtain funding for **the and establishment and ongoing support of** community land trusts serving each disadvantaged community that will support long-term community ownership and housing affordability.
- vii. **Action EJ-C.7:** Expand the County's first-time homebuyer program to provide more education and assistance, prioritizing outreach and marketing in disadvantaged communities to spread awareness of the program.
- viii. **Action EJ-C.8:** In coordination with Contra Costa Health Services **and the real estate division of the county to** create an inventory of available **surplus** land for tiny homes or other types of innovative housing products as **suitable** alternatives to accommodate people who lack housing.
- ix. **Action EJ-C.9:** Collaborate with Contra Costa Health Services and the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness to develop and implement a plan to provide transition facilities and services for people facing homelessness. Link homeless programs with supportive services such as behavioral health, substance abuse, and primary health care.
- x. **Action EJ-C.10:** Conduct periodic outreach to absentee owners of properties in disadvantaged communities to inform owners of their legal obligations to maintain rental properties in safe and habitable



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- condition. Keep tenants informed of these efforts, including by translating the information into languages other than English.
- xi. **Action EJ-C.11:** Continue to support the Contra Costa Lead Poisoning Prevention Project's programs, including services for children, public health nurse case management, home environmental investigation, education and outreach, and information and referrals for parents, home remodelers and child care providers. (from <https://cchealth.org/lead-poison/>)
 - xii. **Action EJ-C12:** Explore the benefits of including manufactured housing technology and a range of innovative building materials to reduce construction costs, increase efficiency, and sustainability of housing production.
 - xiii. **Action EJ-C.13:** Create a partnership with community land trusts and housing cooperatives in disadvantaged communities to spread awareness of alternatives community wealth building and shared equity models as a way of increasing secure housing options for those who cannot pursue a traditional homeownership purchase due to credit issues or documentation barriers.
 - xiv. **Action EJ-C14:** In order to promote safe and sanitary homes, County Public Works must facilitate water, power, and sanitary permits and connections, and support maintenance of these connections to the most vulnerable households.

Goal 4: Job Opportunities and Economic Stability

- 1. **GOAL EJ-D:** Equitable access to job training, job opportunities, and economic stability among all communities in the county so that all residents can access safe jobs, earn a living wage to support their families, and build shared prosperity.
 - a. **Policy EJ-D.1:** Actively work across County departments and agencies to attract businesses that provide desired goods and services in disadvantaged communities, including food stores with fresh produce, health care, childcare, pharmacies, and other retailers. Balance community desires with comprehensive assessments of market demand to guide business attraction efforts and programs to cultivate local business incubation.
 - b. **Policy EJ-D.2:** Actively work across County departments and agencies to attract manufacturing businesses in the clean technology sector,



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especially those that will not increase emissions in or near disadvantaged communities.

- c. **Policy** EJ-D.3: Promote entrepreneurship and locally owned businesses and enterprises in disadvantaged communities to support economic self-sufficiency and stability, including through training, trade schools, and outreach to local small business owners.
- d. **Policy** EJ-D.4: Require community projects, nonprofits and businesses create and implement community benefits agreements. The Community Benefits Agreement must be required in order to approve licenses and permits. Explore the creation of a community benefits ordinance through the office of Racial Equity.
- e. **Policy** EJ-D.5: Create guidelines for a zoning variance program that allow small businesses out of individuals homes. This benefits vulnerable communities due to their entrepreneurial nature to economically support their families due to lack of an opportunity to make a living wage.
 - i. **Action** EJ-D.1: Explore the feasibility of establishing a First Source Hiring Program requiring project applicants to make best efforts to hire new employees, workers, and subcontractor components of the project from the local area.
 - ii. **Action** EJ-D.2: Partner with community organizations, large employers, trade associations, unions, and job training skills centers to support enhanced job-skills training, recruitment programs and services, and childcare services to support workers in disadvantaged communities. Work with experienced groups to ensure that programs will be properly staffed and funded. Training and intervention strategies should reduce barriers to employment for youth, formerly incarcerated residents, those with disabilities, and residents with limited English proficiency, ~~and they should support a just transition toward a sustainable economy by re-training fossil fuel-based workers with skills for green industrial jobs.~~
 - iii. **Action** EJ-D.3: Support a just transition toward a sustainable economy by re-training fossil fuel-based workers with skills for green industrial jobs and by supporting community members from vulnerable communities to acquire skills and job readiness for green industrial jobs.
 - iv. **Action** EJ-D.4: Work interdepartmentally within the County and with community based organizations to explore strategies to establish a revolving loan fund or other economic development



