



Mare Island Conference Center  
375 G Street, Vallejo, CA 94592

# AGENDA

## GENERAL PLAN WORKING GROUP REGULAR MEETING: 6:30 P.M

**October 26, 2015**

### General Plan Working Group

Tony Adams, Chair  
Jonathan Atkinson  
Peggy Cohen-Thompson  
Patricia Gatz, Vice Chair  
Jimmy Genn  
Candace Holmes  
Marv Kinney  
Patricia Kutza  
Sarah Nichols  
Brendan Riley  
Cynthia Ripley  
Jim Scoggin  
Nathan Daniel Stout  
Marian Swanson  
Gregoria Torres (interim)

This AGENDA contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The posting of the recommended actions does not indicate what action may be taken. If comments come to the General Plan Working Group or Economic Vitality Commission without prior notice and are not listed on the AGENDA, no specific answers or response should be expected at this meeting per State law.

**Agenda Items:** Those wishing to address the group on a scheduled agenda item should fill out a speaker card and give it to the Secretary. Speaker time limits for scheduled agenda items are five minutes for designated spokespersons for a group and three minutes for individuals.

**Notice of Availability of Public Records:** All public records relating to an open session item, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the General Plan Working Group will be available for public inspection at City Hall, 555 Santa Clara St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, or the Vallejo Public Library, 505 Santa Clara St. at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the General Plan Working Group. Such documents may also be available on the City of Vallejo website at [www.ci.vallejo.ca.us](http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us) subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting.

**Disclosure Requirements:** Government Code Section 84308 (d) sets forth disclosure requirements which apply to persons who actively support or oppose projects in which they have a "financial interest", as that term is defined by the Political Reform Act of 1974. If you fall within that category, and if you (or your agent) have made a contribution of \$250 or more to any group member within the last twelve months to be used in a federal, state or local election, you must disclose the fact of that contribution in a statement to the group.

**Appeal Rights:** The applicant or any party adversely affected by the decision of the General Plan Working Group may, within ten days after the rendition of the decision of the General Plan Working Group, appeal in writing to the City Council by filing a written appeal with the City Clerk. Such written appeal shall state the reason or reasons for the appeal and why the applicant believes he or she is adversely affected by the decision of the General Plan Working Group. Such appeal shall not be timely filed unless it is actually received by the City Clerk or designee no later than the close of business on the tenth calendar day after the rendition of the decision of the General Plan Working Group. If such date falls on a weekend or City holiday, then the deadline shall be extended until the next regular business day.

Notice of the appeal, including the date and time of the City Council's consideration of the appeal, shall be sent by the City Clerk to all property owners within two hundred or five hundred feet of the project boundary, whichever was the original notification boundary.

The Council may affirm, reverse or modify any decision of the General Plan Working Group which is appealed. The Council may summarily reject any appeal upon determination that the appellant is not adversely affected by a decision under appeal.

If any party challenges the General Plan Working Group's actions on any of the following items, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this agenda or in written correspondence delivered to the Secretary of the General Plan Working Group.

	The Mare Island Conference Center is ADA compliant. Devices for the hearing impaired are available from the City Clerk. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made by a person with a disability to the City Clerk's office no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.
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**If you have any questions regarding any of the following agenda items, please call the assigned planner or project manager at (707) 648-4326.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER [ 6:30 PM ]**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

April 27, 2015 GPWG Meeting

**5. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

A. GPWG Fall 2015 Meeting Schedule (revised 10/21/15)

**6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Consent Calendar items appear below, with the Secretary's or City Attorney's designation as such. Members of the public wishing to address the group on Consent Calendar items are asked to address the Secretary and submit a completed speaker card prior to the approval of the agenda. Such requests shall be granted, and items will be addressed in the order in which they appear in the agenda. After making any changes to the agenda, the agenda shall be approved.*

*All matters are approved under one motion unless requested to be removed for discussion by a group member or any member of the public.*

**8. PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Presentation: Healthy Community Element Topics

B. Discussion: Healthy Community Element Topics – Review and Recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION:** GPWG acceptance, with recommendations, by motion, of the topics to address in the Healthy Community Element

**9. COMMUNITY FORUM**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

# Minutes

**CITY OF VALLEJO  
GENERAL PLAN WORKING GROUP (GPWG)/  
ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMISSION (EVC) JOINT STUDY SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARE ISLAND CONFERENCE ROOM  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by GPWG Vice-Chair Gatz at 6:35 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**GPWG Present:** Vice-Chair Gatz, GPWG Members Atkinson, Cohen-Thompson, Genn, Kutza, Nichols, Riley (proxy), Ripley, Scoggin, Stout, and Walker

**GPWG Absent:** Chair Adams, Holmes, Kinney, Swanson, and Tranter

**EVC Present:** Chair Walker, Vice-Chair Torres, Commissioners Hanson, Jackson (arrived 6:38 PM), and Jagdip

**EVC Absent:** Commissioners Amador and Lyons

**Staff present:** Planning Manager Ouse, Senior Planner Hoffheimer, and Economic Development Project Manager Gage

**Consultants present:** Andrew Hill, PlaceWorks

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. January 26<sup>th</sup> GPWG/EVC Joint Meeting

**Action:** Moved and carried by GPWG Member Ripley to adopt the minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. (GPWG Aye: Vice-Chair Gatz, GPWG Members Atkinson, Cohen-Thompson, Kutza, Nichols, Ripley, Scoggin, Stout, and Walker; GPWG Abstain: Genn and Riley; GPWG Absent: Chair Adams, Holmes, Kinney, Swanson, and Tranter). (EVC Aye: Chair Walker, Vice-Chair Torres, Commissioners Hanson, Jackson, and Jagdip; EVC Absent: Amador and Lyons).

## 5. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Economic Development Project Manager Gage announced that the EVC's next meeting will be held on May 13, 2015 at 6:30pm.

## 6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND LIAISON REPORTS

EVC Chair Walker reported that he will not be present for the next EVC meeting.

## 7. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Action:** Moved and carried by GPWG Member Gatz to approve the Consent Calendar and Agenda. (GPWG Aye: Vice-Chair Gatz, GPWG Members Atkinson, Cohen-Thompson, Genn, Kutza, Nichols, Riley (proxy), Ripley, Scoggin, Stout, and Walker; GPWG Absent: Chair Adams, Holmes, Kinney, Swanson, and Tranter). (EVC Aye: Chair Walker, Vice-Chair Torres, Commissioners Hanson, Jackson, and Jagdip; EVC Absent: Amador and Lyons)

## 8. PUBLIC HEARING

### A. Presentation and Discussion: General Plan Draft Future Scenarios

Andrew Hill of PlaceWorks presented an overview of the outreach process and methodology by which the Draft Future Scenarios were developed; explanation of the role of the Future Scenarios in the General Plan Update process; and introduction of the three Draft Future Scenarios for Vallejo.

Hill solicited questions and comments from GPWG members, EVC Commissioners, and the general public on the process and the role of the Draft Future Scenarios in the General Plan Update process. Hill also solicited questions and comments from GPWG members, EVC Commissioners, and the general public to: 1) confirm that the Draft Future Scenarios were consistent with the Propel Vallejo Guiding Principles; and 2) suggest additions, deletions, or shifting of ideas so that the Draft Future Scenarios better supported the Guiding Principles.

Public Comment (speaker cards submitted): Daniel Raffawxi, Topher Delaney, Christopher Delaney, Doug Darling, Steve Souza, and Donald Osborne.

**EVC Action:** Moved by EVC Commissioner Torres and carried to approve, by resolution, the Draft Future Scenarios, as amended, for consideration by the GPWG. (Aye: Chair Walker, Vice-Chair Torres, Commissioners Hanson, Jackson, and Jagdip; EVC Absent: Amador and Lyons).

**GPWG Action:** Moved by GPWG Member Cohen-Thompson and carried to approve, by resolution, the Draft Future Scenarios, as amended, for consideration by the Planning Commission. (Aye: Vice-Chair Gatz, GPWG Members Atkinson, Cohen-Thompson, Genn, Kutza, Nichols, Riley (proxy), Ripley, Scoggin, Stout, and Walker; GPWG Absent: Chair Adams, Holmes, Kinney, Swanson, and Tranter).

**9. COMMUNITY FORUM**

Public Comment: None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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PATRICIA GATZ, GPWG VICE CHAIR

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JOHNNY WALKER, EVC CHAIR

ATTEST:

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MARK HOFFHEIMER  
SENIOR PLANNER

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ALEA GAGE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER

# PROPEL VALLEJO GENERAL PLAN

## GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



### UPCOMING EVENTS – FALL 2015 – *Revised 10/21/15*

#### **Thursday, October 8**

Propel Vallejo: General Plan Update  
 6:00-8:30pm, Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador Street  
 Community Workshop: Choose Your City's Future

#### **Saturday, October 10**

Propel Vallejo: General Plan Update  
 10:00am-12:30pm, Norman King Community Center, 545 Magazine Street  
 Community Workshop: Choose Your City's Future

#### **Monday, October 26**

General Plan Working Group (GPWG) Meeting  
 6:30 PM, Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street  
 Healthy Communities

#### **Monday, November 9**

General Plan Work Group (GPWG) Meeting  
 6:30 PM, Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street  
 General Plan Draft Goals, Policies, Actions (GPA): Nature and the Built Environment +  
 Mobility, Transportation and Connectivity

#### **Monday, November 23**

Joint General Plan Work Group (GPWG), Economic Vitality Commission and Planning  
 Commission Meeting  
 6:30 PM, Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street  
 Preferred Growth Scenario

#### **Monday, December 14**

Joint General Plan Work Group (GPWG) and Economic Vitality Commission Meeting  
 6:30 PM, Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street  
 General Plan Draft Goals, Policies, Actions (GPA): Community and People + Economy,  
 Education and Training

#### **Tuesday, December 15**

7:00 PM, City Council Chambers, City Hall  
 Preferred Growth Scenario



**MEMORANDUM**  
**PLANNING DIVISION**

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**DATE:** October 26, 2015  
**TO:** Members of the General Plan Working Group  
**FROM:** Mark Hoffheimer, Senior Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 8 – Healthy Community Element Topics

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The following pages provide members of the General Plan Working Group (GPWG) with a report summarizing potential topics for the Healthy Community Element of the City's General Plan Update for consideration, recommendations, and acceptance at the GPWG regular meeting. The report, including attachments, was prepared by Sonoma State University's Center for Sustainable Communities, the City's Healthy Community consultant.



**Background**

While not required by State law, the Healthy Community Element helps lay the foundation for a thriving and sustainable community. Healthy community planning is a “common thread” that informs both the Healthy Community Element and other elements of the General Plan. The development and preparation of the Healthy Community Element is financed partly by the California Strategic Growth Council's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.

**Meeting Purpose**

The purpose of the GPWG meeting is to:

- Present the Healthy Community Element Topics Report (the “Topics Report”), including its proposed list of “healthy community” topics to be included in the new Healthy Community Element;
- Discuss the Topics Report with the GPWG and public present at the meeting; and
- Receive comments, recommendations, and acceptance from the GPWG on the proposed list of Healthy Community topics, which will be used in preparing the Draft Healthy Community Element and its corresponding goals, policies, and actions.



### **Attached Reports**

The following pages include the Healthy Community Element Topics Report, providing background information and describing proposed topics to be addressed in the Healthy Community Element. The GPWG should carefully review this report, particularly Section V. The Topics Report:

- Presents the existing conditions regarding health in Vallejo;
- Describes a series of outreach efforts to obtain input on community health concerns and summarizes the results of those efforts;
- Describes the results of a review and analysis of a set of healthy community elements from other cities and counties;
- Makes recommendations regarding which topics to address in the Healthy Community Element; and
- Describes existing community health resources in Vallejo to aid in addressing recommended topics

In addition, the following pages include two documents that informed the Topics Report, which might be useful and interesting:

- Attachment 1 – Healthy Community Element, Insights from Other Communities
- Attachment 2 – South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment



# Healthy Community Element Topics Report

October 2015

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
THOMAS JACOBSON, FAICP, ALEX HINDS, LOIS FISHER, LEED ND (FISHER TOWN DESIGN)



**City of Vallejo  
Report on Topics for the  
Healthy Community Element**

**Prepared by  
The Center for Sustainable Communities  
Sonoma State University  
October 2015**

**Thomas Jacobson, FAICP, Director,  
Center for Sustainable Communities  
Alex Hinds, CSC Managing Consultant  
Lois Fisher/Fisher Town Design, CSC Consultant  
CSC Student Research Assistants:  
Travis Bradley  
Sara Farrell  
Nathan Coelho  
Caitlin Dunn  
Sebastian Gotla**

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**Appendix A – Solano County Department of Public Health  
Community Health Surveys**

**Attachment 1 (under separate cover)**

**“Healthy Communities Elements in General Plans: Insights from Current Practice and Considerations for the City of Vallejo,” Sonoma State University Center for Sustainable Communities**

**Attachment 2 (under separate cover)**

**“South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment,” Sonoma State University Center for Sustainable Communities**

# **City of Vallejo**

## **Report on Topics for the Healthy Community Element, General Plan Update**

**Prepared by  
Center for Sustainable Communities  
Sonoma State University  
October 2015**

**Thomas Jacobson, FAICP, Director, Center for Sustainable Communities  
Alex Hinds, CSC Managing Consultant  
Lois Fisher/Fisher Town Design, CSC Consultant  
CSC Student Research Assistants: Travis Bradley, Sara Farrell, Nathan Coelho,  
Caitlin Dunn, and Sebastian Gotla**

