



# Agenda

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

April 26, 2021

1:00 P.M.

1025 Escobar St., Martinez

**\*\*Meeting Remotely Until Further Notice\*\***

**To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Health Officer's Shelter Order of March 10, 2021, prevents public gatherings ([Health Officer Order](#)).**

**In lieu of a public gathering, the Board of Supervisors meeting will be accessible via television and live-streaming to all members of the public as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order N29-20.**

Supervisor John Gioia, Chair

Supervisor Federal D. Glover, Vice Chair

### Agenda & Meeting Information:

Items may be taken out of order based on business of the day & preference of the Committee. Please click the link below to join:

**April 26, 2021 1:00 PM PST (US and Canada)**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/81664040136>

Meeting ID: 816 6404 0136

Or Telephone, dial:

USA 214 765 0478 US Toll

USA 888 278 0254 US Toll-free

Conference code: 198675

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).
3. **APPROVE Record of Action from the March 22, 2021, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.** (Jody London, DCD)
4. **RECEIVE** update and **PROVIDE DIRECTION** on draft environmental justice policies for updated County General Plan. (Will Nelson, DCD)
5. The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 24, 2021.
6. Adjourn

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*The Sustainability Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Sustainability Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.*

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*Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Sustainability Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 651 Pine Street, 1st floor, during normal business hours.*

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*Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.*

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For Additional Information Contact:

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator  
Phone: (925) 674-7871  
Jody.London@dcd.cccounty.us



# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

**Meeting Date:** 04/26/2021  
**Subject:** APPROVE Record of Action from the March 22, 2021, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.  
**Submitted For:** John Kopchik, Director DCD  
**Department:** Conservation & Development  
**Referral No.:** N/A  
**Referral Name:** N/A  
**Presenter:** Jody London, DCD      **Contact:** Jody London (925)674-7871

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### **Referral History:**

County Ordinance (Better Government Ordinance 95-6, Article 25-205 [d]) requires that each County body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the decisions made in the meeting.

### **Referral Update:**

Any handouts or printed copies of testimony distributed at the meeting will be attached to this meeting record. Links to the agenda and minutes will be made available at the Committee web page, <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7029/Sustainability-Committee>.

### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

Staff recommends approval of the attached Record of Action for the March 22, 2021, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

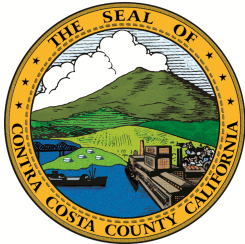
N/A

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### **Attachments**

03-22-21 Minutes

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## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

RECORD OF ACTION FOR  
March 22, 2021

Supervisor John Gioia, Chair  
Supervisor Federal D. Glover, Vice Chair

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Present: John Gioia, Chair  
Federal D. Glover, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator; Will Nelson, Principal Planner, Conservation and Development; Maureen Toms, Deputy Director, Conservation and Development; John Kopchik, Director, Conservation and Development; Erin Steffen, Management Analyst, County Administrator's Office; Steve Kowalewski, Chief Deputy Director, Public Works; Michael Kent, Hazardous Materials Ombudsman; Jason Crapo, Deputy Director, Conservation and Development; Wade Finlinson, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Health Services; Luz Gomez, Building Healthy Communities Manager, Health Services; Susan Psara, Green Business Program Manager, Health Services; Lara Delaney, Senior Management Analyst, County Administrator's Office; Nicole Shimizu, Climate Corps Fellow, Conservation and Development; Sonia Bustamante, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Gioia; Ellen Dempsey, Hazardous Materials Specialist

Attendees: Assemblymember Tim Grayson, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, Steven Stenzler, Tanya Sundberg, Brent Easter, Pamela Meigs, Ogie Strogatz, Susan Hurl, Debi Cooper, Charles Davidson, Dennis Wasco, Lisa Jackson, Betty Lobos, Will McGarvey, Carol Weed, Derene Hinchliff, Domonique Jones, Martha Goralka, Fred Bialy, Justin Marquez, Bryan Reece, Porsche Bunton, Joann Pavlinec, Gary Farber, Brandon Matson, Fred Glueck, Ellen Beans, Susan Hurl, Janet Callaghan, Jackie Garcia, Aimee Henry, Debi Clifford, Catalin Kaser, Brenna Shafizadeh, Isabella Zizi, Devin Murphy, Madeline Kronenberg, Herb Salomon, Floy Andrews, Marti Roach, Allison Johnson, Chuck Leonard, Ryan Rauzon, Laura Cottril, Laurie Ozone, Katrinka Ruk, Maureen Brennan, Nick Despota, Jan Warren, Roshi Sirjani, Mike Moore, Aaron Winer, Michael Coody,

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).

*Marti Roach asked how the newly passed American Rescue Act's funds will be used, how the public would be informed about how the money is used, and if there were opportunities to use some of the money for work with sustainability or environmental justice co-benefits. The Sustainability Committee said it would be able to answer Roach's question once specific details are worked out.*

3. Staff recommends approval of the attached Record of Action for the February 22, 2021, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

*The Record of Action from the February 22, 2021 meeting of the Sustainability Committee was approved.*

4. DISCUSS options for a process that will facilitate an inclusive Just Transition and PROVIDE DIRECTION.

*Assemblymember Tim Grayson introduced his legislation to create Green Empowerment Zones which includes language around clean technology, economic development, and the preservation of good jobs for Contra Costa County.*

*Congressman Mark DeSaulnier introduced his three-bill package focused on proactively preparing the community for the impacts of refinery closures. DeSaulnier highlighted the need for new economic opportunities and the need to convene affected stakeholders.*

*The Committee elaborated upon the stakeholders it imagines would be part of a Just Transition discussion and voiced interest in the grants that would be introduced by DeSaulnier's proposed bills. The Committee emphasized that this conversation is far-reaching and one that goes well beyond Contra Costa County alone.*

*The Committee asked DeSaulnier about stakeholders with whom he engages. DeSaulnier mentioned having intentional conversations with research institutes in California and his desire to deploy the work that research institutions are doing into the community. He talked about the importance of dialogue with refineries and unions.*

*The Committee pointed to the all-union electric bus company in Lancaster as an example of policy's influence on clean tech and clean tech's role in replacing refinery jobs with new varieties of jobs. In Contra Costa County there has to be development of local jobs to replace refinery work and partnership with community colleges to train up the workforce for these new jobs. Supervisor Glover pointed to the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative as a possible hub for new these kinds of jobs in the clean tech industry.*

*Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, reminded the Sustainability*

*Committee of the staff report corresponding to this item, which included a letter to the Board of Supervisors signed by over 60 community groups on the issue of Just Transition. The staff report referenced models that could be used to form a process around a Just Transition. London asked the Committee for direction for staff working on the Just Transition topic.*

*The Committee advised staff to collaborate with Supervisor Gioia and Supervisor Glover's offices to identify a list of organizations to be part of a discussion on Just Transition. At the Committee's next meeting, the Committee will discuss the potential list of stakeholders to suggest to the full Board of Supervisors. The Committee suggested that staff coordinate with Assemblymember Grayson and Congressman DeSaulnier's offices for additional stakeholder recommendations. The Committee voiced interest in having Assemblymember Grayson and Congressman DeSaulnier at the Board presentation.*

*During the public comment period, members of the public thanked the Committee for discussing the topic of Just Transition proactively. Members of the public voiced their concern over the potential consequences of repurposing the Marathon and Phillips 66 refineries into renewable diesel plants including environmental, odor, pollution, and community impacts. Several community members voiced concern over repurposing facilities for renewable biofuel, an intermediary fuel, instead of focusing on electrifying transportation. Members of the public urged the Committee to hold refineries accountable for the remediation of their operational sites to avoid leaving communities holding the bag and leaving land fallow. One member of the public suggested creating an East Bay regional group focused on Just Transition. Other members urged the Committee to continue to think about protecting workers in a Just Transition, environmental justice, and groundwater flooding risks due to sea level rise.*

*Gioia stated that the land use process would address issues that people raised. He said that the Just Transition discussion would deal with more than just the Phillips 66 and Marathon refineries.*

*John Kopchik, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, spoke about the role the County plays with regards to land use and the Phillips 66 and Marathon refinery project proposals. Kopchik recommended the Committee focus on issues outside of land use.*

*The Committee acknowledged that the County is in a transformational time and that land use plans play an important role in Just Transition efforts. The Committee stated that it would learn from other efforts and devise a model unique to Contra Costa. Going forward, there will be work to identify stakeholders to include in any discussions, identifying and conducting additional research, and development of a transition plan.*

5. RECEIVE update and PROVIDE DIRECTION on draft environmental justice policy guidance for updated County General Plan

*This item was postponed to a Sustainability Committee meeting to be scheduled for April 2021.*

6. RECEIVE UPDATE on Interim Climate Action Plan Work Plan.

*Jody London explained that the Interim Climate Action Plan Work Plan will track and report sustainability progress in the County until the adoption of the new Climate Action Plan next year.*

7. RECEIVE report from Sustainability Commission Chair.

*Jody London provided the report, noting the new leadership on the Commission and the Commission's focus on transportation for this year. The Chair this year is Wes Sullens, and the Vice Chair is Sarah Foster.*

8. RECEIVE report from Sustainability Coordinator.

*Jody London referred the Committee to the written report in the agenda. London mentioned that the Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force will bring its first report to the Board of Supervisors' March 30, 2021 meeting. At the same meeting, a support letter for GRID Alternatives to administer an electric vehicle program being sponsored by PG&E will be brought to the Board.*

9. The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 24, 2021.

10. Adjourn

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For Additional Information Contact:

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator  
Phone (925) 674-7871  
Jody.London@dcd.cccounty.us





# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

**Meeting Date:** 04/26/2021  
**Subject:** RECEIVE update and PROVIDE DIRECTION on draft environmental justice policies for updated County General Plan. (Will Nelson, DCD)  
**Submitted For:** John Kopchik, Director DCD  
**Department:** Conservation & Development  
**Referral No.:** N/A  
**Referral Name:** N/A  
**Presenter:** Will Nelson, DCD      **Contact:** Jody London (925)674-7871

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### **Referral History:**

Since 2018, the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) has been working on Envision Contra Costa 2040 (ECC2040), the update to the County General Plan, Zoning Code, and Climate Action Plan (CAP). A requirement related to the General Plan update is compliance with SB 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, passed in 2016. SB 1000 requires the County General Plan to address environmental justice in Impacted Communities (formerly “disadvantaged communities;” see explanation below) in the unincorporated area of the county (i.e., North Richmond, Montalvin Manor/Tara Hills/Bayview, Rodeo, Crockett, Mountain View/Vine Hill, Pacheco, Clyde, and Bay Point).

The Sustainability Committee received a report on the draft General Plan environmental justice policies at its September 29, 2020, meeting. The Committee provided direction on a number of items, including environmental impacts, community benefits, public bank, access to fresh food, and outreach. The Committee asked that the draft environmental justice policies be brought back for further review and discussion after additional community outreach and input from the Hazardous Materials Commission.

### **Referral Update:**

Since the Committee’s September 2020 meeting, the DCD has conducted extensive outreach with Impacted Community members and other stakeholders, met with the Sustainability and Hazardous Materials commissions, and continued to coordinate with staff from other County departments to refine the draft environmental justice policy guidance.

### **Outreach and Engagement**

Between November 2020 and February 2021, the County surveyed community members to obtain feedback on the draft environmental policy guidance. The survey asked open-ended questions on eight key policy issue areas pertaining to environmental justice. For each policy issue, participants



were asked to review and provide feedback on the draft strategies.

The survey was conducted in English and Spanish both online and via hard copies distributed through organizations working in Impacted Communities. The online survey was advertised via the Envision Contra Costa 2040 website and email list, as well as on social media platforms, including Facebook, NextDoor, and Instagram. The County paid to promote the Facebook and Instagram posts, resulting in 126,890 people reached and 8,658 post engagements. In addition, the Pacific Coast Association Farmers Market and the West Contra Costa County Unified School District advertised the online survey through their contact lists. The hard copy surveys were distributed via the John Swett Unified School District, Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, and Meals on Wheels. A total of 469 survey responses were received. A summary of the survey feedback is provided as Attachment A to this staff report.

During this same November-to-February timeframe, the Envision Contra Costa 2040 team also attended meetings hosted by community-based organizations in Impacted Communities and other groups to inform stakeholders about the project, promote the online survey, and encourage participation in a series of in-depth meetings on the environmental justice policy guidance that was held in February (described below). Team members attended the following meetings:

- Community Leaders Network, November 11, 2020
- Bay Point Partnership, December 12, 2020
- Richmond Our Power Coalition, December 16, 2020
- Crockett Community Foundation, January 7, 2021
- The Latina Center, January 8, 2021
- Rodeo Citizens Association, January 26, 2021
- East County/First Five and Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), January 28, 2021
- Carquinez Women's Club, February 5, 2021
- East Bay Leadership Council, February 9, 2021
- Committee for Industrial Safety, February 11, 2021
- Crockett Lions Club, February 17, 2021
- Industrial Association of Contra Costa County, Council of Industries, and Western States Petroleum Association, February 24, 2021

In February 2021, the County hosted a three-part meeting series to provide the opportunity for a more in-depth discussion of the draft environmental justice policy guidance with affected community members. Each meeting focused on a subset of topics. The majority of each meeting was spent in breakout rooms (via Zoom) for small group discussions on the draft goals, policies, and actions. A summary of the input from this meeting series is provided in Attachment B, and the meetings, topics, and attendance are listed below.

- February 3rd, 2021, 6 pm – 8 pm
  - Topics: Sustainable Economy, Homes, and Jobs
  - Participants in attendance: 35
- February 10th, 2021, 6 pm – 8 pm
  - Topics: Community Engagement, Transportation, and Infrastructure
  - Participants in attendance: 22
- February 17th, 2021, 6 pm – 8 pm
  - Topics: Food, Health Services, Recreation, Air Quality, and Hazardous Materials
  - Participants in attendance: 70

Finally, County staff also attended two County commission meetings to discuss the draft

## environmental justice policy guidance:

- Hazardous Materials Commission, December 3, 2020. Commissioners asked questions and offered policy suggestions. Those questions and suggestions are provided in Attachment C. Subsequent to the meeting, the Hazardous Materials Commission provided additional suggested changes to the policy guidance, which are presented in Attachments D and E.
- Sustainability Commission, February 22, 2021. Commissioners were updated on the status of the policy guidance and the outreach conducted to date.

### Revised Draft Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Actions

The revised draft environmental justice policy guidance, along with a memo providing context and background information, are provided in Attachments F and G, respectively. The policy guidance is now presented in the context of the General Plan 2040 elements. The revisions reflect the feedback from Impacted Community members and advocates, as well as additional input from County staff from various departments. The revisions also incorporate previous feedback provided at the September 29, 2020, Sustainability Committee meeting. The draft policy guidance incorporates some revisions suggested by Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) staff in their memo dated March 10, 2021 (Attachment H), and Richmond Land in their letter dated March 16, 2021 (Attachment I). Regarding those suggestions, the letter and memo identify the goals, policies, and actions using the numbering convention from the draft policy guidance dated October 2, 2020. The numbering changed entirely when the goals, policies, and actions were transferred to the General Plan element format. Attachment J is a crosswalk matching the October 2, 2020, numbering to the numbering in Attachment F.

Staff notes that the draft environmental justice policy guidance is “raw” in the sense that it incorporates the input from the sources described above, but has not been thoroughly reviewed by DCD staff through the lens of feasibility, legality, appropriateness for inclusion in a General Plan, etc. Refinement of the goals, policies, and actions will continue, and DCD staff anticipates that some of these will ultimately find homes in County policy documents other than the General Plan, such as the plan under development through the CCHS Envision Health initiative.

Staff requests feedback and direction from the Sustainability Committee on additional refinements necessary for the draft goals, policies, and actions. In particular, staff seeks Committee guidance on the following items:

- **“Disadvantaged community” terminology.** SB 1000 uses the term “disadvantaged communities,” defined as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Based on community feedback, staff recommends using the term “Impacted Community” to describe disadvantaged communities under SB 1000. This term was suggested by a community member; it conveys the intended meaning clearly and succinctly, while avoiding the negativity associated with the term “disadvantaged.” “Impacted” implies that the environmental justice issues are not inherent to the community and that they can be addressed and conditions changed.
- **Just Transition.** The “just transition” guidance in Policy SC-P1.1 and Action SC-A1.1 in the Strong Communities Element has garnered significant attention through the outreach and engagement process, ranging from suggestions to change the zoning to prohibit refineries as a way to actively phase them out, to concerns that communities will turn into ghost towns when refineries leave. In the revised policy guidance, staff adjusted the text to more closely align with the just transition guidance in the County’s emergency climate

resolution adopted in September 2020. The policy guidance aims to provide a framework for the significant work effort that will be required to plan for this transition.

- **Environmental Justice Advisory Group.** The previous draft policy guidance had included the following action: “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.” After more consultation among staff from various County departments, we recommend eliminating this action. It is anticipated that the new Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice will form an advisory body. That body, coupled with the existing Sustainability Commission, could serve a similar purpose as one focused solely on environmental justice.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

RECEIVE update and PROVIDE DIRECTION on draft environmental justice policy guidance for updated County General Plan.

**Fiscal Impact (if any):**

No fiscal impact at this time.

