

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

RECORD OF ACTION FOR
April 26, 2021

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

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

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator; Will Nelson, Principal Planner; John Kopchik, Director, Dept of Conservation and Development; Maureen Toms, Deputy Director, Dept of Conservation and Development; Daniel Barrios, Senior Planner; Erin Steffen, Senior Management Analyst, County Administrator's Office; Julie Enea, Senior Deputy County Administrator; Dom Pruett, Field Representative, Office of Supervisor Andersen; Michael Kent, Hazardous Materials Ombudsman; Jo-AnMarie Ricasata, Conservation Planner; Susan Psara, Green Business Program Manager; Wade Finlinson, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator; Luz Gomez, Building Healthy Communities Manager; Nicole Shimizu, Climate Corps Fellow, Dept. of Conservation and Development

Attendees: Tanya Sundberg, Marti Roach, Cinthia Hernandez, Jose Arebalo, Karen Rosenberg, Berna Idriz, Dulce Galicia, Aryana, Glenn Loveall, Chuck Leonard, Betty Lobos, Brandon Matson, Denice Dennis, Kimberly Lam, Chris Easter, Mike Coody, Mark Goodwin, Mike Moore, Richard L, Aaron Sage, Susan Hurl, Sonia Rivas, Kelly Malinowski, Chirag, Devin Murphy, Jan Warren, Lisa Zimmer-Chu, Jason Ruhl, RG, Monte, Lisa Jackson, Scott Shaia, Marcia Liberson, Fred Glueck, Charles Davidson, Deborah Drake, Meg Keeley, Justin Marquez, Rachel Shoemake, Wes Sullens, Madeline Kronenberg, Isabella Zizi, Katrinka Ruk, Laurence Nagel

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).

There was no public comment.

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

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

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

PlaceWorks consultant Tanya Sundberg summarized the Sustainability Committee's involvement with the development of the draft environmental justice policies for the County General Plan update. Sundberg offered an overview of the extensive community outreach that was documented and reflected in the draft environmental justice policies. Sundberg requested guidance from the Committee regarding three main items: replacing the term "disadvantaged community" for "impacted community," Just Transition guidance, and removal of the action to create an environmental justice advisory group.

The Sustainability Committee requested staff to track the Committee's suggestions and provide follow-up on how the suggestions were incorporated into the document. If any policy statements shifted out of the General Plan, the Committee requested that staff specify where the policy statement went. Will Nelson, Department of Conservation and Development principal planner, responded that some of the policies might fit in plans that do not exist yet.

The Committee provided comments on policies and actions within the draft policy document. Staff committed that the Committee's comments would be reflected in the next draft.

The Committee supported using the term "impacted community" in place of the term "disadvantaged community."

During the public comment period, Cinthia Hernandez, Dulce Galicia, Jose Arebalo, Karen Rosenberg, and Marti Roach urged the Committee to include the recommendations provided by Richmond LAND into the environmental justice policies and actions. The Committee noted that some of Richmond LAND's recommendations would better fit in Contra Costa Health Services' Health Plan or in another department like Contra Costa Social Services. The Committee asked staff to include items specific to North Richmond from Richmond LAND's comment letter in the community's community profile. Berna Idriz asked about the implementation and transparency process of General Plan policies and actions. Idriz suggested creating community-facing resources to keep track of where policies that might not fit in the General Plan are implemented elsewhere in the County.

Nelson stated that the agenda item only covers environmental justice policies. Other issues that have been brought up during the public comment period may be addressed elsewhere in the General Plan.

The Committee supported the removal of the action to create an environmental justice advisory group because of its possible replication of the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice's and the Sustainability Commission's work.

The Committee requested to review the next iteration of draft environmental justice policies at a Sustainability Committee meeting in June.

5. The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 24, 2021.
6. Adjourn

For Additional Information Contact:

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Jody.London@dcd.cccounty.us



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

***SPECIAL MEETING* SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

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, Conservation & Development Department
Department: Conservation & Development
Referral No.: N/A
Referral Name: N/A
Presenter: Jody London, DCD **Contact:** Jody London (925)674-7871

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

Attachments

03-22-21 Minutes

Minutes Attachments

No file(s) attached.