### **I. Introduction -- Purposes and Functions of the Topics Report**

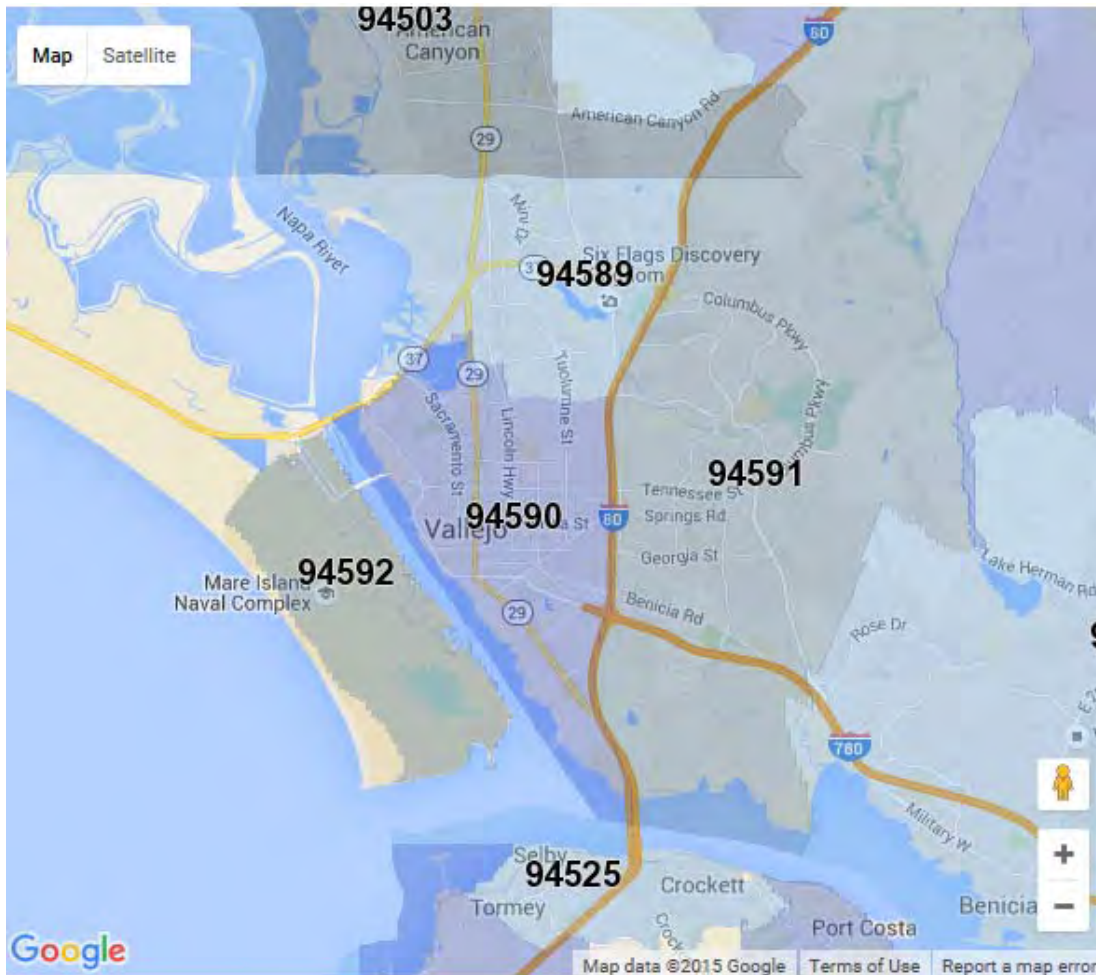
Including healthy community elements in California general plans is an increasingly widespread, though not universal, practice. And the range of potential topics for such topics is virtually endless. Thus, a critical step in developing a healthy community element is determining which topics to address. This Report outlines a variety of actions taken to result in recommended topics for the Healthy Community Element of Vallejo's General Plan, including:

- Summarizing existing community health conditions in Vallejo (Section II)
- Summarizing the results of a series of outreach efforts regarding health concerns with the City's General Plan Working Group, community members, City and other professional staff, representatives of non-profits and the faith-based community, etc. (Section III)
- Reviewing selected healthy community elements from other general plans (Section IV)
- Based on the above, identifying recommended topics for the Vallejo's Healthy Community Element (Section V)
- Identifying existing community health resources in Vallejo to aid in addressing recommended topics (Section VI)

## II. Vallejo's Existing Health Conditions

Health issues in Vallejo center on heart disease, cancer, stroke, asthma, diabetes, and mental health and substance abuse. In addition, unintentional injury (including motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian injuries), assault, and homicide present significant health concerns.

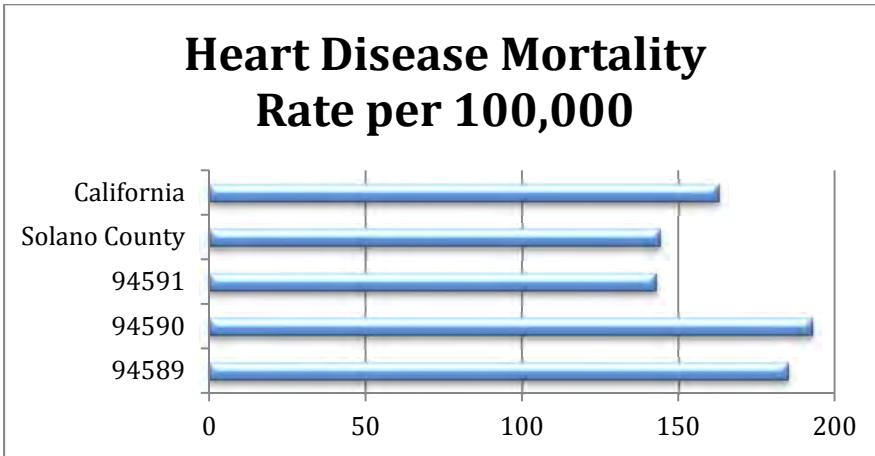
In many cases, there are health disparities based on area of residence within Vallejo and corresponding differences in income and other social determinants. Of Vallejo's ZIP Codes, 94589 and 94590 show significantly poorer health characteristics than ZIP code 94591. In ZIP Code 94590, approximately one out of every four residents is below the federal poverty line. Both ZIP Codes 94589 and 94590 show higher percentages of elderly in poverty, children in poverty, and unemployment than Solano County as a whole or than the State of California. In many cases, the percentages are twice that of the County average. A higher percentage of residents living in these two ZIP Codes are also without health insurance or are living with a disability.



Vallejo Zip Codes; UnitedStatesZipCodes.Org

Heart disease

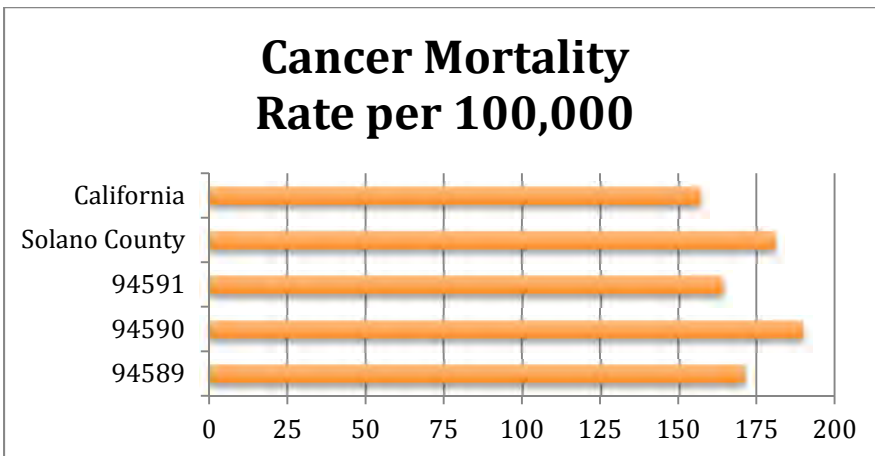
The two leading causes of death in Vallejo are heart disease and cancer. Vallejo ZIP Code 94591 has a similar mortality rate for Ischemic Heart Disease (heart problems caused by narrowed heart arteries) as the Solano County rate of 144 deaths per 100,000 population. However, both ZIP Codes 94589 and 94590 have higher rates: 185 deaths per 100,000 in 94589 and 193 deaths per 100,000 in 94590.



California Department of Public Health, 2010-12

Cancer

As noted above, cancer and heart disease are the two leading causes of death in Vallejo. Cancer mortality for Vallejo ZIP Codes 94589 and 94591 are lower than the Solano County rate of 181 deaths per 100,000 population. However, as is the case for heart disease mortality, Vallejo zip code 94590 has the highest rate, at 190 deaths per 100,000. This rate is also higher than the County rate. Rates of visits to the emergency department for lung cancer in Vallejo exceed those of the County, and far exceed the statewide rates.

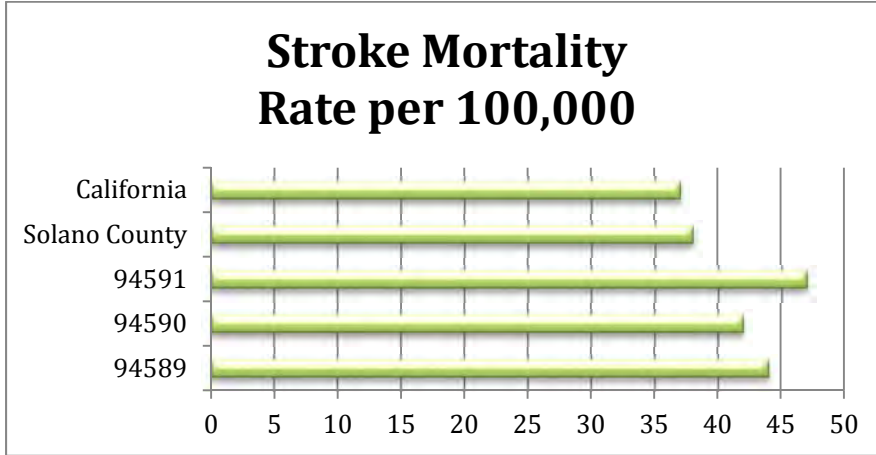


California Department of Public Health, 2010-12



## Stroke

Death from stroke is also very high in Vallejo. All three Vallejo ZIP Codes exceed the Solano County rate of 38 per 100,000 population. The rate for Vallejo zip codes ranges from 42 to 47 deaths per 100,000.

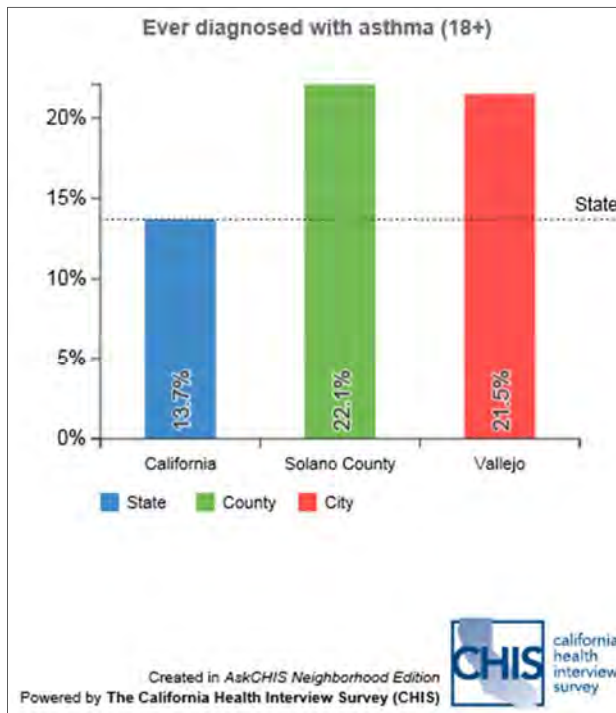


California Department of Public Health, 2010-12

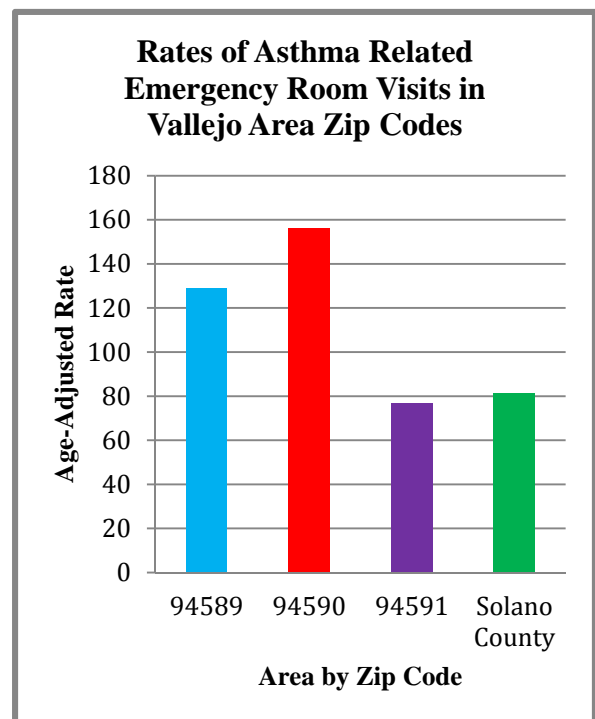
Four modifiable health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol consumption—are significant contributors to the illness, suffering, and early death from heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Smoking rates are high in Solano County and in Vallejo. According to the UCLA Community Health Interview Survey, 20.5% of the adult populations in Vallejo are current smokers. This is higher than the average for Solano County, 14%.

## Asthma

Asthma is a very common chronic disease that occurs in all age groups. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asthma affects roughly 1 in 9 Americans. This condition essentially irritates and causes swelling of the airways that carry oxygen to and from the lungs resulting in complications such as shortness of breath, wheezing, and chest tightness. If not properly managed, asthma has a morbidity and mortality similar to that of diabetes and liver cirrhosis (Bousquet, Bousquet, Godard & Daures, 2005). According to self-reported data calculated from the California Health Interview Survey, 21.5% of adults in Vallejo have been diagnosed with asthma (compared to just 13.7% of all California adults), and 16.1% of children have been diagnosed with asthma which is roughly 1% percent higher than Solano County as a whole (CHIS, 2014). According to the California Department of Public Health, in 2012 there were 1,319 asthma-related visits to the emergency room in Vallejo. Furthermore, the rate of asthma-related emergency room visits was 1.92 times higher (156.2) in South Vallejo (Zip Code 94590) than that of Solano County as a whole (81.3) (CDPH, 2014).



California Health Interview Survey, 2014

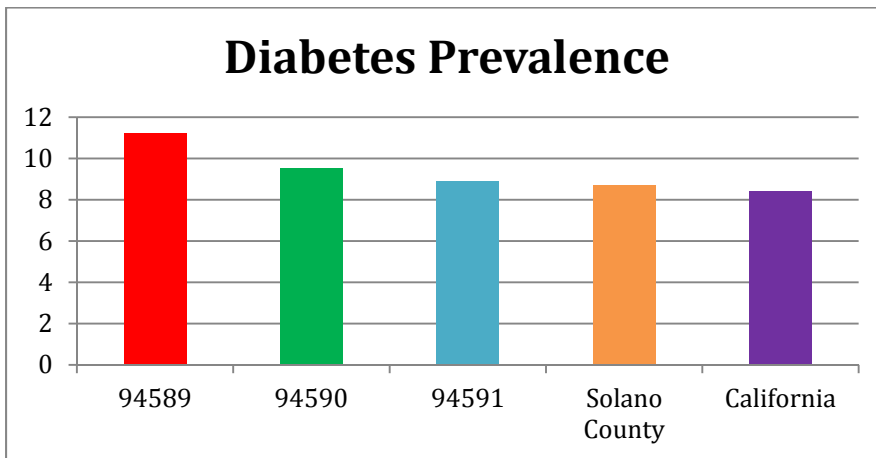


Indoor air quality, air pollution, allergens, and secondhand smoke are all factors that affect individuals with asthma. Promoting new development that meets current EPA standards and locating new development away from major highways or areas where high concentrations of air pollutants such as particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and ground level ozone are found can mitigate the incidence and prevalence of asthma. Reducing pollen count and secondhand smoke exposure, as well as implementing smoking bans can also improve conditions that trigger asthma and asthma attacks.

## Diabetes

Diabetes is a condition that is becoming more prevalent in the United States. Diabetes arises when blood glucose levels are consistently above normal and the pancreas cannot produce enough insulin to allow for the sugar in the blood to get into the cells of the body. The current prevalence of adults ever diagnosed with diabetes in Vallejo is 9.6% (CHIS, 2014). In South Vallejo, area code 94589, adults have a prevalence of diabetes of 11.2% (CHIS, 2014).

Prevention is key to decreasing incidence of diabetes. Diet and exercise can be important factors in prevention.