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**Attachments**

Presentation - Draft Environmental Justice Policies

Attachment A - Environmental Justice Online Survey Summary

Attachment B - Environmental Justice Meeting Series Summary

Attachment C - Hazardous Materials Commission Questions and Suggestions on October 2, 2020 EJ Memo

Attachment D - Hazardous Materials Commission EJ Letter to Board of Supervisors, February 1, 2021

Attachment E - Hazardous Materials Commission EJ Letter to Board of Supervisors, March 1, 2021

Attachment F - Revised Draft Environmental Justice Policy Guidance

Attachment G - Draft Environmental Justice Policy Guidance Context Memo

Attachment H - Contra Costa Health Services Comments on Draft Environmental Justice Policy Guidance

Attachment I - Richmond Land Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, & Actions to Sustainability Commission

Attachment J - Environmental Justice Policy Numbering Crosswalk

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# ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040

**Sustainability Committee**

4/26/2021

# Envision Contra Costa 2040



**General  
Plan**



**Zoning  
Code**



**Climate  
Action  
Plan**

**Environmental Impact Report**

# Senate Bill 1000

## What is Environmental Justice?



The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE §65040.12(E)

Pollution  
burden



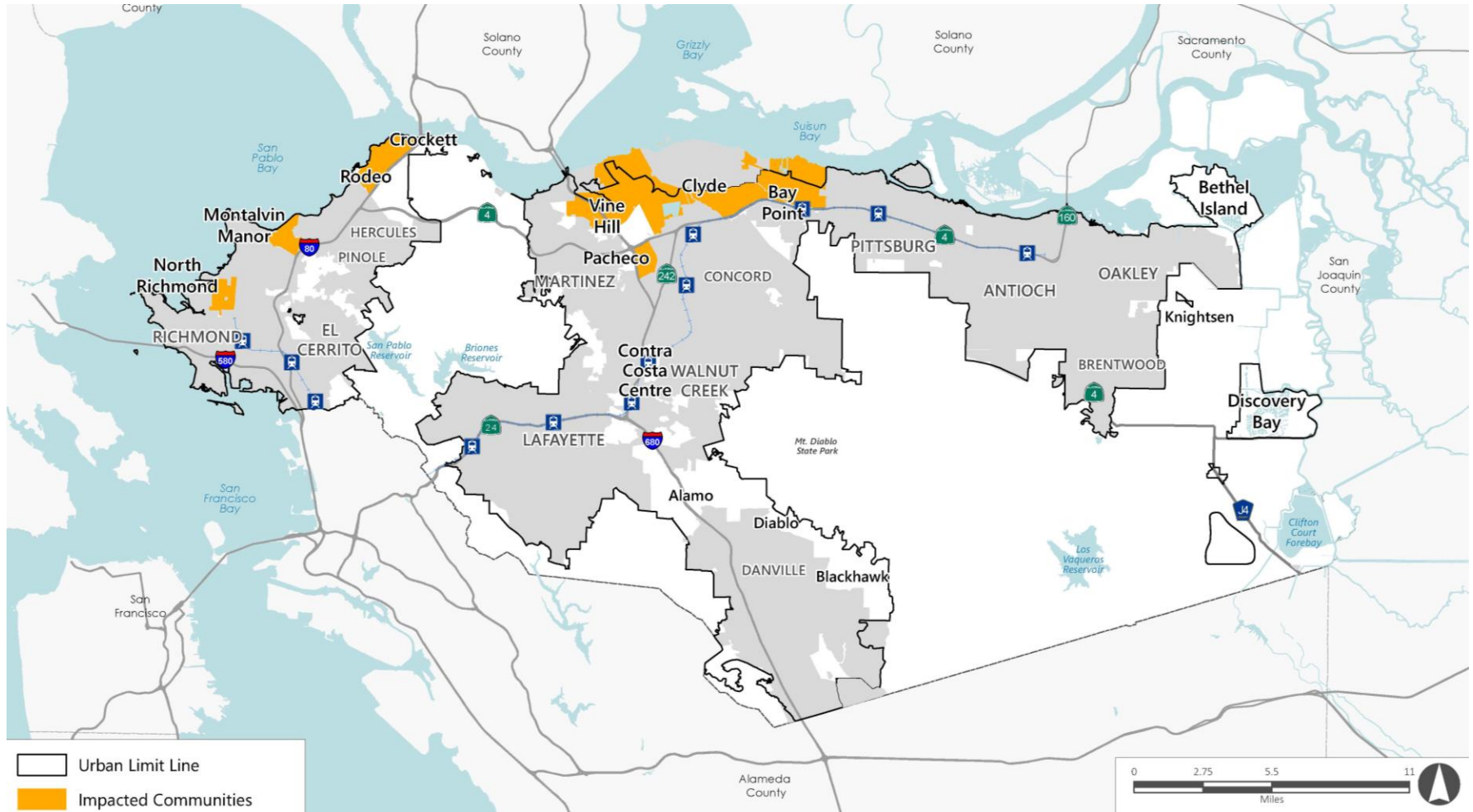
Low-  
income  
area



“Disadvantaged  
community”



# Draft “Disadvantaged” Communities





# Prior Outreach

- » 19 meetings in “disadvantaged” communities
- » 2 Countywide collaborations on Environmental Justice, Sustainability, and Health
- » 4 Climate Action Plan workshops
- » 3 Countywide Open House events for Envision Contra Costa 2040
- » Online open house at:  
<http://envisioncontracosta2040.org/online-engagement/>

# EJ Policy Guidance Outreach

- » Timeframe: November 2020 through February 2021
- » Collected feedback via surveys:
  - Shorter survey highlighting big ideas: online and paper
    - **469 responses!**
  - Comments on individual policies and actions: online
- » Met with community-based organizations to collect input and promote survey

**ENVISION  
CONTRA COSTA 2040**

You know your community better than anyone. How can it be stronger and healthier?

Contra Costa County is planning for its future through [Envision Contra Costa 2040](#). We want the future to be safe, healthy, equitable, and sustainable for all the communities in the county, so that low-income residents, communities of color, indigenous peoples and tribal nations, and immigrant communities no longer experience disproportionate environmental and health impacts. We've listened to community members' concerns at [dozens of meetings](#) and drafted policies and actions to drive change. Now, we want to hear what you think! Please share your feedback through this survey.

If you want to review full text of the current draft policies, follow [this link](#). Email any comments or questions to [Will.Nelson@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:Will.Nelson@dcd.cccounty.us).

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1) Which community do you live in?

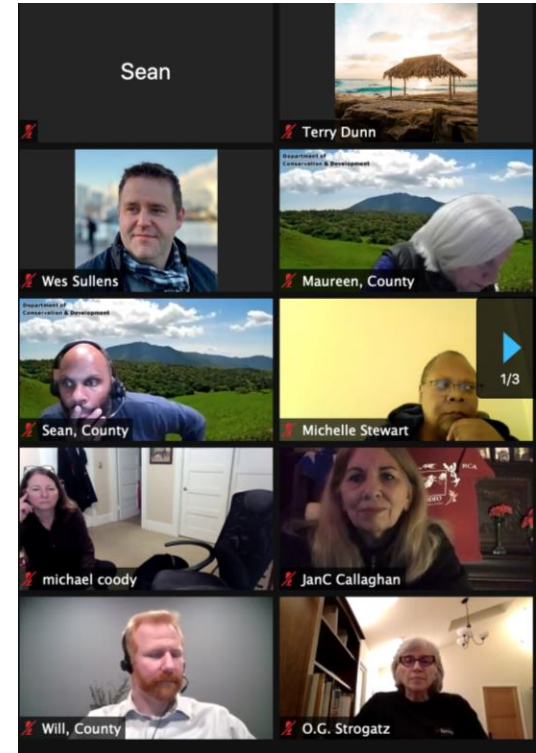
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2) Residents want clean industry jobs that earn a livable wage. We are proposing to:

- Plan for phasing out fossil fuel industries and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer good-wage jobs
- Support retraining of fossil fuel-based workers for jobs in clean industries

# February Meeting Series

- » Deeper dive into policy topics
- » Meetings were held virtually over Zoom
  - 2/3/21: Sustainable economy, homes, jobs
  - 2/10/21: Community engagement, transportation, infrastructure
  - 2/17/21: Health services, recreation, air quality, hazardous materials



# Revised Draft EJ Policy Guidance

## » Revisions reflect feedback from:

- September 2020 Sustainability Committee meeting
- Community outreach
- Additional coordination with County staff from other departments

## » Revisions need further vetting by County staff

## » Revised guidance provided within the context of the Draft General Plan Elements



# Discussion Items

## » “Disadvantaged community” terminology

- Change to “Impacted Community”

## » Just Transition guidance

- Reflect emergency climate resolution
- Details of transition to be worked out through implementation of Just Transition plan (Action SC-A1.6)

## » Environmental Justice advisory group

- Remove action to establish this group; instead rely on:
  - Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice advisory group
  - Sustainability Commission

# What's Next?

## » Summer 2021

- Remaining General Plan policy guidance

## » Fall/Winter 2021/2022

- Draft General Plan

## » Spring 2022

- Public review

## » Summer/Fall 2022

- Review and adoption



# ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040

Sustainability Committee

3/22/2021



# Environmental Justice Policy Survey Summary

## INTRODUCTION

As part of Envision Contra Costa 2040 community engagement efforts, the County launched an online survey to obtain community feedback on [draft policy strategies](#) developed to address environmental justice issues in the county. The objective of the survey was to ensure the draft environmental justice policies reflect what the community envisions for its future.

The online survey asked open-ended questions on eight key policy issue areas pertaining to environmental justice: jobs and economy, housing, community engagement, transportation, infrastructure, healthy food, open space, and air quality and hazardous materials. Participants were asked to review each policy strategy and provide a response as to whether they agree with the strategy. The survey also provides space for participants to share other ideas or feedback. Because the survey asked open-ended questions rather than multiple choice questions with fixed responses, this summary describes responses qualitatively rather than quantitatively. The full text of all online responses can be viewed online [here](#) and hard-copy responses are [here](#).

The online survey began on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, and ended on Monday, March 1, 2021. A total of 469 survey responses were received. In addition to the online survey, a hard-copy version of the survey was distributed at local community events to reach community members who lack access to the internet. Those results are incorporated in this summary. A longer survey was also made available to allow an opportunity for community feedback on any or all of the full set of draft policies and actions. This survey was posted online from Monday, February 8, 2021 until Monday, March 1, 2021. The results of the longer survey are discussed at the end of this summary. The full text of online responses for the longer survey can be viewed online [here](#).

This summary presents the survey questions followed by responses from Impacted Community residents (i.e., residents from communities that meet the definition of a “disadvantaged community” under Senate Bill 1000) and responses from other County residents.

## SURVEY RESPONSES

As part of Senate Bill (SB) 1000 the Contra Costa General Plan is required to prioritize improvements and programs for addressing the needs of Impacted Communities. There are six Impacted Communities in the county: Bay Point; Bayview, Tara Hills, and Montalvin Manor (also known as “MonTara Bay”); Crockett; North Richmond; Rodeo; and Vine Hill/Mountain View.

The online survey asked participants to identify the community in which they reside. It is important to note that jurisdictional boundaries often are not clearly drawn or known the public, which may affect how participants identified their community of residence.

Out of 469 survey responses, 108 participants (23 percent) said they live in an unincorporated Impacted Community within the county. The majority of Impacted Community respondents live in Rodeo, followed by Crockett and Bay Point. Some respondents also live in Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Mountain View. Most respondents who live outside an Impacted Community are in Martinez, followed by Concord and Richmond. Also in this group are participants living in El Cerrito, Walnut Creek, and Pittsburg, as well as other cities and communities within the county. Survey responses to each question are summarized below.

## **Jobs and Economy**

*Residents want clean industry jobs that earn a livable wage and support for small, locally owned businesses. We are proposing to:*

- » *Plan for phasing out fossil fuel industries and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer good-wage jobs*
- » *Support retraining of fossil fuel-based workers for jobs in clean industries*
- » *Attract manufacturing businesses in the clean technology sector*
- » *Create incentives to spur new development and redevelopment in disadvantaged neighborhoods*
- » *Promote entrepreneurship and locally owned businesses in disadvantaged neighborhoods*
- » *Pursue loan programs that support small businesses in disadvantaged neighborhoods*

### *Impacted Community Resident Responses*

Many Impacted Community respondents express a desire for clean industry jobs that pay well. Job and economy policy strategy ideas shared by participants include job training programs, investing in public transit, incentivizing zero emission vehicles, encouraging the use of cleaner products, and a business model that replaces welfare with County labor jobs. Some participants would like to see revitalization and job opportunities along the shoreline. A few participants agree with the policies, but question whether they will happen. Participants are also concerned about pollution impacts to their community from industrial uses. Some participants do not agree with phasing out the fossil fuel industry because they feel the refineries are already operating clean and provide good-paying jobs for members of the community. A number of participants question whether the clean industries will offer comparable jobs with similar benefits as the refineries currently provide. Some participants support the Phillips 66 refinery's efforts to transition to renewable fuels. A few participants are concerned phasing out fossil fuels will drive up cost of fuel for everyone.

Most Impacted Community respondents also support efforts to promote small, locally owned businesses. Some participants would like to discourage non-local developers from buying property in Impacted Communities. Other ideas shared by participants to promote small local businesses include providing loan programs or grants to support small businesses, vetting loan programs to ensure small businesses are not provided private loans with high interest rates, and offering better tax incentives to help small local businesses be successful. Some participants request incentives to improve storefronts and attract visitors. The incentives can include funding to support maintenance of buildings and providing good lighting and sidewalks. A few participants disagree with promoting small businesses only in Impacted Communities and think small businesses in all communities should be supported. A few participants do not agree with efforts to support small businesses because they do not endorse government support in Impacted Communities. Two participants note that the County closed existing small businesses due to Covid-19 related shutdowns.

One participant questions how funding will be provided for programs to support small businesses. A number of participants raised specific concerns about Rodeo, including the need for a grocery store with the closure of Safeway, revitalization along the waterfront and in downtown Rodeo, and retaining Rodeo's character.

#### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

Many of these respondents agree with attracting clean industry jobs; however, there is a divide on whether the existing fossil fuel industries should be phased out. Some participants believe the goals and strategies for phasing out fossil fuels and attracting clean industry jobs are unrealistic and unachievable. Various participants feel the market should decide which businesses are in the county and some participants believe there is an existing demand for fossil fuels. Some participants would not like to see fossil fuels outsourced to other countries where there may not be as many environmental regulations to ensure safe refining of fossil fuels. There is a unified concern about job loss from phasing out fossil fuel businesses among the participants and some are concerned about the unions' support. Some participants recommend a two-part strategy to attract clean industry jobs while working with the existing fossil fuel industry to ensure they operate safely. Various participants request incentives for clean technology such as residential solar and electric vehicle charging stations.

Many respondents agree with policy strategies to support small local businesses. Participants would like to see grants offered to stimulate small business growth, and some participants express a desire for police surveillance to enhance safety while shopping at small businesses. Various participants wish programs to support small businesses are offered in all neighborhoods, not only in Impacted Communities. Some participants recommend training or mentorship programs that are designed to help new local business owners ensure their business is successful. A few participants support the policy strategies to support small businesses but request the businesses offer higher-paying jobs for the community. Some participants question funding sources and request taxes to remain the same. A few participants note that the County closed existing small businesses due to Covid-19 related shutdowns. Some participants believe the government should not be involved in efforts to support or discourage businesses.

## **Housing**

*Residents want safe, healthy housing. We are proposing to:*

- » *Ensure rental housing is safe and well-maintained through outreach and code enforcement*
- » *Enhance programs that improve housing livability, such as the County's weatherization program*
- » *Build an inventory of land available for tiny homes and similar forms of affordable housing*

#### Impacted Community Resident Responses

Many Impacted Community respondents agree with efforts to support safe and well-maintained housing. Some participants recommend housing programs designed to support low-income families, homeless residents, and the elderly population. Other ideas shared by the respondents include supporting mixed-use communities affordable to households at varying socioeconomic levels with walkable access to efficient transportation and building apartments on the empty lots in Rodeo. There is a divide among Impacted Community respondents on whether tiny homes should be allowed. A few participants also suggest that

new affordable housing developments be distributed throughout the county instead of concentrated in one particular area, such as in Rodeo. One participant agrees with the strategies but believes renters are also responsible for maintaining their place of residence. Some participants do not agree with the strategies to promote safe housing because they believe developing more land is not a good idea or feel the county is already too densely populated with low-income housing. A few participants question how the strategies will be enforced. A few participants recommend removing hurdles to allow developers to build housing by streamlining the permitting process and lowering the cost to develop housing. One of the participants specifically requests lowering the permit cost for building accessory dwelling units. Finally, one participant requests each micro-housing project to be staffed with a team of social workers to provide services for transitional living, and another participant hopes local parkland like East Bay Regional Park District's shorelines will not be included in the land inventory.

#### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

These participants recommend drafting rent control policies, providing housing opportunities for veterans and homeless people, and building denser housing near transit hubs. Some participants believe safe housing should be provided in all communities within the county, not only in Impacted Communities. A number of participants are concerned about overcrowding and they hope new housing will provide ample space for families. A few participants express concerns about the existing substandard rental housing in the community and request that existing rental housing be safe and well-maintained. Other policy strategy ideas shared by participants include streamlining the permit process to build more housing, allowing motorhomes as accessory dwelling units, and building housing using shipping containers. A number of participants would not like their taxes to provide funding for housing, and many do not believe the government should be involved in building housing. There is a divide among respondents on whether tiny homes should be allowed. Various participants do not agree with the strategy to promote tiny homes because they feel multifamily housing, such as apartments or condos, are a better housing option. However, some participants would like to see tiny homes as a housing option. Some participants also request that the County provide shelters for the homeless. Various participants believe the current building and safety codes are sufficient to provide safe and healthy housing. A few participants believe infrastructure improvements will be necessary to support an increase in population as a result of new housing projects. Lastly, participants agree with energy efficiency programs, and they recommend including programs to lower utility bills, promote solar improvements, and upgrade older residences in the community.

### **Community Engagement**

*Residents want a stronger voice in decisions that affect their community. We are proposing to:*

- » *Prepare public notices in the neighborhoods' predominant languages and provide interpretation at meetings*
- » *Schedule community meetings at convenient times and locations*
- » *Partner with local community organizations and leaders on outreach*

#### Impacted Community Resident Responses

Most Impacted Community respondents agree with the policy strategies and some recommend holding more meetings, partnering with local businesses, and allowing remote participation. Some participants

believe the online survey was a great platform for community engagement and believe surveys should continue to be offered. A few participants request the outreach material be provided only in English. A few participants would like to see their District's Supervisor take a more active role in communicating with the public. One participant requests the Rodeo Citizens Association be allowed to serve as a decision-making body for Rodeo, and another participant requested diversifying the outreach process to reach the population without access to the internet.

#### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

Most respondents support community engagement efforts and agree with the policy strategies. Participants recommend collaborating with community partners to help spread the word, including local grocery stores, business owners, and schools. Some participants believe online surveys are a great method for reaching the population unable to attend meetings, and many request virtual meeting options through Zoom. Some participants request that outreach methods include online platforms, such as emails, social media, Nextdoor, Claycord.com, and other neighborhood forums. A few participants believe meeting minutes or notes should be easier to find on the County website. They also request that meeting minutes be sent out by email after a meeting. Additional policy strategy ideas shared by participants include providing free transportation to and from meetings, offering childcare services, providing sign language services, and educating the public about the decision-making process so they are aware about input opportunities. A few participants would like the County to encourage local community leaders to be more involved in meetings by allowing them to choose the topics for a meeting or providing them an opportunity to share their vision for a sustainable community. Some participants do not agree with the outreach strategies because they believe the materials should only be available in English or feel their input does not alter the ultimate decision made by decision-makers. A few participants believe public input should be limited in certain land use processes because they believe the voices that are typically heard come from people who disagree.

### **Transportation**

*Residents want to be able to walk, bike, exercise, and travel to school safely. We are proposing to:*

- » *Prioritize bikeway, sidewalk, road, park, landscaping, environmental, and other public improvements in disadvantaged neighborhoods*
- » *Increase lighting, crosswalks, and safety measures near schools, libraries, and parks*
- » *Prioritize street lighting improvements in disadvantaged communities*
- » *Generate new funding sources for public facilities and services in disadvantaged neighborhoods*

#### Impacted Community Resident Responses

Most Impacted Community respondents support the transportation policy strategies. One participant asks if the strategies include regular trash clean up and maintenance. A few participants recommend cleaning up Rodeo Beach and one participant recommends cleaning up Downtown Rodeo. A few participants would like to see the shoreline near the Rodeo section of the Bay Trail cleaned up. Other policy ideas shared by participants include adding shuttles to BART, connecting and enhancing the San Francisco Bay Trail, engaging the local youth sports and community organizations to adopt parks and streets, and providing more bike lanes. One participant recommends a partnership effort with local construction contractors and

the Building Trades Union to provide people from underserved areas an opportunity to join union apprentice programs and work on County improvement projects. A few participants do not agree with funding new public facilities, such as bus shelters, because they believe they would attract homeless people and feel the Impacted Community should be educated on how to maintain the area to be safe and clean. Some participants do not support prioritizing transportation improvements in Impacted Communities and ask the County to fix all roads and sidewalks instead. Some participants are concerned about funding sources. A few participants believe the strategies should be offered throughout the county, not only in Impacted Communities.

#### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

Most participants support the transportation policy strategies outlined above. Many participants believe the transportation strategies should not be exclusive to Impacted Communities and instead be extended to include the entire county. Participants wish trails and bike travel paths could be interconnected as part of one network. One participant requests access to public transportation in Canyon and another participant would like to see bus service offered from Pinole, Hercules, and El Sobrante to the BART station in Martinez. A few participants are concerned about light pollution and some request maintenance along the existing trails in the county. A number of participants express concerns for their safety, specifically on the Ohlone Greenway Trail in Richmond and El Cerrito. A few participants request an increase in police presence or community volunteers to enhance safety along the trails. Other policy strategy ideas shared by participants include adding charging stations for electric vehicles, building sidewalks, conducting a public infrastructure survey to identify needs, funding for classes such as yoga and Zumba parks, and addressing homeless and safety issues along the trails. A few participants also recommend solar powered street lighting and signage. One participant also requests prioritizing audible signals at intersections for the visually impaired. Some people do not agree with the transportation strategies because they feel people commute by car and they would not like taxes to be increased to fund the transportation improvements. Finally, a few participants request that the County consider road maintenance improvements as well.

