Group 3 - Alameda County EJ Element - Community Workshop #2

1.) Pollution and Air Quality

What we heard from the community

- Many children have asthma, get sick easily, and have difficulty breathing
- There is trash, needles, human waste on the street
- Truck pollution
- A concern about trucks being allowed on 580
- Loud noise from the train

Policy Ideas from Partner Organizations

- Collect and monitor data.
- Raise awareness on the sources, impacts, testing and remediation of air, water and soil pollutions.
- Collect and monitor data.
- Provide a buffer and screening between freeways/ industrial uses and sensitive land uses (e.g., homes, school, parks),
- Provide home testing kits for lead.
- Plant trees in the most burdened areas.
- Work together with agencies to provide education on Asthma.
- Add air filtration to buildings.
- Establish pollution warning zones (e.g., signage).
- Prioritize bike lanes.
- Phase out polluting industry (e.g., body shops) near residences.
- Provide tax incentives to clean up pollution
- Provide gardening education
- Provide safe drinking water in parks.
- Tax polluting businesses
- Incentivize work-from-home; and
- Improve bus routes to enable commuting without cars.
- Provide safe drinking water in parks.

Your Policy Ideas

- Remove crematoriums from residential neighborhoods
- Implement robust tree planting in neighborhoods with high particulate matter. Especially near freeways.
- street drains filtering
- alternative energy tax break (residential and commercial)
- remove chimneys through incentives, and require removal upon home sale.
- ban charcoal and wood burning in EJ neighborhoods
- Have a policy discussion about trucks on I580 because the state isn't banning sale of gas vehicles til 2035 which means we'll have persistent vehicle polution for another decade +
- hvac filter/cleanup program/awaremes
- Provide sanitation stations (porta-potties with handwashing) all over, including frequent servicing.

2.) Safety and Sanitary Homes

What we heard from the community

- Rent, mortgage, and housing costs are too high
- Living conditions need improvements
- Growing population of unhoused neighbors
- Gentrification and displacement
- Neighborhood safety

Policy Ideas from Partner Organizations

- Increase awareness of resources for improving the health of homes.
- Create a system to report mold and lead.
- Build new sidewalks where needed most.
- Streamline application process for residential improvements.
- Adopt an ordinance to address tenant protection.
- Establish a community land trust.
- Enforce prohibition of short-term rentals.
- Enforce smoke free housing ordinance.
- Create a tenant resource line.
- Provide pre-approved Accessory Dwelling Units.
- Fund air purifiers and indoor air monitors.
- Create a loan fund for lead abatement / rebates / repairs.
- Care for street trees.
- Control for disease vectors.
- Set up a permit concierge to assist with permitting process.
- Streamline application process for residential improvements.
- Provide pre-approved Accessory Dwelling Units.

Your Policy Ideas

- more trash bins are needed (A st! Other public streets in Unincorporated!)
- Add more tiny homes to the 'village' on Fairmont Ridge
- Have more tiny home villages scattered throughout the county
- Make it possible for county to take properties seized for nonpayment of taxes & make them available for low-income/ subsidized housing &/ or food gardens (rather than requiring auctions to sell to bidding developers)
- Accept new street trees throughout the county; partner with 100K Trees
- Make some housing available to low-income people when it's seized by the county for nonpayment of taxes (don't require all of it to be sold at auction to developers)

3.) Public Facilities

What we heard from the community

- Public transit is too expensive and too hard to access
- Sidewalks need repairs
- More streetlights are needed for safety
- Schools are being closed in black and brown neighborhoods*
- Unincorporated areas need greenspaces and parks*
- Community programs: exercise class, sports, after school programs etc.

Policy Ideas from Partner Organizations

- Increase public transportation routes or add shuttles that connect to other public transportation.
- Activate spaces more for pedestrians rather than vehicles (e.g., wide sidewalks, lighting and speed bumps).
- Green Space/Public Gathering. Make quantitative goals for annual tree planting, create placemaking and build more outdoor gathering spaces.
- Strengthen existing facilities into resilience hubs (e.g., cooling centers), including school-based hubs.
- Work with school districts to provide community needs on school sites.
- Provide education to decision-makers about mental health and substance addiction issues.
- Create one-stop welcome hubs similar to REACH for adult populations.
- Prioritize public facilities and open space in areas with a significant need, especially where new housing is planned or proposed.
- Provide mental health and other support services with affordable housing projects.
- Improve bike/ pedestrian connectivity.
- Address community concerns around school closures.
- Reduce vehicle idling.

Your Policy Ideas

- wide sidewalks
- traffic speed reduce with speed bumps
- Fund daycares for families who cannot afford childcare. While the parents are working, kids can receive a safe place to stay, food, activities, etc. A lot of people would love to volunteer at these places too.
- street lightning
- (1.) comment from Elena: street lightning powered with alternative energy
- Reverse School closures
- Allow residential camping for unhoused people until there is enough low-income/ supported housing built for their occupancy
- Separated bike infrastructure on designated bike network routes. No more "sharrows are good enough"
- Have after-school programs return to rec centers so kids can have supervised activities including sports and other forms of movement
- have bus drivers carry change for people who pay with cash
- Institutional care facilities for mental health and substance abuse. (Tired of people passed out on the sidewalk) Kids shouldn't have to step over human feces on the way to school
- Have more disabled-access for all county programs
- fix potholes

4.) Food Access

What we heard from the community

- Grocery stores with healthy options are too far away
- Fresh and healthy food is too expensive
- School lunches need to be improved so that students can get healthy food
- Community members need access to food resources like food banks

Policy Ideas from Partner Organizations

- Offer incentives to businesses to provide and advertise healthier food options.
- Increase food delivery to seniors/disabled.
- Organize bi-monthly farmers markets, and offer free or affordable produce for the lower income.
- Create incentives to design rooftop gardens.
- Train community members and youth on how food is grown and how to care for community gardens.
- Invest in food coupons at local stores
- Limit non-healthy food businesses (e.g., fast food, liquor stores)
- Work with local farmers and produce markets to bring food to neighborhoods.
- Create edible landscaping and parklets.
- Incorporate community gardens in housing projects.
- Educate the community about ordinances that allow for livestock for food.

