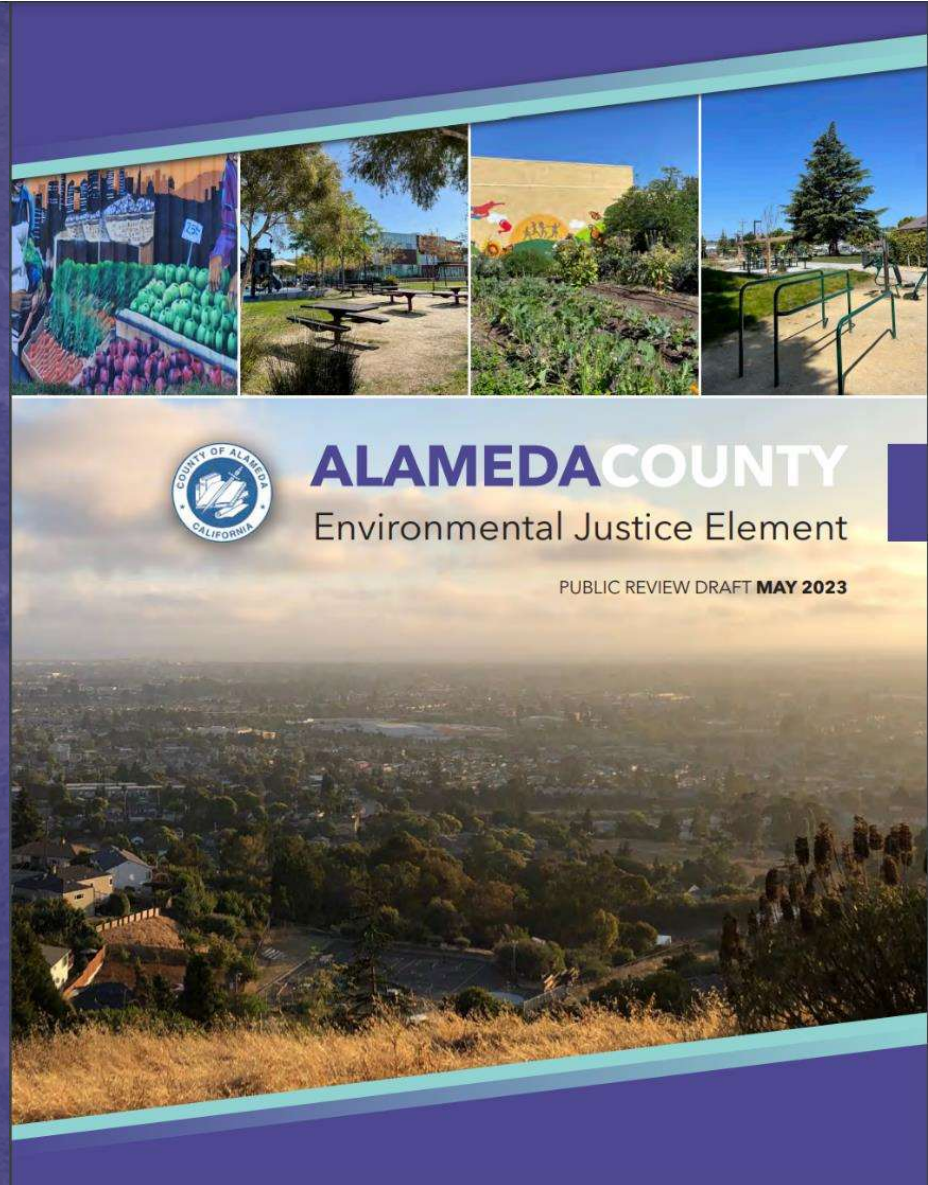


Alameda County EJ Element Public Draft Review

ACHCC EJ Bucket Meeting

May 25, 2023



Presenter: Claudia

Meeting purpose:

Review draft EJ Element policies to determine if they respond to the needs of the Priority Communities.


Outcome:

ACHCC EJ Bucket partner feedback will inform improvements to the draft before it goes to the BOS for adoption.

