

## Public Outreach Comments and Policy/Implementation Measure Development

### 1. Affordable Housing

- a. South Sacramento Community Workshop:
  - i. Inclusionary Housing – to address high rate of housing cost-burdened households (Received 10 Votes).
- b. West Arden-Arcade Community Workshop:
  - i. Consider making changes to County Affordable Housing Program – to address high rate of housing cost-burdened households (Received 5 votes).
  - ii. Lack of housing (affordable, rental and owner)(Received 8 votes).
- c. Web Survey
  - i. High housing cost is within the top two housing issues in all of the EJ Communities.

Staff Response: Staff originally did not propose an Affordable Housing subsection in the Safe and Sanitary Homes section because the Housing Element covers this topic. However, due to Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SACACT) comments and comments received at the South Sacramento and West Arden Arcade community workshops, staff added a subsection on Affordable Housing. Within this subsection, there is an implementation measure that will require the Office of Planning and Environmental Review and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency to review the existing Affordable Housing Program and Ordinance for potential changes as part of the next Housing Element Update. Web survey results later validated staff's decision to have an affordable housing sub-section. In the web survey, "people cannot buy homes because of housing being too expensive" was within the top two housing issues for each of the EJ Communities.

### 2. Food Deserts:

- a. South Sacramento Community Workshop:
  - i. You have to leave here to find food.
- b. North Highlands Community Workshop:
  - i. The presence of food deserts is a community issue.
  - ii. Safeway is expensive and Winco is far away.
- c. West Arden-Arcade Community Workshop: There are food deserts in the community where there are no grocery stores.
  - i. Along Marconi Avenue to railroad tracks (Roseville Road) there is a lack of food access/grocery stores.
    - 1. Low income neighborhood, no access.
    - 2. Indicated by River City Food Bank distributions - 900 people at Saint Matthews Episcopal Church.
  - ii. Problem – food desert – no grocery stores (Received 5 votes)
  - iii. Resources and investment need to be specifically directed to EJ neighborhoods – bring grocery stores.
- d. North Highlands Pop-up Booth:

- i. Food desert. Go to farmer's markets in downtown and Roseville.
  - ii. Only Walmart available.
  - iii. Wish there were more stores.
- e. South Sacramento Pop-up Booth:
  - i. Not many options (Fruitridge Area) – not much on either way on Fruitridge Road.
- f. West Arden-Arcade Pop-up Booth:
  - i. There are not so many supermarkets around my neighborhood.
  - ii. We could use another market.

Staff Response: Staff added an implementation measure in the Healthy Food Access section that requires establishing a technical advisory committee including grocers and community-based organizations in order to understand and reduce barriers to grocery store development in Environmental Justice Communities. Note: Though analysis at the community level showed that there was more access to grocery stores in EJ Communities than in non-EJ areas, comments received at popup booths and community workshops led staff to suspect that there are food deserts at the neighborhood level in EJ Communities.

### 3. Housing Overcrowding

- a. Web Survey: Housing overcrowding was identified as the most important serious problem in North Highlands/Foothill Farms and South Sacramento.

Staff Response: Staff developed a policy in the Safe and Sanitary Homes section to support the development of housing to meet the needs of large households in EJ Communities. Staff also developed two implementation measures where the Office of Planning and Environmental Review will do an in-depth analysis of the presence of housing overcrowding in EJ Communities as part of the Housing Element Update and will collaborate with refugee advocates and community to determine the extent of overcrowding in that segment of the population. The web survey validated the need for the policy and implementation measures.

### 4. Low Stress Bicycling

- a. North Highlands Community Workshop:
  - i. Bicycling on roads is not safe.
  - ii. Need bike lanes that are more separated from cars.
  - iii. Prioritize raised, separated bike facilities.
  - iv. High speed, high capacity roads are barriers.
- b. South Sacramento Community Workshop:
  - i. More distance between bike/cars – separated bike lanes.
- c. West Arden-Arcade Community Workshop:
  - i. More separation from cars for bikes.
  - ii. Address speed.
- d. North Highlands Pop-up Booth:
  - i. Need more bike trails. Not riding on busy streets.
- e. South Sacramento Pop-up Booth:
  - i. I do not feel safe using bike lanes.
  - ii. Drivers drive on the bike lane.

- f. West Arden-Arcade Popup Booth:
- i. Riding a bike in Arden is scary. Cars travel too fast, feel constantly in danger.