### **Infrastructure**

*Residents want improved community clean-up and maintenance. We are proposing to:*

- » *Clean up illegal dump sites in disadvantaged neighborhoods*
- » *Improve code enforcement and public works practices, emphasizing community-identified issues*
- » *Hold community clean-up days in disadvantaged neighborhoods*

#### Impacted Community Resident Responses

Most Impacted Community respondents agree with the strategies outlined to help clean up neighborhoods. Ideas shared by the participants to support cleanup efforts include engaging and educating students about dumping and littering, regularly emptying trash cans in public spaces, and placing cameras at known dumping sites. Some participants believe illegal dumping is occurring because the cost for proper waste disposal is too high. Participants recommend free dumping days or providing bins in the community on certain days to allow dumping of mattresses, batteries, motor oil, and other waste material. A few participants recommend working with high school students on clean-up efforts. Some participants question why illegal dumping sites have not been cleaned up yet, and one participant asks how the strategies would

be funded. A few participants request higher fines for illegal dumping. Some respondents wish the County would address illegal urban camping and homeless camping. Some participants would like the entire county to be cleaned up, not just Impacted Communities.

#### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

Most of these participants agree with the strategies to clean up neighborhoods and some request clean up in specific areas of the county including the top of Clark Road, Franklin Canyon, Pinole Valley, and Carriage Hills. One participant requests cleaning up County roads and the Richmond Parkway. Many participants recommend video surveillance in known dumping sites, issuing fines or penalties, and educating the public about the life cycle of waste and the benefits of properly disposing waste. Participants also recommend installing more public trash receptacles or dumpsters and keeping public bathrooms clean. Many participants would like the entire county to be cleaned up, not just Impacted Communities. A few participants believe the cleanup days should not replace the County's responsibility to clean up the communities and some question how funding will be provided for cleanup efforts. Some participants also believe cleanup efforts should address illegal camping, homeless encampment sites, and graffiti. A few participants recommend offering an employment program that provides a job for homeless people who pick up trash and clean up the community. Some participants request fee waivers or lower dumping costs for low-income families to make dumping sites affordable. A few participants recommend educating the community and business owners on the negative outcomes of littering. Finally, various participants recommend community involvement in clean-up efforts, including partnering with community groups and local schools. One participant recommends a certificate program for high school students to earn credit as a part of a service program.

### **Healthy Food**

*Residents want access to healthy food. We are proposing to:*

- » *Support community gardens, farmers markets, and similar ways to grow and distribute food locally*
- » *Make it easier to open new grocery stores*
- » *Encourage fresh food stores at major transit stops*

#### Impacted Community Resident Responses

Many Impacted Community respondents support efforts to increase healthy food access. Policy strategy ideas shared by participants include supporting programs to teach families in Impacted Communities how to prepare fresh foods, encouraging people to grow their own food, and allowing a worker-owned co-op. A few participants recommend a community-supported agriculture system that allows consumers to buy local seasonal food directly from a farmer. Participants also request organic food stores and a supermarket in Rodeo since Safeway is closing. A few participants disagree with the healthy food policy strategies because they believe Impacted Communities may not take advantage of healthy food sources. One participant asks why these strategies are not occurring yet.



### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

Many of these respondents agree with the strategies to increase access to healthy food. Some participants recommend focusing on educational programs to increase awareness about healthy and sustainable eating options. Participants recommend integrating nutrition into the school curriculum, providing grants for school gardens to grow food for the community, and partnering with nurseries in the areas to help educate young farmers. Other policy strategy ideas shared by participants include eliminating land use permit requirements for food trucks, providing mobile fresh food trucks, holding a year-round farmers market in Pittsburg, and dropping off excess food for food distribution events. A few participants are aware food deserts exist in the county, and one participant recommends identifying the food deserts and prioritizing community gardens and grocery stores in those areas. A number of participants would like to see grants or other incentives to help existing grocery stores provide fresh food and subsidize food markets. A few participants request programs that deliver fresh food to those who are homebound. Some people do not believe the County should be involved in encouraging access to healthy foods, indicating that the market should decide instead. A few participants feel access to plenty of healthy food options already exists and do not believe additional food sources are needed.

### **Open Space**

*Residents want safe parks and open spaces and more trees. We are proposing to:*

- » *Identify which neighborhoods are short on parks and open space and what kinds of recreation options people want*
- » *Prioritize spending on recreation, open space, and street trees in disadvantaged neighborhoods*
- » *Prepare a strategy to plant and take care of more street trees*

### Impacted Community Resident Responses

Many Impacted Community respondents agree, and some participants believe their neighborhood needs more open space, trees, or greenery. Policy strategy ideas shared by participants include planting fruit or nut trees, providing better access to public restrooms and park facilities, and utilizing the amphitheater area at Refugio Valley Park to host events in collaboration with local businesses, school performing arts programs, and nonprofits. One participant recommends converting the shoreline in Crockett into a park, and a few participants request that the County protect open space areas from rezoning. Some participants are concerned about maintenance, and a few respondents do not agree with the strategies because they believe there is already sufficient open space or believe the county should have food forests instead. A few participants request consideration of proper tree placement when planting street trees since they can cause damage to sewer and utility lines, which are costly to repair. Two participants request the roads be maintained, and a few participants believe the strategies should apply to all communities.

### Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses

Many of these participants agree with the open space strategies and would like to see more trees planted. Policy strategy ideas shared by participants related to trees include planting fruit trees and trees with large canopies, holding a tree planting event, and incorporating a tree soil strategy that utilizes compost for soil application. A few participants request that the County plant native trees; two participants recommend

against planting Sycamore trees since they require higher maintenance. Other policy strategies include planting trees as a school activity and exploring vertical green spaces such as garden walls and rooftop gardens. Some participants urge the County to clean up existing parks and provide more sports recreation facilities such as bocce ball, baseball, soccer, and tennis. Some participants are concerned about maintenance of existing parks and request allocation of appropriate funding for maintenance of existing and new parks. Some people would like the open space efforts to apply to the entire county, not only in Impacted Communities. Many participants express concerns about safety at parks and believe funding for safety efforts should be a priority. Respondents request police foot patrol, bright lights, or other safety measures be installed at parks. Some participants would like to see plans to prevent parks from turning into homeless encampments. A few participants believe there are enough parks in the county and oppose tax increases to fund new open space and park facilities. Finally, a few respondents do not like development occurring on undeveloped lands in different areas of the county.

### **Air Quality and Hazardous Materials**

*Residents want to breathe clean air and know that the water and soil in your neighborhood is safe. We are proposing to:*

- » *Require new industrial projects to meet stringent air quality standards for any operations in or near disadvantaged communities*
- » *Work with regulators to keep residents safe from industrial pollution and accidents, prioritizing disadvantaged neighborhoods*
- » *Work with polluters to clean up contaminated sites in disadvantaged neighborhoods*

#### *Impacted Community Resident Responses*

Many Impacted Community respondents agree with the strategies, and some participants believe the refineries should be closed or heavier fines should be enforced for violations. Some participants do not agree with the strategies because they feel the current air quality regulations are already stringent and believe taxing or regulating the industrial businesses are not the solution. Other ideas shared by participants include developing an odor ordinance and offering free soil contamination testing. A few participants request the County apply the policy strategies to all communities, not only in Impacted Communities. One participant supports the strategies as long as they do not result in a loss of jobs. Another participant is an employee of Phillips 66 Refinery and notes that neither they nor their coworkers have health problems connected with their work in the refinery to date.

#### *Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses*

Many of these respondents agree with these strategies; however, there are many participants who believe the State already has stringent air quality standards. Participants who agree that new industrial projects should meet stringent air quality standards request the strategies be applied universally to all industrial projects in the county, not limited to Impacted Communities. Many participants urge the County to provide buffers between homes and industrial projects. A few participants request hefty fines or carbon taxes for companies who emit pollutants. Other policy strategy ideas shared by participants include providing job training programs, offering soil testing for residents, and educating the community about their role in maintaining clean air. A few participants believe refineries should be required to clean up the site or provide funds for remediating the site once they leave. Some participants do not support the strategies because

they feel there is too much regulation and government oversight. Lastly, a few participants request the County include members from the existing industries when discussing regulations since they could be impacted.

### **Additional Feedback**

The final survey question asked respondents to share additional feedback or ideas.

#### *Impacted Community Resident Responses*

A few respondents wish to know more about how the programs will be funded. Some respondents are concerned about crime and request increased police visibility, while another participant requests to defund the police and fund schools. A few participants would like to see Phillips 66 Refinery continue to operate.

#### *Contra Costa County Outside of Impacted Communities Responses*

Some participants believe the environmental justice policy strategies are a step in the right direction. Many people urge the County to not phase out fossil fuels because they provide jobs for the community. Various participants are concerned about a tax increase to provide funding for executing the strategies. Some believe companies and residents are leaving California due to an increase in oversight. A few participants feel there is a homeless problem in the county and request the County to better support homeless residents. Some participants believe the policy strategies should be applied across the entire county, not only in Impacted Communities. Finally, a few respondents request better schools for their children.

### **FULL DRAFT POLICIES AND ACTIONS SURVEY RESPONSES**

Three responses were received on the survey containing the full text of the draft goals, policies, and actions. This survey allowed the respondents to comment on any or all of the draft goals, policies, or actions. The first respondent believes Republic Services charges a high collection fee and they feel illegal dumping would subside if the community were able to dispose of their items at a reasonable cost. The second respondent provided recommendations on how to rewrite several of the policies. Their recommendations include not permitting any extractive activities (related to Policy EJ-A.3), requiring coordination with the State and other local municipalities on the just transition plan (related to Action EJ-A.1), and including a two-year timeframe to study the feasibility of a public bank (related to Action EJ-A.5). The third respondent agrees with the majority of the policies and suggests many revisions, including prohibiting the use of any fossil fuel appliances, ensuring that the disabled community is represented in the policies, and prohibiting fossil fuel vehicles within 500 feet of sensitive receptors.

## Environmental Justice Community Meeting Series Summary

In February 2021, Contra Costa County hosted a three-part Environmental Justice Community Meeting Series using the online conferencing platform Zoom. The meeting series served as the culmination of an extensive community outreach and engagement process to gather feedback on draft goals, policies, and actions related to environmental justice, which began in November 2020. Meetings were held on the three Wednesdays between February 3 and February 17, 2021. Participants were able to join via computer, tablet, or phone, and Spanish materials and interpretation services were provided. Each meeting focused on a subset of related topics to allow time for a detailed discussion of the relevant draft goals, policies, and actions:

- Meeting 1

- February 3, 2021, 6 pm – 8 pm
- Topics: Sustainable Economy, Homes, and Jobs
- Participants in attendance: 35

- Meeting 2

- February 10, 2021, 6 pm – 8 pm
- Topics: Community Engagement, Transportation, and Infrastructure
- Participants in attendance: 22

- Meeting 3

- February 17, 2021, 6 pm – 8pm
- Topics: Food, Health Services, Recreation, Air Quality, and Hazardous Materials
- Participants in attendance: 70

At each meeting, County staff and consultants presented an overview of Envision Contra Costa 2040, SB 1000, and the draft environmental justice policy guidance. Following the presentation and a question-and-answer session, participants were moved into virtual “breakout rooms” where they worked in small groups to collaboratively review and provide feedback on the draft goals, policies, and actions related to each topic. Participants were encouraged to collaborate and share their perspectives and ideas regarding the draft text. Notetakers captured comments and suggested revisions in a shared Google Doc visible through screenshare. Following the small group discussions, all groups returned to the main meeting room to report back on their conversations and highlight the main points of their discussion. The feedback shared during the small group discussions is briefly summarized below. The Google docs showing the full set of comments and edits for each group are attached to this summary.

The input received from the three meetings will be used to inform further refinement of the draft goals, policies, actions.

## **SUMMARY OF INPUT RECEIVED**

### ***Goal EJ-A: Equitable distribution of social and economic advantages among all communities in the county so that no community is disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution or other hazards.***

Goal EJ-A was discussed in Meeting 1. Many small group participants suggested that conditional approvals for fossil fuel industry projects include community benefits that are directed strictly to disadvantaged communities. In addition, participants voiced that residents, collaboratives, Municipal Advisory Councils, and other local organizations should be invited and encouraged to participate in all planning processes and in determining needed community benefits. Participants want to see the County provide more details and transparency regarding the phasing out of fossil fuel industries. They also requested a higher level of detail about an economically viable and just transition to clean energy, and recommended that the County pursue the removal of old gas and oil wells, followed by immediate site remediation/cleanup. Residents are concerned that various policies and actions may be vague or subjective. Overall, most residents support phasing out fossil fuels, directing community benefits towards disadvantaged communities, remediating contaminated sites, and upholding strict protections for disadvantaged communities.

### ***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.***

Goal EJ-B was discussed in Meeting 3. Participants voiced strong support for maintaining and expanding community gardens, including establishing a community garden for Bay Point residents. Residents would like to see businesses and the County work together in conducting nutrition workshops, health events, and other related outreach and education efforts. They also recommended including specific language to differentiate healthy and fast-food options and to ensure healthy restaurants and grocery stores are prioritized. Participants advocated for language to support affordable and high-quality food, rather than focusing only on healthy food options. Finally, participants recommended expanding food bank services with delivery and subsidized options for residents most in need.

### ***Goal EJ-C: Equitable access to safe and sanitary homes among all communities in the county so that no resident has to live in an unsafe or unhealthy place.***

Goal EJ-C was discussed in Meeting 1. Participants expressed that preserving and expanding affordable housing in disadvantaged communities is important. Furthermore, participants would like to see tenants' rights be protected and avoid future displacements or rent hikes for residents living in these communities. Participants appreciated the policy language about tiny homes and requested that the text reference more diverse options for alternative forms of affordable housing. Participants also recommended that the County partner with more agencies beyond just Contra Costa Health Services when conducting land inventories for housing. Residents think that there needs to be zero-interest financing for low-income and disadvantaged community residents who need air conditioners, solar panels, and other equipment. Residents advised the County to prioritize infill residential development to help preserve the character of

their neighborhoods. Participants also suggested there be more language in the draft policies and actions about meeting the housing needs of homeless individuals.

***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.***

Goal EJ-D was discussed in Meeting 1. Participants want to see stronger language and a commitment to a first source hiring program. They recommended that the County promote tax credits, project labor agreements, and permit fast-tracking for project applicants hiring local workers. Participants voiced strong support for job training programs and advised they be expanded to include community colleges and high schools, in partnership with labor unions and County departments. Participants also recommended that the County implement micro-loan programs for businesses in disadvantaged communities.

***Goal EJ-E: Equitable engagement with all communities in the county so that all residents share an equal voice in decisions that affect their community.***

Goal EJ-E was discussed in Meeting 2. To support equitable engagement, residents suggested that the County place equal, if not greater, focus on non-electronic communication methods, such as newsletters, banners, and flyers, to reach individuals who may not use online services. Participants felt that County representatives need to be more involved with disadvantaged communities to strengthen the relationships between residents and the County. In support of that concept, they recommended that the County expand partnerships with trusted community leaders, community-based organizations, and faith-based groups. Most participants cited the need for more designated space for farmers markets and other community events.

***Goal EJ-F: Equitable, 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.***

Goal EJ-F was discussed in Meeting 2. The community's greatest concerns related to transportation include a lack of connectivity across jurisdictions, especially in disadvantaged communities and rural areas, along with a lack of shelter and benches at bus stops, schedule inconsistencies, traffic congestion, and sea level rise threats to existing infrastructure. They recommended creating hubs in disadvantaged communities that concentrate services and resources where public transit and other services are more accessible and user-friendly. Participants suggested that the County expand transportation subsidies to include rideshares and "smaller" buses, and cited the need for more County-led initiatives to promote bike, walk, and first-and-last mile programs designed for commuters going to and from BART stations. Residents would like to see lighting improvements listed among other prioritized transportation improvements. Finally, participants voiced strong support for limiting truck traffic and parking, and working across jurisdictions to design a cohesive truck route plan.

***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.***

Goal EJ-G was discussed in Meeting 2. Residents indicated that the most pressing issues related to infrastructure and services are the lack of facilities, inaccessibility, and issues related to illegal dumping. They voiced that the high costs for proper waste disposal and the infrequency of trash pickup services are major contributors to the problem. They recommended that the County work with the waste companies to lower fees through subsidies and increase services. Residents also suggested that the County implement a standardized baseline for maintenance of public facilities throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. Participants also advocated for grants instead of loans to stimulate green infrastructure development in disadvantaged communities.

***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.***

Goal EJ-H was discussed in Meeting 3. Meeting participants strongly voiced the need for a hospital or medical facility in western Contra Costa County that provides emergency and mental health services. They recommended that the County provide additional medical services through community-based clinics, potentially using schools as hubs for services throughout the county.

***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.***

Goal EJ-I was discussed in Meeting 3. To increase access to parks and recreational facilities, participants recommended that the County enhance walking and biking facilities, while simultaneously creating and promoting programs to raise awareness about these amenities. Many participants shared the desire to expand parks and develop aquatic amenities in Rodeo.

***Goal EJ-J: Equitable 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.***

Goal EJ-J was discussed in Meeting 3. The most prevalent concerns reported are protections for workers, lack of community education, and vulnerable communities. Residents felt that to have a just transition, workers must be actively involved and heard as the main voice during the discussions. They recommended that the County expand educational and "community right to know" programs to better inform residents regarding refinery and other industrial activities and projects. Residents also suggested that the County set stricter and clear standards for truck traffic impacts.



***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.***

Goals EJ-K was discussed in Meeting 3. Some residents advocated to end further expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure through the County's land use authorities. They also recommended that the County designate an independent agency to assess hazards and risks. To support the transition away from fossil fuels, residents suggested rezoning lands to limit further expansion and reusing existing industrial lands to build new green infrastructure. Many residents discussed the need for polluting industries to be responsible for clean-up and remediation of sites they contaminate.

***Online Engagement***

In addition to the input gathered during the Environmental Justice Community Meeting Series, the County received comments through a post on the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development Facebook page about this topic; this section provides some of the key takeaways. The most prevalent issues reported online are high levels of pollution and dumping throughout the county, lack of infrastructure, homeless encampments, restrictive recycling policies, and lack of road maintenance. Similar to comments from the in-person meetings, commenters cited the high cost of waste disposal, restrictive recycling policies, and poor enforcement as major contributors to worsening illegal dumping. They recommended that the County redirect their recycling and dumping policies to meet the needs of their citizens. Commenters also suggested that the County use the "old naval yard," presumably the decommissioned portion of the Concord Naval Weapons Station, or a similar location to establish a homeless transition center that provides shelter and social services. Residents also recommended that the County collaborate with other municipalities using all available resources to improve road maintenance. Lastly, participants advocated for more and safer parks that provide learning opportunities for kids.

**DETAILED NOTES**

Detailed notes in their original form from all three meetings and the online comments are attached.

HMC comments and questions on the October 2, 2020 Placeworks memo on proposed Environmental Justice Goals, policies and actions in the update to the Contra Costa County General Plan – 11/20/2020

#### Goal A

P&P – Overall question – Did DCD reach out to the business community to discuss these proposals?

Ops Policy 6 and Action 7 should be reversed

P&P Policy 3 – better define the terms “early and significant”

P&P Policy 4 – need to establish a specific timeline for this phaseout

P&P Policy 4 – there are other industry types that present hazards, should there be specific policies for them?

