Group 5 - 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

- Insufficient open space for 1,000 residents
- Incentivize green rooves for carbon sequestration: https://topleaffarms.com/index.html
- Land speculation: lots of open lots that are not being developed. Some of this land being developed into parks
- Trees have been cut down in community
- Storm water street trees by community engagement program: https://treesny.org/citizen-pruners-stewardship/#:~:text=Trees%20New%20York%20mobilizes%20Citizen,signs%2C%20storefront%20signage%20and%20windows.

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 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

- Rolling inventory to establish the value of trees; in alignment with the Quimby act. Provide trees, open space, and pollution
- Assess current tree resources and limit further cutting of trees
- Free air filters for low income families
- Free asthma treatment
- Incentivize people to only own one car
- Fight expansion of highways
- Plant more evergreens along major traffic corridotrrs.
- Policy that protects trees during future development
- Establish rails to trails programs for bike-pedestrian and walking corridors along Union Pacific Railroad corridors
- Codify planting of large canopy trees, and fund all future tree pruning needs permanently.
- Implement, codify and officially County-ratify all recommendations in docs below, and provide staffed/general funds funded - permanently funded programs not subject to ebbs and flows of grant funding:http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/AshCherryPublicDraftUrbGreenPlan2015.pdfhttp://www.acgov.org/board/district4/pdf/ACFPCVacantLandSurveyReport.pdfhttp://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/ACFPCPresentationonAB511CommunityMapping.pdf
- Establish ZTrees for Public Health programs with UC Cooperative Extension
- Plant stormwater detension-designed street tree pits.
- Vegetate all highway corridors with redwoods and oaks.

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

- Grant: County fund safe and sanitary home issue mitigation
- Implement, codify and officially County-ratify all recommendations in docs below, and provide staffed/general funds funded - permanently funded programs not subject to ebbs and flows of grant funding:http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/AshCherryPublicDraftUrbGreenPlan2015.pdfhttp://www.acgov.org/board/district4/pdf/ACFPCVacantLandSurveyReport.pdfhttp://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/ACFPCPresentationonAB511CommunityMapping.pdf
- Codify County funded and staffed solutions
- Centralized solution based programs
- County fund the UC Cooperative Extension's Urban Soils Management educational workshops series by provinding consistant funding for staff from County General Funds, not from grants.
- Proactive rental inspection
- Im worried about how much water my housing complex and apartment owners in Bay use to water low water needs landscapes. English ivy does not need to be watered everyday. Policies should be put in place to prevent over use of water on plants that dont need it.
- Funds for small landlords to make repairs so that costs are not passed onto renters

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.

- More community lands access:
- Implement recommendations in following: Mandela's former Executive Director did all this work, but, it was neither sufficiently, acknowledged, outreached on afterwards/upon its completion, or officially ratified by County Planning Dept.: http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/AshCherryPublicDraftUrbGreenPlan2015.pdf http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/pdf/ACFPCVacantLandSurveyReport.pdf http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/ACFPCPresentationonAB511CommunityMapping.pdf

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

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- Expand # of Commercial Kitchens for community food access.
- Increase lands access on public agency lands for low income folks through an application process
- Strengthen existing ordinances/policies
- Policy component that encourages open space corridors for wildlife that benefit humans: program them
- Programming and regular activities to establish consistency
- Open up common space to residents and the community by creating connections between County and community members
- Example: Paradise Garden on corner of Paradise and Mission Blvd
- Increase funding for programming around nutritional education, food/lands for cultivation and water access and programming on local food systems, and how to prepare culturally relevant.
- Community Hubs
- Host more programs in other languages to support growth of micro-entrepreneurial home kitchens operations, cottage food operations and food safe medicinal apothecaries.
- Fund programs with County workers

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

- Implement recommendations in following: Mandela's former Executive Director did all this work, but, it was neither sufficiently, acknowledged, outreached on afterwards/upon its completion, or officially ratified by County Planning Dept.: http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/AshCherryPublicDraftUrbGreenPlan2015.pdf http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/pdf/ACFPCVacantLandSurveyReport.pdf http://www.acgov.org/board/district4/eali/documents/ACFPCPresentationonAB511CommunityMapping.pdf

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

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- Solve food distribution issues
- School district collaboration to create food distribution services
- Open up spaces for communities to garden
- Refund the Eden Area Food Alliance with $ for a Program Coordinator
- The is a lack of nutritious food options
- Provide added financing to to support cooperatives, whether grower based, or consumer based.
- FUND: Educational programs to teach community members
- Community supported agriculture
- Cherry land has successful food distribution
- Support access to interfaith lands and commercial kitchens for food, ag, env. and water and nutritional education programming.
- Finance produce gleaning programming and community engagement.
- Program for Ashland/Reach Ctrs to become CSA pick up locations that support closely regional farmers with ability to receive EBT and WIC and Sr WIC payments.
- Add immediate incentives to affordable housing developers to provide grounds and rooftops for urban farms and gardens.
- Require affordable housing being developed to provide grounds and rooftops for urban farms and gardens, and have programs be completely funded and staffed through County general funds..

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

- Fully staffed gardening programming th
- fully staff without grants, but, from general funds the abovve programs
- stop farming above programs out to comm based orgs when they should be fully staffed as government services

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

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- Community building programs: schools as a location for these community centers
- Use schools as community hubs
- Fund therapeutic horticulture programs through MediCAl: https://www.ahta.org/ and reduce community stresses through aromatherapy: https://aromaticmedicineschool.com/aromatics-for-anxiety/
- Restorative Commons: Creating Health and Well-Being Through Urban Landscapes. The Re-Greening of Public Housing.L. Campbell and A. Wiesen. Newtown Square, PA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. (2009) https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/8810
- Fund and reinvest in schools
- Replicate models described in document above called restorative commons.
- Trauma response for children who were forced into online environments
- Create walking trails with food, ag, water and envir educational signage that is regularly maintained, and in atleast 4 languages.
- Get kids out into the community to promote mental health → Address addiction to electronics and social media harms to children
- County funded programs NOT grants. Consistent funding for inclusive quality programs

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

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- Provide opportunities for people to come forward and voice their perspectives
- Create a system where comments and policies ideas are actually implemented
- Create safe spaces for community members to engage
- Plan an additional meeting to get more community input. Think of this meeting as a trial run
- Language Justice
- Value and support community input
- Reach out to ALL faith based community groups to engage them in community organization
- Food sovereignty
- Outreach that is followed up on
- Land Back
- Increase translations in many languages.
- Reparations
- Have far more night mtgs and weekend activities in regular timeframes that are easy to recall so we do not have to inquire about schedule programs' timings.