Agenda

1. Welcome and small-group icebreaker:
What is one way that your agency or organization works to improve health and wellness in the urban unincorporated communities?
2. Project Background
3. Review and discussion of draft EJ Element goals, policies, and actions
4. Next Steps

Presenter: Ali



Project Background:
SB 1000 EJ Requirements
Priority Communities
Stakeholder Engagement

SB 1000 and Project Background

- Began in 2021 – adoption anticipated late 2023
- State law (SB 1000) requires cities and counties with disadvantaged or low-income communities to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their general plans
- The 2015 Ashland Cherryland Health & Wellness Element serves as the basis for the Environmental Justice Element
- In addition to the County, 3 cities in Alameda County have adopted or released draft EJ Elements: Oakland, San Leandro, and Hayward

EJ Elements/Policies must cover:

Pollution exposure and air quality

Equitable access to public facilities

Equitable access to healthy food

Equitable access to safe & sanitary homes

Health and physical activity

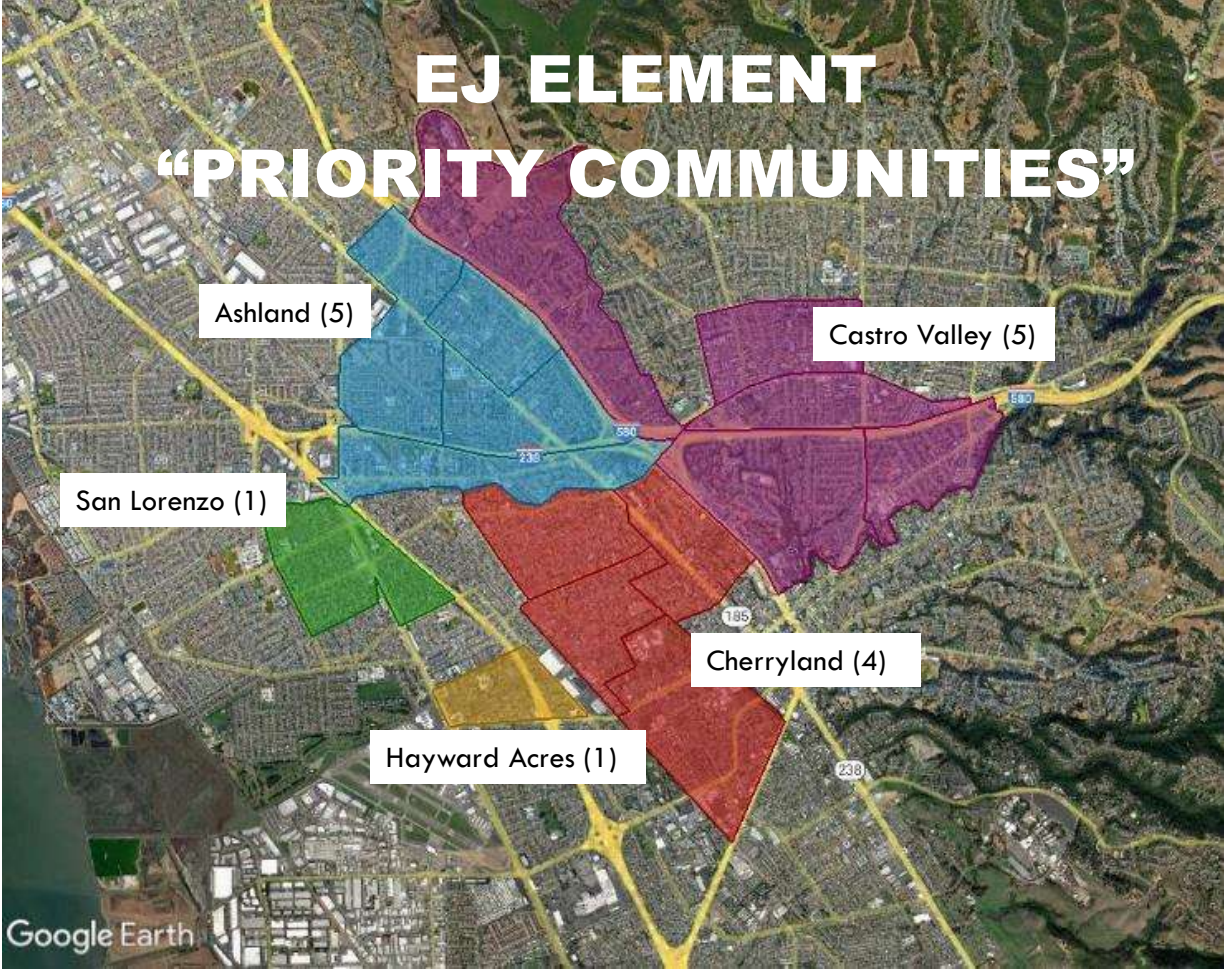
Civic engagement in public decision-making

Presenter: Ali

Priority Communities

16 unincorporated census tracts meet the definition of low-income with disproportionate environmental burden:

- Ashland (5)
- Cherryland (4)
- Hayward Acres (1)
- San Lorenzo (1)
- Castro Valley (5)



Presenter: Ali



Priority Communities Overview

- Population: approx. 72,000, or about half of the total unincorporated population
- Predominantly BIPOC, with Latinx/e as largest population group

Presenter: Ali



Disproportionate environmental burdens and vulnerabilities

- Among the highest concentrations of diesel PM air pollution in the State
- High rates of poverty and severe housing cost burden, low levels of educational attainment and home ownership
- High rates of ER visits for asthma and cardiovascular disease
- Hard-hit by COVID-19 compared to County average, ranging from 15% higher death rates in CV to 61% higher death rates in Ashland

Presenter: Ali



And more!