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

***SPECIAL MEETING* SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

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, Conservation & Development Department

Department: Conservation & Development

Referral No.: N/A

Referral Name: N/A

Presenter: Will Nelson, DCD

Contact: Jody London (925)674-7871

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.

Agenda 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

Minutes Attachments

4. Presentation - Draft Environmental Justice Policies.pdf



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

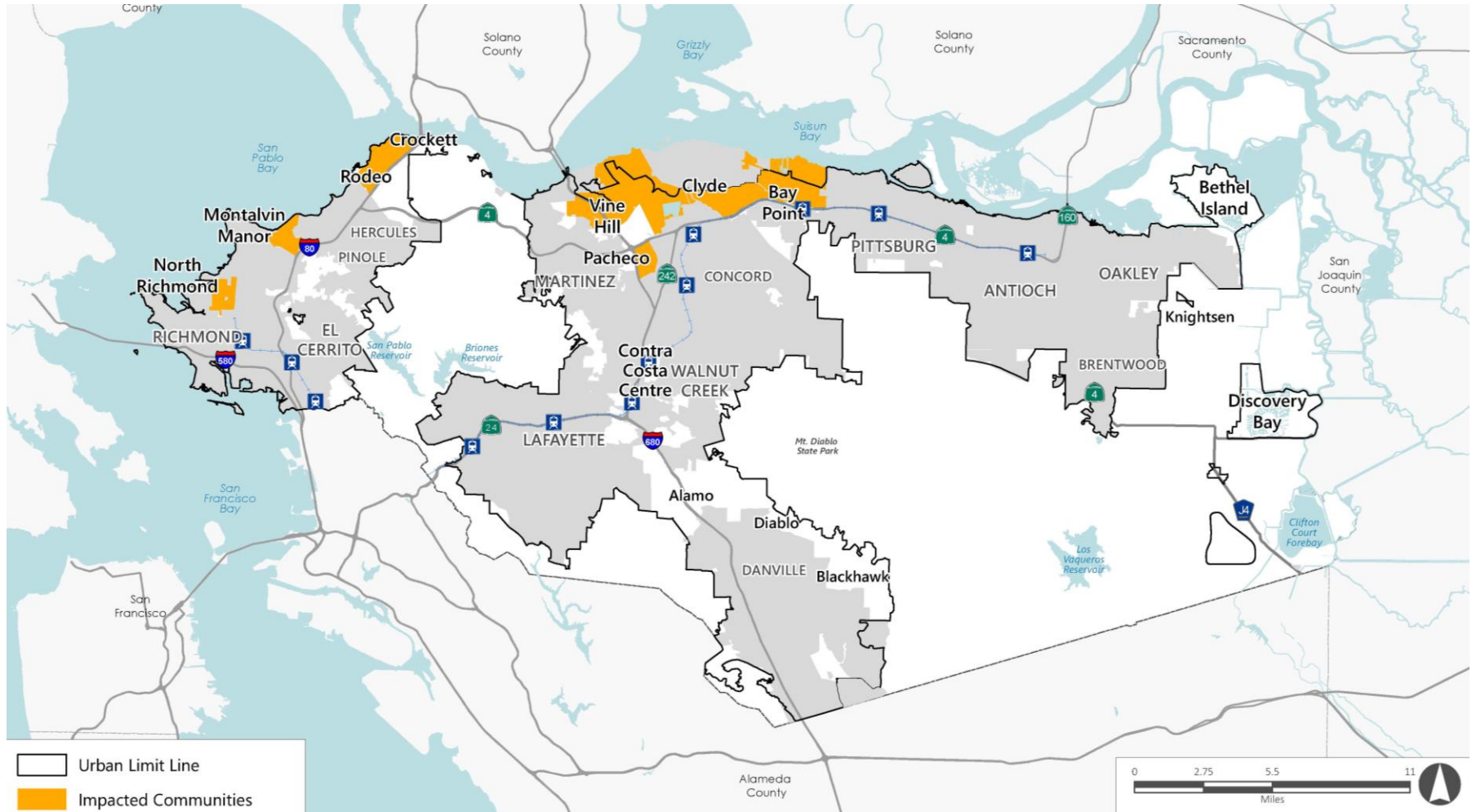


Low-
income
area



“Disadvantaged
community”