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initiatives to support small businesses in disadvantaged communities.

Goal 5: Community Engagement, Equal Voice, and Decision Making

1. **GOAL** EJ-E: **E**quitable engagement with all communities in the county so that all residents share an equal voice in decisions that affect their community.
 - a. **Policy** EJ-E.1: Notify the community through the County website and coordination with community organizations and leaders when County planning decisions are being considered in or adjacent to disadvantaged communities.
 - b. **Policy** EJ-E2: Conduct outreach and engagement with disadvantaged communities as follows: - Prepare public notices and other materials in the predominant language(s) spoken in the community and provide interpretation services at meetings as needed. - Make public notices and other important documents available in print at local libraries, community centers, or other gathering places. - Use approaches appropriate for the community. - Schedule, format, and locate community workshops and meetings to be convenient for community members and provide childcare. - Use social media, virtual meeting platforms, and other communication techniques for those without time or ability to attend public meetings. - Consider data that reflects the economic, gender, age, and racial diversity of the affected population. [Source: EJ Assessment tool from Sustainability Commission]
 - c. **Policy** EJ-E.3: Residents impacted by a proposed project must be notified via a mailed letter in their primary language and clearly explain potential adverse impacts of a proposed project in plain language that is easily understood by the target community.
 - d. **Policy** EJ-E.4: Support community-driven or community-led initiatives in disadvantaged communities that work toward the goals identified in the community profiles. Support could include technical assistance and providing staff resources and meeting spaces, among other methods.
 - e. **Policy** EJ-E.5: Community members and residents will be taken into account and be invited to prioritize grant funds and goals with input by those impacted and affected.
 - f. **Policy** EJ-E.6: ~~Include members of disadvantaged communities in the County's annual budgeting process to create recommendations for allocation of funds; this could be in the form of a county committee.~~ Create a plan to formally include members of DAC communities in the County's



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annual budgeting process to create recommendations for allocation of funds; this could be in the form of a county committee, or partnership with groups like the Budget Justice Coalition.

- i. **Action EJ-E.1:** In coordination with leaders and stakeholders from disadvantaged communities, **prepare a community engagement toolkit** that identifies outreach and engagement activities based on the project type and stakeholders involved in order to build community participation and ensure all voices are represented.
- ii. **Action EJ-E.2:** Establish an ongoing environmental justice advisory group comprised of community members from disadvantaged communities to advise and assist the County in addressing disproportionate health, safety, and welfare in disadvantaged communities.
- iii. **Action EJ-E.3:** Identify, initiate, and formalize partnerships with community organizations and leaders in disadvantaged communities to ensure that local residents can make significant contributions to planning processes.
- iv. **Action EJ-E.4:** Partner with the County Administrator's Office and appropriate departments to identify communities with a significant number of non-English speaking households, and develop resources and strategies to better engage them.
- v. **Action EJ-E.5:** As part of the General Plan annual progress report to the Board of Supervisors, describe the County's efforts to meet the needs of each disadvantaged community. The report should specifically summarize the extent to which the County has implemented the policies and actions identified in each disadvantaged community profile.
- vi. **Action EJ-E.6:** Hold at least one public meeting per year in each disadvantaged community, including representatives from the full spectrum of County Departments, to **report on the progress of the general plans policies and actions**, hear from residents of these communities, and use that input to inform the County's annual budgeting process. Provide translation and childcare services at these meetings.
- vii. **Action EJ-E.7:** Support community events, such as block parties and community service days, that support social connections, neighborhood identity, and behavioral health **streamline the permitting and approval process to initiate community programming.**



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- viii. **Action EJ-E.8:** Partner with community organizations, **local businesses**, and franchise garbage haulers to optimize community clean-up days in disadvantaged communities, including by focusing clean-up activities in disadvantaged communities over other communities that are part of the same contract.