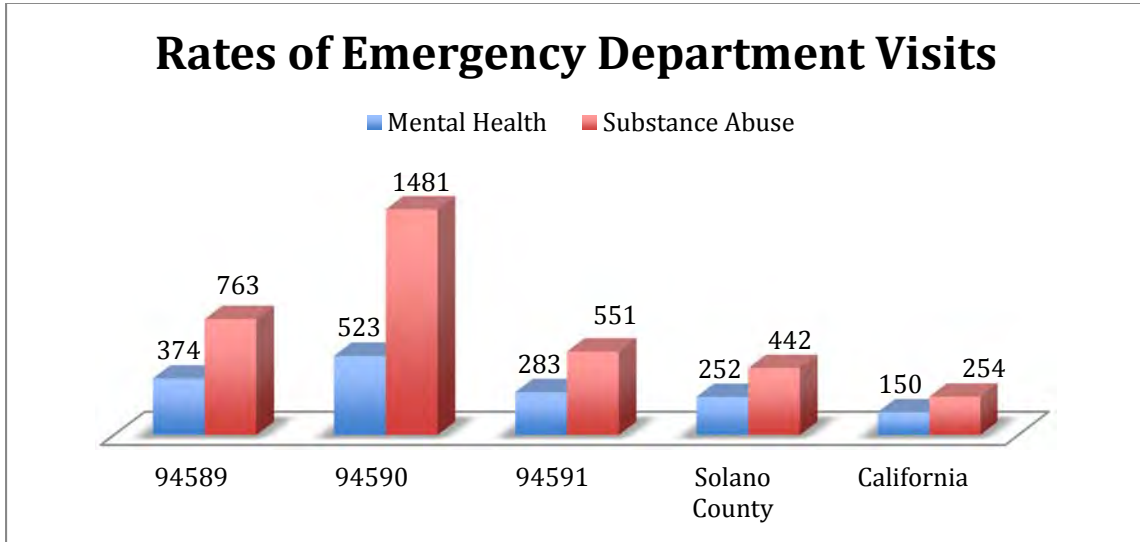


California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), 2014

## Mental Health and Substance Use

Vallejo residents identify mental health and substance abuse as two of the biggest health issues in Vallejo. Emergency department usage for those two conditions illustrate the extent of the problem.

While the causes of mental health problems are varied, the significance of the built environment, access to open space, and similar factors as means of addressing those problems is well documented.

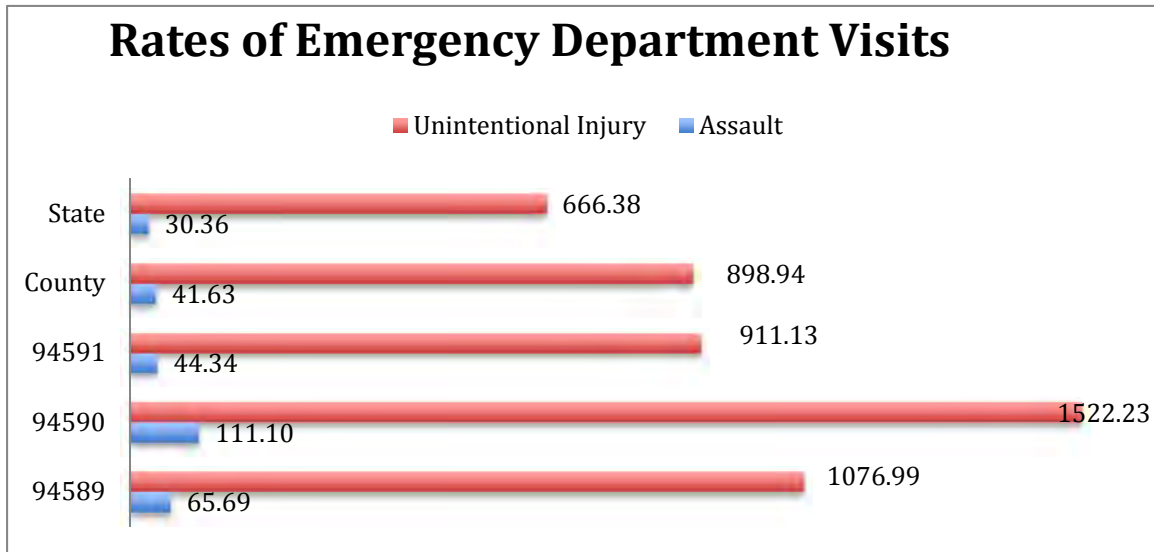


California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), 2011-2013

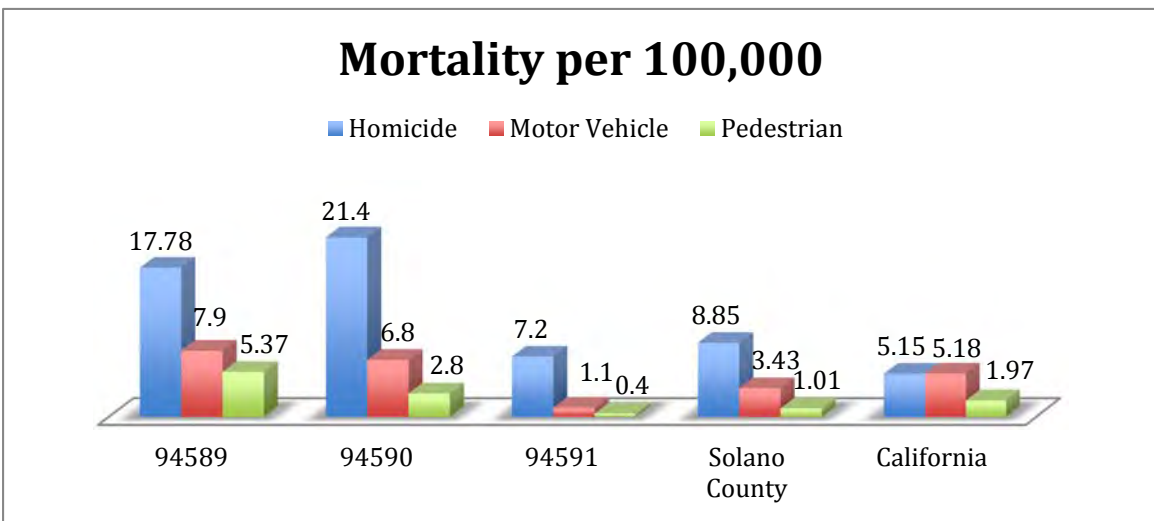
Unintentional Injury (including motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian injuries), Assault, and Homicide

The rates of emergency department use for unintentional injury, including motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian injuries, and assault illustrate the disparities across Vallejo’s ZIP Codes. Solano County has higher rates than the state and ZIP Code 94591’s rates are similar to the County’s rates. However, significantly higher rates are seen for ZIP Codes 94589 and 94590.

Vallejo’s rates may be higher in part because of higher emergency department use in general, but the discrepancies are also illustrated in mortality data; Vallejo has high rates of death from motor vehicle accidents, pedestrian accidents, and homicides. Pedestrian mortality in ZIP Code 94589 is five times the County rate. These rates could be improved through safer pedestrian and motor vehicle environments and a reduction in violence.



California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), 2011-2013



California Department of Public Health, 2010-12

### **III. Community Health Concerns**

In addition to the review of Vallejo's existing community health conditions in Section II of this Report, a variety of outreach activities helped to create a sense of community health concerns. They included:

- Community Workshops leading to adoption of Guiding Principles adopted by the City Council for the Propel Vallejo planning effort
- The Guiding Principles themselves
- Meeting with the General Plan Working Group
- Interviews with a variety of community members, City and other professional staff, and representatives of non-profits
- A Health Impact Assessment for South Vallejo, including a series of community workshops
- Solano County Department of Public Health Community Health Surveys

Each of these outreach activities is described below.

#### **A. Community Workshops**

The City held a series of four Community Workshops during the spring of 2014, leading to the City Council's adoption of a set of Guiding Principles for the Propel Vallejo planning effort (described below).

The Workshops provided a sense of community concerns across a wide range of topics, including health, and related to various parts of Vallejo. Among the topics receiving the most attention from Workshop attendees were safety; public transit, bicycling, and walkability; access to healthy food; and parks, recreation opportunities, and youth programs.

#### **B. Guiding Principles**

As a critical step in the Propel Vallejo planning effort, the Vallejo City Council identified 19 Guiding Principles (<http://propelvallejo.com/overview/guiding-principles/>). Among those that relate closely to community health are:

Healthy Community: Vallejo promotes the health of its residents and recognizes the value of a proactive, preventative approach to health. All Vallejo neighborhoods have easy access to healthy food, including organic food and locally grown food from school and community gardens. (Guiding Principle 7)

Safe City: Vallejo is a safe place for everyone. Residents and businesses in every neighborhood collaborate with each other and with responsive law enforcement to promote personal safety. (Guiding Principle 3)

Caring and Equitable Community: Vallejo treats everyone with compassion, dignity, and fairness and supports stable, diverse neighborhoods. It is a caring community where everyone has access to services, jobs and housing and shares in the vitality and prosperity of the community. (Guiding Principle 4)

### **C. Meeting with General Plan Working Group**

In October of 2014, Vallejo Planning staff and Sonoma State University’s Center for Sustainable Communities met with the City’s General Plan Working Group (GPWG) to address the Healthy Community Element proposed for the City’s new General Plan. This discussion included an introduction to the “healthy community planning” movement, how this might translate into content of the Vallejo General Plan, and the role an upcoming Health Impact Assessment focused on South Vallejo could play in developing the Plan’s Healthy Community Element.

Among the input provided by the GPWG were contacts related to South Vallejo: leaders in the faith-based community, key City staff, members of the Participatory Budgeting steering committee, critical educational institutions and community organizations, and homeowners associations. Suggested potential topics for further consideration included improving access to healthy food (e.g., through “corner store makeovers” and identifying locations for farmers markets), improving waterfront and beach access, reducing risks to bicyclists and pedestrians from automobiles, reducing crime and improving safety, and “urban greening” (e.g., by adding street trees).

### **D. Interviews with Community Members, City and Other Professional Staff, Representatives of Non-Profits, Etc.**

Through meetings, phone interviews, and other outreach efforts described below, City Planning staff and the Center for Sustainable Communities received a variety of opinions and insights.

Participants included:

- Guy Ricca and Anne Putney, Vallejo Housing Authority
- Pastor Bryan Harris, Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church
- City of Vallejo Police Department (Captain Lee Horton, Captain Jim O’Connell, and Lieutenant Michael Nichelini)
- Shane McAfee, Director, and Phillip McCoy, Recreation Superintendent, Greater Vallejo Recreation District)
- John Allen, Fighting Back Partnership
- Kevin Sharps, Executive Director, Fighting Back Partnership
- Lisa Marie Gerhard, St. Vinnie’s Garden
- Maria Guevara, Vallejo Together
- Alea Gage, Economic Development Project Manager, City of Vallejo (formerly staff for Vallejo’s Participatory Budgeting program)
- Alyssa Alford, City of Vallejo Administrative Analyst

- Pricilla VanLiew, MPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and South Vallejo resident

While these interviews were conducted within the context of the South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment described in Section III.E, below, many of the discussions and comments received addressed citywide issues or otherwise have applicability beyond South Vallejo. The comments of interviewees are summarized in the South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment, Attachment 2 of this report. Though the range of issues raised reflected the variety of perspectives interview participants brought, some topics were mentioned repeatedly, including:

- absence of a grocery store in South Vallejo
- adding additional community and school gardens
- residents being less inclined to walk due to safety concerns
- children being less likely to play outside due to safety concerns
- need for more youth programs
- need for more children’s playgrounds and teen and senior centers
- need for recreation and other after-school activities
- need for an expanded bike path network
- adding additional access to the Vallejo waterfront
- better utilization of Lake Dalwigk
- need for more urban green space to increase perceptions of safety and community pride
- too many alcohol outlets
- loss of the police substation in South Vallejo
- need for economic development and job creation
- lack of housing opportunities

### **E. South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment Workshops**

Utilizing resources made available by a grant from California’s Strategic Growth Council, the Center for Sustainable Communities proposed undertaking a Health Impact Assessment for a portion of the City to inform the update of Vallejo’s General Plan. This “HIA” would focus on how the new General Plan and, in particular, its Healthy Community Element, can be utilized to improve public health. In this way, it would function primarily as a “health opportunity assessment,” with the goal of maximizing the health benefits of the General Plan Update. Working with City staff, South Vallejo, one of eight “Opportunity Areas” used in the General Plan Update’s Community Workshops held in early 2015 to develop a set of “Future Scenarios,” was selected. South Vallejo represents a number of the public health concerns, including those present in varying degrees in other portions of the City.

As part of the South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment (Attachment 2 of this Report), three community workshops were held in February 2015 to solicit ideas on ways to improve community health in South Vallejo. Approximately 40 members of the public



attended the three workshops and provided input on several community health concerns: increasing active recreation and transportation, improving access to healthy foods in South Vallejo, and improving safety. (Comments are included as part of Attachment 2 of this Report.) In addition, a questionnaire, also in Attachment 2, was distributed to members of a variety of community groups.

### Food Access

Participants noted that it is difficult to access a full range of groceries in South Vallejo and that a bigger grocery store is needed in the area. Suggestions for locating a new grocery store included the vacant lot at Magazine Street and Sonoma Avenue, Lincoln Road East, and Lake Dalwigk. Participants pointed out that bus service in South Vallejo ends at 7 pm, too early to serve food shopping for many people. They also pointed out that convenience stores are generally limited in their offering of healthy food (e.g., fresh fruits and vegetables).

### Active Recreation and Transportation

A recurring theme was that parks in South Vallejo, such as Lake Dalwigk Park, are generally unsafe and underutilized. Participants said that improving them by providing, for example, safe playgrounds, would encourage residents to use them more. A new park was suggested for the Sheridan Street and 6th Street area.

Participants also raised the need for an improved and expanded the network for bicycling and walking (e.g., completing the disconnected sidewalk sections on Sonoma Boulevard, adding safe crossings for pedestrians at the cross streets of Sonoma Boulevard, creating pedestrian access to the South Vallejo waterfront, adding all-weather trails for bikes and pedestrians to the Lake Dalwigk area).

### Safety

Related to active recreation and transportation, a number of residents said they do not feel safe walking in South Vallejo, particularly at night. Some comments regarding safety were:

“Go inside before dark.”

“Dangerous, particularly at night.”

“I live here and I don’t feel safe.”

“I have lived here for 1 ½ years and I don’t feel safe in Vallejo.”

“In dark areas, shooting and drugs happen.”

Participants also identified specific needs relating to improved street lighting and slowing automobile traffic in certain key locations.

## **F. Solano County Department of Public Health Community Health Survey**

Beginning in 2014, the Solano County Department of Public Health, as part of a Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, conducted a series of Community Health Surveys at 30 different community events and meetings throughout Solano County. The results from approximately 300 surveys completed by Vallejo residents offer important data to help inform Vallejo's Healthy Community Element. The results of these surveys are included as Appendix A of this Report.

## **IV. What Can Be Learned From Other Healthy Community Elements?**

As an early step in the preparation of Vallejo's Healthy Community Element, Sonoma State University's Center for Sustainable Communities prepared a working paper, "Healthy Communities Elements in General Plans: Insights from Current Practice and Considerations for the City of Vallejo" (the "Healthy Communities Elements Working Paper" or "Working Paper," Attachment 1 to this Report). The purpose of this Working Paper was to inform the form and content of Vallejo's Healthy Community Element. The Working Paper looked at healthy community elements adopted in the cities of Richmond and San Pablo and Riverside County, along with an element under development in Santa Clara County. The Working Paper was structured around six questions:

- What is the scope of the element (which topics are addressed)?
- What data sources were used?
- What are some of the noteworthy policies and implementation actions?
- How is the healthy community element integrated with other general plan elements?
- What approaches to collaboration are present?
- Are there aspects of the element of particular interest to Vallejo?