Co-development with partner organizations: ACHCC EJ Bucket

- Monthly ACHCC EJ Bucket meetings from January – October 2022
- Connected to community, ground-truthed public health data, explored areas of unmet need, proposed and discussed EJ policy and programmatic solutions

Presenter: Ali



Community Engagement

- Formal and informal presentations (2021-22)
- Community Survey, Spring 2022
- Public Workshop #1, May 2022
- Public Workshop #2, August 2022
- TVHC Promotoras outreach

All survey and workshop materials produced and delivered in Spanish and English

Presenter: Ali

EJ Element Process

Project Phase	Timeframe	Activities
Phase 1: Research & Project Initiation	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data collection & identification of Priority Communities• Initial public meetings
Phase 2: Community & Stakeholder Engagement	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Survey• 10 ACHCC EJ Bucket Meetings• 2 Community Workshops• Public meeting progress reports
Phase 3: Policy Development & Plan Preparation	Jan – Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft development• Administrative draft review
Phase 4: Public Review & Adoption	May – Sept 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comment period May 5-June 19• Online comment forum• ACHCC EJ Bucket Meeting #11• Community Workshop #3• 2 rounds of public meetings• Adoption ~ September 2023
Phase 5: Implementation	Fall 2023 and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TAC development• Ongoing community engagement

WE ARE HERE →

Presenter: Ali

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, is shown. The left side of the image is partially obscured by a teal arrow pointing towards the right. The right side of the image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient. A large white question mark is positioned on the right side of the slide.

Review & Discussion: Draft Goals, Policies, Actions

A note on housing and climate policies:

- The EJ Element seeks to complement, but not duplicate, policies in other General Plan Elements
- Housing and climate-related concerns heard throughout the EJ engagement process will be addressed by policies in the Housing Element and Community Climate Action Plan/Safety Element updates (in development now), with special consideration given to the needs of the Priority Communities

Draft EJ Element Organization

1. Introduction

- SB 1000 and EJ overview
- EJ landscape in unincorporated
- Relationship to General Plan

2. Priority Communities

- Community profiles & methodology


3. Existing Conditions

- Population & Socioeconomic data
- Environmental & health hazard data

4. Goals, Policies, and Actions

- Centering EJ, Pollution & Air Quality, Public Facilities, Safe & Sanitary Homes, Healthy Food, Health & Physical Activity, Civic Engagement