Draft “Disadvantaged” Communities

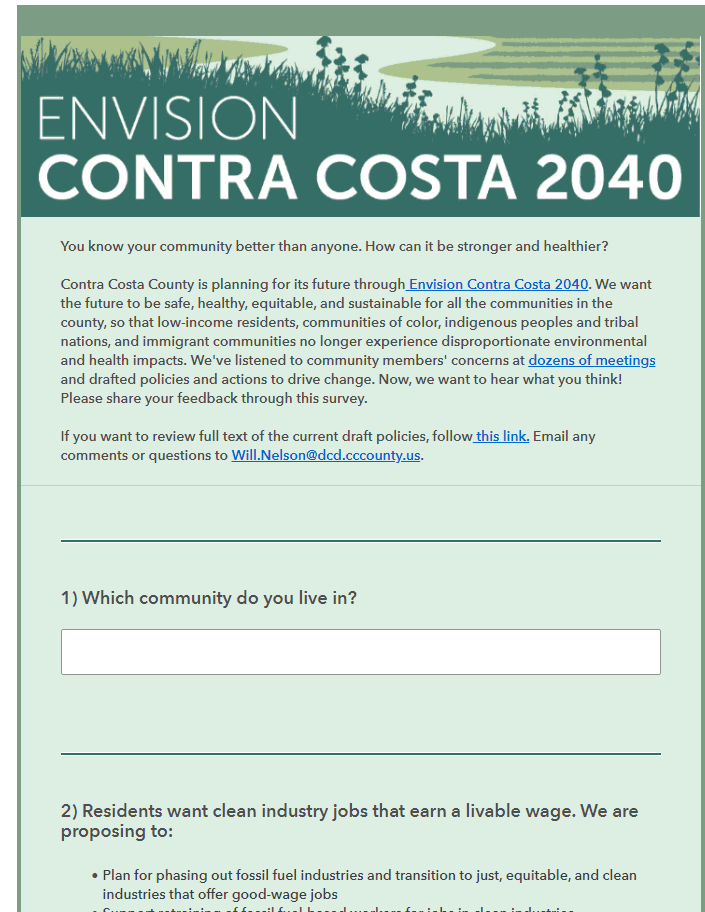


Prior Outreach

- » 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



The image shows a survey form titled "ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040". The header features a landscape illustration with grass, a body of water, and hills. Below the title, the text reads: "You know your community better than anyone. How can it be stronger and healthier?" followed by a paragraph about Contra Costa County's planning process and a link to the draft policies. It also provides an email address for feedback. The form includes two questions: "1) Which community do you live in?" with a text input field, and "2) Residents want clean industry jobs that earn a livable wage. We are proposing to:" with a list of two options: "Plan for phasing out fossil fuel industries and transition to just, equitable, and clean industries that offer good-wage jobs" and "Support retraining of fossil fuel-based workers for jobs in clean industries".

**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.

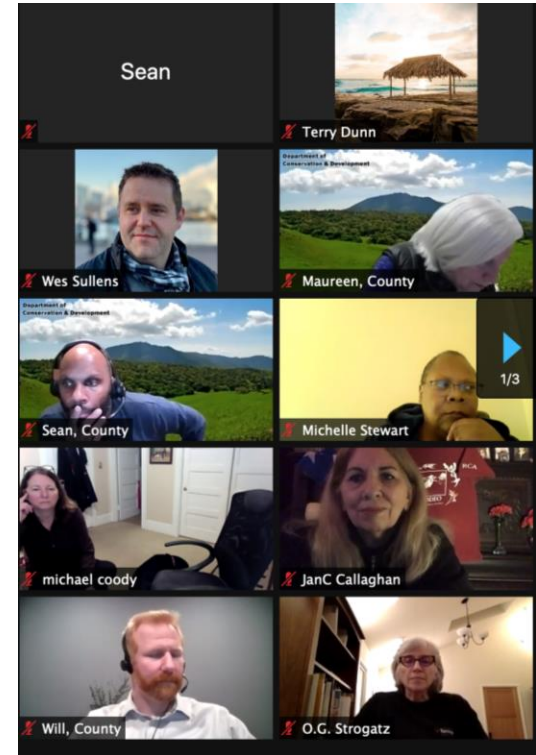
1) Which community do you live in?

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