### **1. What is the scope of the element (i.e., which topics are addressed)?**

One of the things that characterizes healthy community elements is the degree to which they address different topics. The range of potential topics is virtually endless and a critical step in developing an element is determining which topics to address. The four elements reviewed for the Healthy Communities Elements Working Paper share certain topics (e.g., active transportation, such as walking and bicycling; healthy eating). There are also topics that are unique to a more limited group of the elements (e.g., violence and crime, mental health).

As described in Section IV.B, below, this Report recommends a set of topics for the Vallejo Healthy Community Element that reflects existing health conditions in Vallejo and key concerns of Vallejo residents and a range of public agencies and non-profit organizations that serve them.

## **2. What data sources were used in developing the element?**

A defining characteristic of healthy communities planning is a reliance on data, an influence of the public health profession and its important role in healthy community planning. Therefore, the Working Paper identifies the various data sources relied on in developing each of the elements.

Section II of this Report reflects the work of the Solano County Department of Public Health and their data collection and analysis to inform development of Vallejo's Healthy Community Element.

## **3. What are some of the noteworthy policies and implementation actions included in the element?**

The Healthy Communities Elements Working Paper provides a focused selection of policies and implementation actions, intended to illustrate some of the targeted and innovative approaches to the health topics addressed in each included element. The intent was not to suggest specific measures that Vallejo should adopt, but to show how communities have come up with strategies tailored to their own needs and aspirations. In this, rather than the specific content of the identified policies and implementation actions, they serve as models for Vallejo's Healthy Community Element.

This Topics Report does not present proposed policies and implementation actions for the topics it recommends. Rather, these will be presented as a "next phase" in the development of the Healthy Community Element and be informed in part by the work of other communities identified in the Healthy Communities Elements Working Paper.

## **4. How does the healthy community element address public health topics treated in other general plan elements?**

Another defining characteristic of healthy community elements is their relationship to other general plan elements, both those that are legally mandated (land use, circulation, housing, open space, conservation, safety, and noise) and other, "optional," elements (e.g., economic development).

This is an especially important topic with regard to healthy community elements for at least two reasons. First, various planning issues with significant implications for health (e.g., urban form and its effects on "walkability") are often addressed in other elements. Second, the health benefits associated with healthy community planning (e.g., promoting bicycling) may have associated "co-benefits" (e.g., for traffic, energy, noise, and air quality), which should be recognized.

As discussed in Section IV.C, below, this Report recommends an approach that includes both topics addressed primarily in the Healthy Community Element and topics with important health implications that will be addressed primarily in other elements of the Vallejo General Plan.

## **5. How does the element address collaboration?**

As with many planning fields, health community planning typically relies on collaboration – between government entities at various levels, with the business community, with a wide range of non-profits, and so forth. Healthy community planning often includes County public health departments, the medical services sector, agriculture and other food-related groups, mental health organizations, the faith-based community, and so forth in this mix.

As discussed in Section IV.B, below, this Report recognizes the important role that collaboration has in Vallejo’s culture and highlights the potential role of collaboration in Vallejo’s Healthy Community Element.

## **6. Are there aspects of this element that may be of particular interest to Vallejo?**

Each of the elements reviewed for the Healthy Communities Elements Working Paper offers approaches and content that may be of particular interest to Vallejo, because of similar community conditions and concerns, alignment with the adopted Guiding Principles for Vallejo’s current general plan update, etc.

While this Topics Report does not present proposed policies and implementation actions for the topics it recommends, these will be presented as a “next phase” in the development of the Healthy Community Element, informed in part by the work of other communities identified in the Healthy Communities Elements Working Paper.

## **V. Recommended Topics for the Vallejo Healthy Community Element**

### **A. Underlying concepts for Vallejo’s Healthy Community Element**

There are certain fundamental concepts that underlie Vallejo’s Healthy Community Element. Among these are:

- Vallejo is committed to being a healthy community. Its City Council has adopted a Resolution Advocating and Supporting the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign. And Guiding Principle 7 of its General Plan Update program states: “Vallejo promotes the health of its residents and recognizes the value of a proactive, preventative approach to health. All Vallejo neighborhoods have easy access to healthy food, including organic food and locally grown food from school and community gardens.”
- Health is a function of a variety of factors. And while genetics, healthcare, and lifestyle choices are certainly among them, so are aspects of the built environment (land use patterns, transportation infrastructure, open space, etc.), community programs, and other general plan topics.
- Furthermore, social, economic, educational and other factors can be determinants of health. The Healthy Community Element should recognize these additional determinants and the entire General Plan should focus on strengthening the social capital these factors represent.
- At the same time, while economic factors can be determinants of health, community health can support a more economically prosperous community.
- Vallejo has a significant network of facilities and programs to promote the health of its residents. The Healthy Community Element should identify these existing community resources, a number of which are identified in Section V, below.
- Collaboration – between government agencies, involving non-profits and community groups, etc. – is an important part of Vallejo’s culture, is reflected in the Guiding Principles adopted for the Propel Vallejo planning effort, and should play a fundamental role in the Healthy Community Element. The Solano County Department of Public Health, the medical services sector of the Vallejo economy, the faith-based community, agriculture and other food-related groups, mental health organizations, and so forth, should play important roles in these collaborations.
- Policies and actions related to healthy community topics have other community benefits. These “co-benefits” highlight the effectiveness, in terms of cost and otherwise, of well-designed policies and actions.

## **B. Recommended topics for Vallejo’s Healthy Community Element**

The topics recommended in this Report for inclusion in Vallejo’s Healthy Community Element are of two types:

- Topics that will be treated primarily in the Healthy Community Element
- Topics that will get a relatively brief discussion in the Healthy Community Element, with reference to discussions in other elements of general plan
  1. Topics recommended for treatment primarily in the Healthy Community Element
    - Access to healthy food
    - Active recreation facilities (parks, etc.), access, and programs
    - Safety of recreation facilities and access to them (crime and perceptions of safety)
    - Active transportation network (facilities for walking/bicycling) and programs
    - Safety of the active transportation network
      - Roadway design and relationship to autos
      - Crime and perceptions of safety
    - Health concerns related to tobacco and exposure to tobacco smoke
    - Urban greening and mental health

### Access to healthy food

One of the topics that came up consistently in the outreach for Vallejo’s Healthy Community Element is the need for greater access to healthy food. While this is not an issue for all Vallejo residents, it is for portions of the city. For example, parts of South Vallejo meet the definition of a “food desert,” with residents living more than a mile from a full service grocery store. While a Grocery Outlet store was recently opened at the site of the old Safeway store on Marin Street in Downtown Vallejo, access to a full range of healthy food remains a concern for residents of South Vallejo. (See Attachment 2, South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment.) Furthermore, for many people in South Vallejo, the closest full service grocery store (Lincoln Safeway) is not served by a bus route. And local convenience stores are generally not sources of fresh produce and a range of other healthy food. Another topic raised frequently was the potential for alternative ways of making healthy food available, such as community gardens, “corner store makeovers,” etc.

### Active recreation facilities (parks, etc.) and programs

Another major area of community concern is active recreation, focused on providing more facilities and programs throughout Vallejo. For example, creating public access to and encouraging development of recreation activities along the Vallejo Waterfront is

viewed by some as a way to improve public health and fitness, while providing a focal point of neighborhood pride and encouraging environmental awareness.

Another concern is the quality of these programs and facilities – what they offer to Vallejo residents. For example, stakeholders noted that parks could be improved if safe playgrounds and skate parks were added to them.

#### Safety of recreation facilities (crime and perceptions of safety)

An additional and related consideration is the safety of existing facilities in portions of the City. For example, according to many residents, public parks in South Vallejo are generally unsafe, reducing their use by Vallejo residents. Conversely, some feel that local parks, such as Lake Dalwigk Park, would be safer if they were used more extensively.

#### Active transportation network (facilities for walking and bicycling) and programs

Concerns related to Vallejo’s opportunities for active transportation (walking and biking) are generally of two types. One is the need for facilities and programs that promote active transportation – bike routes, attractive and convenient places to walk, and the like.

#### Safety of active transportation network

In addition to a stronger network for active transportation, there are associated concerns about the safety of existing facilities. Safety concerns themselves fell into two categories. One relates to the design of existing facilities or gaps in needed facilities. For instance, community members spoke of the need for safety improvements for children walking to school. They noted, for example, that it is unsafe to cross Sonoma Boulevard, pointed out a disconnected sidewalk system on Sonoma Boulevard, and identified speeding cars as an issue generally.

The other category of safety concerns relating to the City’s active transportation network has to do with crime and perceptions of safety. Reports, for instance, indicated residents feeling unsafe walking on many South Vallejo streets (e.g., Magazine Street), especially at night.

#### Health concerns related to tobacco and exposure to tobacco smoke

Outreach efforts for this Report indicated an interest in limiting the number of tobacco retail outlets and making parks smoke-free.

#### Urban greening and mental health

There is a recognized relationship between well-designed urban green space and mental health (recent research, for instance, found that living in an urban area with green spaces has a long-lasting positive impact on people's mental well-being, even more than a pay

raise or winning the lottery.<sup>1</sup> Concerns expressed during the Healthy Community Element outreach efforts reflected the need for improved green space in Vallejo (street trees, etc.).

2. Topics that will get a relatively brief discussion in the Healthy Community Element, with reference to discussions in other elements of general plan, for example:

- Employment and vocational training (Economic Development)
- Access, in terms of:
  - physical distribution of facilities and programs (Land Use)
  - transportation to health care in its various forms (health education, culturally appropriate health care, preventative health care, follow-up treatment and specialty care, substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation, dental care, medication and prescription drugs) (Transportation and Mobility)
- Appropriate housing (Land Use and Housing)
- Climate change
- Social cohesion – promoting connection among community members and civic engagement

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<sup>1</sup> “Green spaces have lasting positive effect on well-being,” <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-25682368> (accessed September 15, 2015).



## **VI. Existing Community Health Resources**

Solano County in general, and Vallejo in particular, has a rich variety of resources for promoting community health. While Vallejo, like any community, can strengthen the support it provides its residents (two recent Community Health Needs Assessments identify the lack of existing community health services and facilities as a significant issue<sup>2</sup>), there are a number of valuable facilities and programs currently operating in Vallejo. Among these existing resources are:

### **A. Access to healthy food**

Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church of Vallejo installed a Community Garden in the spring of 2015 with the mission of growing food and distributing it to area soup kitchens and food pantries. It is also a site for regular food distributions with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano holds Free Produce Days (e.g., twice-monthly at Emmanuel Temple in South Vallejo).

Vallejo’s Participatory Budgeting program included Cal Maritime Garden as one of 10 gardens included in the Community Gardens & Nutrition Education project.

Vallejo People’s Garden promotes health and wellness through educational opportunities and local agriculture. Programs include Harvest Sharing Program, Workshops, Youth Connection, Youth Education, and Green for Green.

Pacific Coast Farmers’ Market Association sponsors the year-round, weekly Vallejo Farmers Market.

The Solano County Food Policy Council is a partnership of food, agriculture, educational, and other organizations with the goal of fostering a sustainable, equitable food system that provides healthy, affordable food for the community through policy and education.

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<sup>2</sup> “A Community Health Needs Assessment of the Solano County Service Area Conducted on the behalf of Kaiser Permanente, North Bay Healthcare, Sutter Solano Medical Center, and the Solano Coalition for Better Health” (2013); “2013 Community Health Needs Assessment - Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Vallejo.”

## **B. Active recreation/safety**

Greater Vallejo Parks and Recreation District operates 20 Neighborhood Parks, four Community Parks and four Special Purpose Parks located throughout Vallejo, as well as four Community Centers and a Sports Complex.

Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting program included Beverly Hills Park (one of 13 parks included in the Parks and Recreation Improvements project)

Vallejo's Fighting Back Partnership is a non-profit collaboration that partners with business, residents, and government to improve neighborhoods, strengthen families, and support youth development, with the goal of a safe, healthy and thriving community.

Neighborhood Watch is a presence in many Vallejo neighborhoods, promoting crime prevention and safer neighborhoods.

## **C. Active transportation/safety**

Solano Transportation Authority included an Active Transportation Element in its 2014 Active Transportation Plan.

Vallejo City Unified School District/'Safe Routes to School' Program promotes "walking school bus" programs in portions of the city.

Vallejo's Fighting Back Partnership is a non-profit collaboration that partners with business, residents, and government to improve neighborhoods, strengthen families, and support youth development, with the goal of a safe, healthy, and thriving community.

Neighborhood Watch is a presence in many Vallejo neighborhoods, promoting crime prevention and safer neighborhoods.

Vallejo Housing Authority, in collaboration with Fighting Back Partnership, has reduced crime "hot spots" by increasing street lighting, etc.

## **D. Health concerns related to tobacco and exposure to tobacco smoke**

Solano County Department of Public Health is involved with a variety of programs to reduce smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke.

## **E. Urban Greening and Mental Health**

Solano Resource Conservation District works closely with a wide variety of partners throughout the County on urban greening and other projects.

## **VII. Conclusion**

This Topics Report summarizes existing community health conditions in Vallejo and the results of a series of outreach efforts regarding community health concerns. Based on these steps, it identifies recommended topics for Vallejo's Healthy Community Element. In addition, it identifies existing community health resources in Vallejo to aid in addressing these recommended topics.

Future steps for the Healthy Community Element will include developing specific goals, policies, and actions. The Healthy Community Element will also include a set of "indicators" to measure the benefits actually achieved through implementing the actions identified in the Element and inform an ongoing process of effective and cost efficient implementation.

**APPENDIX A**  
**Solano County Department of Public Health**  
**Community Health Surveys, 2014-15**

**How would you rate your local community as a place to live?**

Excellent	12 %
Good	37 %
OK	40 %
Poor	8 %
Very Poor	2 %
Not Sure	<1%

**How would you rate the sense of community involvement and  
responsibility in your local community?**

Excellent	9 %
Good	35 %
OK	33 %
Poor	16 %
Very Poor	3 %
Not Sure	4%

**How would you rate the quality of life in your local community?**

Excellent	12 %
Good	33 %
OK	39 %
Poor	12 %
Very Poor	4 %
Not Sure	1%

**How would you rate your local community as a “healthy community“**

Excellent	8 %
Good	25 %
OK	41 %
Poor	20 %
Very Poor	4 %
Not Sure	3%

**How satisfied are you with the health care system in your local community?**

Excellent	12 %
Good	36 %
OK	30 %
Poor	13 %
Very Poor	4 %
Not Sure	5%

**How would you rate your local community as a good place to raise children?**

Excellent	9 %
Good	25 %
OK	33 %
Poor	23 %
Very Poor	8 %
Not Sure	2%

**How would you rate your local community as a place to grow old?**

Excellent	11 %
Good	24 %
OK	34 %
Poor	18 %
Very Poor	9 %
Not Sure	4%

**How would you rate your local community with regards to job availability?**

Excellent	5 %
Good	15 %
OK	29 %
Poor	30 %
Very Poor	16 %
Not Sure	5%

**How would you rate your local community as a place with support networks for individuals and families during times of stress and need?**

Excellent	8 %
Good	25 %
OK	34 %
Poor	17 %
Very Poor	6 %
Not Sure	11%

**How would you rate your overall health?**

Excellent	17 %
Good	52 %
Fair	27 %
Poor	3 %
Very Poor	1 %

**PROPEL**  
**VALLEJO**  **GENERAL**  
**PLAN**  
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



# Healthy Community Element, Insights from Other Communities

ATTACHMENT 1, January 2015

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
THOMAS JACOBSON, FAICP, ALEX HINDS, LOIS FISHER, LEED ND (FISHER TOWN DESIGN)





# **Healthy Communities Elements in General Plans: Insights from Current Practice and Considerations for the City of Vallejo**

**Prepared for the City of Vallejo  
January 2015**

**Center for Sustainable Communities  
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## **Introduction**

Including healthy community elements in California general plans is an increasingly widespread, though not universal, practice. This paper explores the practice to date, particularly as may be relevant to the City of Vallejo and the healthy community element being developed as part of Vallejo's current general plan update.