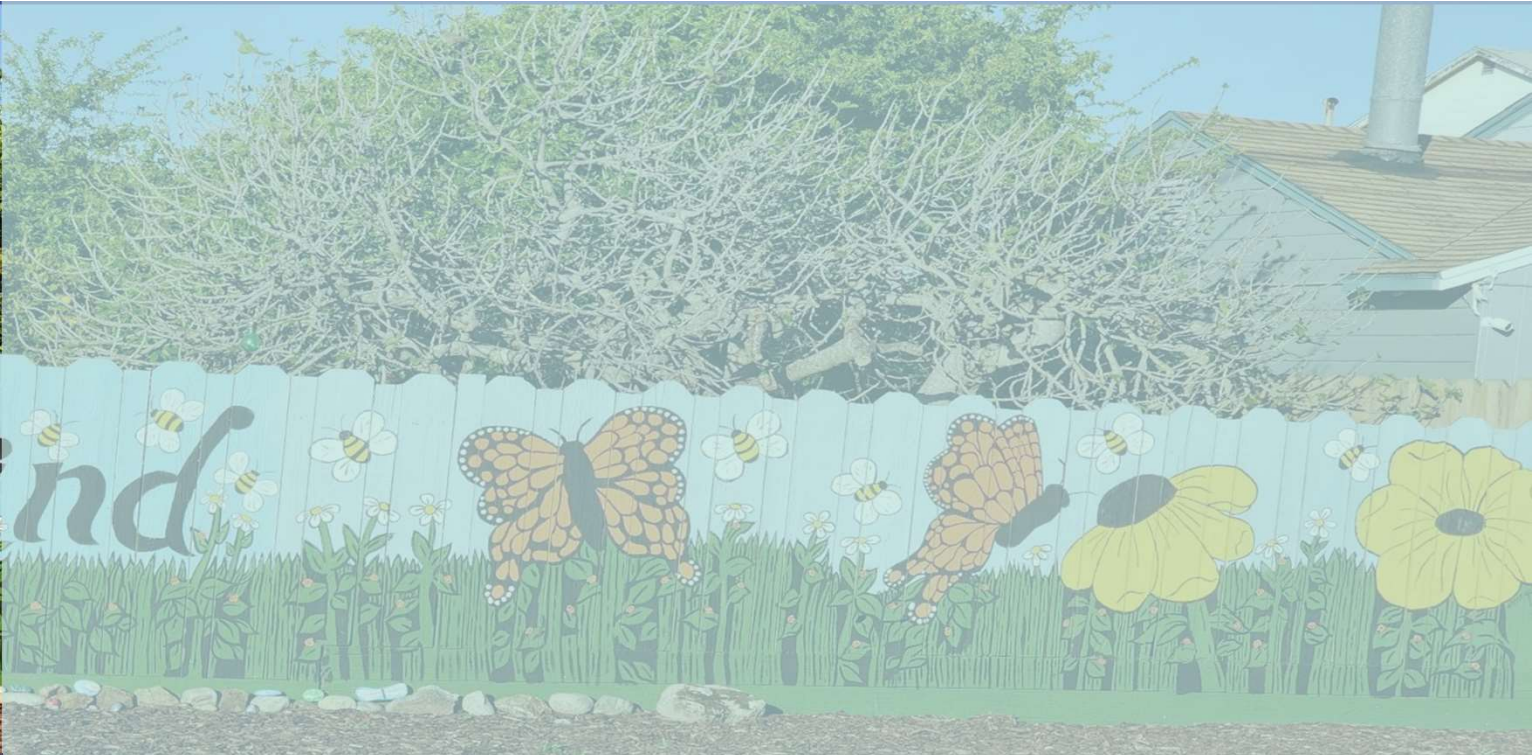
5. Implementation and Monitoring

- TAC & Catalyzing Actions 
- Implementation table

6. Appendix

- Community Engagement Plan

Presenter: Olivia



2a

Goals, Policies, and Actions:
Centering Environmental Justice

Presenter: Olivia

Goal EJ1

The County will center environmental justice, equity, and accountability in relevant decision-making processes.





Presenter: Olivia

Policies and Actions

Policies	Actions (abbreviated)
EJ1.1: Consider publicly acknowledging historical and ongoing harms, working with residents to identify and implement appropriate remedies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider a formal apology for the County's role in perpetuating racial discrimination, inequity, or injustice• Ongoing exploration of local reparations• Propose an indigenous land acknowledgement for public meetings
EJ1.2: Integrate Environmental Justice principles into zoning and the General Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ A process to integrate EJ principles into future General Plan updates★ An Environmental Justice Priority Zone
EJ1.3: Pursue strategies that increase diversity, equity, and inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ A County Health Equity in All Policies Strategy Plan★ Prioritizing improvements and programs to reduce health risks

★ = Catalyzing Actions

Discussion (full group)

Do you have any comments or concerns related to these measures?

Presenter: Rob

2b

Goals, Policies, and Actions:
Pollution and Air Quality

Presenter: Rob



Community Concerns

- Many children have asthma, get sick easily, and have difficulty breathing
- Trash, needles, human waste on the street
- Truck pollution
- Concern about trucks being allowed on 580
- Noise pollution

Goal EJ2

The County will ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens so that the Priority Communities are not disproportionately impacted by poor air quality or other environmental hazards.



Presenter: Rob



Policies and Actions

Policies	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
EJ2.1: Invest in maintenance, expansion, and protection of urban forests and green infrastructure, including street trees, bioswales, urban agriculture sites, and other nature-based solutions.	★ An Urban Greening Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider a Tree Protection Ordinance for private property
EJ2.2: Establish protections that limit sensitive receptors' exposure to air pollution.	★ Creation of an Air Pollution Exposure Zone (APEZ) Ordinance
EJ2.3: Distribute educational and preventative information regarding asthma and pollution-related illnesses to residents and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asthma Start Program implementation• TA for businesses to reduce air pollution
EJ2.4: Support programs that decrease soil and water pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead Week Programming implementation• Supporting soil health programming
EJ2.5: Support prevention and clean-up of litter and illegal dumping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships and solutions to prevent and clean up litter and illegal dumping

★ = Catalyzing Actions

Breakout Discussion #1

Do these measures respond to concerns related to pollution and air quality?