P&P Policy 4 and 5 – should also require that the economic impacts and consequences of implementing these policies be analyzed.

P&P Policy 5 – need to define “major development project”

P&P Policy 6 – Is “prioritizing” enough to ensure that equity is achieved, or do quantifiable endpoints need to be established to ensure equity?

P&P Action 1 – DTSC needs to be coordinated with for phase out and site remediation

P&P Action 2 – Is significant impact only determined by CEQA, or can Health Impact Analyzes also be used?

#### Goal C

Ops - Possible new Policy – Homes potentially impacted by chemical fires or releases that may need to shelter-in-place need to be able to do so safely, with adequate infiltration rates and protection from heat. These concepts can also be incorporated into Policies C-4 and C-5.

Ops - Possible new Policy – Support continued public education to make sure all residents are provided adequate education about less toxic alternatives to household hazardous products, including pesticides, and education about the safe handling, storage and disposal of Household hazardous Waste, including pharmaceuticals. Ensure there are adequate options for HHW disposal for residents that don't drive.

#### Goal E

Ops - Concerned about the use of the word “equal” in goal. Is this really possible?

### Goal F

Ops Action F-4 – make sure the criteria established considers the type of hazmat being transported and the air pollution from the trucks.

### Goal J

Ops Policy J-3 Possible new policy – more specificity for how far away sensitive receptors need to be from sources to be safe, and be clear that they shouldn't be placed within that zone.

### Goal K – define “resilient” better – Need policies and actions that address resiliency

Ops Possible new policy – Ensure residents and businesses that live near hazards are adequately educated about the risks from near-by hazardous materials and have adequate ways to protect themselves.

Ops – Policy K-1 – What is the definition of “large scale hazardous waste facility” Is this a TSD facility or a facility that generates a large amount of hazwaste.

Ops Policy K-2 – replace “advocate for ” with Coordinate with agencies to equitably remediate

Ops Possible new policy - require setbacks of pipelines, rail lines, oil & gas drilling from healthcare, schools, residences, senior & child care, etc., & setback of those new receptor development from those industrial facilities as well as other facilities using hazardous materials

Ops Possible new policy - safe clean up, not cover up of contaminated sites to be developed for sensitive receptor uses. (no cleanup with deed restrictions)

Ops Possible new policy - No development of cleaned up contaminated sites which have not passed current 5-year reviews

Ops Possible new policy - no development of sites in violation of existing land use covenants imposed by DTSC or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

P&P Action K-1 – County does not have a Brownfield Cleanup policy. Be specific about what type of partnerships to establish with EJ groups, what would be their role (only jurisdictions can apply for grant funding.)

P&P, Possible new policy – If not already required by ISO or other regs, require facilities to demonstrate that they have adequate capacity or access to equipment and personnel to put out fires at their facility.

### Climate Equity

Ops – new policy - no new facilities using or storing hazardous materials to be sited in areas impacted by projected sea level rise without adequate preplanning for that eventuality.

# **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION**



February 1, 2021

Diane Burgis, District 3  
Chairperson, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140  
Brentwood, CA 94513

Dear Chairperson Burgis:

Below please find the Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission's recommended changes and additions to the Environmental Justice goals, policies and actions proposed for the update to the County's General Plan, and contained in an October 2, 2020 memo from Placeworks, the County's consultant on the General Plan update, to County staff. These proposed goals, policies and actions were developed in response to the requirements of SB 1000. The Commission voted unanimously to support these recommendations at their January 28, 2021 meeting.

- Proposed Amendment to Goal K, Policy 1 – Discourage construction of new large-scale facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste from other sources that negatively impact Disadvantaged Communities.
- Proposed Amendment to Goal K, Policy 2 – Advocate for and coordinate with local and regional agencies in efforts to and remediate or treat contaminated surface water, groundwater, or soils, at brownfields or active remedial sites in or affecting disadvantaged communities, and in efforts to communicate with and educate the public about these sites, and to support the public's ability to advocate their concerns about these sites.
- Proposed new Action Item for Goal K - Improve and expand the ease of access to information about, and the status of, contaminated sites in Contra Costa County.
- Proposed new Policy for Goal F - The County should encourage that the safest transportation method be employed for hazardous materials and hazardous wastes transported in Contra Costa County, taking into consideration the potential impacts of Sea Level Rise, and should particularly encourage reducing the transportation of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes in Disadvantaged Communities.
- Proposed new Action Item for Goal F - The County should consider the findings from the Adapting to Rising Tides studies for Contra Costa County prepared by the Bay

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Conservation and Development Commission, the 2019 Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow study prepared for the Hazardous Materials Programs, the Adaptation Atlas from SFEI and SPUR, and any new information as it becomes available, in future planning and transportation improvements, and in Sea Level Rise and flooding mitigation measures, specifically in areas already having risks, or found to have potential future risks, from Sea Level Rise and flooding.

- Proposed new Policy for Goal K - The County should have established setbacks for projects handling hazardous materials from healthcare facilities, schools, residences, senior and childcare facilities and other sensitive receptors, and should have established setbacks for proposed new sensitive receptors from industrial facilities and other projects using hazardous materials.
- Proposed new Action Item for Goal K - The County should establish criteria for developing setbacks, or mitigation measures in lieu of setbacks, for projects involving hazardous materials being proposed near sensitive receptors, or for sensitive receptors projects being proposed near facilities using hazardous materials.
- Proposed new Policy for Goal K - The County should only allow the development of former contaminated sites intended for use by a sensitive receptor if the deed restrictions for the site are compatible with sensitive receptor use.
- Proposed new Policy for Goal K - The County should not allow new development of a former contaminated site certified as cleaned-up unless any deficiencies found after the most recent 5-year review of that site have been corrected or if any other deficiencies of their compliance plan have been identified.
- Proposed new Policy for Goal K - The County should not allow development of any former contaminated site, previously certified as cleaned-up, in violation of any existing land use covenants or deed restrictions or imposed on that site by either the California Department of Toxic Substances Control or a Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Proposed New Policy for Goal K - Staff of the Hazardous Materials Program should be trained on environmental justice topics to increase their ability to recognize potential environmental justice or implicit bias issues.
- Proposed New Action item for Goal K - Develop department-wide procedures and training for reporting observed environmental justice issues, and address issues pertinent to the Hazardous Materials Programs.
- Proposed New Policy for Goal K - The Hazardous Materials Program should engage with the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) regarding hazardous materials and waste considerations during the planning of new business operations in the County. The Hazardous Materials Program should engage

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with DCD in their efforts to solicit input at an early stage from disadvantaged communities on proposed projects involving hazardous materials and waste that may create a disproportionate impact on the community.

- Proposed New Action Item for Goal K - Establish a comprehensive outreach strategy to provide hazardous material program policy information to disadvantaged communities, including considerations related to hazardous materials and hazardous waste storage, permitting, and inspections, environmental monitoring, hazardous materials incident response, industrial safety ordinance and pollution prevention. Identify and leverage established community and industry groups and other synergistic agency programs to disperse outreach and education materials.
- Proposed New Action Item for Goal K - Identify and designate a communications liaison to ensure that hazardous materials and waste topics are presented to disadvantaged communities in a manner that is easily and clearly comprehensible.
- Proposed New Action Item for Goal K - To the extent possible, invite community representatives to observe 'hands-on' emergency drills to increase public awareness of emergency response capabilities and understand protective actions the public may be required to take should a hazardous materials incident occur in their community (shelter-in-place and evacuation procedures). Ensure representatives from all populations, including disadvantaged communities, have the opportunity to observe drills, including the availability of language translation services.

Sincerely,



Fred Glueck, Chairperson  
Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission

cc Supervisor John Gioia, District 1  
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District 2  
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, District 4  
Supervisor Federal Glover, District 5  
Will Nelson, Department of Conservation and Development

*Members: Fred Glueck, Chair, Rick Alcaraz, Jonathan Bash, Marielle Boortz, Don Bristol, Audrey Comeaux, Sara Gurdian, Mark Hughes, Steven Linsley, Jim Payne, Gabe Quinto, Mark Ross, George Smith,*

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**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION**

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March 1, 2021

Diane Burgis, District 3  
Chairperson, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140  
Brentwood, CA 94513

Dear Chairperson Burgis:

Below please find additional Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission's recommended changes and additions to the Environmental Justice goals, policies and actions proposed for the update to the County's General Plan, and contained in an October 2, 2020 memo from Placeworks, the County's consultant on the General Plan update, to County staff. These proposed goals, policies and actions were developed in response to the requirements of SB 1000.

These comments are made in addition to the comments the Commission previously submitted on February 1, 2021. The Commission is submitting these additional comments because the Commission did not have the time to discuss them at their January 28, 2021 meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to support these recommendations at their February 25, 2021 meeting.

- Proposed new Policy for Goal C – Ensure residents of dwellings potentially impacted by air quality hazards, including but not limited to chemical fires or releases, that may need to shelter-in-place as determined by the County Health Officer, are able to do so safely, with appropriate air exchange rates and protection from heat.
- Proposed new Policy for Goal C – Ensure an adequate level of continued public education to make sure all residents are provided adequate education about less toxic alternatives to household hazardous products, including pesticides, and education about the safe handling, storage and disposal of Household Hazardous Waste, including pharmaceuticals. Ensure there are adequate options for HHW disposal for all residents, including those that don't drive.
- Proposed new policy for Goal J - Provide annual education to ensure residents likely to be impacted by a hazardous material release or fire know what to do when a shelter-in-place is ordered. Such education shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate, and adequate for people with access or functional needs, to new and existing residents using multi-media approaches.

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- Proposed amendment to Goal J, Action 6 – Develop and implement a plan that will provide clean air refuges, with public transportation access or transportation assistance, during times when outdoor air quality is unhealthy, as determined by the County Health Officer.

Sincerely,



Fred Glueck, Chairperson  
Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission

cc Supervisor John Gioia, District 1  
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District 2  
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, District 4  
Supervisor Federal Glover, District 5  
Will Nelson, Department of Conservation and Development

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# How to Use the General Plan

**Icons:** Policies and actions related to the four themes of the General Plan – community health, environmental justice, economic development, and sustainability – are identified using these icons.

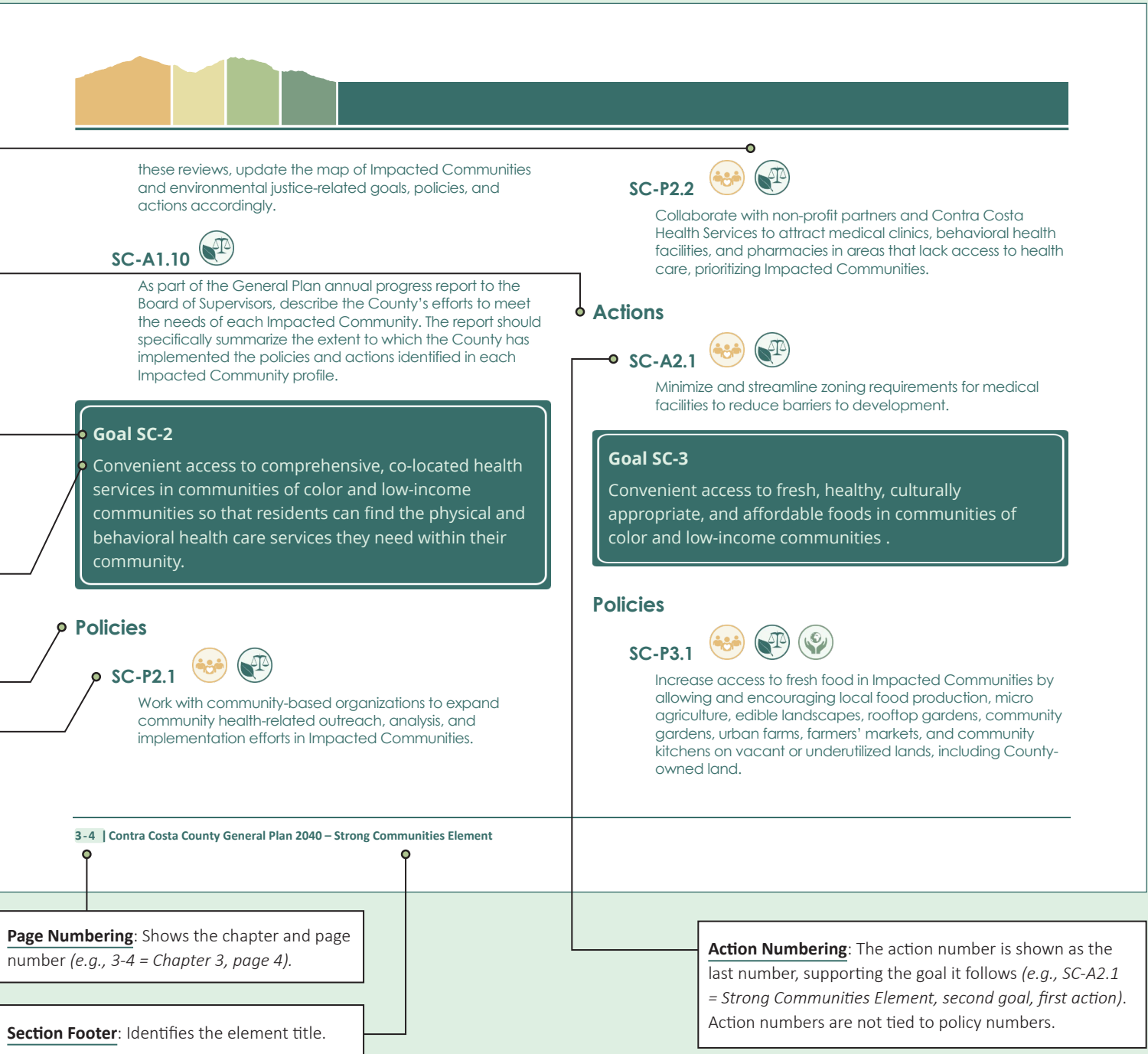
**Actions:** An action is a measure, procedure, or technique that helps the County achieve a specific goal. An action is something concrete that can and will be completed.

**Goal Numbering:** Each goal number starts with the element acronym and is followed by the number of the goal (e.g., SC-2 = *Strong Communities Element, second goal*).

**Goals:** A goal describes the general desired result sought by the County. Each goal has one or more policies and/or actions associated with the goal.

**Policies:** A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making as the County works to achieve a specific goal. Policies represent statements of County regulation and set the standards used by decision-makers when considering proposed development and actions. These are on-going and require no further action.

**Policy Numbering:** The policy number is shown as the last number, supporting the goal it follows (e.g., SC-P2.1 = *Strong Communities Element, second goal, first policy*). Policy numbers are not tied to action numbers.



## NOTES FOR ALL ELEMENTS

The General Plan will call out policies and actions that address specific topics of concern raised by the community. For the reader's ease, policies and actions related to these topics of concern are identified throughout the General Plan using the following icons. The policies and actions related to each topic will be compiled in an appendix to the General Plan.



Community Health



Environmental Justice



Economic Development



Sustainability

In addition, the draft policy guidance uses the term "Impacted Community" to identify what are called "disadvantaged communities" under Senate Bill (SB) 1000. SB 1000 defines these communities as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

## Goals, Policies, and Actions

### Goal SC-1

Equitable distribution of social and economic resources among all communities in the county so that Impacted Communities are not disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution or other hazards.

### Policies

#### SC-P1.1



In coordination with residents of Impacted Communities, workers, and business/industry, support transition from petroleum-refining industries to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer living-wage jobs.

#### SC-P1.2



Incentivize and streamline the permitting process for public and private investment in new development, redevelopment, and rehabilitation that promotes community goals in Impacted Communities, as identified in the community profiles.

### SC-P1.3



Support development of small-scale neighborhood nodes that provide a range of neighborhood-serving retail, public amenities, services, and related infrastructure to residents of Impacted Communities within walking distance of their homes.

### SC-P1.4



Support community-driven events, such as festivals, farmers' markets, block parties, and community service days, that support social connections and neighborhood identity.

### SC-P1.5



For projects negatively affecting an Impacted Community, pursue community benefits agreements that go beyond the inherent project benefits and achieve the community goals identified in the community profile, as negotiated with the community.

### SC-P1.6



Prior to approval of a major development project in or adjacent to an Impacted Community, require applicants to document how the project will promote environmental justice and health, including how the project will ensure the following:

- (a) It will not adversely impact the community;

- (b) It will provide benefits that support the community goals, as identified in the community profile and/or negotiated with the community;
- (c) It will provide economic opportunities for the community;
- (d) It will not directly or indirectly displace existing residents or businesses in the community; and
- (e) It will avoid direct or indirect negative impacts on the quality of life and health of residents within the community.

## Actions

### SC-A1.1



In coordination with residents of Impacted Communities, workers, business/industry, and the appropriate agencies, develop and implement a plan to transition from petroleum refining and other highly polluting industries to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer living-wage jobs. The plan should address site remediation responsibilities, timelines, and strategies to improve the health, safety, infrastructure, job opportunities, and revenue opportunities during the shift to a clean energy, zero emission economy, paying special attention to helping develop new opportunities for how Impacted Communities will realize economic, health, and other benefits.

### SC-A1.2



With input from residents of Impacted Communities, develop criteria to be used in the project review process 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 applicable community profile.

### SC-A1.3



Revise the hazard scoring system in the Industrial Safety Ordinance to increase the score for projects that negatively affect Impacted Communities.

### SC-A1.4



Upon each review of the General Plan [will cross reference a Land Use Element action related to regular reviews of the General Plan], review health outcomes data for Impacted Communities to evaluate the effectiveness of the County's environmental justice policies. During this review, assess any updated information related to the delineation of Impacted Communities in Contra Costa County. Based on these reviews, update the map of Impacted Communities and environmental justice-related goals, policies, and actions accordingly.

### SC-A1.5



As part of the General Plan annual progress report to the Board of Supervisors, describe specific efforts to implement the General Plan policies and actions in each Impacted Community.

### SC-A1.6



Submit a report to the Board of Supervisors on the feasibility of creating, participating in, or attracting a public bank or

other types of economic development and wealth-building tools to support local interests and community development in Impacted Communities.

### SC-A1.7



Establish a process for the County to identify seed grants, micro loans, or similar funding available to community-based organizations or public-private partners to support improvements in Impacted Communities, such as murals and planting strips.

### SC-A1.8



Establish funding mechanisms to create and maintain public art in Impacted Communities. Work with residents of Impacted Communities to ensure public art is appropriate for their community.

### SC-A1.9



Establish a process to permit and facilitate partial and/or temporary street closures for amenities such as parklets, farmers' markets, or other community-driven events as initiated by community groups. Provide streamlined and timely processing of permits and assist applicants through the permit process.

### SC-A1.10



Develop and sufficiently fund a program to assist applicants from Impacted Communities in navigating the project application and review process.

### SC-A1.11

Place appropriate contact information on the front page of the DCD website to maintain clear, simple lines of communication for residents to reach the County regarding code enforcement and nuisance complaints. Provide equitable, prompt responses to resident calls.

### Goal SC-2

Convenient access to comprehensive, co-located health services so residents of Impacted Communities can find the physical and behavioral health care services they need.

## Actions

### SC-A2.1

Collaborate with non-profit partners to establish medical clinics, behavioral health facilities, and pharmacies in Impacted Communities.

### SC-A2.2

Streamline zoning requirements for healthcare facilities to reduce barriers to their establishment in Impacted Communities.

### Goal SC-3

Convenient access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in Impacted Communities.

## Policies

### SC-P3.1

Increase access to fresh food in Impacted Communities by allowing and encouraging local food production, micro agriculture, edible landscapes, rooftop gardens, community gardens, urban farms, farmers' markets, and community kitchens on vacant or underutilized lands, including County-owned land.