The purpose of this paper is not to provide a survey of general plan policies related to public health. Such collections exist (see, e.g., *Healthy Planning Policies: A Compendium From California General Plans*<sup>1</sup>) and can be valuable in matching identified goals with steps to advance them. Rather, this paper is intended to use the tool of analyzing a set of healthy community elements to identify key components of such elements, with the end of informing development of a strong and effective healthy community element for Vallejo.

This paper considers four healthy communities elements, two from cities and two from counties:

- City of Richmond
- City of San Pablo
- Riverside County
- Santa Clara County

It is limited to general plans that have specific healthy community elements, rather than those that, instead, “infuse” a variety of general plan elements with healthy community goals, policies, and implementation measures. That is not to say that the elements considered here do not draw connections to the other elements in the general plans in

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<sup>1</sup> ChangeLab Solutions, 2012, <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/healthy-planning-policies>

which they are found. In fact, how healthy community elements make those connections is a critical topic and is discussed with regard to each of the four elements addressed here.

Six key questions are considered for each of the elements discussed below:

A. What is the scope of the element (i.e., which topics are addressed)?

One of the things that characterizes healthy community elements is their lack of a uniform scope. The range of potential topics is virtually endless and a critical step in developing an element is determining which topics to address. As illustrated in Appendix 1, “Healthy Community Element Topics,” the four elements reviewed for this paper share certain topics (e.g., active transportation, healthy eating). There are also topics that are unique to a more limited group of elements (e.g., violence and crime, mental health).

B. What data sources were used in developing the element?

A defining characteristic of healthy communities planning is a reliance on data, an influence of the public health profession and its important role in healthy community planning. Therefore, this paper identifies the various data sources relied on in developing each of the elements.

C. What are some of the noteworthy policies and implementation actions included in the element?

As noted above, there are useful collections of general plan policies that address various aspects of public health. This paper provides a more focused selection of policies and implementation actions, intended to illustrate some of the targeted and innovative approaches to the health topics addressed in each element. The intent is not to suggest specific measures that Vallejo should adopt, but to show how communities have come up with strategies tailored to their own needs and aspirations. In this, rather than the specific content of the identified policies and implementation actions, they may serve as a model for Vallejo’s healthy community element.

D. How does the healthy community element address public health topics treated in other elements?

Another defining characteristic of healthy community elements is their relationship to other general plan elements, both those that are legally mandated (land use, circulation, housing, open space, conservation, safety, and noise) and other, “optional” elements (e.g., urban design, economic development, energy).

This is an especially important topic with regard to healthy community elements for at least two reasons. First, various planning issues with significant implications for health (e.g., urban form and its implications for “walkability”) are often addressed in other elements. Second, the health benefits associated with healthy community planning (e.g.,

promoting bicycling) may have associated “co-benefits” (e.g., for traffic, energy, noise, and air quality), which should be recognized.

The elements addressed in this paper take a variety of approaches to this. For instance:

- Richmond includes both: 1) policies and implementation actions found in other elements of the City’s general plan; and 2) policies and implementation actions found only in the Community Health and Wellness Element.
- San Pablo provides that, “The [Health] Element augments the traditional policy framework in a General Plan to fill in the gaps where health issues are not fully addressed elsewhere.” At the same time, it includes tables of policies from other elements that address the key topics in its Health Element.
- Riverside County notes that, “Because health is such a comprehensive issue, the policies in this element may at times overlap with the policies in other General Plan Elements. When such overlap occurs the policies included herein are intended to work in concert with and complement the policies in the other elements.”
- Santa Clara County’s element does not expressly cross reference policies in other elements of the County’s general plan.

Each of these approaches is described in more detail in the discussion of individual elements, below.

E. How does the element address collaboration?

As with many planning fields, health community planning typically relies on collaboration – between government entities at various levels, with the business community, with a wide range of non-profits, with the faith-based community, and so forth. Healthy community planning often adds County public health departments, the medical services sector, agriculture and other food-related groups, mental health organizations, and so forth. The discussions of individual elements that follow illustrate this point.

F. Are there aspects of this element that may be of particular interest to Vallejo?

Each of the elements reviewed for this paper offers approaches and content that may be of particular interest to Vallejo, in some cases because of alignment with the adopted Guiding Principles for Vallejo’s current general plan update. A selection of these approaches and contents is presented for each element.

## **1. City of Richmond: Community Health and Wellness Element** **(<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8579>)**

Richmond adopted its Community Health and Wellness Element in 2012. It is frequently pointed to as a leader in this field.

Fundamental to the element is its recognition of the disproportionate number of Richmond residents, compared to the rest of Contra Costa County, that are at high risk of poor health. Richmond has the highest proportion of deaths from diabetes, a higher than average rate of children requiring hospitalization due to asthma, and the second highest rate of hospitalizations for mental health disorders and substance abuse. In addition, Richmond residents are disproportionately affected by heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

Also noteworthy is this general plan's broad definition of public health to address factors that result in health disparities, such as socioeconomic conditions, environmental quality, and the quality of the built environment.

### A. Scope of the element (which topics are addressed)

Richmond outlines ten different “determinates” of healthy living environments and describes conditions in Richmond related to those determinants.

- Parks and Recreational facilities
- Healthy Foods – Sustainable Local Food
- Medical Services
- Walking, bicycling
- Use of public transit
- High quality and affordable housing
- Economic opportunities
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Environmental Quality
- Sustainable Development

The element then establishes one goal with regard to each of these ten determinates and adds an eleventh for, “Leadership in building healthy communities.”

### B. Data sources used in developing the element

- “Community Health Indicators for Selected Cities and Places in Contra Costa County,” March 3, 2005. Contra Costa County Hospital Council.
- “Community Health Indicators for Contra Costa County 2007, Executive Summary.” Contra Costa County Health Services Department.
- “2005 San Francisco Collaborative Food System Assessment.” San Francisco Food Alliance.
- U.S. Census, 2000.

- Various Richmond urban forest statistics from the Center for Urban Forestry and Research, University of California, Davis.

C. Some noteworthy policies and implementation actions included in the element

Improved Safety in Neighborhoods and Public Spaces

Policy HW8.2 – Activated Streets and Safe Public Spaces

Promote active use of public spaces in neighborhoods and commercial areas at all times of day to provide “eyes on the street.” Provide an appropriate mix of uses, high-quality design and appropriate programming of uses to facilitate natural surveillance in public spaces. Improve the sense of safety for potential users by providing amenities and services such as restrooms, street furniture, street lighting, trees for shade, public art and secure bicycle parking and by restricting or prohibiting uses that are incompatible with community needs and priorities including, but not limited to, liquor stores and smoke shops.

[This policy also appears in the Land Use and Urban Design Element as Policy LU1.4]

Action HW8.C – Liquor Store Ordinance

Strengthen City Council Resolution 59-06 by developing an ordinance that restricts the location and concentration of liquor stores in all of the City’s neighborhoods, and within 500 feet of schools and parks. Include an incentive program to facilitate the transition of liquor stores to food markets and local grocery stores. Consider restricting stand-alone liquor stores similar to smoke shops.

Expanded Access to Healthy Food and Nutrition Choices

Policy HW2.1 – Quality Food

Promote the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and quality foods, especially in underserved neighborhoods. Continue to attract a wide range of healthy food choices such as full-service grocery stores, ethnic food markets, farm stands, community gardens, edible school yards, and farmers markets. Partner with Contra Costa Health Services to encourage stores to accept Federal Food Assistance Program dollars such as WIC and SNAP in order to increase access to healthy food for all Richmond residents. Encourage convenience stores, supermarkets, liquor stores, and neighborhood and ethnic markets to carry fresh produce, meats and dairy, 100% juices and whole grain products, especially in low-income and underserved neighborhoods.

Action HW2.A – Healthy Food Store Incentive Program

In collaboration with the Contra Costa County Health Department and community organizations, develop and implement a program to encourage new and existing convenience stores, supermarkets, liquor stores, and neighborhood and ethnic markets to stock fresh produce, meats and dairy, 100% juices, and whole grain products. Identify stores that are willing to participate in the program. Target the program in key neighborhoods that have a high concentration of liquor stores and convenience stores but lack fresh and healthy food options.

## An Integrated System of Parks, Plazas, Playgrounds and Open Space

Policy HW1.1 – An Integrated System of Parks, Plazas, Playgrounds, and Open Space  
Provide a comprehensive and integrated system of parks, plazas, playgrounds, trails, and open space. The community’s current and future needs for quality outdoor space can be met by improving existing parks, creating linear greenways in established neighborhoods, and creating new parks, plazas, and open space in new developments. A comprehensive, integrated system should include parks, playgrounds, community greens, greenways, and trails. Ensure adequate maintenance of these facilities to encourage safe and active use.

### Action HW1.H – Public Safety Design Guidelines

Develop and adopt design guidelines that deter criminal activity in neighborhoods, streets, and public areas. Include guidelines for design of play areas, parks, sport facilities, streets and sidewalks, plazas and urban pocket parks, and housing and commercial sites, among others. Require early intervention of crime prevention strategies in new development and redevelopment projects, including the involvement of the Police Department in the review of major projects in high-crime areas of the City. Include guidelines for parks and recreation facilities with particular focus on the following areas:

- Design and orientation of buildings
- Restrooms and parking areas
- Defensible space with no hidden areas or structures that block visibility and natural surveillance
- Ownership and control over public space
- Cameras and other technologies
- Lighting and signage

## Complete Neighborhoods

### Policy HW7.2 – Neighborhood-Serving Retail

Support development of small-scale neighborhood nodes that provide a range of neighborhood-serving retail, public amenities and services to residents within walking distance of their homes. Can reduce dependency on cars, improve access to daily goods and services, promote small business development and increase opportunities for social interaction, and reduce crime by increasing street use and natural surveillance.

[This policy also appears in the Economic Development and Land Use and Urban Design Elements as Policies ED6.3, ED7.4, and LU2.3]

### D. How the healthy community element addresses public health topics treated in other elements

The Richmond Community Health and Wellness Element includes both: 1) policies and implementation actions found in other elements of the City’s general plan; and 2) policies and implementation actions found only in the Health and Wellness Element. Thus, for

example, Policy HW8.2 also appears in the Land Use and Urban Design Element as Policy LU1.4. However, Action HW8.C – Liquor Store Ordinance, appears as an implementation action only in the Health and Wellness element.

E. How the element addresses collaboration

The Richmond Community Health and Wellness Element relies heavily on collaboration in various forms, with:

- transit agencies
- operators of recreational facilities and community centers
- environmental and other non-profits
- Contra Costa County Health Services Department
- medical services providers
- neighboring cities and Contra Costa County
- the business community
- school districts and post-secondary institutions
- social services agencies
- developers
- unions
- neighborhood associations
- law enforcement agencies
- the Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- state and federal agencies concerned with environmental hazards
- landowners
- the County Office of Emergency Services
- regional/state/federal park agencies

Examples include:

**Policy HW1.7 Access to Large-Scale Natural Areas**

Work with transit agencies to improve access to open space and recreation facilities from all Richmond neighborhoods.

**Action HW1.G Joint-Use Agreements**

Pursue joint-use agreements with West County Unified School District, East Bay Regional Parks, neighboring cities, other public agencies, private entities and non-profits to allow more convenient public access to needed facilities, create more space for recreational programming, and create strategic partnerships that can provide the opportunity to share renovation, development, maintenance, and operational costs.

**Action HW1.I Urban Greening Initiative**

Support and encourage citywide initiatives to increase opportunities for contact with nature, working with Groundwork Richmond and others.



#### Policy HW2.1 Quality Food

Promote the availability of fresh produce and quality foods, especially in underserved neighborhoods. Partner with Contra Costa Health Services to encourage stores to accept Federal Food Assistance dollars to increase access to healthy and quality foods.

#### Policy HW2.3 Quality of Restaurant Food

Continue collaboration with health agencies to encourage availability of healthy foods in restaurants while supporting businesses that offer healthy food.

#### Action HW2.A Healthy Food Store Incentives Program

In collaboration with the Contra Costa County Health Services Department and community organizations, develop and implement a program to encourage local convenience stores, liquor stores, supermarkets, and neighborhood and ethnic stores to stock fresh produce and other healthy foods.

#### Action HW2.B Healthy Food and Nutrition Choices

Collaborate with Contra Costa County Health Services Department to develop information to assist residents in nutritional assessment of local food choices.

#### Action HW2.C Nutrition Standards for Vending Machines on City-Owned Property

Consult with Contra Costa County Health Services Department in creating an ordinance requiring nutritional standards for vending machines on city-owned property.

#### Action HW2.D Sustainable Urban Agriculture Assessment

Work with non-profits and regulatory agencies to explore the potential for creating, expanding and sustaining local urban agriculture, including community gardens, orchards and farmers' markets.

#### Policy HW3.1 Public Transit Access to Medical Facilities

Collaborate with transit services to increase accessibility to medical services for those who are transit dependent.

#### Action HW3.A Medical Facilities Access Plan

Work with medical providers, transit agencies, private transit providers and community representatives to develop an access plan to provide service to major medical facilities.

#### Action HW3.B Regional Medical Services Coordination

Continue collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions including the CCCHSD to address issues regarding emergency and preventative medical services.

#### Action HW3.C Health Coverage Guidelines

Collaborate with local trade organizations to update health coverage guidelines.

#### Policy HW4.1 Expanded Affordable Public Transit

Coordinate with regional transportation agencies and support expansion of public transit to improve mobility options.

**Action HW4.C Safe and Convenient Public Transit Options**

Continue collaboration with regional transit providers and major employers in Richmond that provide shuttle services to explore the potential for future transit expansion.

**Action HW4.D Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans**

Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure links to the regional trail network and the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

**Action HW4.F Safe Routes to School Program**

Collaborate with West Contra Costa Unified School District and other educational institutions to improve walking and bicycling access and safety to schools.

**Policy HW5.5 Service for Homeless**

Work with social services agencies to provide an integrated system of care for the homeless.

**Action HW5.H Homeless Plan**

Collaborate with the Homeless Continuum of Care Advisory Board to develop a plan to provide transition facilities and services for people facing homelessness, substance issues, and mental health issues.