Goal 6: Safe, Affordable, Multi-modal Transportation

1. **GOAL EJ-F:** **Equitable Provide** convenient access to a safe, affordable, multi-modal transportation network among all communities in the county so that all residents, regardless of age, ability, race, culture, or economic status, are less dependent on cars and enjoy opportunities to walk, bike, roll, or take transit to their destinations.
 - a. **Policy EJ-F.1:** **Advance Support** improvements to transit, bikeways, and sidewalks in disadvantaged communities to make active transportation more accessible and user-friendly while decreasing vehicle speeds, congestion, and air pollution. Prioritize **green** infrastructure projects identified in disadvantaged community profiles.
 - b. **Policy EJ-F.2:** Prioritize **energy-efficient street lighting** programs in disadvantaged communities, particularly at parks and transit stops, along commercial corridors, near high density housing, **blighted corridors**, and in high crime neighborhoods.
 - c. **Policy EJ-F.3:** Prioritize **transit shelters and benches** or other seating at transit stops in disadvantaged communities, especially along commercial corridors and near high density housing.
 - d. **Policy EJ-F.4:** **Companies hired to make multimodal transportation safe and possible should be local and must ensure local procurement or community benefits if they are outside companies.**
 - e. **Policy EJ-F.4:** Support local transit providers in establishing and maintaining routes and services that provide disadvantaged communities with convenient access to employment centers, shopping, healthy food outlets, and services. Support extended hours to serve shift workers.
 - f. **Policy EJ-F.5:** Support development of small-scale neighborhood nodes that provide a range of neighborhood-serving retail, public amenities, and services to residents of disadvantaged communities within walking distance of their homes.
 - g. **Policy EJ-F.6:** Work with school districts and neighborhood groups to ensure that safe walking, bicycling, and transit routes to school exist, prioritizing the development and maintenance of sidewalks, crosswalks,



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street lighting, bicycling infrastructure, transit stop amenities, automotive speed controls, and other safety improvements in disadvantaged communities, including in residential areas and near schools, libraries, and recreational facilities.

- h. **Policy EJ-F.7: Require partnership with community leaders and community based organizations to have a voice and decision making on transportation grants.**
 - i. **Action EJ-F.1:** Engage in community-based transportation plans **or** and other **participatory** initiatives by transit providers that seek to expand the hours of operation, operational boundaries, convenience, and quality of accessible transit services to improve mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable communities.
 - ii. **Action EJ-F.2:** Develop a program to subsidize transit passes for residents of disadvantaged communities, **including youth, seniors and residents working part-time.**
 - iii. **Action EJ-F.3:** Create and promote a program to facilitate partial and/or temporary street closures for amenities such as parklets and community events such as farmers' markets, block parties, or bicycle and pedestrian events, if requested by residents. Support community members by providing timely feedback and processing permits.
 - iv. **Action EJ-F.4:** Develop a program to establish, maintain, and enforce truck routes in the unincorporated county. This program should establish criteria for designating truck routes, signage, and enforcement mechanisms.
 - v. **Action EJ-F.5:** **Actively seek funding to create an increased number of bicycle parking lots throughout vulnerable communities.**
 - vi. **Action EJ-F.65:** Partner with adjacent jurisdictions and regional transportation planning committees to manage regional movement of goods in unincorporated areas to encourage truckers to remain on freeways and regional routes while minimizing impacts on residents and other sensitive receptors in disadvantaged communities. Seek creative options to deter trucks from residential streets **in** disadvantaged communities, acknowledging that California Highway Patrol may not have the resources to provide enforcement of truck routes.
 - vii. **Action EJ-F.7:** **Develop a parking plan to ensure that vulnerable communities are not impacted by car heavy streets.**



