Group 8 - 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

- We need to plant trees everywhere and there is so much evidence that trees are very important for air filtration - major urban forestry would help a lot of these problems to have a major urban forestry project in this area - participant has written letters to the County and would like the County to take it seriously as a mitigation for air quality
- Convert RxR tracks under BART into parkway/bikeway
- We need to plant more trees in our current open spaces like Sky West which is not in one of these areas but we are in the Sky West area of influence for the airport which is a major source of led for the community
- Green the creek trail and really likes the greenway
- We should be looking into what kind of pollution are caused by the Sky West airport for Hayward, Castro valley, etc and we need to have an environmental review
- These communities need to have more opportunities for outdoor activities, they need more open space, nothing close to the reccomended number of three acres Sky West will be developed to take away open space and we need to not have that happen.
- Moratorium on all trees being cut down. We should not be cutting trees down at all. Refer to native tree list, only plant trees that are native to this area or to other parts of Ca as the climate changes. Good at sequestering carbon and are drought resistant.
- bus schedules dont connect with BART or with eachother very well, they need to have smaller buses that go more frequently. A five mile commute would have been very easy if there was a good connection from one bus to another but as it was the person had to drive and many other people have this problem. Huge busses go unused every hour - the last mile problem and the connection problem. Give some good public transportation and not just empty buses that are not practical.
- Let people know that we are living in an unincorporated area and many people do not know about that. It would be a good idea to give more information about that, because it is hard if people do not know about that they make a complaint - action might not happen.

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

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

- reuse the existing restaurant at Sky West golf course as a community hub/center - right behind target.
- provide education to decision makers about mental health and addiction issues
- preserve all open space, moratorium on converting open space to industrial or residential space
- Concern that there is so much housing coming in there wont be enough open space
- Sky West is a perfect place to have community gardens and community composting area where ppl could learn about gardening and composting and all kinds of things

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

Community comments:

- teacher for 32 years - school lunches feed students junk, it is awful, this is a district issue and there are places that serve kids good food
- we need to investigate places that serve kids good food and we need to learn from them and implement their systems
- gleaning program could be very useful - a group of ppl who would sign up and go out and harvest trees and then get it back to the community however we can get it out so that we do not waste any of our fruit
- Make sure that we do not waste the food that is already growing, distribute the

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

- community gardens need to have proper wash stations and people need to be educated about those appropriate protocols
- restaurant at Sky West could have training program for growing food, processing food, cooking the food
- more people or supporting people doing things like growing produce on their property, just their normal plot of land
- Gleaning Program

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

Community comments:

- lots of new great facilities all along the east coordor which is amazing but we also need the creek trail, the greenway on the railroad tracks and we need to get Sky West, former golf course as an open space because those three things would add a lot of open space compared to what is going on in east 14 in ashland
- retroactive moratorium on cutting down trees and save ruby meadow
- its great that programs are focused on youth/children, parents need the info and education so it can be more easier for them to participate because the parent doesnt go they need to be educated to get permission to go to these places.
- yoga classes, zumba, walking in parks with the whole community, if we do it often enough then there wont be as big of a safety issue
- we need to plant more trees everywhere, save the old ones and also plant more
- county should foot the bill because the schools cant for getting youth out to parks
- we probably need more swimming pools, we have one on sunset but we probably need more
- all these programs, consider limiting engagement from law enforcement so that at risk communities will actually participate because of how the sheriff dept had been behaving. We are hopeful but we also need to make sure the communities will participate
- youth should not get stuck only in cherryland they should have a view of the state of california esp while it is still lush
- Is access available for youth to go out and do things like how there was scout groups

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

- Limit law enforcement involvement to encourage at risk community participation

6.) Civic Engagement

This is a textbox...

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

Community comments:

- the notices are printed in too small text, ppl cant see them!
- outreach in person. La Raza and Mi Tierra and stores where they make connection with the people in person and invite them to the mtgs and let them know about the programs and projects, make the connection with people in person and let them know that they are welcome
- translation for this meeting, soraya doing a great job but why cant we have simultaneous translation at mtgs so that we can talk to anyone in the room it seems optimal in the diversity of this area - it is not as inclusive and interactive as it needs to be, this stuff is so important and we cant freely discuss
- language for monthly outreach newsletter to make sure we send it in the languages
- I dont like this Mural tool
- newsletter could be digital, mailed to a house, at a public library, on social media like next door and fb
- unincorporated youth comm could come directly out of high schools

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

- Limit law enforcement involvement to encourage at risk community participation
- places for people to leave comments on things, place for constant engagement in planning processes and weigh in on opinions or say that they like certain elements or they are against something else.
- a lot of the public feel like they are not being heard and they attend
- digital engagement eden area speaks