**Action HW5.I Community Land Trust Study**

Collaborate with developers to explore the feasibility of establishing a community land trust to encourage affordable housing projects.

**Policy HW6.2 Workforce Training and Recruitment**

Collaborate with educational institutions, employers, unions and local workforce development programs to strengthen services for Richmond youth and adults.

**Action HW6.A Green Business Strategic Plan**

Work with local business support agencies, the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and community stakeholders to develop a strategic plan to attract innovative “green” companies to Richmond. Work with State and local agencies to develop criteria for green business certification for new and existing businesses.

**Action HW7.A Corridor Improvement Plans**

Collaborate with regional agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, and the County to develop plans for key commercial corridors in the City.

**Action HW7.B Neighborhood Revitalization Plans**

Collaborate with community leaders and organizations, neighborhood councils, and neighboring jurisdictions to develop neighborhood revitalization plans.

#### Action HW 8.D Inmate Re-Entry and Transition Program

Work with law enforcement and social service agencies to develop a re-entry and transition program to support released prisoners and parolees as they transition back into the community.

#### Policy HW9.1 Air Quality

Work with businesses and industry, residents and regulatory agencies to reduce the impacts of air pollution. Continue to work with stakeholders to reduce air quality impacts on disadvantaged neighborhoods and continue to participate in regional planning efforts with nearby jurisdictions and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to meet or exceed air quality standards

#### Policy HW9.2 Toxic and Contaminated Sites

Continue to work with local, state, and federal agencies to promote the clean-up of contaminated sites. Work with property owners and regional agencies to mitigate soil and water contamination from industrial operations, the Port and other activities that use, produce or dispose of hazardous or toxic substances.

#### Policy HW9.3 Water Quality

Work with public and private property owners reduce stormwater runoff in urban areas to protect water quality.

#### Policy HW9.7 Habitat and Biological Resources Protection and Restoration

Work with public and private landowners to protect natural habitat and biodiversity and preserve biological resources.

#### Policy HW9.8 Noise Levels

Work with regulatory agencies to monitor and enforce noise standards.

#### Action HW9.A Air Quality Monitoring and Reporting Program

Work with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other government agencies to establish and identify funding for a citywide air quality monitoring and reporting program. Collaborate with CCCHSD, BAAQMD, and state agencies to establish baseline exposures and document health effects associated with them, and develop provisions to hold businesses and operations financially responsible for their impacts on the environment or community.

#### Action HW9.C Engine Replacement and Retrofitting Program

Work with BAAQMD to develop a program to fund diesel engine retrofitting or replacement in existing vehicles.

#### Action HW9.D Port Emissions Reduction Plan

Collaborate with the Port, local industry, and regulatory agencies to develop a comprehensive emissions reduction plan for ship-operated emissions.

Action HW9.H Truck Routes Plan

Work with business operators and other stakeholders to develop a plan to re-route diesel trucks away from neighborhood streets and sensitive uses.

Action HW9.I Emergency Alert System

Collaborate with the County Office of Emergency Services to develop and implement a reliable emergency alert system.

Action HW9.O Open Space Plan

Collaborate with the East Bay Regional Park District and the National Park Service to maintain facilities and programs at national and regional parks.

Action HW9.P Habitat Conservation Plans

Work closely with Contra Costa County and East Bay Regional Parks to develop habitat conservation plans.

Action HW9.Q Habitat Restoration

Work with other jurisdictions, public and private property owners to restore sensitive habitat that has been degraded, but has potential for rehabilitation.

Policy HW10.5 Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Collaborate with partner agencies, utilities and business to support a range of energy efficiency, waste reduction, and conservation measures.

Action HW10.E Waste Reduction and Recycling

Work with joint power authority or solid waste facility franchise holder to expand recycling programs and reduce the generation of solid wastes.

Policy HW11.1 Organizational Capacity for Change

Partner with Contra Costa Health Services, community-based organizations, foundations and other regional agencies to build capacity among City staff, boards and commissions and elected officials with regard to health and its relationship with the design of the built environment.

Policy HW11.2 Monitoring and Tracking

Collaborate with Contra Costa Health Services to track health outcomes and their relationships with City policies and programs.

Action HW11.A Training and Capacity-Building

Collaborate with Contra Costa Health Services, experts and non-profits to develop training programs for elected officials, boards and commissions and City staff to build capacity for implementing the Community Health and Wellness Element.

Action HW11.C Health Tracking Program

Collaborate with Contra Costa Health Services to develop a program that measures health outcomes over time to assess the effectiveness of City policies and programs.

Action HW11.D Healthy Choices Public Information Campaign

Work with Contra Costa Health Services and community stakeholders to identify creative ways to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

F. Are there aspects of this element that may be of particular interest to Vallejo?

The Richmond Community Health and Wellness Element expressly addresses safety, not true of many healthy community elements. Safety is identified as one of the Guiding Principles for Vallejo's general plan update: "Vallejo is a safe place for everyone. Residents and businesses in every neighborhood collaborate with each other and with responsive law enforcement to promote personal safety." (Guiding Principle 3)

Richmond's extensive reliance on collaboration aligns with Vallejo's successful experience in this regard, reflected in Vallejo's Guiding Principle 5, "Collaborative Civic Engagement: Vallejo identifies its challenges and takes constructive actions to address them. It is a place with strong, collaborative partnerships between government, residents, and local businesses and where challenges are addressed proactively, drawing on lessons learned from their own experience and from other communities."

## 2. City of San Pablo

([www.sanpabloca.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/669](http://www.sanpabloca.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/669))

San Pablo adopted its Health Element in 2011 as part of its “San Pablo General Plan 2030.” The Health Element has received awards from the American Planning Association (National Award for Achievement in Environmental Planning, 2013) and APA’s Northern California Section (Focused Issue Award, 2012).

This element expressly recognizes the full range of factors affecting health – including income, education, employment and working conditions, access to health services, nutrition, and the quality of physical environments, in addition to the actions of individuals, such as health behaviors and lifestyle choices.

It goes on to say that, “The overarching goal for the entire General Plan is to put people, and their health, first and foremost.” (Section 8.1)

### A. Scope of the element (which topics are addressed)

Compared to many other healthy community elements, San Pablo’s addresses a relatively limited set of topics:

- Healthy Transportation and Physical Activity
- Healthy Food Access and Equity
- Access to Services and Planning for People First
- Crime Reduction and Perceptions of Safety

### B. Data sources used in developing the element

- “County Health Status Profiles 2014.” California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Information and Research.
- “State and County Quick Facts.” U.S. Census Bureau.
- “Community Health Needs Assessment Solano County 2013.” Sutter Health.
- City Data for San Pablo, CA (<http://www.city-data.com/city/San-Pablo-California.html>).
- “Community Health Indicators for Contra Costa County” (2007). Community Health Assessment, Planning and Evaluation Group, Public Health Division, Contra Costa County Health Services Department.

C. Some noteworthy policies and implementation actions included in the element

Rather than policies and implementation actions, this element is structured around “Guiding Policies” and “Implementing Policies.”

Healthy Transportation and Physical Activity

Implementing Policy HEA-I-2

Improve signage directing residents and visitors to public parks and recreational facilities from all parts of the community. Integrate parks signage with bikeway and pedestrian-oriented signage system throughout San Pablo.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-5

Link park facility improvement priorities to a ranking system keyed to public health and recreational goals.

Healthy Food Access and Equity

Implementing Policy HEA-I-12

Use zoning and redevelopment programs to establish incentives for locating healthy food grocery stores at the center of neighborhoods and to increase communitywide healthy food access.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-19

Work with residents, Contra Costa Community College, and community organizations to plan and implement a San Pablo Community Gardens program, which will not only provide a source of fresh produce to gardeners, but will also offer learning opportunities for young and old alike.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-22

Adopt zoning controls to limit the number of fast food outlets and drive-through restaurants near schools and pedestrian priority areas.

Access to Services and Planning for People First

Implementing Policy HEA-I-24

Explore the feasibility of a program of health clinics or workshops, run by medical service providers or Contra Costa Health Services, but hosted in local neighborhoods facilities such as schools, parks, or even businesses or parking lots.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-27

Assist with conversion of liquor stores to other retail that better meets community needs. Give priority to the conversion of those within ¼ mile of schools and parks.

## Crime Reduction and Perceptions of Safety

### Implementing Policy HEA-I-35

Enforce property maintenance and environmental design regulations for businesses, especially “corner stores,” including regulations for alcohol and tobacco advertisements. Within redevelopment project areas identify low-cost solutions to maintenance issues and provide financial assistance to qualifying businesses.

### Implementing Policy HEA-I-34

Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles and best practices into the Zoning Ordinance and project review procedures for new development and major renovations. Guidelines and checklists should include concepts such as natural surveillance, natural access control, natural territorial reinforcement, maintenance, and shared facilities.

## D. How the healthy community element addresses public health topics treated in other elements

The Health Element recognizes that while all of the General Plan’s policies have a role in achieving health-related goals, the Health Element plays a unique role. Thus, the Element identifies each of the other general plan elements and describes whether it strongly supports health-related concern or only has a moderate or weak relationship to them. It also offers a chart of “Relationship between Health and Other Plan Elements.” (Table 8.2-1)

At the same time, the Health Element provides: “The Element augments the traditional policy framework in a General Plan to fill in the gaps where health issues are not fully addressed elsewhere.”

To further knit the Health Element with the rest of the general plan, at the end of each “Key Theme” of the Health Element, there is a table of policies in other elements that relate to that key theme.

## E. How the element addresses collaboration

The San Pablo Health Element identifies potential collaborations with:

- Contra Costa County Health Services Department
- school districts
- non-profits
- Community Supported Agriculture programs
- Contra Costa Community College
- medical services providers
- businesses
- law enforcement agencies



Implementing Policy HEA-I-3

Work with Contra Costa Health Services and the school district to implement the Safe Routes to School program.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-7

Work with community members and organizations to develop an exercise circuit.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-8

Collaborate with the school district to enhance community wide access to pools and sports/recreational facilities.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-14

Support the formation of a West County Food Policy Council in cooperation with Contra Costa County, Contra Costa College, the school district, neighboring communities, and other entities.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-18

Seek ways to partner with regional Community Supported Agriculture to create more sources of fresh produce.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-19

Work with Contra Costa College, community members, and community organizations to plan and implement a San Pablo Community Gardens program.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-20

Work with the school district and Contra Costa Health Services to improve student nutrition.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-23

Collaborate with Contra Costa Health Services to monitor and maintain health outcomes and risk data in order to inform policy decisions.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-26

Work with Doctors Medical Center and the County to locate new outpatient facilities in underserved neighborhoods, if feasible.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-29

Work with interested organizations and residents to create a youth job development partnership.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-31

Coordinate with local businesses, organizations, Contra Costa College, and the school district to create a year round calendar of community events in City parks.

Implementing Policy HEA-I-39

Continue to involve residents in neighborhood improvement efforts.

F. Are there aspects of this element that may be of particular interest to Vallejo?

San Pablo's element includes "health indicators" (see Table 8.3-5). These 11 indicators are intended to help the City measure progress toward health goals against baseline conditions. Examples include: population within ¼ mile of a supermarket or grocery store; violent crime rates; and rates of obesity and overweight among adults and children. Health indicators will be developed as part of Vallejo's Healthy Community Element under the requirements of the California Strategic Growth Council Grant funding the element.

San Pablo's element has a focus on crime prevention and perception of safety. Safety is identified as one of the Guiding Principles for Vallejo's general plan update: "Vallejo is a safe place for everyone. Residents and businesses in every neighborhood collaborate with each other and with responsive law enforcement to promote personal safety." (Guiding Principle 3)

### 3. Riverside County

([http://www.rivcoph.org/Portals/0/pdf/FINALHCE3\\_23\\_2011.pdf](http://www.rivcoph.org/Portals/0/pdf/FINALHCE3_23_2011.pdf))

Riverside County adopted its Healthy Communities Element in 2011. It is featured in the California Planning Roundtable web resource, “Reinventing the General Plan” (<http://reinventingthegeneralplan.org>).

The element points out that the General Plan Vision speaks of the importance of promoting a healthy living environment for all residents. It goes on to say that, “The Healthy Communities Element provides a framework for translating the General Plan vision for a healthy Riverside County into reality by identifying policies to achieve that vision.”

#### A. Scope of the element (which topics are addressed)

Riverside County’s Healthy Communities Element states that it addresses areas where public health and planning intersect, including transportation and active living, access to nutritious foods, access to health care, mental health, quality of life, and environmental health. It addresses these topics:

- Overall Health - Policies that outline the overarching principles of planning for Healthy Communities. These policies are intended to address the multidisciplinary nature of health issues and recognize that the efforts of many different County departments and agencies affect health outcomes.
- Land Use and Community Design
- Healthy Transportation System
- Arts and Culture
- Social Capital – Policies that seek to elevate social capital for the purposes of building a strong platform upon which communities will thrive.
- Parks, Trails, and Open Space
- Access to Healthy Foods and Nutrition
- Healthcare and Mental Healthcare
- Schools, Recreation Centers, and Childcare
- Environmental Health

#### B. Data sources used in developing the element

- “Strategic Plan.” Riverside County Department of Public Health.
- “American Community Survey, 2007.” U.S. Census Bureau.
- “Census 2000 Block-Level Demographic Data for Riverside County.” U.S. Census Bureau.
- “Community Health Profile, 2008.” Riverside County Department of Public Health.

C. Some noteworthy policies and implementation actions included in the element

Land Use and Community Design

Policy HC 2.2.c

Promote increased physical activity, reduced driving and increased walking, cycling, and public transit by encouraging the development of neighborhood grocery stores that provide fresh produce.

Transportation System

Policy HC 5.4

Consider pedestrian safety and crime prevention measures in major transit centers and high pedestrian traffic generators such as schools, community centers, etc.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space

Policy HC 10.6

Address both actual and perceived safety concerns that create barriers to physical activity by requiring adequate lighting, street visibility, and defensible space.

Healthcare and Mental Health Care

Policy HC 12.1

Provide a wide range of healthcare and mental health facilities that are transit-accessible and pedestrian-friendly.

D. How the healthy community element addresses public health topics treated in other elements

Riverside County's element provides: "Because health is such a comprehensive issue, the policies in this element may at times overlap with the policies in other General Plan Elements. When such overlap occurs the policies included herein are intended to work in concert with and complement the policies in the other elements." (Introduction, Healthy Communities Element)

As a more specific explanation of this element's approach, the Land Use and Community Design discussion in the Healthy Communities Element provides: "Many of the land use and community design policies relevant to health are addressed in other elements of the General Plan, most particularly the Land Use Element. Therefore, only additional policies, specifically related to health are included here."

E. How the element addresses collaboration

While the Riverside County Healthy Communities Element generally supports the principle of collaboration, specific examples of this in the Element's policies are limited:

Policy HC 6.1

Coordinate with transportation service providers and transportation planning entities to improve multimodal transportation options.

Policy HC 6.2

Coordinate with transportation service providers and transportation planning entities to address the location of civic uses, commercial corridors, and medical facilities so that they are accessible by public transit.

Policy HC 6.3

Coordinate with transportation service providers and transportation planning entities to ensure transportation facilities are located near residential areas.

Policy HC 10.9

When feasible, coordinate with public entities to allow easements to be used as parks and trails.