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Goal 7: Quality Public Facilities and Infrastructure

1. **GOAL** EJ-G: Equitable distribution and quality of **public facilities**, infrastructure, and services among all communities in the county so that the fundamental needs of all residents are met and all residents can access the services they need.
 - a. **Policy** EJ-G.1: Systematically prioritize investments in public facilities, infrastructure, and services that benefit disadvantaged communities and respond to the needs identified in the community profiles and prioritize investments in climate adaptation that respond to the community's physical, social, and economic vulnerabilities.
 - b. **Policy** EJ-G.2: Assist disadvantaged communities in establishing funding and financing mechanisms that are able to fund both capital improvements and ongoing operations and maintenance expenses by leveraging county, community resources with external funding sources. Prioritize mechanisms that value community input and empowerment at all stages of the program/investment lifecycle. ~~—both community-generated mechanisms like building improvement districts, and County-initiated mechanisms like landscape and lighting improvement districts—to provide community-desired public facilities and services~~
 - c. **Policy** EJ-G.3: Coordinate with the planning efforts of various service providers (e.g., water, sewer, and recreation districts) to ensure efficient and effective service delivery in disadvantaged communities and to maximize co-benefits wherever possible with the community.
 - i. **Action** EJ-G.1: Review needs and services in each disadvantaged community as part of the annual budgeting process with community based organizations and resident leaders.
 - ii. **Action** EJ-G.2: Identify, secure funding for, and implement green infrastructure projects in disadvantaged communities that support the community goals identified in the community profiles such as a Green Benefits District. As part of this effort, look into creative mechanisms for funding and governance, like the Community Climate Resilience District (C2RD).
 - iii. **Action** EJ-G.3: Explore options for the County to provide seed grants, micro loans, or similar funding to community-based organizations or public-private partners to support green infrastructure or other related improvements in disadvantaged communities.



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- iv. **Action EJ-G.4:** Compile, maintain, and make easily available a list of numbers to call for basic needs such as code enforcement, housing assistance, food assistance, and healthcare. Provide this information in multiple languages.
- v. **Action EJ-G.5:** Establish a task force of County department heads or their immediate deputies and other stakeholders (e.g., cities, local environmental justice organizations, and other service providers) to coordinate efforts, provide oversight, and otherwise ensure that public services and facilities in disadvantaged communities are prioritized and efficiently and effectively delivered.
- vi. **Action EJ-G.6:** Encourage internet providers to improve access to reliable, fast internet access in disadvantaged communities at affordable prices.
- vii. **Action EJ-G.7:** Encourage utility companies to improve access to affordable prices especially for disadvantaged communities.

Goal 8: Access to Health Services

- 1. **GOAL EJ-H:** Equitable and convenient access to **health services** among all communities in the county so that all residents can find the physical and behavioral health care services they need within their community.
 - a. **Policy EJ-H.1:** Work with Contra Costa Health Services and community-based organizations to expand community health-related outreach, analysis, and implementation efforts in disadvantaged communities.
 - b. **Policy EJ-H.2:** Collaborate with non-profit partners and Contra Costa Health Services to attract medical clinics, behavioral health facilities, and pharmacies in areas that lack access to health care, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
 - c. **Policy EJ-H.3:** Work with County Health Services to integrate traditional healing that does not solely rely on medications and western medicine.
 - d. **Policy EJ-H.4:** Ensure that zoning in vulnerable communities allows for healthy communities.
 - i. **Action EJ-H.1:** Minimize zoning requirements for medical facilities to reduce barriers to development.