Your Policy Ideas

- Use land trust process to establish some grow-your-own space in vacant lots
- using greenhouses for year-round fresh food
- Decontaminate land that can't be used or sold for housing & agriculturedue to contamination
- open more food banks
- More community gardens rather than paving all available lots for housing. Density without amenity destroys livability!
- Gardens in schools with space for fresher and healthier food
- teach nutrition to young people! libraries could host these
- Street trees should be fruit-bearing
- Expand gleaning effort by having all new public trees become part of an urban orchard program
- street events with healthy food
- subsidize food trucks that offer healthy meal choices

5.) Health and Physical Activity

What we heard from the community

- Need access to mental health resources
- Heart health issues in the community
- Need more recreation facilities
- Community spaces are not safe for exercise because of crime, needles, and litter
- Need community programs that promote healthy lifestyles

- Sheriff's dept forcing people to move around without any real solutions or places to go.
- Get some more tiny homes villages, with gardens and exercise space, so that residents can take care of their physical and mental health needs.
- Rec centers used to have cooking and craft classes, as well as sports – we need to do that again; make them accessible, useful, and approachable
- Hire more rangers to lead outdoor hiking, wildlife, history, tours and info programs
- Boost profile of Forestr (nonprofit) that does cleaning, greening & gleaning – contract with them for cleanups, food growing, & using food from people's yards & trees

Policy Ideas from Partner Organizations

- Raise awareness of programs on an ongoing basis and how to sign up; include language access.
- Work with local agencies to offer preventative mental health support.
- Provide support to re-entry and unhoused populations to promote health and wellness for them and their families.
- Work with local churches to organize health and wellness events (e.g., health education combined with walking or yoga).
- Increase outdoor spaces for diverse recreation (e.g., outdoor roller hockey rink in Pleasanton).
- Organize annual events, such as walks, runs, bike rides, block parties, including events for people with disabilities.
- Provide year-long affordable programs.
- Offer youth jobs in leading activities.
- Expand health education programs (nutrition, physical activity) for families with children.
- Organize trips for youth to regional parks
- Train/pay re-entry individuals to care for parks, gardens and open space areas.

Your Policy Ideas

- youth co-op for water activities (kayaking, exploring the bay and habitats)
- hire more people to clean the parks
- hire more people to staff new programs at rec centers
- have therapists/ counselors in schools
- We need more housing supports that include access to parks for exercise and rec
- how does the county stem the tide of foreign investment blowing up prices for housing?
- exercise equipment in parks (free of course)
- we need more rehab & mental health respite programs so that people can have somewhere to go when they're in mental health crisis
- shelters
- what are non-police methods for getting help for people experiencing homelessness? and how can we make that easier to navigate in unincorporated
- Train Sheriffs Deputies & get them some mental health crisis workers to show compassionate care to people who need it
- response teams specifically for mental health so that police aren't called (like San Francisco Street Crisis Response Team)
- crisis intervention, substance treatment, and institutional care resources in unincorporated!

6.) Civic Engagement

What we heard from the community

- Community voices are not prioritized in decision making
- Unincorporated areas are left out of conversations
- Meetings need to be better advertised and made more accessible
- Information needs to be given in multiple languages
- Accommodations need to be made for seniors so that they can participate

Policy Ideas from Partner Organizations

- Establish an "Office of Unincorporated" (like a City Manager's office for Unincorporated) in CAO's office
- Designate MAC seat(s) for EJ census tract resident(s)
- Establish an Unincorporated Youth Commission advisory body (like City of Hayward)
- Fund and institutionalize the Ashland Cherryland Health Communities Collaborative (collaborative group of County and CBO service providers in unincorporated)
- Develop Block Associations & Business Improvement Districts
- Establish a permanent cadre of community outreach workers/ CBOs on contract to support outreach to diverse communities
- Establish a centralized contact list for County and service providers to use for community outreach
- Create a County-run mini-grant program to fund CBO and individual EJ projects
- Invest in a centralized digital engagement tool/website (see "Have Your Say Monterey")
- Establish a County-supported volunteer program for community greening and beautification
- Make translation standard at all public meetings
- Mail a monthly or quarterly outreach newsletter community-wide
- Invest in an iPad fleet for use by community outreach workers
- Develop a transparent County privacy policy for participation in public surveys
- Create program to bridge Tech Divide, i.e. free internet, classes, equipment, hotspots

Your Policy Ideas

- Support local news media outlets so that they can cover civic meetings better'; support a county-beat reporter
- Zoom meetings like these are great because they're easily accessible for people with internet- people can contribute ideas and ask questions directly
- have a residency requirement for hiring for the "office of unincorporated affairs"
- the main barriers in the local community is the language and the computer literacy