F. Are there aspects of this element that may be of particular interest to Vallejo?

Like Santa Clara County (discussed below), Riverside County's Healthy Communities Element identifies mental health as a topic. This is an area receiving increasing attention within healthy communities planning.

Riverside County's Healthy Community Element also identifies environmental health as a topic. Environmental quality in its various dimensions (air, water, noise, etc.) is a well-recognized determinant of public health.

"Social capital" (described in the element as, "an integrated system of family, community, and civic networks that is the underpinning and core fabric of social communities") is also included in Riverside County's Element. The element describes how research shows that among the benefits associated with social connectedness are improved cardio-vascular and mental health and faster recovery from illness. A commitment to building social capital is reflected in the Guiding Principles for Vallejo's general plan update, including Principle 2, "Strong Community Bonds – Vallejo builds strong community bonds at the neighborhood level, with activities and recreational opportunities for youth, local festivals, and a strong culture of volunteering, positive role models, and leadership programs"; and Principle 6, "Active, Participatory Community – Vallejo supports and depends on active community participation. Vallejo provides timely and understandable information on planning issues and projects, and community members participate directly in shaping plans and policies for the city's future."

## 4. Santa Clara County Draft Element

Santa Clara County is currently in the process of developing and adopting a Health Element for its general plan. The new Health Element is, for the most part, new subject matter, only replacing some content of the existing general plan's Health and Safety Element. The current public review draft element (August 2014) was used for this paper.

The element is based on nine "Guiding Principles":

- Prevention
- Leadership
- Community Empowerment
- Equity and Inclusion
- Sustainability and Co-Benefits
- Strategic Roles
- Responsibility
- Healthy Choices
- Promote the Public Interest

The element adopts a "Health in All Policies" approach, "infusing awareness and purpose in all governmental programs, functions, and responsibilities to address and promote community and personal health, not as an afterthought."

This element points out that Santa Clara County, according to some assessments, ranks as the second healthiest county in California. The element, however, goes on to point out that within the County, significant health disparities and inequities exist. And this attention to health disparities within the County is reflected in the element's recognition of "social determinants of health," described as, "social and environmental conditions including income, years of education, race/ethnicity, immigration status, and the physical conditions in the neighborhoods where they live, play, work, and age."

### A. Scope of the element (which topics are addressed)

Santa Clara County addresses a wide range of topics in its Health Element. Some are typical components of a healthy community element (e.g., active transportation, healthy eating) while others are less common (e.g., social and emotional health, violence prevention).

- Health Conditions, Equity, and Access
- Social and Emotional Health
- Land Use and Urban Design
- Active and Sustainable Transportation
- Recreation and Physical Activity
- Healthy Eating, Food Access, and Sustainable Food Systems
- Air Quality and Climate Change

- Healthy Housing
- Violence Prevention and Safety

B. Data sources used in developing the element

As part of preparing the County’s Health Element, the County developed a “Community Health Existing Conditions Report.”

In addition, these sources are identified in the element:

- “Santa Clara County Health Profile Report 2010.” Santa Clara County Public Health Department.
- “Status of Latino/Hispanic Health,” 2012. Santa Clara County Public Health Department
- “Strategic Plan 2012-2015.” Santa Clara County Public Health Department
- “Santa Clara County Seniors Agenda: A Quality of Life Assessment,” April 2012. Commissioned by Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.
- “Santa Clara County Quality of Life Survey Report,” 2012. Raimi + Associates.

C. Some noteworthy policies and implementation actions included in the element

The element is organized using “Strategies” (similar to goals), in some cases “Sub-strategies,” and “Policies.” The following are some illustrative policies, grouped by the element’s nine topic areas.

Health Conditions, Equity, and Access

Policy HE-A.34 – Effective community service

Champion and provide expanded opportunities for youth and older adults to engage in community service that integrates community health and improvement.

Social and Emotional Health

Policy HE-B.7 – Aging population needs

Combat social isolation, and address the various needs of an aging population to reduce depression and other behavioral health problems that may be more common among seniors.

Policy HE-B.15 – Density and location of alcoholic beverage outlets

Encourage and support cities to restrict the number of alcoholic beverage outlets near schools and in areas with a high density of alcoholic beverage outlets.

## Land Use and Urban Design

### Policy HE-C.7 – Complete communities

Create more complete communities that afford greater access to a range of goods and services with comfortable walking and biking distance of homes, schools, and jobs.

### Policy HE-C.21 – School siting and design

Promote school and community facilities to serve as hubs or centers for health and human potential.

## Active and Sustainable Transportation

### Policy HE-D.5 – Traffic calming measures

Provide traffic calming and traffic slowing measures on roads and at intersections in the County and cities with a high level of existing or planned pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle activity and/or collisions.

### Policy HE-D.17 – Transit advocacy for underserved communities

Advocate for increased levels of transit service, particularly in areas of the County with a lack of transit access that experience health and socio-economic inequities.

## Recreation and Physical Activity

### Policy HE-E.1 – Parks and services for communities of concern

Prioritize the development of new parks and other recreational services, including low impact facilities and equipment for older adults and the disabled in underserved neighborhoods and areas with large numbers of communities of concern.

### Policy HE-E.10 – Safety concerns

Address actual and perceived safety concerns that create barriers to physical activity, by requiring adequate park lighting, appropriate landscaping, and defensible spaces.

## Healthy Eating, Food Access, and Sustainable Food Systems

### Policy HE-F.13 – Promote healthy food retail establishments

Encourage development and access to healthy food outlets, including grocery stores, corner stores, farmers' markets, restaurants, and mobile vendors through programs, regulations, and strategies that incentivize new healthy food retail and limit unhealthy retailers. Provide special considerations to promote healthy retail outlets in underserved areas.

## Air Quality and Climate Change

### Policy HE-G.9 – Healthy infill development

Promote more stringent building performance standards and air filtration for infill development to protect residents from air and noise pollution.



## Healthy Housing

### Policy HE-H.8 – Neighborhood engagement for housing conditions

Engage citizens, neighborhood councils, associations, and community groups to convene and address health and related housing condition issues within defined neighborhoods of each municipality and unincorporated communities.

## Violence Prevention and Safety

### Policy HE-I.3 – Built environment and safe passages

Promote the development and implementation of strategies that foster safe passages in neighborhoods and around schools with high crime and gang activity to ensure that all residents can travel with confidence and without fear. ... Train county and other public agency staff in principles of “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design” to evaluate and modify proposed designs for public and private developments.

### Policy HE-I.6 – Community policing

Support approaches and policies that integrate violence prevention and crime reduction models with public health and community policing approaches. Support city and County law enforcement agencies’ efforts to improve real and perceived safety concerns in communities most impacted by crime and violence through neighborhood-based strategies that engage residents and youth in problem solving.

## D. How the healthy community element addresses public health topics treated in other elements

The draft element does not expressly cross reference policies in other elements of the County’s general plan.

## E. How the element addresses collaboration

The element recognizes the importance of collaboration in taking a comprehensive approach to healthy community planning. In its Strategies, Sub-strategies, and Policies, it identifies collaborations with:

- cities
- neighborhood organizations
- Hospital Council
- schools and colleges
- trade schools and organizations
- non-profit scholarship organizations
- faith-based organizations
- business groups and major employers
- mental health organizations
- regional transportation authority and other transit providers

- private shuttle providers
- Caltrans
- bicycle organizations
- County Health Department
- Traffic Safe Communities Network
- food banks
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- media
- state and local agencies responsible for vector control

Policy HE-A.4 Community health collaborations

Collaborate with cities, community-based organizations, the Hospital Council and neighborhoods to programmatically address community health needs.

Policy HE-A.13 Workforce development training

Work with local schools, colleges, trade schools, and non-profit scholarship organizations to create K-16 career pathways.

Policy HE-A.31 School based partnerships

Partner with and utilize local schools and school-based organizations to promote educational and school linked services.

Policy HE-A.33 Workforce/workplace wellness

Support policies, initiatives and workforce collaborations that drive improved employee health.

Policy HE-B.3 Role of faith and community

Coordinate with faith-based organizations and other community groups to address emotional/ social wellness needs within the community.

Policy HE-B.5 Work/life/play balance

Explore and encourage with business groups, trade organizations, and similar groups the fullest possible array of options to reduce employment-related stressors.

Policy HE-B.26 Community level integration

Coordinate with community behavioral and mental health services organizations to better integrate and provide services.

Policy HE-C.5 Health planning coordination

Maintain and enhance coordination with the cities to incorporate and emphasize health considerations in general plans, area plans, and new urban development.

Policy HE-C.20 Public facilities siting and design

Work with local jurisdictions, school districts, County agencies, and other public agencies to site and design public facilities as models for health.

Policy HE-D.15 Safe Routes to Schools

Support and expand the Safe Route to School Program in the County through collaboration between VTA [regional transit agency], Traffic Safe Communities Network, cities, school districts, Caltrans, bicycle groups and the County Health Department.

Policy HE-D.18 Coordination with transit agencies

Coordinate with transportation service providers to improve transit service and access in the County.

Policy HE-D.19 Transit to essential needs/services

Collaborate with VTA and other transit providers to review and improve transit services to medical and social service facilities in the County.

Policy HE-D.22 Employee shuttles and bus services

Support coordination between private shuttle providers, major employers, and local agencies to improve overall effectiveness of shuttle systems.

Policy HE-E.4 Public easements

Coordinate with public entities to construct new parks and open space on easements and public property to be used as parks and trails.

Policy HE-F.11 School/community gardens

Work with school districts to expand school yard agriculture and allow community gardens on school property.

Policy HE-F.15 Collaborative efforts

Support and collaborate with organizations that implement practices and policies designed to increase access to healthy food and beverages (e.g., schools/afterschool programs, childcares, retail establishments, churches, community-based organizations).

Policy HE-F.17 Food assistance programs

Expand participation in federal food assistance programs through partnerships with public agencies, food banks, and community-based organizations.

Policy HE-G.2 Coordination with regional agencies

Coordinate with the Air District to implement stationary and area source emission measures.

Policy HE-G.8 CARE Communities focus

Assist the Air District in tracking and reducing emissions from all sources in CARE communities.

Policy HE-G.15 Public information

Promote coordination among public entities, private entities, and the media to communicate the necessary measures to protect workers and residents from extreme heat.

Policy HE-G.19 Vector control coordination

Continue coordination between the Department of Environmental Health, Public Health Department, and other state and local agencies to ensure vector populations are managed.

Policy HE-G.21 Pre-planning and response to infectious disease outbreaks

Work with the public health sector to reduce risks of infectious diseases by planning for emerging diseases and ensuring adequate health care service capacity.

Policy HE-G.25 Health facility and hospital readiness

Work with the hospital industry to create more sustainable and resilient hospitals and clinics in the face of climate change.

Policy HE-H.4 Tobacco-free multifamily housing

Coordinate with cities and other stakeholders to establish tobacco free housing in multi-family residential developments.

Policy HE-H.8 Neighborhood engagement for housing conditions

Engage citizens, neighborhood councils, associations, and community groups to convene and address health and related housing condition issues.

F. Are there aspects of this element that may be of particular interest to Vallejo?

Santa Clara County's Health Element addresses violence protection and safety; Vallejo's Guiding Principles similarly identify safety as a consideration (Guiding Principle 3: "Safe City – Vallejo is a safe place for everyone. Residents and businesses in every neighborhood collaborate with each other and with responsive law enforcement to promote personal safety.").

Santa Clara County's element identifies healthy food retail in underserved areas as an important topic. Vallejo's Guiding Principles also identify access to healthy food for all Vallejo neighborhoods as being critical to a healthy community (Guiding Principle 7: "Healthy Community – Vallejo promotes the health of its residents and recognizes the value of a proactive, preventative approach to health. All Vallejo neighborhoods have easy access to healthy food, including organic food and locally grown food from school and community gardens.").

## **Conclusion**

Healthy community elements are becoming increasingly common as “optional” elements in California general plans. But their content varies widely, as the topics addressed and approaches taken reflect the interests and aspirations of the adopting community.

By using six questions to frame the discussion of the four healthy community elements covered in this paper (topics addressed, data sources relied upon, noteworthy policies and implementation actions, connecting with other general plan elements, approaches to collaboration, and content that may be of particular interest in Vallejo), this paper focuses attention on key aspects of developing and implementing a healthy community element for the City of Vallejo.





# South Vallejo, CA Health Impact Assessment

ATTACHMENT 2, October 2015

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
THOMAS JACOBSON, FAICP, ALEX HINDS, LOIS FISHER, LEED ND (FISHER TOWN DESIGN)

# SOUTH VALLEJO HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :

We thank the following for their contributions to this Health Impact Assessment:

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Cover photo: Community garden at Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church (photo by Lois Fisher)



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## I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Health impact assessment, as defined by the World Health Organization, is "A combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged in terms of its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population." In this way, it is similar to an environmental impact assessment, a process by which the environmental effects of a contemplated action (adopting a plan or policy, or approving a project) are identified and analyzed prior to that action.

The purpose of some HIAs is to inform development of a comprehensive plan or other policy document. This HIA will be used in developing a Healthy Community Element for the City of Vallejo's General Plan, a component of the Propel Vallejo planning effort, which consists of a General Plan Update, Zoning Code Update, and the Sonoma Boulevard Specific Plan.

This HIA employs several approaches to derive the most benefit from available resources. First, it focuses on a portion of Vallejo – "South Vallejo" – rather than the City as a whole. South Vallejo was one of eight "Opportunity Areas" used as part of the General Plan Update's Community Workshops held in early 2015 in order to develop a set of "Future Scenarios" to be used in developing the General Plan. And, as South Vallejo represents a number of the public health concerns present throughout the City, it provides a useful sample with lessons applicable in varying degrees to locations in the rest of the City. In addition, this HIA provides the City with specifically focused ideas to improve the health for the South Vallejo portion of the greater Vallejo community.

Second, this HIA focuses on how the new General Plan and, in particular, its Healthy Community Element, can be utilized to improve public health. In this way, it functions primarily as a "health opportunity assessment," with the goal of maximizing the health benefits of the General Plan Update.

Several basic principles are reflected in this HIA and will be evident in the General Plan's Healthy Community Element. First, healthy community planning and health impact assessment recognize that a variety of social, economic, and community determinants – the built environment, economic stability, education, access to health care, etc. – in addition to genetics and personal health-related choices, are substantial factors in our health.

Another is that actions taken to improve community health often have "co-benefits" related to other community concerns. So, for instance, promoting walking can have health benefits while also stimulating economic activity and improving neighborhood vitality and public safety. Likewise, improving bike paths can advance healthier living while at the same time reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. This HIA's discussion of potential future actions notes various co-benefits of those actions. An additional fundamental principle is that virtually every topic area, or "element," of the General Plan has the potential for affecting community health. Thus, while the General Plan will include a Healthy Community Element focused specifically on this topic, other components of the general plan (land use, transportation, economic development, etc.) will have consequences for health and will be integrated with the Healthy Community Element.