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- ii. **Action** EJ-H.2: Minimize heavy and light industrial development in vulnerable communities that can cause pollution and contamination.
- iii. **Action** EJ-H.3: Increase culturally relevant and competent health services throughout the county.
- iv. **Action** EJ-H.4: Expand social workers, counselors, behavioral mental health and nurses at schools.
- v. **Action** EJ-H.5: During county and statewide public health emergencies, provide free mental health services to residents in vulnerable communities.
- vi. **Action** EJ-H.6: Increase traditional healing methods in vulnerable communities by partnering with health centers, and other community based organizations.

Goal 9: Recreational Activities & Parks

- 1. **GOAL** EJ-I: **Equitable** Access to safe **recreational activities and parks** among all communities in the county so that all residents are empowered to choose an active lifestyle that supports their health **and all residents feel welcomed to enjoy public spaces**.
 - a. **Policy** EJ-I.1: Assist with coordination to support joint use recreation facilities serving disadvantaged communities.
 - b. **Policy** EJ-I.2: Increase access to diverse, high-quality parks, green space, recreational facilities, and natural environments for disadvantaged communities. Design and maintain these facilities to offer a safe and comfortable environment for residents of all ages and abilities.
 - c. **Policy** EJ-H.3: Maximize public, open green spaces in vulnerable communities by reflecting open public spaces in the zoning and land use maps.
 - d. **Policy** EJ-I.4~~3~~: Rather than allowing in-lieu fees, require major new development projects in disadvantaged communities to improve existing park and recreation amenities within the community and/or to add new amenities within the project, ideally open to the public. In-lieu fees may



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only be used when amenity improvements or new amenities are not feasible, as determined by the County.

- e. **Policy EJ-I.54:** Require new or substantially renovated County recreational facilities located in disadvantaged communities to incorporate facilities, amenities, and public spaces that create opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.
- f. **Policy EJ-I.65:** Increase recreation opportunities in disadvantaged communities by working with other agencies to convert public easements, such as utility corridors or unused rights-of-way, into parks and trails.
- g. **Policy EJ-I.76:** Support local community groups and volunteer organizations in efforts to improve or maintain local parks, trails, and other public spaces, especially in disadvantaged communities.
 - i. **Action EJ-I.1:** Coordinate with park districts to prepare a parks and open space needs assessment for each disadvantaged community. Based on the results of the assessment for each community, implement improvements that address barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as inadequate infrastructure and safety concerns.
 - ii. **Action EJ-I.2:** Work with recreation and school districts to identify indoor recreational and athletic facilities to serve as emergency housing and cooling centers in disadvantaged communities for natural hazards or extreme heat events. In addition, work with these districts to prepare a list of priority improvements at these facilities to implement in preparation for emergency events.
 - iii. **Action EJ-I.3:** Increase the amount of public, open green spaces in vulnerable communities by ensuring that more open space is protected for recreational activities and parks.
 - iv. **Action EJ-I.4:** Create an integrated water resources management action plan in order to maximize social welfare, without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and DAC communities.
 - v. **Action EJ-I.5:** Create a county-wide shoreline specific plan that includes a sea level rise adaptive management strategy developed through community workshops.
 - vi. **Action EJ-I.6:** With extensive public involvement, create a comprehensive long-term creek management plan to restore and maintain creeks.



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- vii. Action EJ-1.7: Initiate and create a county-wide urban forestry plan for a greener and healthier Contra Costa where trees grow and thrive. The plan will seek to maximize the benefits of trees, increase native tree populations, and establish and fund a tree maintenance program in collaboration with County Public Works and community based organizations.
- viii. Action EJ-I.8: Promote and create a Healthy Living Initiative (HLI) rooted in promoting health equity, healthy eating, active living and wellbeing. Efforts will center on community defined goals in partnership with schools, health centers, East Bay Regional Parks and Contra Costa Public Health Services.