### SC-P3.2

Maximize multimodal access to fresh food in Impacted Communities, prioritizing bicycle and pedestrian access, by encouraging grocery stores, healthy corner stores, community gardens, and outdoor markets at key transit nodes and within transit-oriented developments.

### SC-P3.3

Encourage new residential development to incorporate community gardens into the project design.

### SC-P3.4



Provide temporary access to County land in Impacted Communities for farmers' markets and community gardens.

## Actions

### SC-A3.1



Inventory and map food deserts in the county. As part of the inventory, account for walking, biking, and transit access.

### SC-A3.2



Update the Zoning Code to streamline permitting of grocery stores and markets, including co-ops, in Impacted Communities and food deserts.

### SC-A3.3



Adopt guidelines to support implementation and program management of micro agriculture, rooftop gardens, community gardens, and urban farms.

### SC-A3.4



Study the feasibility of restricting fast food restaurants near schools, parks, and other places where children gather.

### SC-A3.5



Every five years, review the existing Alcoholic Beverage Sales Commercial Activities Ordinance to ensure Impacted 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 location of current establishments, along with information about public safety and health.

## Goal SC-4

Access to safe and sanitary homes in Impacted Communities.

## Policies

### SC-P4.1



Ensure that future improvements in Impacted Communities will not produce a net loss of affordable housing or the displacement of residents, while seeking to increase the amount of affordable housing in the community.

### SC-P4.2



Coordinate with the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County, affordable housing developers, and other organizations to transition vacant, unentitled land in

Impacted Communities into affordable and transitional housing, which could include many types of innovative housing products. This should include homeownership opportunities to help residents build intergenerational wealth.

#### SC-P4.3

Ensure rental housing is fit for human occupancy through ongoing and effective Code Enforcement, with priority given to rental properties in Impacted Communities.

## Actions

#### SC-A4.1

Develop and fund a land-banking program for future development of housing affordable to lower- and moderate-income households in Impacted Communities.

#### SC-A4.2

In collaboration with nonprofit and for-profit developers, study the feasibility of establishing community land trusts serving each Impacted Community that will support long-term community ownership and housing affordability.

#### SC-A4.3

Expand the County's first-time homebuyer program to provide more information and assistance, prioritizing outreach and marketing in Impacted Communities to spread awareness of the program.

#### SC-A4.4

Create an inventory of available land for tiny homes or other types of innovative housing products as alternatives to accommodate people who lack housing.

#### SC-A4.5

Collaborate with 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 healthcare.

#### SC-A4.6

Conduct periodic outreach to absentee owners of properties in Impacted Communities to inform owners of their legal obligations to maintain rental properties in safe and habitable condition. Keep tenants informed of these efforts, including by translating the information into languages other than English.

#### SC-A4.7

Create an online resource for tenants to understand their rights related to Building Code standards, landlord and tenant responsibilities, and how to request repairs or improvements to their home, including information that is specific to County housing and code enforcement regulations.

#### SC-A4.8

Obtain funding for and reduce barriers to participation in the County's weatherization program and other programs like the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative for extremely low-, very low-, and low-income homeowners; landlords; and renters. Focus these efforts on homes in Impacted Communities, and in particular rental housing and high-density housing.

#### SC-A4.9

Consider the development of a vacant property registration ordinance that includes a fee to cover the costs for the County to deal with vacant properties and to reduce blight.

#### SC-A4.10

Create a bulk buying program that allows people to purchase air conditioners, fans, air purifiers, heaters, and other electric appliances at wholesale prices and/or with zero-percent interest financing to increase energy efficiency and replace hazardous appliances. Work with volunteer groups to help people install air conditioners and other electrical appliances if they are unable to do so themselves, focusing on Impacted 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.

#### SC-A4.11

Partner with local solar companies or MCE to enact a solar group buy program to purchase solar panels and battery storage in bulk for installation in Impacted Communities, including 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.

### Goal SC-5

Access to and expansion of job training, job opportunities, and economic stability in Impacted Communities so that residents can access safe jobs, earn a living wage to support their families, and build shared prosperity.

## Policies

#### SC-P5.1

Welcome businesses that provide desired goods and services in Impacted Communities, including food stores with fresh produce, healthcare, childcare, pharmacies, and other retailers. Balance community desires with comprehensive assessments of market demand to guide business attraction efforts.



### SC-P5.2



Promote entrepreneurship and locally owned businesses and enterprises in Impacted Communities to support economic self-sufficiency and stability, including through training and outreach to local small business owners and minimizing permitting and other fees.

## Actions

### SC-A5.1



Establish a First Source Hiring Program requiring developers, contractors, and employers to utilize good faith efforts toward employing economically disadvantaged residents of Impacted Communities.

### SC-A5.2



Explore strategies to establish a revolving loan fund, micro loans, or other economic development initiatives to support small businesses in Impacted Communities.

### SC-A5.3



Develop and sufficiently fund a program to offer one-on-one support to small businesses in Impacted Communities; through this program, provide guidance related to available grants, marketing, financing, and mentorship.

## Goal SC-6

Meaningful engagement with Impacted Communities so that residents have strong voices to communicate needs and solutions.

## Policies

### SC-P6.1



Notify and engage community members, organizations, and leaders when County planning decisions are being considered in or adjacent to Impacted Communities. Conduct outreach and engagement with Impacted Communities early in the planning process, as follows:

- Prepare public notices in the predominant language(s) spoken in the community and provide interpretation services at meetings as needed.
- Make public notices and other important documents easy to understand and available in print at local libraries, community centers, or other gathering places.
- Use a wide array of methods to inform community members of opportunities to participate, such as the County website, social media, texts, banners, mailers, and flyers.
- Use outreach approaches that are appropriate for the community.

- Schedule, format, and locate community workshops and meetings to be convenient for community members – both in-person and online.
- Use social media, virtual meeting platforms, recorded meetings, 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.
- Clearly explain potential adverse impacts of a proposed project in plain language that is easily understood by the target community.

#### SC-P6.2

Support community-driven or community-led initiatives in Impacted Communities that work toward the policies and actions identified in the community profiles.

## Actions

#### SC-A6.1

Designate County staff to be liaisons to each Impacted Community.

#### SC-A6.2

Hold semi-annually public meetings in each Impacted Community, including the County Supervisor representing the community and representatives from the full spectrum of County Departments, to hear from residents of these communities, and use that input to inform the County's

annual budgeting process. Provide translation services at these meetings.

#### SC-A6.3

Identify communities with a significant number of non-English speaking households and develop resources and strategies to better engage them.

## NOTES FOR ALL ELEMENTS

The General Plan will call out policies and actions that address specific topics of concern raised by the community. For the reader's ease, policies and actions related to these topics of concern are identified throughout the General Plan using the following icons. The policies and actions related to each topic will be compiled in an appendix to the General Plan.



Community Health



Environmental Justice



Economic Development



Sustainability

In addition, the draft policy guidance uses the term "Impacted Community" to identify what are called "disadvantaged communities" under Senate Bill (SB) 1000. SB 1000 defines these communities as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

## Goals, Policies, and Actions

### Goal TR-1

A transportation system that accommodates and encourages active, safe, reliable, comfortable, convenient, affordable, and resilient multi-modal travel options for all county residents, businesses, and visitors, regardless of age, ability, race, culture, or economic status.

### Policies

#### TR-P1.1



Support improvements to transit, bikeways, and sidewalks to make active transportation more accessible, user-friendly, and safer. Prioritize infrastructure projects and programming in Impacted Communities.

### TR-P1.2



Provide energy-efficient street lighting for traveler safety and comfort. Prioritize implementation in Impacted Communities, particularly at parks, transit stops, alleyways, bike and pedestrian paths, and other appropriate areas.

### TR-P1.3



Streamline the implementation of traffic calming measures through the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to encourage walkability in Impacted Communities.

### TR-P1.4



Work with school districts, neighborhood groups, and the local Safe Routes to School Program to ensure that safe active modes of transportation to schools and related facilities are prioritized in Impacted Communities.

### TR-P1.5



Partner with adjacent jurisdictions, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to manage regional movement of goods through unincorporated areas, minimizing impacts on residents and other sensitive receptors.

## Actions

### TR-A1.1



Implement an equitable pricing program for on-street parking in commercial corridors throughout the county. Such a program would allocate parking revenue to improvement projects in Impacted Communities.

### TR-A1.2



Pursue funding and other resources to implement the Accessible Transportation Services Strategic Plan and similar plans or initiatives that expand the hours of operation, operational boundaries, convenience, and quality of accessible transit to improve mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

### TR-A1.3



Provide convenient ways for residents to notify the County and other responsible agencies when transit shelters and amenities, other transportation infrastructure, and street furniture (i.e., benches, garbage cans, and water fountains) are in a state of disrepair. Encourage and promote use of this reporting program in Impacted Communities.

### TR-A1.4



Support means-based fare programs that would subsidize transit passes for residents of Impacted Communities and other vulnerable populations.

#### TR-A1.5



Develop a program that establishes, maintains, and enforces truck routes in the unincorporated county through State and local legislation and collaboration with other enforcement agencies, with the goal of minimizing impacts on residents and other sensitive receptors. This program should provide engineering solutions to divert trucks from Impacted Communities and establish criteria for designating truck routes, installing signage, and enforcement.

#### TR-A1.6



Facilitate enforcement of idling trucks by promoting community-based reporting through the use of phone and online apps for offenses which would trigger immediate enforcement agency follow up.

#### TR-A1.7



In collaboration with cities, transit providers, and CCTA, develop a uniform countywide transit shelter program, including maintenance and best practices in accessibility.

## NOTES FOR ALL ELEMENTS

The General Plan will call out policies and actions that address specific topics of concern raised by the community. For the reader's ease, policies and actions related to these topics of concern are identified throughout the General Plan using the following icons. The policies and actions related to each topic will be compiled in an appendix to the General Plan.



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Sustainability

In addition, the draft policy guidance uses the term "Impacted Community" to identify what are called "disadvantaged communities" under Senate Bill (SB) 1000. SB 1000 defines these communities as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

## Goals, Policies, and Actions

### Goal PFS-1

Public facilities, infrastructure, and services that meet the needs of, and are accessible to, residents of Impacted Communities.

### Policies

#### PFS-P1.1



Systematically prioritize investments in public facilities, infrastructure, and services that benefit Impacted Communities and respond to the needs identified in the community profiles.

#### PFS-P1.2



Advocate for and coordinate with various service providers (e.g., water, sewer, and recreation districts) for proper planning, maintenance, and implementation of services and infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective service delivery in Impacted Communities.

### PFS-P1.3

Prioritize clean-up of illegal dumping in Impacted Communities.

### PFS-P1.4

Continue to advocate for public-private partnerships that will improve access to reliable, fast internet and make digital resources available in Impacted Communities at affordable prices.

### PFS-P1.5

When communities request levels of County services that exceed the countywide standard, require the creation of a County Service Area or other special governmental unit to fund the service costs. Allow exceptions for enhanced services in Impacted Communities.

### PFS-P1.6

When adopting, amending, and imposing impact fees and developer exactions, consider the effects of such fees and exactions upon project economics, the County's goals, and housing supply. Consider fee reductions or exemptions for projects in Impacted Communities that are consistent with the priorities identified in the community profile.

### PFS-P1.7

Collaborate with local water providers (Contra Costa Water District, EBMUD, etc.) and private well-owners to ensure continuity of water supplies and provide financial relief to Impacted Communities if prices rise in drought conditions.

## Actions

### PFS-A1.1

Prioritize needs and services in each Impacted Community as part of the annual budgeting process.

### PFS-A1.2

Establish funding and financing mechanisms in Impacted Communities to provide and maintain community-desired public facilities and services.

### PFS-A1.3

Implement and maintain urban greening projects in Impacted Communities that support the community's goals, including those identified in the community profiles.

### PFS-A1.4

Assess current Code Enforcement and Public Works maintenance practices for equitable implementation. Prioritize resources to keep Impacted Communities safe and

clean, emphasizing enforcement actions on issues identified in community profiles.

#### PFS-A1.5



Ensure the 211 information service includes contact information for Code Enforcement.

#### PFS-A1.6



Establish a task force of County department heads or their designee(s) to coordinate efforts, provide oversight, and otherwise ensure that public services and facilities in Impacted Communities are prioritized and efficiently and effectively delivered.

#### PFS-A1.7



Partner with community organizations and franchise garbage haulers to optimize community clean-up days and residential on-call garbage pick-ups in Impacted Communities, including by focusing clean-up activities and pick-ups in Impacted Communities over other communities that are part of the same contract. Encourage community participation by holding these events in conjunction with other community events.

### Goal PFS-2

Convenient access to safe and well-maintained recreational activities and parks in Impacted Communities.

### Policies

#### PFS-P2.1



Increase access to diverse, high-quality parks, green space, recreational facilities, and natural environments for residents of Impacted Communities, including through a variety of transportation modes. Collaborate with other organizations to obtain funding and design and maintain these facilities to offer a safe and comfortable environment for residents of all ages and abilities.

#### PFS-P2.2



Require major new development projects in Impacted 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 be used when the County determines that amenity improvements or new amenities are not feasible.

#### PFS-P2.3



Coordinate with other agencies to support joint use of



facilities serving Impacted Communities.

#### **PFS-P2.4**

Increase recreation opportunities by working with other agencies to convert public easements, such as utility corridors or unused rights-of-way, into parks and trails, with Impacted Communities prioritized.

#### **PFS-P2.5**

Support local community groups and volunteer organizations in efforts to improve or maintain local parks, trails, and other public spaces, such as through an Adopt-A-Trail program, especially in Impacted Communities.

## **Actions**

#### **PFS-A2.1**

Coordinate with park and recreation districts to prepare a parks and open space needs assessment for each Impacted 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.

## NOTES FOR ALL ELEMENTS

The General Plan will call out policies and actions that address specific topics of concern raised by the community. For the reader's ease, policies and actions related to these topics of concern are identified throughout the General Plan using the following icons. The policies and actions related to each topic will be compiled in an appendix to the General Plan.



Community Health



Environmental Justice



Economic Development



Sustainability

In addition, the draft policy guidance uses the term "Impacted Community" to identify what are called "disadvantaged communities" under Senate Bill (SB) 1000. SB 1000 defines these communities as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

## Goals, Policies, and Actions

### Goal HS-1

Healthy air quality for all communities so no community bears the disproportionate burden of environmental hazards and health risks.

### Policies

#### HS-P1.1



Require a cumulative health risk assessment, including consideration of truck traffic impacts, when a project potentially affects sensitive receptors in Impacted Communities, and require appropriate mitigation based on the findings of the assessment, including the use of buffers around areas posing health risks as appropriate.

#### HS-P1.2



When evaluating health risk impacts of projects in Impacted Communities, use a cancer risk of 1.0 per million as the threshold for a significant impact.

**HS-P1.3**

Require new development to locate sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, playgrounds, sports fields, childcare centers, senior centers, and long-term health care facilities as far away as possible from significant pollution sources.

**HS-P1.4**

When evaluating air quality impacts of projects in Impacted 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.

**HS-P1.5**

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.

**HS-P1.6**

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.

**HS-P1.7**

Prioritize new street tree plantings and increase the tree canopy on public and private property in Impacted Communities, in particular areas with a high heat index.

**HS-P1.8**

Support preservation, restoration, and enhancement of natural landscapes in and near Impacted Communities for their role in improving air quality and community health.

**Actions****HS-A1.1**

Coordinate with State and regional regulatory entities and community members to facilitate AB 617 citizen-led programs including data collection, monitoring of pollution exposure, and identification and implementation of solutions in Impacted Communities.

**HS-A1.2**

Assist BAAQMD in establishing and implementing Community Air Monitoring Plans to reduce the health impacts of air pollution in Impacted Communities, including considering future General Plan and/or Zoning Code amendments as needed to support BAAQMD in meeting AB 617 objectives.

### HS-A1.3



Coordinate with BAAQMD to determine where to focus a targeted permit inspection program in Impacted Communities to help ensure enforcement of air quality permits.

### HS-A1.4



Adopt an ordinance that matches or is more stringent than the State's maximum idling law.

### HS-A1.5



Prepare an urban forest master plan for the county that includes quantified goals and tracking methods, including mapping the tree canopy, and prioritizes Impacted Communities.

## Goal HS-2

Communities that are safe and resilient from hazards associated with the use, manufacture, transport, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste and hazardous materials, including from fossil fuels, chemical refining, and power plants, as well as pipelines, rail lines, and truck transportation.

## Policies

### HS-P2.1



Coordinate with local and regional agencies in efforts to remediate or treat contaminated surface water, groundwater, or soils in or affecting Impacted Communities.

### HS-P2.2



Oppose construction of new large-scale hazardous waste facilities.

### HS-P2.3



Provide equitable inspection and enforcement of hazardous material and hazardous waste regulations throughout the county.

### HS-P2.4



Ensure there are adequate sites for the collection of household hazardous waste (HHW), unused pharmaceuticals, and wastes generated by boats and marinas, including provisions for residents that don't own cars or are physically unable to deliver materials to a collection site.



## Actions

### HS-A2.1



In collaboration with local environmental justice organizations, update the County's Brownfields and Contaminated Sites Cleanup Policy and prioritize implementation of clean-up efforts in Impacted Communities.

### HS-A2.2



Establish a mechanism to ensure that new industrial uses that involve hazardous materials will fund any needed clean-up of contamination resulting from the use.

### HS-A2.3



Establish a comprehensive, long term strategy that coordinates efforts from appropriate regulatory agencies to mitigate impacts from industrial facilities on adjacent communities, both acute and long-term, with priority given to developing strategies for Impacted Communities. The strategies must include specific mitigations to address air pollution, pipeline risks, accidents, and sensitive ecological resources.

### HS-A2.4



Provide clear information in plain language to residents of Impacted Communities about the hazards they face from

pollutant sources in and around their community.

### HS-A2.5



Coordinate with park and recreation and school districts to identify indoor recreational and athletic facilities to serve as emergency housing and cooling centers in Impacted 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.

## MEMORANDUM

DATE March 16, 2021  
TO Contra Costa County staff  
FROM PlaceWorks  
SUBJECT Context for Draft General Plan Goals, Policies, and Actions on Environmental Justice

This memo provides context and background information for the revised draft environmental justice goals, policies, and actions for Envision Contra Costa 2040; the revised draft policy guidance will be presented to the Board of Supervisors Sustainability Committee on March 22, 2021. Environmental justice is a new legal requirement for the General Plan, but more importantly it is also one of the topics of greatest concern to county residents. This topic is complex and far-reaching, and the policies and actions crafted by the County will have a direct effect on the lives and health of many people.

Throughout California, low-income communities and communities of color have experienced a combination of historic discrimination, negligence, and political and economic disempowerment. As a result, they are struggling with both a disproportionate burden of pollution and health impacts, as well as disproportionate social and economic disadvantages such as poverty or housing instability. SB 1000 was enacted to respond to this inequity by both alleviating pollution and health impacts and compelling cities and counties to include the voices of previously marginalized residents in long-range planning decisions.

### *Legislation Summary*

SB 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, passed in 2016, requires that General Plans address ***environmental justice*** in ***disadvantaged communities*** (DACs) within the area covered by the General Plan.

“Environmental justice” is defined in California law as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. “Environmental justice” includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (A) The availability of a healthy environment for all people.

- (B) The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- (C) Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process.
- (D) At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.<sup>1</sup>

“Disadvantaged communities” are defined as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Based on community feedback, the revised draft policy guidance uses the term “Impacted Community” instead of “disadvantaged community.” This term was suggested by a community member; it conveys the intended meaning clearly and succinctly, while avoiding the negativity associated with the term “disadvantaged.” “Impacted” implies that the environmental justice issues are not inherent to the community and that they can be addressed and conditions changed.

Environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives must do the following:

- Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Impacted Communities by reducing pollution exposure and promoting public improvements, public services, community amenities, access to quality food, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
- Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process.
- Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Impacted Communities.

SB 1000 defines DACs per Health and Safety Code Section 39711, specifying CalEnviroScreen as the primary screening method for identifying these communities. Interactive CalEnviroScreen mapping is available online at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>.

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<sup>1</sup> California Government Code 65040.12.

CalEnviroScreen quantifies a range of factors related to the combination of pollution burden and population characteristics (such as poverty, educational attainment, or age) and arrives at a score for every Census tract. In general, the higher the score, the more impacted a community is. Census tracts in the highest quartile of scores (75 to 100) are disadvantaged communities under SB1000.<sup>2</sup> In Contra Costa County, the following communities are identified by CalEnviroScreen as Impacted Communities:

- North Richmond
- Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, and Bayview
- Rodeo
- Crockett
- Vine Hill/Mountain View
- Bay Point

#### *Sources for the Draft Goals, Policies, and Actions*

A number of sources were consulted to compile the draft goals, policies, and actions, including, but not limited to:

- Most importantly, input from the many residents and community advocates who have attended 20+ meetings in Impacted Communities, countywide meetings, and Sustainability Commission meetings so far.
- Environmental Justice Assessment Tool developed by the Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission.
- General Plan Guidelines prepared by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.
- The SB1000 Toolkit prepared by the California Environmental Justice Alliance and PlaceWorks.
- Draft and adopted General Plans from other communities in California.

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<sup>2</sup> Note that this does not refer to the same methodology used to identify “disadvantaged unincorporated communities” under SB 244. Both use median income as one criterion, but SB 244 is focused on safe and adequate infrastructure while SB 1000 is focused on disproportionate impacts of environmental pollution.



- Comment letters from the Attorney General's office on the environmental justice components of other County General Plans currently underway.
- Policy suggestions from environmental advocates submitted to the County by a consortium of local and regional organizations.
- AB 617 Community Emission Reduction Plans (CERPs)

The most recent draft goals, policies, and actions were published on October 2, 2020. Since then, the County has engaged residents of Impacted Communities through a variety of methods to refine the policy guidance to reflect what Impacted Community members want and need for their communities. During this time, County DCD staff also continued to coordinate with staff from other County departments, resulting in additional refinements. Finally, the revisions also incorporate previous Sustainability Committee feedback from its September 29, 2020, meeting.

### *Recommendations*

Under SB 1000, the General Plan Update process must address specific topics in the new/updated goals, policies, and actions, including the following:

- **Pollution exposure and air quality.** Existing policies could be expanded to target Impacted Communities, the specific pollutants of concern in those communities, and mitigation approaches for new development that could place sensitive receptors in areas with exposure to pollutants.
- **Public facilities.** The new environmental justice components of the General Plan should ensure that Impacted Communities have adequate access to public facilities and services, in part by promoting public improvements in those communities.
- **Access to quality food.** The County should include policies to promote projects that would improve access to affordable and nutritious food in Impacted Communities.
- **Safe and sanitary homes.** The General Plan Housing Element works to ensure access to housing, including affordable housing, and includes policies that promote safe and sanitary homes. These policies could be expanded to address the following:
  - Ensuring that affordable housing projects meet health and safety standards that are consistent with market-rate housing.
  - Expanding efforts to repair and rehabilitate substandard housing in Impacted Communities.
  - Remediating lead-based paint, mold, mildew, asbestos, and other contaminants.
  - Expanding enforcement of public health-related codes in Impacted Communities.
- **Physical activity.** The County could expand existing policies in the General Plan Open Space Element to target an equitable distribution of physical activity opportunities (i.e., access to parks

and open space). This effort could build on projects identified in the County's Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program, in addition to specific mobility plans that focus on identifying and creating safer and more comfortable streetscapes and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists in Impacted Communities.

- **Civic engagement.** The County should include new and expanded policies that promote greater public participation in its planning processes, and which specifically target Impacted Communities, including:
  - Using culturally appropriate approaches, language, and context.
  - Considering the convenience of meeting times/locations for community members.
  - Using social media and other communication techniques for those without time to attend public meetings.
  - Providing translation services and childcare when needed.
  - Exploring new pop-up or community-based outreach methods.
  - Leveraging existing events and meetings to meet people where they already are.
- **Prioritization of improvements and programs that address the needs of Impacted Communities.** Policies to prioritize improvements and programs that serve Impacted Communities should address the following:
  - Whether improvements/programs meet an important community need. Under-served communities have needs and priorities that may be distinct from those of the public at large. The equity of projects and investments should be assessed based on whether and how well they address these priority needs.
  - Whether benefits to the local community are significant.
  - Whether low-income residents are the primary beneficiaries.
  - Whether improvements/programs avoid substantial burdens, like increasing toxic exposures, causing a net loss of affordable housing, or displacing residents or local businesses.

### *Related Topics*

Although SB 1000 lists specific topics that must be addressed, the concept of environmental justice can be implemented in many different ways; new policies and programs that improve sustainability, protect community health, and support high-quality jobs (for example) will also advance environmental justice in the county. A successful approach to environmental justice will be ambitious, broad, and holistic. Therefore, the draft policy guidance to be reviewed at the March 22, 2021, Sustainability Committee meeting is not intended to be the only "environmental

justice” policy guidance in the updated General Plan. This draft guidance includes goals, policies, and actions that most directly and specifically respond to the legislative requirements for this topic.

In addition to the policy topics explicitly required by SB 1000, related and supportive policies will address:

- Climate resilience in Impacted Communities.
- Mixed use development that provides services and jobs near housing.
- Preventing displacement and gentrification when Impacted Neighborhoods are improved and enhanced.
- Providing a range of housing types for households at a range of income levels, including “missing middle” housing types.
- Multimodal transportation that serves residents who don’t drive and offers opportunities for safe physical activity.
- Public safety and security, including crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).
- Green building requirements that reduce indoor air pollution and improve health outcomes.
- Emergency and community services that are responsive to the needs of residents and businesses in Impacted Communities.

We expect more topics to emerge and be included in the Draft General Plan as we continue to coordinate with County staff, the Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and, of course, the affected communities.

Updates to the Climate Action Plan and the Zoning Code will also reflect the General Plan’s commitment to environmental justice.

### *Format and Organization*

The Board of Supervisors has directed that four themes should be woven throughout the updated General Plan so that they are addressed comprehensively: environmental justice, sustainability, public health, and economic development. In the revised draft of the environmental justice policy guidance, the draft goals, policies, and actions are presented within the relevant General Plan element (e.g., Health and Safety Element).

Note that the Housing Element will be prepared separately from the rest of the elements in order to meet specific State deadlines and statutory requirements. However, SB 1000 requires the County to address safe and sanitary homes. The current Housing Element, adopted in 2014,

already includes a number of policies and programs that address safe and sanitary homes. Any new housing-related policies and actions that are developed through this process will be shared with County housing staff to be incorporated into the Housing Element Update, which must be completed by January 2023.

As shown in the revised draft policy guidance, policies and actions that focus on environmental justice are denoted with an environmental justice icon; they will be consolidated in an appendix of the Draft General Plan so they can all be reviewed in one place. This approach worked well for the City of Stockton's recent General Plan.

The revised draft goals, policies, and actions include only *countywide* guidance. The General Plan will also include a set of **community profiles** that contain policy guidance specific to each community. Each Impacted Community, as well as many other communities in the County, will get its own community profile. The policy guidance in each community profile is tailored to the specific issues and needs of each community, as directed by community members through a series of meetings in each community held in 2019 and 2020. In addition, the community profiles for the mapped Impacted Communities contain important contextual information about the specific sources of pollution, health outcomes, and socioeconomic concerns that contribute to each community's status as an Impacted Community.

To see the draft community profiles for five of the six mapped Impacted Communities, please visit the following link: [envisioncontracosta2040.org/documents/#community-profiles](https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/documents/#community-profiles). Note that these are still open to further change based on County staff feedback and ongoing dialog with community members. The Vine Hill/Mountain View profile is not yet drafted.

#### *A Note on Wording*

The updated General Plan will adhere to the following conventions for goals, policies, and actions:

- **Goal:** Describes the general desired result that the County seeks to create through implementation of its General Plan. Goals typically are ambitious and inspirational. A goal can be supported by any number of policies and/or actions.
  - Most of the goals in the existing General Plan start with "To..." (i.e., the goal is "to" achieve X), but not all. To avoid the redundancy of beginning each goal with "To," goals will now start with what the County is trying to achieve, phrased as a noun.
- **Policy:** Guides decision-making as the County works to achieve a goal. Policies, once adopted, represent statements of County regulation. A policy is on-going and requires no further implementation. The General Plan's policies set out the standards that will be used by County staff, the Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors in their review of land development

projects and in decision-making about County actions. Words like *require, encourage, promote, allow*, etc. indicate policies. A policy does not have to be mandatory.

- Many of the existing policies are statements of things that “shall be” done. To reduce the number of words required, the new General Plan will use an active voice. For example, existing Land Use Element Policy 3-1 would read “Support and stimulate housing infill...” instead of “Housing infill shall be supported and stimulated...”
- **Action:** A measure, procedure, or technique intended to help to achieve a specified goal. The County must take additional steps to accomplish each action in the General Plan. Words like *complete, adopt, amend, prepare, publish, collaborate with*, etc. indicate actions. An action is something concrete that can and will be completed and “checked off” (literally or metaphorically). There is not a 1:1 correspondence between policies and actions. Some policies may not require actions to implement; some actions may implement more than one policy.
- These are called “implementation measures” in the existing General Plan. Existing implementation measures use the active voice, and this approach will be maintained.

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 10, 2021

**To:** DCD, Placeworks

**From:** Contra Costa Health Services

**Subject:** Comments on the Discussion Draft Goals, Policies and Actions on Environment Justice for the General Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to review the discussion draft of the Environmental Justice sections of the general plan. Contra Costa Health Services is pleased to provide comments that we believe will enhance the final document.

We want to acknowledge the following individuals for contributing to this document: Erika Jensen, Dan Peddycord, Rohan Radhakrishna, Gilbert Salinas, Michael Kent, Luz Gomez, Cedrita Claiborne, Beth Armentano, Tiombe Mashama, Ameerah Thomas, Susan Psara, Steve Marioka, Kristian Lucas, Suzanne Tavano, Jamie Jenett, Matt Kaufmann, Ellen Dempsey and Cho Nai Cheung.

We have organized our comments in three sections. First, we identify the major health and equity concepts that we would like to see reflected throughout the new General Plan. Next, we highlight key health ideas or concepts that we would like to see reflected in each goal. Last, we provide more detailed proposed language for policies and actions and a brief discussion of how other jurisdictions are including metrics in complying with SB 1000.

### **Major Health and Equity concepts we would like to see:**

1. Incorporate a racial justice lens and use racial justice language. Acknowledge environmental racism.
2. When introducing the concept that health principles are woven throughout the General Plan, mention the [Social Determinants of Health](#), the [Healthy People 2030 Goals](#), and how they fit nicely with the County's approach in this update.
3. We urge the County, as it implements the new General Plan, to require training of all staff on environmental justice and racial equity principles, as well as implicit bias and cultural humility.
4. As a policy, Contra Costa should conduct Health Impact Assessments (HIA) and involve Public Health when land use changes and major infrastructure projects are proposed. See [this guide](#) on HIAs.
5. In determining which communities are considered "disadvantaged," include racial composition of the communities along with other factors. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 does not include indicators of race/ethnicity in its data layers. Use California [Healthy Places Index](#) (HPI) in conjunction with CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to more accurately describe "Disadvantaged Communities." HPI includes racial segregation as a data layer. Racial segregation can starve communities of color of resources, political power, and other resources necessary for health.
6. Incorporate power-sharing strategies when engaging and involving communities.
7. Consider not allowing new projects with unavoidable significant environmental impacts in disadvantaged communities.

8. For all goals, conduct an initial or baseline assessments to determine if current programs are being implemented or current conditions are equitable and to determine progress with goals over time.
9. Identify appropriate indicators or metrics and timeframes to measure success for each goal.
10. Instead of simply prioritizing spending, programs, or efforts in disadvantaged communities (DCs), make goals, policies and actions commit to achieve equitable outcomes in those areas over time.
11. Ensure that discretionary funds are prioritized to address inequities in disadvantaged communities first. Work to increase discretionary funding streams.

SB 1000 provides an opportunity for Contra Costa County to be ambitious and visionary with regards to environmental justice. We should embrace this opportunity to improve health by focusing on policy and environmental change (PEC). The new General Plan should reflect what our community needs and wants for the next 20 years. We need to be as specific as possible in our language in order to have more accountability.

We observed that one of the key elements that is missing is defining success or progress, and how we will measure improvements. If we're not measuring or evaluating our actions, we won't know if we're improving or by how much. We need benchmarks and targets. We should challenge ourselves to add numbers, and SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound). Health Services does not recommend using health outcomes exclusively as an overall metric to determine the success of General Plan implementation.

### **Overarching comments for each goal**

**Goal EJ-A:** Equitable distribution of social and economic advantages among all communities in the county so that no community is disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution or other hazards.

**Overarching comments:** Aiming for an ambitious goal here would be ideal. Our aim should be not only to "equitably distribute ... advantages," but also work to decrease disadvantages and dismantle the social and economic consequences of historic redlining and continued racial discrimination in unincorporated Contra Costa. We want to ensure that no community is disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution or other hazards. We would like to see that future social and economic investments and opportunities are equitably distributed.

We need to work to reduce current local exposure to pollution. One way to consider doing this would be by implementing AB 617 in all the identified disadvantaged communities in our County.

**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.

**Overarching comments:** Food access is closely linked to individual and community food security. We would like to see these terms in the goal, as well as promoting local agriculture. We propose "equitable and convenient access to fresh, healthy, culturally appropriate, and affordable food..."

**Goal EJ-C:** Equitable access to safe and sanitary homes among all communities in the county so that no resident has to live in an unsafe or unhealthy place.

**Overarching comments:** Need to include access to an adequate supply of affordable housing and a commitment to house all residents (elimination of homelessness)

**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.

**Overarching comments:** We propose adding “clean industry” besides “safe” jobs.

**Goal EJ-E:** Equitable engagement with all communities in the county so that all residents share an equal voice in decisions that affect their community.

**Overarching comments:** There are place-based and racial-communities. How are we defining communities? Proposed language: “Plan for and ensure the meaningful, continuous engagement and involvement of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities in the county’s decision-making process so that their voices are taken into consideration in the decisions that affect their community.”

Make sure community profiles are a living document where residents continue to have a voice. Points to ponder: Who speaks for local community? How many voices do we need to feel like the community is equitably represented?

**Goal EJ-F:** Equitable, 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.

**Overarching comments:** One of the goals with transportation, from the health perspective, is to *encourage* active transportation and physical activity. Overall, the goal is lacking in numbers and specificity. We would like to see metrics on mileage and distance. We know, for example, that 15 minutes of walking every day increases life expectancy by 3 years and saves over \$1250 per person in healthcare costs.

**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.

**Overarching comments:** We would like to see services defined. As we work to minimize current disparities in the distribution of facilities/infrastructure, continue to fund investments until there’s an equitable distribution. Policy shouldn’t just be just to increase funding or access, but that residents are using and benefiting from existing infrastructure and services. Need to purposefully decrease the existing disparities.

**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.

**Overarching comments:** We’re glad to see *convenient* included. It would be great to define it, such as “one-stop, co-located health services.” Place matters. When defining “all residents,”



make sure it includes undocumented individuals. We want to cover everyone over the next 20 years. How do we define access? We should incorporate technological/remote capabilities to enhance access. We will need to ensure technological infrastructure exists for this type of access, as well as proper transportation access. Wording could be:

“Equitable and convenient access (in-person and virtual), to one-stop, co-located health services for all residents in the county, including the undocumented, so that everyone can find the physical and behavioral health care services they need within their community.”

Can we do GIS mapping of where people are and where health services are? Where are the health resource deserts? Ideally, we would define that X percent of health service facilities should be within X distance of public transport and disadvantaged communities.

The County needs to consider recent migration trends from West to East County, and what that means for location of health services. Also study future migration patterns and plan ahead to provide appropriate health care services as communities change.

**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.

**Overarching comments:** We propose “Equitable access to and use of convenient, safe, well-maintained recreational amenities and parks distributed throughout all the communities, so that everyone, regardless of age, ability, race, culture, or economic status in the county can choose an active lifestyle that supports their health.”

With COVID (and any future pandemic) it will be important to keep parks open as essential, empowering staff to keep showing up so they can keep County parks open. Published articles in the American Academy of Pediatrics describe the importance of public parks for public health. Parks are both prevention and treatment. In fact, CCHS and others have been issuing Parks Prescriptions – to get patients out to parks for pediatric and adult obesity. NIMBYism, is a force to reckoned with. Some people don’t want all members to enjoy public facilities. Need to combat that. Borrow language from Goal F: add “convenient” (add place-based metrics, geography, miles, distance), besides access and safety. Regardless of age/culture/economic status – to be more specific about the communities we are serving. Structural and perceived barriers need to be removed. Think about cross-section work between F and I.

**Goal EJ-J:** Equitable 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.

**Overarching comments:** It would be better to word this goal in terms of reducing exposure to air pollution and improving air quality. Ideally the goal would include an air quality assessment to identify “hot spots” of poor air quality. Improving air quality is critical to the health and well-being of all people and the environment. The need to reduce specific air contaminants (ground-level ozone, particulate matter, and toxic air contaminants) from stationary, area-wide and mobile sources needs to be part of this goal.

**Goal EJ-K:** Communities that are safe and resilient from hazards associated with the use, *manufacture*, transport, *storage*, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste and hazardous ~~substances~~ *materials*, including from fossil fuels, chemical refining, and power plants *as well as other sources such as pipelines, rail lines, and truck transportation.*

**Overarching comments:** Please see proposed changes in italics and strike-through.

**New proposed Goal EJ-L:** Mitigation, adaptation and resiliency strategies to address the impacts of climate change are equitably distributed throughout the unincorporated areas of the County, ensuring that vulnerable populations already suffering disproportionate health outcomes are protected from further impacts of climate change.

## Specific Comments on Policies and Actions

**GOAL A: Equitable distribution of social and economic advantages among all communities in the county so that no community is disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution or other hazards.**

### **POLICIES:**

**Policy EJ-A.1** Incentivize and streamline public and private investment in new development or redevelopment that promotes community goals in disadvantaged communities, as identified in the community profiles.

**Comments:** Are community profiles static? Can community profiles be living documents that get updated with some frequency? Need continuous communication, engagement, and ownership by community about decisions in their areas.

We propose using this language: “streamline *the permitting and approval processes* of public and private investments...”

Need to make sure overburdened communities undergo more rigorous assessment. Concerted effort to bring opportunities for green/clean economic development.

**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.

**Comments:** If you can’t mitigate the pollution or adverse unavoidable environmental impact below significant levels, don’t allow it. Zoning needs to protect the health of residents in DCs, and new projects should be reviewed with the lens of protecting residents’ health and well-being. Community benefit agreements are not enough. Allowed uses need to be reviewed based on impact to health, such as adding new air pollution in hot spots. Consider disallowing that use if it’s already concentrated there. When considering this type of project in a DC, residents hear “jobs” and don’t hear “safety/health concerns.” The community needs to be made aware of how much pollution will come in with a project, and how it will be mitigated. Use clear language.

Consider **requiring** community benefit agreements in DCs, not just “pursue.” Add “ensure that the community is involved in the negotiation of the agreements...”

If such a project is to be allowed in a DC, then economic advantages should go TO the communities that live in the community and will be impacted.