Is anything missing?

Presenter: Carol

2c

Goals, Policies, and Actions: **Public Facilities**



Presenter: Carol



Community Concerns

- Public transit is too expensive and too hard to access
- Neighborhoods need sidewalks
- More streetlights are needed for safety
- Community programs: exercise classes, sports, etc.
- Schools are being closed in Black and Brown neighborhoods*
- Unincorporated areas need greenspaces and parks*

*County doesn't have control over school closures or park locations, but has opportunities to collaborate with school and parks districts to help address community concerns and needs.

Presenter: Carol

Goal EJ3

Residents of the Priority Communities will have equitable access to high-quality public facilities, community amenities, and public improvements that prioritize their needs and facilitate health and wellbeing.





Presenter: Carol

Policies and Actions

Policies	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
EJ3.1: Accommodate areas that are underserved by public facilities through equitable investment in public facilities, public amenities, and public infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Policies to improve transparency and inclusion of Priority Communities in the infrastructure planning process • Strategies to equitably fund development of public facilities
EJ3.2: Support the development and ongoing work of community hubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County support of new or existing community hub projects (family resource centers, community centers, resilience hubs, navigation centers, etc)
EJ3.3: Encourage the use of public school campuses as amenities for the broader community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships to activate public school campuses for community use outside of regular school hours in areas with low park access and higher density
EJ3.4: Seek to improve access to public transportation services in the Priority Communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A needs assessment to determine public transportation needs and barriers • Improvements to bus stops and better access to affordable transit programs
EJ3.5: Support infrastructure improvements that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety in the Priority Communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement in updates to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and Neighborhood Traffic Calming program • Inclusion of bike and pedestrian improvements in the Capital Improvement Plan
EJ3.6: Support HARD’s goal to provide parks and recreation facilities and green spaces within no more than a half mile for 99% of residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with parks districts to utilize County-owned property for recreation • Collaboration with HARD to engage residents in park design • Partnership with HARD to make swimming facilities more accessible

★ = Catalyzing Actions

Breakout Discussion #2

Do these measures respond to concerns related to access to public facilities?

Is anything missing?

Presenter: Olivia

2c

Goals, Policies, and Actions:
Safe and Sanitary Homes

Presenter: Olivia

Community Concerns

- High rent, mortgage, and housing costs
- Living conditions need improvements
- Growing population of unhoused neighbors
- Gentrification and displacement
- Renter protections



Presenter: Olivia

Goal EJ4

The Priority Communities will be livable neighborhoods where all residents have access to safe and sanitary housing.



Presenter: Olivia

Policies and Actions



Policies	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
EJ4.1: Uplift the unique and compounded housing challenges faced by residents in any future updates to the General Plan Housing Element.	In any future updates to the County's Housing Element, uplifting the needs of residents through policies and programs that expand housing affordability and accessibility, combat gentrification, protect renters, increase amenities in high-density areas, and address other key concerns identified through ongoing community engagement.
EJ4.2: Promote user-friendly reporting processes for code violations and public maintenance issues to facilitate clean and safe public and private properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customer-service improvements to streamline public reporting processes for zoning code violations and public infrastructure maintenance issues• An online Code Enforcement complaint form

**Reminder: Most housing-related concerns from the EJ outreach process will be address in the Housing Element update, underway now, with special attention to the needs of the Priority Communities*

Discussion (full group)

Do you have any comments or concerns related to these measures or the Housing Element?



Presenter: Rob

2d

Goals, Policies, and Actions:
Food Access

Presenter: Rob

Community Concerns

- 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



Presenter: Rob

Goal

The Priority Communities will support a thriving local food economy where all residents have reliable access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.





Presenter: Rob

Policies and Actions

Policies	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
EJ5.1: Actively encourage development of, and facilitate access to, healthy food retail outlets such as grocery stores, healthy corner stores, and farmers' markets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Healthy Retail Program in Priority Communities• A healthy store conversion mini-grant program
EJ5.2: Support and expand nutrition education and food assistance programs to meet the unique needs of residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting nutrition education and physical activity through local partnerships and culturally-competent initiatives• Increasing use of food assistance programs at farmers' markets
EJ5.3: Promote, incentivize, and remove barriers to urban agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones (AB 551)
EJ5.4: Strengthen and expand existing partnerships to ensure that garden education programs meet the needs of residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting participation in garden education programs
EJ5.5: Pursue partnerships to increase healthy food access for Priority Community youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships to optimize school-based emergency food distribution• Partnerships to expand agricultural opportunities at public schools• Partnerships to support and enhance school garden curricula
EJ5.6: Promote a thriving local food economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multilingual educational materials for the County's Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) program• Permanent and pop-up incubator spaces for small businesses with a special emphasis on food businesses

Breakout Discussion #3

Do these measures respond to concerns related to access to healthy food?