Staff Response: Staff added a countywide implementation measure to the Physical Activity Section that requires bicycle circulation plans for new master plans and large infill projects be evaluated using the principles of low-stress bicycling. Staff also added another countywide implementation measure to the Physical Activity Section that requires County Transportation to apply low stress bicycling principles to Complete Streets Master Plans. Note: The concept of “Low Stress Bicycling” was introduced by a member of the Environmental Justice Element Project Advisory Committee. Subsequent public outreach comments gave the impetus for the development of concrete implementation measures.

## 5. **Prioritizing Complete Streets for EJ Communities**

- a. South Sacramento Community Workshop:
  - i. Prioritize “Complete Streets” projects for EJ Communities. Remodel streets for transit, pedestrian, and bicycle use as well as vehicles (Received 4 votes).
- b. West Arden-Arcade Workshop:
  - i. Prioritize “Complete Streets” projects for EJ Communities. Remodel streets for transit, pedestrian, and bicycle use as well as vehicles (Received 7 votes).
  - ii. Lack of focus on prioritizing money to EJ communities for sidewalks, bike facilities (Received 5 votes).

Staff Response: Staff added an implementation measure in the Physical Activity Section that requires County Transportation to prioritize Environmental Justice Communities for Complete Streets projects.

## 6. **Sidewalks:**

- a. North Highlands Community Workshop:
  - i. Need sidewalks now. Do not wait for development.
- b. West Arden-Arcade Community Workshop:
  - i. Lack of focus on prioritizing money to EJ communities for sidewalks, bike facilities (Received 5 votes).
- c. North Highlands Popup Booth:
  - i. Walerga Road needs sidewalks.
- d. West Arden-Arcade Popup Booth:
  - i. We need sidewalks!!! This is a huge problem here – entire neighborhoods with no sidewalks! We also need bike lanes!
  - ii. Need sidewalks on Wyda Way.
- e. Web Survey:
  - i. Sidewalk improvements was the second most requested public facility in Arden-Arcade.

Staff Response: Staff could not determine during baseline research the extent of sidewalk deficiencies in EJ Communities due to the lack of a comprehensive sidewalk

inventory. Thus, staff had to rely on comments received at the popup booths, community workshops and the web survey. In response to comments, staff added an implementation measure in the Physical Activity section where the County Transportation will prioritize EJ Communities for new sidewalks. West Arden-Arcade may have the most serious deficiency.

## **7. Street Lighting**

- a. North Highlands Community Workshop:
  - i. Dark streets in residential areas – no lights (Note: a number of participants agreed with the person who raised this issue).
  - ii. We need lighting.
  - iii. Lack of lighting on Roseville Road.
  - iv. To reduce crime – improved street lighting.
- b. South Sacramento Community Workshop:
  - i. Lighting improvements and street beautification (as a way to address violent crime hot spots).
- c. Web Survey:
  - i. Street lighting was in the top three most needed public facilities in all of the EJ Communities except for North Vineyard.

Staff Response: Baseline research has shown that EJ Communities have a disproportionate share of crime “hot spots”. A cost-effective Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design method to reduce crime is providing street lights. Public outreach comments showed that street lights are a popular public facility and that North Highlands may be the community that needs street lights the most (further research needs to verify this). In response staff added an implementation measure in the Crime Prevention section that PER and DOT will determine where street lights are needed in EJ Communities through field inspections, Google Earth and public outreach comments. Staff also added an implementation measure that street lighting programs will be prioritized for EJ Communities.

## **8. Youth Activities and Job Training to Reduce Crime:**

- a. South Sacramento Community Workshop:
  - i. There is a need to get to the root cause of crime (liquor and convenience stores are only a contributing factor and not a root cause of crime). Job training and business leaders, committees and neighborhood associations initiative to hire/train/educate youth and residents is a way to get to a root cause of crime (unemployment).

Staff Response: Staff added two subsections to the Crime Prevention Section – Supporting Youth Activities in Environmental Justice Communities and Increase Job Opportunities in Environmental Justice Communities. Each subsection has sets of policies and implementation measures.

## **9. Convenience Stores and Liquor Stores**

- a. West Arden-Arcade Community Workshop

- i. Require permits for off-sale liquor licenses (will also require existing businesses to get permits). Place limits on single serving containers. (7 votes).
- ii. Need defined criteria for PCN process.

Staff Response: Staff received correspondence on the high number of businesses with liquor stores in Arden-Arcade and the impact this has on the community. Subsequent baseline research confirmed that the number of convenience and liquor stores in the EJ Communities is substantially higher than in non-EJ areas (with the exception of North Vineyard). Based on comments received at the community workshops, it appears that this is a major issue in EJ Communities and Arden-Arcade in particular. Given the complex nature of alcohol regulation, staff created two implementation measure alternatives to address the concerns. In crafting the implementation language, staff was careful to consider potential unintended consequences such as stifling re-investment, for example.