Goal 10: Healthy Air Quality

1. **GOAL EJ-J: ~~HEquitable and~~ healthy air quality** among all communities in the county so that all residents, including those with high sensitivity to unhealthy air, can live in their community without facing disproportionately high risks of respiratory disease and other health problems.
 - a. **Policy EJ-J.1:** Require a **cumulative health risk assessment**, including consideration of truck traffic impacts, when a project potentially affects sensitive receptors in disadvantaged communities, and require appropriate mitigation based on the findings of the assessment.
 - b. **Policy EJ-J.2:** When evaluating **health risk impacts** of projects in disadvantaged communities, use a cancer risk of 1.0 per million as the threshold for a significant impact.
 - c. **Policy EJ-J.3:** Require new development to site sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, playgrounds, sports fields, childcare centers, senior centers, and long-term healthcare facilities as far away as possible from significant pollution sources.
 - d. **Policy EJ-J.4:** When evaluating air quality impacts of projects in disadvantaged communities, use thresholds of significance that match or are more stringent than the air quality thresholds of significance identified in the current Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Air Quality Guidelines.
 - e. **Policy EJ-J.5:** Consider future General Plan and/or Zoning Code amendments as needed to support BAAQMD in meeting AB 617



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objectives to reduce the health impacts of air pollution in Communities of Concern.

- f. **Policy** EJ-J.6: Prioritize new street tree plantings and increase the tree canopy in disadvantaged communities, in particular areas with a high heat index.
- g. **Policy** EJ-J.7: Preserve, restore, and enhance natural landscapes in and near disadvantaged communities for their role in improving air quality and community health.
- h. **Policy** EJ-J.8: Require warehouse and distribution facilities to provide adequate on-site truck parking to prevent idling, and require refrigerated warehouses to provide generators for refrigerated trucks.
- i. **Policy** EJ-J.9: Prohibit fossil fuel powered truck, construction vehicle, and transit vehicle idling within 100 feet of sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, playgrounds, sports fields, childcare centers, senior centers, and long-term health care facilities.
 - i. **Action** EJ-J.1: Coordinate with State and regional regulatory entities and community members to fund citizen-led data collection, monitoring of pollution exposure, and identifying and implementing solutions in disadvantaged communities.
 - ii. **Action** EJ-J.2: Assist BAAQMD in establishing and implementing Community Air Monitoring Plans for disadvantaged communities.
 - iii. **Action** EJ-J.3: Coordinate with BAAQMD to create a targeted permit inspection program in disadvantaged communities to help ensure enforcement of air quality permits.
 - iv. **Action** EJ-J.4: Enforce the State's five-minute maximum idling law.
 - v. **Action** EJ-J.5: Prepare an urban forest master plan for the county that includes quantified goals and tracking methods, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
 - vi. **Action** EJ-J.6: Develop and implement a plan to provide clean air refuges during times when outdoor air quality is unhealthy.
 - vii. **Action** EJ-J.7: Prepare a plan to shield communities from unhealthy air quality and create buffers between heavy and light industrial facilities and neighborhoods.



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Goal 11: Safe from Hazards

1. **GOAL EJ-K:** Communities that are **safe and resilient from hazards** associated with the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste and hazardous substances, including from fossil fuels, chemical refining, and power plants.
 - a. **Policy EJ-K.1:** Discourage, **restrict and decline** construction of new large-scale hazardous waste facilities **and specifically in vulnerable communities.**
 - b. **Policy EJ-K.2:** Advocate for and coordinate with local and regional agencies in efforts to remediate or treat contaminated surface water, groundwater, **or** soils in or affecting disadvantaged communities.
 - i. **Action EJ-K.1:** Obtain grant funding and establish partnerships with local environmental justice organizations to implement the County's Brownfields and Contaminated Sites Cleanup Policy in disadvantaged communities.
 - ii. **Action EJ-K.2:** Establish a comprehensive, long term strategy that coordinates efforts from all regulatory agencies to mitigate impacts from industrial facilities on adjacent communities, both acute and long-term, with priority given to developing strategies for disadvantaged communities. The strategies must include specific mitigations to address air pollution, pipeline risks, and accidents, including identification of and community education about evacuation routes.