Is anything missing?

Presenter: Carol



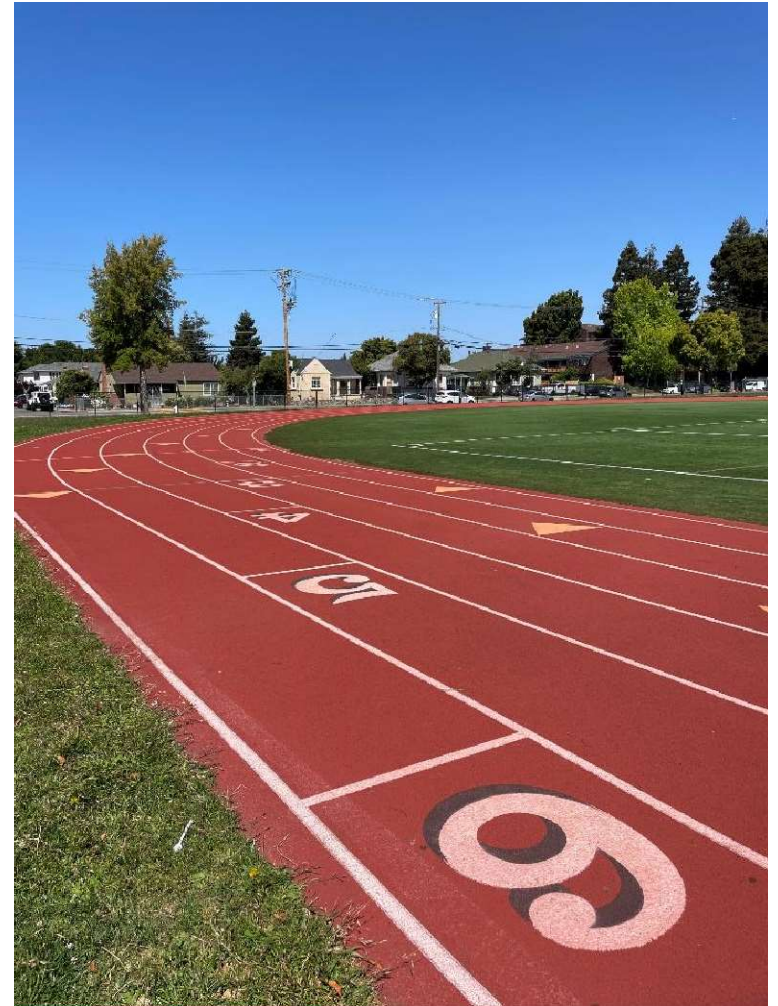
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Goals, Policies, and Actions: Health and Physical Activity