For example, there’s a distribution center going in North Richmond. Should this DC bear the brunt of the additional impacts from this facility? Are the economic benefits (potential jobs) worth the health risks? Could it go somewhere else where there are fewer people living nearby? Analyze where it’s going with a racial justice, environmental justice lens, in close consultation with and with considerable decision-making by the community.

**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.

**Comments:** Do we mean specifically and only **fossil fuel** industries, or do we mean **petroleum refining** industries? Only about 40-60% of each crude oil barrel is used for “fuel” – the rest is used for a multitude of products. We need to be clear about this language.

We could follow Richmond’s example with their re-zoning of the port. By changing the zoning, the port facilities are now a non-conforming use. With future project proposals, the city can say “no.” This type of phasing-out needs to take into consideration safety – non-conforming uses still need to maintain a certain level of safety, so maintenance for safety’s sake should continue to be allowed. The County could Zone petroleum refining industries out of existence and not wait for them to be “phased out.”

DCD needs to make the planning process accessible to allow for maximum community involvement (engagement and power-sharing).

**Policy EJ-A.4** Phase out existing fossil fuel industries and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer good-wage jobs.

**Comment:** Add time horizons – when it says “phase out fossil fuels” it should say over what period of time. Also, same comment about “fossil fuel” vs. “petroleum refining” applies.

Instead of saying phase out, say “facilitate the transition of petroleum refining industries to” just, equitable and clean industries that offer good-wage jobs.

**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 **and health**, 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 **or health** of residents within disadvantaged communities. Source: EJ Assessment tool developed by Sustainability Commission

**Comment:** “...require applicants to document to the County’s *and the community’s* satisfaction...” Require health impact assessments (not just EIRs), using established methodologies. Consider incorporating funding sources for conducting Health Impact Assessments, such as licensing or permitting fees. Have them done objectively and maintain a pool of third-party consultants to conduct them. Develop a scale or menu of impact so that the right level of assessment is done for the type and size of project being considered. If the impact is significant – then do a HIA.

**Policy EJ-A.6** *Prioritize clean-up of illegal dumping in disadvantaged communities.*

**New proposed policy:** Assess and reduce the existing burden of environmental pollution and other hazards in disadvantaged communities by creating a schedule by when certain uses will be phased out or the impact of existing uses mitigated.

**New proposed policy:** Narrow the legal parameters for granting zoning variances and other discretionary entitlements, which encourages adherence to adopted land use policy deriving from community engagement.

**New proposed policy:** Every time the County updates its Capital Improvement Program (CIP), make sure that it aligns with the community profiles in the General Plan, involve residents, and consider adopting community participatory budgeting in the development of each CIP.

**New proposed policy:** Apply a minimum 500 ft. overlay buffer measured from the edge of a freeway Right-of-Way (ROW) or high-trafficked corridor with significant diesel truck, goods movement and/or vehicular traffic. This buffer should be extended to 1,000 ft. for corridors with adjacent residential areas abutting, especially for the downwind side of freeways to account for the impact of nocturnal pollution drift.

#### **GOAL A ACTIONS:**

**Action EJ-A.1** In coordination with impacted communities, workers, and business/industry, develop and implement a plan to phase out fossil fuel **and other highly polluting** industries and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer **fair or living 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/**clean energy** economy, paying special attention to helping develop new opportunities for how disadvantaged communities will realize economic, health, and other benefits.

**Comment:** Is there a timeline? By when? See proposed language in bold, green, above.

**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 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 adjacent to a disadvantaged community; 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.

**Comment:** Significant impact shouldn't occur in a DC. Overriding considerations should not be accepted in DCs. If less than significant, strengthen community voice and ensure economic benefit is **to** that community, and do health impact assessments (HIA) based on size of project.

Not only consider the economic cost of denying the use, but the health benefits/cost savings of not allowing it, when considering socio-economic impact of land-use decisions. Have the community weigh in. If less than a significant impact, make sure the community has a voice. Establish an assessment process to identify current status of DCs. Use an existing best practice like HIA criteria, rather than developing new criteria.

**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.

**Comment:** Oakland adopted an [Equity Checklist](#).

**Action EJ-A.4** *Upon each review of the General Plan [will cross reference a 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.*

**Comment:** The general plan should not rely on health outcome data exclusively to measure the effectiveness of EJ policies. Factors that affect health outcomes are too complex to tie health outcomes back to any particular EJ policy or even all the EJ policies together. Upon each revision of the GP (or on a regular basis) develop appropriate indicators and criteria with CCHS for each EJ policy to evaluate their effectiveness. (Rather than every 20 years look at how the health of the county is doing).

**Action EJ-A.5** Explore the feasibility of creating, participating in, or attracting a public bank.

**Comment:** Proposed language: "Within 2 years, develop a report of the feasibility of creating a Contra Costa public bank or make recommendations for other types of economic development and wealth-building tools, such as a public bank." Now that California has a law allowing this type of banking institution, we think Contra Costa should do more than explore the feasibility over the next 20 years. Ref: California Public Banking Alliance. Consider other wealth building strategies: social dividends, universal basic income (Stockton has a pilot model for this), have bank revenues go to very low-income residents, etc.

**Action EJ-A.6** *Develop and sufficiently fund a program to assist project applicants **from** disadvantaged communities in navigating the project application and review process.*

**Comment:** Also assist applicants in securing loans for new businesses. See addition of "from" in bold, green. If not already done, consider having local permit/plan check office hours in DCs rather than expecting everyone to travel to Martinez. This would address an access/equity issue.

**Action EJ-A.7** *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.*

**Comment:** Do we have an app where people can document issues by taking photos and uploading them? See <https://seeclickfix.com/>. Can local Municipal Advisory Councils be given a budget to help local residents address minor concerns? Ensure neighborhood preservation and CDBG funds are primarily spent in DCs. We propose language like: Assess current code enforcement and public works maintenance practices in concert with the community to determine if they're keeping communities safe and hazard free, and develop a plan to remedy any deficiencies or oversights on an annual basis, based on the voice and the will of the residents in these communities.

We would like to see ongoing review of improvements and maintenance - a mechanism for meeting periodically with community leaders to get input on ongoing or new safety and blight concerns.

**GOAL 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.**

**POLICIES:**

**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.

**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 facilities and amenities that improve the public's access to healthy food options.

**Comment:** What do we mean by facilities and amenities? Do we mean vending machines? Very ambiguous. Would it be a garden? Facility for farmers market? Define facilities. Define healthy food and beverage options. Refrigeration? Quick prep kitchen? How can the community weigh in on what this will incorporate? Can this incorporate the healthy vending policy from CCHS county-wide. Bring proposed renovations to the MAC and let them weigh in re: what amenities they would like.

**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.

**Policy EJ-B.4** Provide access to public land, cleanup, and other County services for farmers' markets in disadvantaged communities.

**Policy EJ-B.5** Encourage farmers and neighborhood community gardens to participate in local farmers' markets.

**Comment:** We want **Contra Costa** farmers. Encourage is weak. May need incentives. Do we mean participate or start local markets? Is there a farmers' market in every DC? What would be needed to have a farmers' market in every DC?

**New proposed policy:** Adopt a county-wide sugar-sweetened beverage tax. Oakland, SF, Berkeley already have it. This would be a revenue stream to fund some of the below actions. In Oakland, they retrofitted schools for water fountains. Corner stores for fresh produce. Farmers markets, etc. Work with CBOs to make this happen. We realize that someone at the State is trying to ban sugar sweetened taxes.

**New proposed policy:** Prioritize grocery store development in unincorporated communities considered "food deserts." Establish Fresh and Healthy Food Enterprise Zones. See [Food Desert to Food Oasis](#) p. 17 report.

**GOAL B ACTIONS:**

**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.

**Comment:** An ordinance is a policy. Move to Policy section? For land use controls, have these types of uses permitted by right, so no CUPs are required.

**Action EJ-B.2** Implement a County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP) to promote the 2010 Dietary Guidelines, federal and State food security programs, and physical activity.

**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.

**Comment:** How about: "In partnership with local residents from DCs, develop an action plan to identify opportunities to implement ... Then identify incentives and funding mechanisms. What would it take to make it happen? Identify challenges and barriers and how to overcome them. Guidelines may already exist.

**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.

**Comment:** More than educating local farmers, they need economic incentives and removing barriers. Farmers' markets need funding too. Can the County subsidize some of these efforts?

**Action EJ-B.5** Conduct nutrition workshops, health events and social marketing for low income residents to promote healthy eating and active living. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)

**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/>)

**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/>)

**Action EJ-B.8** Encourage worksite wellness through access to healthier food choices in vending machines and promotion of physical activity. (from <https://cchealth.org/nutrition/>)

**Comment:** Add "in disadvantaged communities." This could also apply to County worksites, not only as an EJ-related action. The County would be well served by a new emphasis on employee wellness as a risk management strategy.

**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/>)

**Action EJ-B.10** Every 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.

**New proposed action item:** Expand scope of School-Based Health Clinics in disadvantaged communities to include importance of physical activity and healthy food choices.

**New proposed action item:** Develop a GIS map of food dessert areas in DCs that can be updated every two years.

**New proposed action item:** Identify, support and partner with existing programs that can help develop community garden programs in DCs. Partner agencies could include: Contra Costa Master Gardeners (UC Davis), Urban Tilth (Richmond), Planting Justice, Eco-village Farm Learning Center and others.

**GOAL C** Equitable access to safe and sanitary homes among all communities in the county so that no resident has to live in an unsafe or unhealthy place.

#### **POLICIES:**

**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

**Comment:** add “and will provide adequate housing for the unhoused (homeless). “ How would we ensure this?

**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.*

**Comment:** Add “Provide adequate funding to maintain and/or abate homeless encampments and provide adequate security for the Coordinated Outreach, Referral and Engagement Teams (CORE) “

Need to define “adequate living conditions.” Is it operable windows, fresh air, no facing polluted source, no mold, running water and working furnaces? Is there an existing list of these?

**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 affordable housing, which could include many types of innovative housing products. This should include homeownership opportunities to help residents build intergenerational wealth.*



**Comment:** Could this be more of a Public Lands policy? Focus should be on land owned by the public sector for developing affordable housing.

**New proposed policy** – provide safe places for the unhoused or homeless to go during high heat or smoke events. Create or designate clean air centers in DCs.

**New proposed policy** – ensure that all housing has sufficiently low air infiltrations rates to provide adequate protection during Shelter-in-place events.

**New proposed policy** – expand lead poisoning prevention program, or create a new program, to comprehensively address multiple health-related housing quality issues in homes in DCs through coordinated actions with appropriate agencies/programs such as infiltration of outdoor air pollution from point and non-point sources, asthma triggers, mold, asbestos, pest management, energy efficiency, electrification/energy self-sufficiency/back-up power, spills and falls and water conservation. Basically, let's create a "Healthy and Sustainable Homes" program.

**New proposed policy** - ensure existing and new multi-family housing units in DCs provide the benefit of Electric Vehicle charging stations, in-home food composting services, and other amenities that decrease their carbon footprint. Consider requiring transition to all-electric appliances and furnaces when permits are pulled for upgrades/repairs above a certain amount.

Can the County plan to phase out natural gas hook-ups in new construction by a certain date?

#### **GOAL C ACTIONS:**

**Action EJ-C.1** *Develop and implement a rent control and just cause for eviction ordinance to strengthen the protections provided by AB 1482 and provide accessible resources for fair tenant protections in disadvantaged communities.*

**Action EJ-C.2** Conduct periodic outreach in disadvantaged communities to inform tenants of their rights and responsibilities. Written outreach efforts should be translated into appropriate languages.

**Comment:** spell out what department or who would be responsible for this. Could there be a paid team of residents from DCs that could do this on the County's behalf with the right training? Are there existing tenant unions in Contra Costa that could do this?

**Action EJ-C.3** Update the County Health and Safety Code to establish a framework for the County to protect residents' access to secure housing through eviction moratoriums or other mechanisms when the County and/or State declare states of emergency due to natural or human-made disasters, including epidemics and pandemics.

**Action EJ-C.4** Obtain funding for, address barriers to, and increase participation in the County's weatherization program 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.

**Action EJ-C.5** Create a bulk buying program that allows people to purchase air conditioners, air purifiers, heaters, and other electric appliances at wholesale prices to increase energy efficiency and replace hazardous appliances. Work with 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.

**Comment:** Consider adding something about incentives to install solar panels in homes in DCs through grants and other incentives to offset cost of more electric appliances. Who would create the bulk buying program and where would the funding come from?

**Action EJ-C.6** Partner with a local solar company 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.

**Comment:** Rather than a local solar company, could it be a solar cooperative? There's one in Alameda County. Then it would be run by them. Maybe action could be to support the development of such a cooperative in Contra Costa, and would probably need to partner with MCE.

**Action EJ-C.7** In collaboration with nonprofit and for-profit developers, obtain funding for and establish community land trusts serving each disadvantaged community that will support long-term community ownership and housing affordability.

**Comment:** reword to have action verb first. Include having the County offer some of its land to future land trusts as an in kind contribution that could lead to affordable housing and local ownership. Who in the County would be in charge of establishing these trusts?

**Action EJ-C.8** *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.*

**Comment:** consider creating a pool of residents who can be trained and hired to conduct this education and outreach in DCs.

**Action EJ-C.9** *In coordination with Contra Costa Health Services, create an inventory of available land for tiny homes or other types of innovative housing products as alternatives to accommodate people who lack housing.*

**Comment:** This would not be CCHS's role. CCHS Homeless Program can collaborate with this effort.

**Action EJ-C.10** 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.*

**Comment:** Need to update definition of transitional facilities to current understanding.

**Action EJ-C.11** 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 condition. Keep tenants informed of these efforts, including by translating the information into languages other than English.

**Action EJ-C.12** 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/>)

**New proposed action** – conduct an analysis of housing in areas highly likely to be impacted by a Shelter-in-place event to identify housing that needs to be upgraded to provide adequate protection from a chemical release or fire and inform and encourage enrollment to those residents of programs (such as weatherization) that can assist them to make the necessary improvements.

**GOAL 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.**

**POLICIES:**

**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.

**Policy EJ-D.2** Actively work across County departments and agencies to attract manufacturing businesses in the clean technology sector, especially those that will not increase emissions in or near disadvantaged communities.

**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 and outreach to local small business owners.

**GOAL D ACTIONS:**

**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.*

**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, 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.

**Action EJ-D.3** *Explore strategies to establish a revolving loan fund or other economic development initiatives to support small businesses in disadvantaged communities.*

**GOAL E** Equitable engagement with all communities in the county so that all residents share an equal voice in decisions that affect their community.

**POLICIES:**

**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. Conduct outreach and engagement with disadvantaged communities as follows:

**Comment:** also use bilingual mailed notices to households that catch one's attention. In DCs, go beyond the minimum proximity required for notices (if 300 ft, go to 500 ft, and so on – expand the geography that will get notified). Go beyond the website and use social media and other platforms.

- ☑ 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.

**Comment:** Notices need to be in plain English, easy to understand, including easily understood by LEP (Limited English Proficiency) residents.

- ☑ 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]

- ☑ Clearly explain potential adverse impacts of a proposed project in plain language that is easily understood by the target community.

**Comment:** The County needs to move toward power-sharing with communities in the spectrum of community engagement efforts. Please reference <https://www.iap2.org/mpage/Home> as a great resource.

**Policy EJ-E.2** 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.

**New Proposed Policy** Support community-driven efforts to build capacity in neighborhoods so that residents may meaningfully participate in the County's planning and land-use decision making processes. Consider compensating residents for their time, a stipend, for participation at decision-making meetings.

**New proposed policy:** Provide training and support for residents to learn how to engage in civic processes. Develop mechanisms to give residents more power in the decision-making process. Provide training to staff on environmental justice principles, implicit bias, and cultural humility.

## **GOAL E ACTIONS:**

**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.

**Comment:** Consider looking at BAAQMD's Public Participation Plan as a model.

**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,*

**Comment:** Best practices in community engagement call for time-limited and issue-specific engagement. It would be more authentic and meaningful to engage residents on a project-by-project or issue-by-issue basis, inviting local community leaders to participate in the decision-making process as early as possible. Only engage residents if their wisdom/input/ideas have a genuine chance of being implemented, adopted or included. If the County wishes to create this type of group, then we recommend that it be advisory to the Board of Supervisors and abide by Brown Act requirements.

**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.

**Comment:** Identify community leaders, develop relationships, initiate dialogue, and work to jointly develop partnership agreements with residents or CBOs from DCs to ensure that their voices are heard and their contributions are taken into consideration during the decision-making process. To accomplish this, the County needs to invest in hiring multi-cultural Community Engagement staff in key Departments.

**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.

**Comment:** Use the latest Census 2020 data also.

**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.

**Comment:** Not only in the profiles, but in the GP overall.

**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 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.

**Action EJ-E.7** Support community events, such as block parties and community service days, that support social connections, neighborhood identity, and behavioral health.

**Comment:** add National Night Out.

**Action EJ-E.8** Partner with community organizations 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.

**Comment:** Need to prioritize and schedule clean-ups FIRST in DCs, not just "focus" on them. Need robust outreach to encourage participation – negotiate this in contracts with haulers. The action could include to review and update as allowed existing hauler franchise agreements to include robust outreach, prioritize clean-ups in DCs, and ensure active participation by local residents and/or CBOs.

**GOAL F** Equitable, 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.

**POLICIES:**

**Policy EJ-F.1** *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 infrastructure projects identified in disadvantaged community profiles.*

**Comment:** Add protected bike lanes.

**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, and in high crime neighborhoods.*

**Comment:** Add sufficient, not just energy-efficient lighting.

**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.

**Comment:** These shelters should include shade, be comfortable, have phone-charging ability. Need better signage too. Some places have electronic signs with ETAs. Those would be a desired improvement. These types of amenities are an equity issue.

There needs to be an assessment of the distribution of transportation services and amenities and rectify inequities.

**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.*

**Comment:** Where are Truck routes addressed? – may need to add.

**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.

**Comment:** Define “walking distance” – what are best practices or definition? Include user friendly and more accessible – updated schedules for bus routes. Convenience, operational boundaries, access. Need to add more specificity to assessment re: route availability.

Do we mean a "walking district"? the term "node" does not make much sense to lay people

**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, 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.

**Comment:** Mention Automotive speed control, that pulls in pedestrian safety, Safe Routes to School. Bring in injury prevention policies. Make sure it is much more specific. Need to add a Vision Zero policy. Can we work with them to transition to electric school buses?

## **GOAL F ACTIONS:**

**Action EJ-F.1** *Engage in community-based transportation plans or other 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.*



**Comment:** We want to see more than engage. Actively advocate for this. Promote.

**Action EJ-F.2** Develop a program to subsidize transit passes, *including BART*, for residents of disadvantaged communities.

**Comment:** Be more ambitious. Scope viability of free transit to specific groups. LA has a good working paper for college students and learners. Lots of co-benefits, GHG decrease, PA increase. Potentially borrow from them. They may have done a health impact assessment of that free transit policy. May have been anyone who was a student. Big blue bus.

Safe connectivity to trails and BART transportation. Need to map it, assess it, ID gaps, and plan to decrease gaps.

**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.

**Comment:** These permits are often costly and prohibitive for DCs. Will this be financed or will the costs be waived in DCs?

**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.

**Comment:** Work with BAAQMD, and make sure this action also enforces idling. Make sure signage is in multiple languages. Include a trucker education component, involve community in making this happen.

**Action EJ-F.5** 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.

**Comment:** Can this type of action happen county-wide, and not just in unincorporated areas? Goods movement is more of a regional concern.

**New Proposed Action:** More transparent enforcement of idling trucks. Get an app, submit to online portal, triggers appropriate enforcement agency to follow up with it. Health department can empower residents, flipping "not in my back yard" and trucks not in my front street. Use the CAL ITHIM tool to help find the active travel metrics mentioned above, ensure the long-term benefits are achievable.