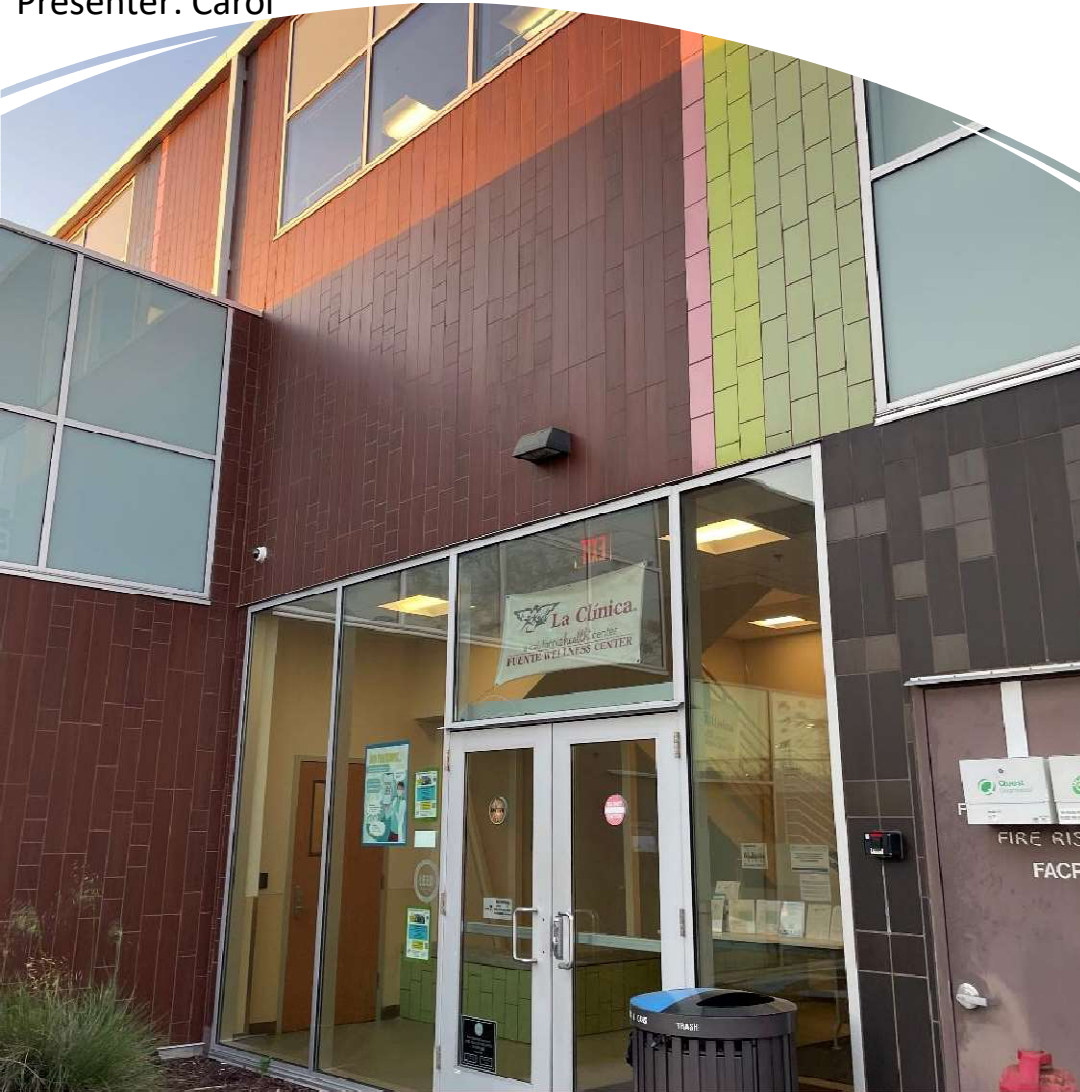
Presenter: Carol

Community Concerns

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



Presenter: Carol



Goal

Physical activity opportunities, medical and mental healthcare, and supportive social services will be convenient and accessible to all Priority Community residents.

Presenter: Carol



Policies and Actions

Policies: Health and Supportive Services	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
EJ6.1: Support collection of disaggregated unincorporated community data to improve public health data collection.	★ Disaggregating unincorporated health data to establish a baseline
EJ6.2: Pursue equitable distribution of, and improved access to, medical and mental health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transit-rich locations for new health and medical facilities• Mobile healthcare clinics to serve high-need areas• Outreach to destigmatize mental health treatment
EJ6.3: Support access to health and supportive services for vulnerable groups (e.g. seniors, unhoused or disabled residents, people with limited English proficiency, the re-entry community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for reintegration of previously incarcerated youth and adults• Multilingual healthcare resources and outreach materials
EJ6.4: Pursue a collaborative, community-based approach to mental health response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships to address unmet mental health needs• Expansion of Community Assessment and Transport (CAT) mobile mental health crisis intervention Team as an alternative to law enforcement
EJ6.8: Promote neighborhood safety through holistic, relationship-based public safety models that facilitate social cohesion, racial equity, and trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deepened relationship-building efforts by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office through application of the Community Capitals Policing model• Community engagement when considering new Sheriff substations
EJ6.9: Help connect residents to local public sector jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating inroads to local public sector training and career opportunities
EJ6.10: Prioritize provision of childcare services as needed to support low- and middle-income families and local economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A needs assessment to evaluate the gaps in childcare services



Presenter: Carol

Policies and Actions

Policies: Physical Activity	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
EJ6.5: Reduce barriers to park and recreation access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying and reducing barriers to utilizing local park resources or physical activity programming, such as cost, access, or safety concerns
EJ6.6: Partner with recreation providers to encourage physical activity for all community members through inclusive and culturally-appropriate physical activity programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recurring health and physical activity events
EJ6.7: Support programs and partnerships that connect residents to nearby green spaces, parks, and hiking trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bus scholarship and parks transportation programs• Seasonal story walk collaborations with Libraries

Breakout Discussion #4

Do these measures respond to concerns related to access to health, supportive services, and physical activity?

Is anything missing?

Presenter: Liz

2f

Goals, Policies, and Actions:
Civic Engagement

Presenter: Liz

Community Concerns

- Community voices 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



Presenter: Liz

Goal

Alameda County will embrace an equitable and comprehensive approach to civic engagement, encouraging and enabling Priority Community residents to participate in the public decision-making processes that impact their health and well-being.





Presenter: Liz

Policies and Actions

★ = Catalyzing Actions

Policies	Actions (abbreviated highlights)
<p>EJ7.1: Explore the establishment of centralized structures that enhance local governance and civic engagement in the unincorporated communities of Alameda County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Consider exploring organizational changes, e.g., a centralized Office of Unincorporated Services ★ Explore an Unincorporated Youth Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Community representation on the Eden Area MAC and Castro Valley MAC • Meet-and-greets with County Supervisors to cultivate future community leaders • A pool of Priority Community members for participation in County Boards and Commissions
<p>EJ7.2: Invest in tools and resources that enable and encourage resident participation in County-led civic engagement processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permanent cadre of outreach workers to support equity-focused outreach efforts • A Communications & Engagement Officer position in the Community Development Agency • Digital community engagement tools
<p>EJ7.3: Ensure that all County-led public meetings are accessible and inclusive to enable and encourage residents to participate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public meeting Accessibility Standard with a focus on language equity and ADA accessibility
<p>EJ7.4: Support and expand placemaking efforts to strengthen unincorporated community identity and pride.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement in installation of public art projects • Changes to USPS mailing address to improve community identity
<p>EJ7.5: Promote technological literacy and access to build skills and encourage participation in civic life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting low-income residents to affordable internet and devices • Free community Wi-Fi hotspots and public computers at public facilities • Partnerships to provide technology classes for diverse ages, languages, and skill levels
<p>EJ7.6: Increase transparency and public participation in planning and implementation of capital improvements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops for Public Works Agency projects • Outreach to facilitate ongoing community engagement in PWA's capital improvement program

Breakout Discussion #5

Do these measures respond to concerns related to civic engagement?

Is anything missing?

Presenter: Ali



Next Steps

4

Presenter: Ali

Where to Read the Draft:

- County website
www.acgov.org/cda/planning/generalplans/publicdraft.htm
- San Lorenzo Library
- Castro Valley Library
- Cherryland Community Center
- Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center

Presenter: Ali

More opportunities to comment (through June 19):

Workshop #3:

Virtual Meeting 3 Reunión Virtual

Help Improve the County's Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Element

Join your community to discuss the County's draft Environmental Justice policies and actions, designed with your input to improve health and wellness in Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acres, San Lorenzo, and Castro Valley.

¡Ayude a mejorar el Elemento de Justicia Ambiental (JA) del Condado!

Únase con su comunidad para discutir el borrador de las políticas y acciones de Justicia Ambiental del Condado, diseñadas con su aporte para mejorar la salud y el bienestar en Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acres, San Lorenzo y Castro Valley.

Clean Air, Water & Soil
Air, Agua y Suelo Limpios

Public Facilities
Instalaciones públicas

Health & Physical Activity
Salud y Actividad Física

Centering EJ
Centrando la JA

Access to Healthy Food
Acceso a Alimentos Saludables

Safe & Sanitary Housing
Hogares Seguros e HigiéNICOS

Civic Engagement
Participación Comunitaria

Thursday Jueves
May 25, 2023 25 de Mayo de 2023
6:00-8:00 pm

Zoom call-in number/ El número de llamada de Zoom:
(888) 788-0099/ID# 892 6711 9438

Door prizes:
Walmart Gift Card drawing

Premios: Sorteo de tarjetas de regalo de Walmart

Zoom Link / Enlace Zoom
<https://bit.ly/AlamedaEJMt3>

Consider.it:

Scan QR code or visit website to comment on Alameda County's draft Environmental Justice policies

<https://alamedacounty.consider.it/>



call or email comments to Ali Abbors
alison.abbors@acgov.org
510-670-5428

Presenter: Ali

Public Meeting Dates (Round 1 of 2)

- May 24, 2023: Board Unincorporated Services Committee
- June 12, 2023: Castro Valley MAC
- June 13, 2023: Eden Area MAC
- June 19, 2023: Planning Commission

Public comment period ends June 19

Adoption & Implementation

- Adoption anticipated early fall 2023
- To ensure progress and accountability, implementation will be driven by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of the County Agencies and Departments that have implementation responsibilities for EJ actions
- TAC will establish strategies for ongoing engagement Priority Communities and ACHCC organizational partners

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

Questions? Comments?