**GOAL 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.



## **POLICIES:**

**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.

**Comment:** Need to designate a responsible department, or this will fall through cracks.

**Policy EJ-G.2** Assist disadvantaged communities in establishing funding and financing mechanisms – 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.

**Comment:** Not very clear who is responsible. Do we mean business improvement district? Haven't heard of "building" improvement districts. Consider implementing Redevelopment 2.0: infrastructure financing districts - already a State law that allows these to be formed.

**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.

**Comment:** Add EQUITABLE to efficient and effective.

“Advocate for and coordinate with... for proper planning, maintenance, and implementation of services and infrastructure in DCs to ensure equitable, efficient and effective...”

## **GOAL G ACTIONS:**

**Action EJ-G.1** Review needs and services in each disadvantaged community as part of the annual budgeting process.

**Comment:** Not just review but develop a plan to address the needs. Not just prioritize funding, but do an assessment of distribution of services to ID gaps, then fund those to bring up to equitable levels.

Is there a MAC in every DC? If not, create one, so this type of effort can be reviewed or led by them.

**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.

**Comment:** Can the County come up with matching funds to augment grant funding? How about a creating a Community Climate Resiliency District to fund these types of projects?

**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.

**Comment:** Instead of “explore options”, establish a process or develop a program to provide sufficient grant funding in DCs to improve green infrastructure and related projects. Add a community

engagement process for equitable distribution of funds. Establish methods of accountability. Define green infrastructure: tree planting? Bioswells? What else?

**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.

**Comment:** Add code enforcement to 211, or ensure that information is incorporated if not already there. Then delete this action item.

**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.

**Comment:** What about the community? This does not make sense – what services? What facilities? Why a TF? Not clear what's the desired outcome. Including cities? Other service providers? Is it an advisory body? Is this really a body to provide oversight? Will it have to abide by the Brown Act? If a task force idea moves forward, consider looking at the historical success of PEHAB (Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board), and consider re-activating it.

**Action EJ-G.6** Encourage internet providers to improve access to reliable, fast internet access in disadvantaged communities at affordable prices.

**Comment:** Encouraging IPs to do this is not enough. The County needs to work toward universal access to broadband in DCs. Ideally, to help level the playing field and address systemic and historic inequities, broadband internet access in DCs should be free and accessible to all residents. Actions should have a policy relating to them. There's no policy about internet access.

**New proposed action:** In order to show success with Goal G, the County needs to first do an assessment about the distribution of services to identify gaps in DC communities.

**GOAL 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.

#### **POLICIES:**

**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.

**Comments:** We think what needs to expand is community engagement, along with outreach, analysis, and implementation of efforts that will decrease health inequities in disadvantaged communities. Meaningful resident engagement can lead to building and sharing power within disadvantaged communities. Mention the [IAP2](#) spectrum of community engagement and participation as a guide.

Expand and improve the delivery of culturally appropriate and comprehensive health services in DCs

**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.*

**Comment:** In addition, work to increase and improve access to and development of culturally relevant recreational and physical activity opportunities that promote community health.

**New proposed policy:** Ensure all residents can get to health-related appointments by providing free or affordable transportation options, such as shared rides or shuttles.

**Note:** The Health Department is developing a document, Living Contra Costa. This is a cross-sector effort that will have health outcomes and a data dashboard. It will be important to incorporate key principles/elements of Living Contra Costa in the new General Plan. CCHS will follow up on this as it moves forward.

**Note:** There will soon be a new Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, along with a new plan. It would be important to reference the plan/effort in the new General Plan, as well as the Board of Supervisor's resolution declaring racism as a Public Health crisis. Acknowledge that racism has an impact on physical and behavioral health.

#### **GOAL H ACTIONS:**

**Action EJ-H.1** Minimize zoning requirements for medical facilities to reduce barriers to development.

**Comment:** Please widen scope from medical facilities to include behavioral health facilities and other health-promoting amenities. Plan to involve the neighboring community early and often to prevent NIMBYism. Add "in disadvantaged communities."

**New proposed action:** Commission a study of current conditions and location of health and health-promoting facilities/amenities using mapping and distance from residences to services in order to identify and address gaps.

**GOAL 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.**

#### **POLICIES:**

**EJ-I.1:** Assist with coordination to support joint use recreation facilities serving disadvantaged communities.

**Comment:** Add more detail. Look at San Diego's park policies. The more detail, the more it allows for multi-sector resources. For example, schools. Not just public schools, but also private schools. Give some examples. Start with Support joint use of rec facilities in DCs.

**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.

**Comment:** We like the mention of all ages and abilities but need to address challenges for youth and elderly specifically. Check with Vee Ibarra from Developmental Disabilities council, do they have suggestions?

How do we define access? Can we add a metric, like a park within 1/4 mile of all residents.

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

**Comment:** It would be stronger to just not allow in-lieu fees and not include the second sentence. Add “developer” before fees. Require a portion of the amenities/parks/green spaces to be open to the public, not just “ideally”

Priority should be to build new parks/amenities and only require that they themselves maintain/improve existing parks when it is impossible for them to build on their property. But make it hard not to build on their property -- even if on the roof. Make sure that we define in-lieu as park in-lieu or open space in-lieu fees.

**EJ I.4:** 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.

**Comment:** Social isolation is dangerous to health. Post pandemic, promote social gatherings. Cost and access to facilities is an issue. It increases social connection and cohesion. Living Contra costa has a “belonging” measure. Need to link General Plan with Living Contra Costa. Belonging is a sense of living safely. Think of metrics to measure progress.

**EJ I.5:** 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.

**Comment:** For example, EBMUD, EBRPD, name names. Expand multi-use corridors. Mapping and extension between trails, linkages in those DCs. Potentially add “Geomapping” – use it to show gaps between corridors and trails. Will give leverage to use these resources. Ultimately it will need to identify who – what partner, or which staff. Promote buses to go to parks together, active living. Note: Connect with Alice Kinner and Mona Koh, multicultural health education lead, EBRPD.

Need to identify who will cover MOPs (Maintenance, operations, policing).

**GOAL J** Equitable 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.

**POLICIES:**

**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.

**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.

**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 health care facilities as far away as possible from significant pollution sources.

**Comment:** Instead of saying “as far away as possible, establish buffer zones for placing sensitive receptors near all sources of pollution, and for placing sources of pollution near sensitive receptors using ARB guidelines and the Air District’s Planning Health Places guidelines as a starting point. Prohibit housing to be built within worst case scenario zones established for industrial facilities in the Risk Management Plans for those facilities.

**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.

**Policy EJ-J.5** Consider future General Plan and/or Zoning Code amendments as needed to support BAAQMD in meeting AB 617 objectives to reduce the health impacts of air pollution in Communities of Concern.

**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.

**Comment:** Replace with a policy in the Climate equity section that addresses heat islands.

**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.

**Comment:** Too vague. Minimal standards should be established and implemented.

**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.

**Policy EJ-J.9** Prohibit **all** 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.

**Comment:** Include a time limit.

**New proposed policy:** Require projects to evaluate and mitigate the health risks from surrounding air pollution for the future occupants of the project, not just impacts of the project on the surrounding environment.

**New proposed policy:** Require all recent BMPs established for trucking

## GOAL J ACTIONS

**Action EJ-J.1** Coordinate with State and regional regulatory entities and community members to fund citizen-led data collection, monitor pollution exposure, and identify and implement solutions in disadvantaged communities.

**Action EJ-J.2** Assist BAAQMD in establishing and implementing Community Air Monitoring Plans for disadvantaged communities.

**Action EJ-J.3** Coordinate with BAAQMD to *determine where to focus* create a targeted *facility* permit inspection program in disadvantaged communities to help ensure enforcement of air quality permits.

**Comment:** Who and how – County does not permit air quality. Does this refer to DCD issued permits?

**Action EJ-J.4** Enforce the State’s five-minute maximum idling law.

**Action EJ-J.5** Prepare an urban forest master plan for the county that includes quantified goals and tracking methods, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.

**Comment:** Instead of prioritizing, say “ensuring there is equitable distribution of urban forests.

**Action EJ-J.6** Develop and implement a plan to provide clean air refuges during times when outdoor air quality is unhealthy.

**GOAL K Communities that are safe and resilient from hazards associated with the use, *manufacture, transport, storage, treatment, and disposal* of hazardous waste and hazardous ~~substances~~ materials, including from fossil fuels, chemical refining, and power plants *as well as other sources such as pipelines, rail lines, and truck transportation.***

## POLICIES:

**Policy EJ-K.1** Discourage construction of new large-scale hazardous waste facilities.

**Comment:** Need to clarify if this means TSD (Treatment, Storage and Disposal) facilities or facilities that use large amounts of hazardous materials or generate large amounts of hazardous waste. Need to define large. Discourage has no meaning. Either prohibit or restrict in disadvantaged communities.

**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.

**New Proposed Policy** – Provide equitable inspection and enforcement of hazardous material and hazardous waste regulations throughout county.

**New Proposed Policy** - Require meaningful community engagement and involvement in the Community Warning System.

**New Proposed Policy** – Ensure there is adequate sites for the collection of household hazardous waste (HHW), unused pharmaceuticals, and wastes generated by boats and marinas, including provisions for residents that don't own cars or are physically unable to deliver materials to a collection site.

**Proposed New Policy** – Staff of the Hazardous Materials Program should be trained on environmental justice topics to increase their ability to recognize potential environmental justice or implicit bias issues.

**Proposed New Policy** – The Hazardous Materials Program should engage with the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development (DCD), regarding hazardous material and hazardous waste considerations during the planning of new business operations in the County. The Hazardous Materials Program should engage with DCD in their efforts to solicit input at an early stage from disadvantaged communities on proposed projects involving hazardous materials and hazardous waste that may create a disproportionate impact on the community.

## **GOAL K ACTIONS**

**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.

**Comment:** The County doesn't have a B & C cleanup policy. Need to rework. County applying for grants is ok but need to clarify role of non-profits is to conduct the community engagement.

**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.

**New Proposed Action** – Evaluate the inspection and enforcement efforts of the Hazardous Materials Programs to determine if services are equitably distributed and develop action plan to address deficiencies.

**New Proposed Action** – Review effectiveness and alternatives to Marina collection programs to determine best method moving forward.

**Proposed New Action** – Develop department-wide procedures and training for reporting observed environmental justice issues, and address issues pertinent to the Hazardous Materials Programs.

**Proposed New Action** – Establish a comprehensive outreach strategy to provide hazardous material program policy information to disadvantaged communities, including considerations related to hazardous materials and hazardous waste storage, permitting, and inspections, environmental monitoring, hazardous materials incident response, industrial safety ordinance and pollution prevention. Identify and leverage established community and industry groups and other synergistic agency programs to disperse outreach and education materials.

**Proposed New Action** – Identify and designate a communications liaison to ensure that hazardous materials and hazardous waste topics are presented to disadvantaged communities in a manner that is easily and clearly comprehensible.

**Proposed New Action** – To the extent possible, invite community representatives to observe ‘hands-on’ emergency drills to increase public awareness of emergency response capabilities and understand protective actions the public may be required to take should a hazardous materials incident occur in their community (shelter-in-place and evacuation procedures). Ensure representatives from all populations, including disadvantaged communities, have the opportunity to observe drills, including the availability of language translation services.

**New proposed Goal EJ-L: Mitigation, adaptation and resiliency strategies to address the impacts of climate change are equitably distributed throughout the unincorporated areas of the County, ensuring that vulnerable populations already suffering disproportionate health outcomes are protected from further impacts of climate change.**

**Proposed Policies and Actions for New Proposed Goal L**

1. Require all future development projects to address potential impacts of climate change including sea level rise, flooding, heat, drought, and wildfire smoke.
2. Require existing business that use, store, treat or dispose of hazardous materials and hazardous waste to mitigate for the potential impacts of sea level rise
3. Require current transportation corridors to mitigate for the potential impacts of sea level rise.
4. Review and craft policies and actions based on recent heat vulnerability study, regarding heat islands, painted surfaces, etc. The study found some areas are much more vulnerable to heat. Some were transportation related.
5. Incentivize electric busses, trucks, etc., vs internal combustion engines. Help operationalize the Governor’s transition to all-electric new cars on the roads. Especially those that travel through DCs.
6. Identify funding sources and assist residents in DCs to transition to electric vehicles, electric appliances, solar panels, etc.
7. Use a climate vulnerability index to identify and map areas of need. (CDPH has a tool that already does that).
8. Take into consideration rising tides, rising temperatures, and other health impacts of climate change when making land use decisions, so impacts in disadvantaged communities are mitigated or adaptation projects are prioritized.





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.**



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 DAC<sup>1</sup> 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-based 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.

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<sup>1</sup> DAC refers to disadvantaged communities (DACs) within General Plan planning areas.



## RichmondLAND

LOCAL ACTION IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- **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.



## RichmondLAND

LOCAL ACTION IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- **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 edits<sup>2</sup> 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.

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



## RichmondLAND

LOCAL ACTION IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- 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, workers<sup>3</sup>, 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

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<sup>3</sup> 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-based 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 e**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~~**Equitable** 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** ~~E~~**c**learly explain potential adverse impacts of a proposed project in plain language that is easily understood by the target community.
  - d. **Policy** EJ-E.4: ~~2~~**2**: 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.6~~5~~:** 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 ~~ins~~ 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.5~~4~~: 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.6~~5~~: 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.7~~6~~: 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** **and** 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.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY GUIDANCE NUMBERING CHANGES

Old Policy Number (from 10/2/20 memo)	New Policy Number (from revised draft guidance)
<b>Goal EJ-A</b>	<b>Goal SC-1</b>
Policy EJ-A.1	Policy SC-P1.2
Policy EJ-A.2	Policy SC-P1.5
Policy EJ-A.3	<i>deleted</i>
Policy EJ-A.4	Policy SC-P1.1
Policy EJ-A.5	Policy SC-P1.6
Policy EJ-A.6	Policy PFS-P1.3
Action EJ-A.1	Action SC-A1.1
Action EJ-A.2	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-A.3	Action SC-A1.2
Action EJ-A.4	Action SC-A1.4
Action EJ-A.5	Action SC-A1.6
Action EJ-A.6	Action SC-A1.10
Action EJ-A.7	Action PFS-A1.4
<b>Goal EJ-B</b>	<b>Goal SC-3</b>
Policy EJ-B.1	Policy SC-P3.1
Policy EJ-B.2	<i>deleted</i>
Policy EJ-B.3	Policy SC-P3.2
Policy EJ-B.4	Policy SC-P3.4
Policy EJ-B.5	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.1	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.2	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.3	Action SC-A3.3
Action EJ-B.4	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.5	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.6	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.7	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.8	Action SC-A3.12
Action EJ-B.9	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-B.10	Action SC-A3.5
<b>Goal EJ-C</b>	<b>Goal SC-4</b>
Policy EJ-C.1	Policy SC-P4.1
Policy EJ-C.2	Policy SC-P4.3
Policy EJ-C.3	Policy SC-P4.4

Old Policy Number (from 10/2/20 memo)	New Policy Number (from revised draft guidance)
Action EJ-C.1	Action SC-A4.7
Action EJ-C.2	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-C.3	Action SC-A4.8
Action EJ-C.4	Action SC-A4.10
Action EJ-C.5	Action SC-A4.11
Action EJ-C.6	Action SC-A4.2
Action EJ-C.7	Action SC-A4.3
Action EJ-C.8	Action SC-A4.4
Action EJ-C.9	Action SC-A4.5
Action EJ-C.10	Action SC-A4.6
Action EJ-C.11	<i>deleted</i>
<b>Goal EJ-D</b>	<b>Goal SC-5</b>
Policy EJ-D.1	Policy SC-P5.1
Policy EJ-D.2	<i>deleted</i>
Policy EJ-D.3	Policy SC-P5.2
Action EJ-D.1	Action SC-A5.1
Action EJ-D.2	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-D.3	Action SC-A5.2
<b>Goal EJ-E</b>	<b>Goal SC-6</b>
Policy EJ-E.1	Policy SC-P6.1
Policy EJ-E.2	Policy SC-P6.2
Action EJ-E.1	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-E.2	<i>deleted</i>
Action EJ-E.3	Action SC-A6.1
Action EJ-E.4	Action SC-A6.3
Action EJ-E.5	Action SC-A1.5
Action EJ-E.6	Action SC-A6.2
Action EJ-E.7	Policy SC-P1.4
Action EJ-E.8	Action PFS-A1.7
<b>Goal EJ-F</b>	<b>Goal TR-1</b>
Policy EJ-F.1	Policy TR-P1.1
Policy EJ-F.2	Policy TR-P1.2
Policy EJ-F.3	<i>deleted</i>
Policy EJ-F.4	<i>deleted</i>

Old Policy Number (from 10/2/20 memo)	New Policy Number (from revised draft guidance)
Policy EJ-F.5	Policy SC-P1.3
Policy EJ-F.6	Policy TR-P1.4
Action EJ-F.1	Action TR-A1.2
Action EJ-F.2	Action TR-A1.4
Action EJ-F.3	Action SC-A1.9
Action EJ-F.4	Action TR-A1.5
Action EJ-F.5	Policy TR-P1.5
<b>Goal EJ-G</b>	<b>Goal PFS-1</b>
Policy EJ-G.1	Policy PFS-P1.1
Policy EJ-G.2	Action PFS-A1.2
Policy EJ-G.3	Policy PFS-P1.2
Action EJ-G.1	Action PFS-A1.1
Action EJ-G.2	Action PFS-A1.3
Action EJ-G.3	Action SC-A1.7
Action EJ-G.4	Action PFS-A1.5
Action EJ-G.5	Action PFS-A1.6
Action EJ-G.6	Policy PFS-P1.4
<b>Goal EJ-H</b>	<b>Goal SC-2</b>
Policy EJ-H.1	<i>deleted</i>
Policy EJ-H.2	Action SC-A2.1
Action EJ-H.1	Action SC-A2.2
<b>Goal EJ-I</b>	<b>Goal PFS-2</b>
Policy EJ-I.1	Policy PFS-P2.3
Policy EJ-I.2	Policy PFS-P2.1
Policy EJ-I.3	Policy PFS-P2.2
Policy EJ-I.4	<i>deleted</i>
Policy EJ-I.5	Policy PFS-P2.4
Policy EJ-I.6	Policy PFS-P2.5
Action EJ-I.1	Action PFS-A2.1
Action EJ-I.2	Action HS-A2.5
<b>Goal EJ-J</b>	<b>Goal HS-1</b>
Policy EJ-J.1	Policy HS-P1.1
Policy EJ-J.2	Policy HS-P1.2
Policy EJ-J.3	Policy HS-P1.3

<b>Old Policy Number</b> (from 10/2/20 memo)	<b>New Policy Number</b> (from revised draft guidance)
Policy EJ-J.4	Policy HS-P1.4
Policy EJ-J.5	Action HS-A1.2
Policy EJ-J.6	Policy HS-P1.7
Policy EJ-J.7	Policy HS-P1.8
Policy EJ-J.8	Policy HS-P1.5
Policy EJ-J.9	Policy HS-P1.6
Action EJ-J.1	Action HS-A1.1
Action EJ-J.2	Action HS-A1.2
Action EJ-J.3	Action HS-A1.3
Action EJ-J.4	Action HS-A1.4
Action EJ-J.5	Action HS-A1.5
Action EJ-J.6	Action HS-A1.6
<b>Goal EJ-K</b>	<b>Goal HS-2</b>
Policy EJ-K.1	Policy HS-P2.2
Policy EJ-K.2	Policy HS-P2.1
Action EJ-K.1	Action HS-A2.1
Action EJ-K.2	Action HS-A2.3