# SOUTH VALLEJO



Figure 1: Boundaries of South Vallejo HIA Study Area

## II. STEPS IN THIS HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

HIAs have been used in a variety of settings and for a range of purposes. As described above, the purpose of this HIA is to inform adoption of a Healthy Community Element to be included as part of the General Plan Update, a component of the Propel Vallejo planning effort. Toward that end, it involves these steps:

- Review existing conditions, utilizing a variety of data sources
- Identify the health issues to be addressed in the HIA
- For each of these issues
  - Identify specific community concerns
  - Describe what is currently being done to address those concerns in South Vallejo
  - Identify some potential actions to further address those concerns

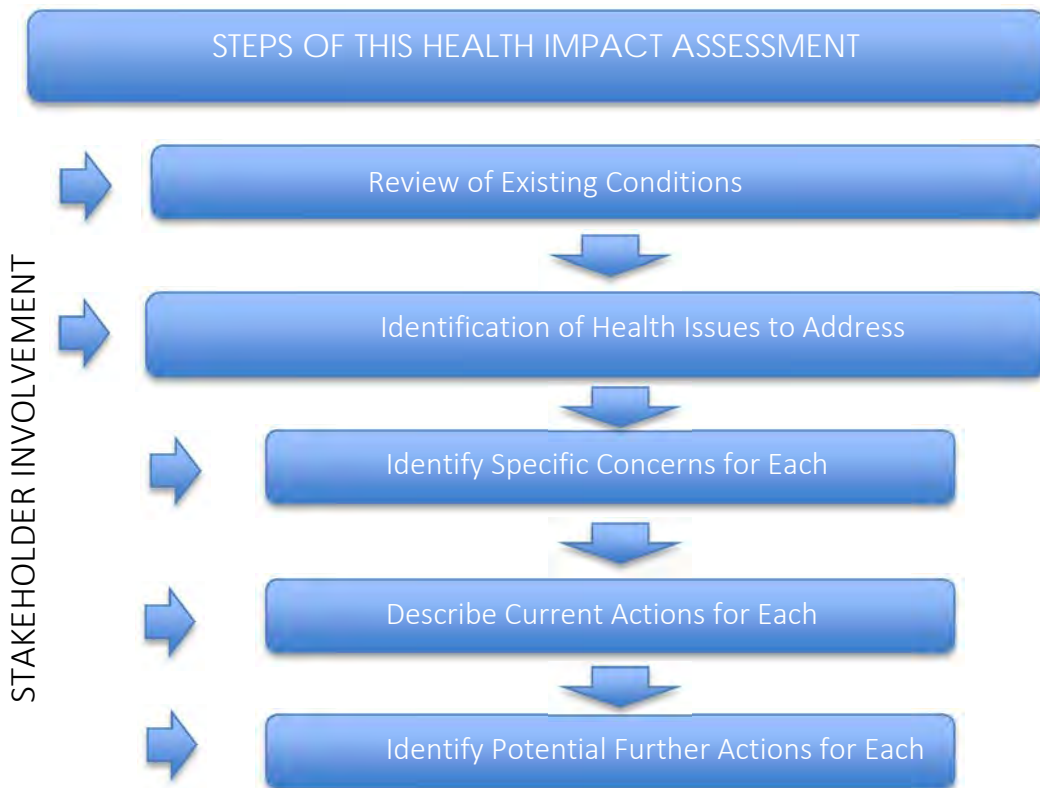


Figure 2: Steps in this Health Impact Assessment

<sup>1</sup> From: <http://www.enfield.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing/info/56/introduction>

### III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Vallejo is the largest city in Solano County, California. With 118,837 residents in 2013, it is the tenth most populous city in the San Francisco Bay Area. It occupies about 30 square miles of land and is located on the northeastern shore of San Pablo Bay. It hosts two universities, California Maritime Academy and Touro University California, as well as the Vallejo Center campus of Solano Community College. The largest employers are Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Vallejo City Unified School District, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, the Kaiser Permanente Call Center, the City of Vallejo, and Sutter Solano Health Medical Center.

- A. Physical environment – Vallejo is located at the confluence of the Sacramento River (Suisun Bay) and the Napa River (Mare Island Strait) in San Pablo Bay northeast of San Francisco. Vallejo has a mild Mediterranean climate. The downtown area has a grid of streets and to some extent this network of interconnected streets extends into South Vallejo, but with slightly larger blocks. Some blocks in South Vallejo have a more sinuous form instead of the grid pattern found downtown. The housing stock in South Vallejo is aging. South Vallejo has significant land devoted to industry. Some of the industrial uses take advantage of their location on the Mare Island Strait to transport products and materials via water. Recently, Vallejo Marine Terminal (VMT) and Orcem California submitted applications to repurpose a vacant 39-acre site, formerly occupied by a General Mills production facility, along the Mare Island Strait in South Vallejo, involving construction of a deep-water terminal and an industrial facility for the production of cement. The environmental impacts of this proposal are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. As of October 2015, the project EIR was being circulated for public review and the project will be subject to public hearings.
  
- B. Socioeconomic – Per the 2010 census, the racial makeup of the Vallejo was 36% White, 24% African American, 1% Native American, 24% Asian, 1% Pacific Islander, 8% from other races, and 7% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 16% of the population. Median household income in Vallejo in 2009<sup>2</sup> was \$60,408 versus \$58,931 for California as whole. In South Vallejo the median income was \$49,119. Vallejo has a higher percentage of residents living in poverty (18.6% ) than Solano County (14.6% ) and the Bay Area (11.7% )<sup>3</sup>
  
- C. Housing – In Vallejo as a whole, 40% people live in rental housing units and 59% of the population lives in owner-occupied housing units. In zip code 94590, which includes South Vallejo, 55% live in rental housing units.<sup>4</sup>

Health Data- A recent study of community health in Solano County, the *Solano County Service Area Community Health Needs Assessment* (the “Solano CHNA”) identified three ZIP Code areas of Vallejo (94589, 94590 and 94591) as “Communities of Concern.” The subject of this HIA, South Vallejo, is located in the southern part of ZIP code 94590, and

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<sup>2</sup> From City-Data, see <http://www.city-data.com/income/income-Vallejo-California.html>

<sup>3</sup> City of Vallejo, 2015 – 2023 Housing Element Update, by Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.

<sup>4</sup> Dignity Health Community Benefit, CNI Data, 2011

represents about a third of its geographic area. This Solano CHNA found that this ZIP code area had consistently high rates of negative health outcomes that frequently exceeded state benchmarks.

INDICATORS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH	94590 (S. Vallejo)	California
% Families with children in poverty	20%	15%
Percent Obesity	26%	25%
% Not consuming 5 fruits and vegetables daily	56%	-
Life expectancy	76	80
Age adjusted, all-causes mortality rate per 10,000	76	63
Infant mortality per 1,000	5.6	5.2
Bike/Pedestrian/Car Accident related Emergency Dept. Visits per 10,000	23	16

Source: *Community Health Needs Assessment of the Solano County Service Area*, Kaiser Permanente, NorthBay Healthcare, Sutter Solano Medical Center, and the Solano County Coalition for Better Health (March 2013)

Emergency Department Visits Rates per 10,000 population	94590	Solano County	California
Diabetes related Emergency Dept. Visits	663	343	209
Hypertension related Emergency Dept. Visits	1326	724	409
Heart disease related Emergency Dept. Visits	404	246	113
Stroke related Emergency Dept. Visits	72	49	19
Mental health related Emergency Dept. Visits	523	263	150
Substance abuse related Emergency Dept. Visits	1481	466	254
Asthma related Emergency Dept. Visits	471	276	149
Assault related Emergency Dept. Visits	111	44	30
Unintentional injury related Emergency Dept. Visits	1522	936	666

Source: California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), 2011-2013

## IV. IDENTIFYING THE HEALTH ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THIS HIA

In addition to recognizing the existing conditions described above, a variety of steps were undertaken to identify health issues to be addressed in the HIA. In many cases, these outreach efforts also contributed to identifying specific concerns, existing resources, and possible future actions, described in the “Assessment” Section, below.

### A. Community Workshops

The City held a series of four Community Workshops during the spring of 2014, leading to the City Council’s adoption of a set of Guiding Principles for the Propel Vallejo planning effort (described below).

The Workshops provided an opportunity to get a sense of community concerns across a wide range of topics, including health, and related to various parts of Vallejo, including South Vallejo. Among the topics receiving the most attention among Workshop attendees were safety; public transit, bicycling, and walkability; access to healthy food; access to good jobs and training; and parks, recreation opportunities; and youth programs.

### B. Guiding Principles

As part of the Propel Vallejo planning effort, the Vallejo City Council identified 19 Guiding Principles (<http://propelvallejo.com/overview/guiding-principles/>). Among those that relate closely to community health is:

- **Healthy Community:** Vallejo promotes the health of its residents and recognizes the value of a proactive, preventative approach to health. All Vallejo neighborhoods have easy access to healthy food, including organic food and locally grown food from school and community gardens. (Guiding Principle 7)
- **Safe City:** Vallejo is a safe place for everyone. Residents and businesses in every neighborhood collaborate with each other and with responsive law enforcement to promote personal safety. (Guiding Principle 3)
- **Caring and Equitable Community:** Vallejo treats everyone with compassion, dignity, and fairness and supports stable, diverse neighborhoods. It is a caring community where everyone has access to services, jobs and housing and shares in the vitality and prosperity of the community. (Guiding Principle 4)

### C. Meeting with General Plan Working Group

In October of 2014, the Center for Sustainable Communities met with the City’s General Plan Working Group (GPWG) to address the Healthy Community Element proposed for the City’s new General Plan. This discussion included an introduction to the “healthy community planning” movement, how this might translate into content of the Vallejo General Plan, and the role this HIA could play in developing the Plan’s Healthy Community Element.

Among the input provided by the GPWG were contacts related to South Vallejo: leaders in the faith based community, key City staff, members of the Participatory Budgeting steering committee, critical educational institutions and community organizations, and homeowners associations. Suggested potential topics for further consideration included improving access to healthy food (e.g., through “corner store makeovers” and identifying locations for farmers markets), improving waterfront and beach access, reducing risks to bicyclists and pedestrians from automobiles, reducing crime and improving safety, and “urban greening” (e.g., by adding street trees).

D. Review of existing health conditions

The Center for Sustainable Communities in consultation with the Solano County Department of Public Health and based on a review of data sources used in other general plan healthy community elements, identified relevant health data for Vallejo in general and South Vallejo in particular. Existing health conditions are discussed in Section III.D, above.

E. Interviews with community members, City and other professional staff, representatives of non-profits. Through meetings, phone interviews, and other outreach efforts, the CSC received a variety of opinions and insights, including:

1. Guy Ricca and Anne Putney, Vallejo Housing Authority

Discussion included, along with other topics: funding experience and opportunities through Community Development Block Grants, South Vallejo’s designation by the City as a “Neighborhood Preservation Area,” and collaboration with Fighting Back Partnership, a non-profit organization that partners with business, residents, and government to improve neighborhoods. Among the issues identified were the absence of a grocery store and other retail and services in South Vallejo, the need for recreation and other after-school activities, the need for economic development and job creation, and the lack of housing opportunities. Accomplishments noted included projects to create safer streets through traffic calming and better street lighting, and a community garden at Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church.

2. Pastor Bryan Harris, Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church

Among the topics covered were: the need for a grocery store in South Vallejo, the loss of the police substation in South Vallejo, residents being less inclined to walk in the neighborhood due to safety concerns (in turn, contributing to less safe streets), and the potential represented by a bigger presence for the California Maritime Academy. Among the identified achievements in the community were collaboration between Fighting Back Partnership and the Vallejo Housing Authority to reduce crime “hot spots” by increasing street lighting, etc. Also noted was the community garden created at Emmanuel Temple. Possible projects that came up were more improved street lighting and other street improvements, expanded after school and recreation programs, improved parks (playgrounds and other facilities), and creating attractive places as destinations for walks.



3. City of Vallejo Police Department, Captain Lee Horton, Captain Jim O'Connell, Lieutenant Michael Nichelini.

Discussion included the Police Department's emphasis on community policing and collaboration with the community. Examples include regular meetings in the community, reinstated Bike Patrols, and support of Neighborhood Watch groups. Also noted was the City's "One Vallejo" program, a community-oriented government approach based on communication and collaboration between City leadership, the various departments of City government, the business community, and Vallejo residents, with the goals of enhancing quality of life, providing public safety, and developing and sustaining a robust economy. In addition, the Vallejo Police Department Citizen's Academy provides community members with overview of the Vallejo Police Department's activities. Department representatives also spoke to the importance of youth programs, including the Police Athletic League, mentoring programs involving Fighting Back Partnership and the Omega Boys and Girls Club, and a program placing police officers in the schools. Recognized challenges are reflected in citizen concerns about violent crime, drugs, and traffic safety.

4. John Allen, Fighting Back Partnership

Topics discussed included South Vallejo as a "food desert" and safety concerns that have the effect of keeping kids inside. South Vallejo's designation by the City as a Neighborhood Preservation Area was noted as a positive step. Among the possible future actions discussed were improving parks and playgrounds through anti-smoking ordinances and clean-ups, and a focus on economic development and job creation (e.g., job training and apprentice programs).

5. Lisa Marie Gerhard, St. Vinnie's Garden, and Maria Guevara, Vallejo Together

Discussion of the St. Vinnie's Garden experience covered topics such as new ideas and trends in community gardens, the role of city-wide collaboration in gaining grant support (e.g., Vallejo Grown, through which growers work with retailers and the faith-based community, etc.), multi-generational facilities including a children's playground and senior center in a garden area, and utilizing areas under PG&E power lines. Additional ideas for action included expanded recreational opportunities (e.g., utilizing Vallejo's waterfront), an expanded bike path network, and providing gathering areas for seniors, teens, etc.

6. Alea Gage, Economic Development Project Manager, City of Vallejo (formerly staff for Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting program)

Discussion of the role of Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting program included these projects in South Vallejo: Beverly Hills Park (one of 13 parks included in the Parks and Recreation Improvements project), Cal Maritime Garden, as one of 10 gardens included in the Community Gardens & Nutrition Education project, and cleanup of several City-owned locations and rights-of-ways through the Street Cleaning and City Clean Up project.

7. Alyssa Alford, City of Vallejo Administrative Analyst

This connection provided a number of contacts related to South Vallejo including: Kyle's Temple, Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting Committee, Fighting Back Partnership, Filipino Community Center of Solano County, Community Ambassadors Club, Touro University, Vallejo Together, and Better Vallejo.

8. Shane McAfee, Director, and Phillip McCoy, Recreation Superintendent, Greater Vallejo Recreation District

Among the issues discussed were adding access to the waterfront and funding challenges related to the joint use of school facilities for community recreation purposes.

Important existing community resources identified included the South Vallejo's Norman King Community Center (site of Touro University's weekly free medical clinics and the Solano County Health Department's regular "dental van" visits) and the Contra Costa/Solano County Food Bank's twice-monthly free produce distribution. This Community Center also serves as a site for family celebrations and meetings of faith-based groups and homeowners associations. Other identified resources included the California Maritime Academy (e.g., by making their pool available in the summer to the public), Touro University, and Kaiser Medical Center, as well as farmers markets held near City Hall and in the Kaiser parking lot.

Potential future projects discussed included additional community and school gardens and some considerations for their success, updating the Friends Senior Center, and creating a multi-generational facility at the Florence Douglas Center.



Figure 3: Florence Douglas Community Center

9. Kevin Sharps, Executive Director, Fighting Back Partnership

Among the topics discussed was the potential for Lake Dalwigk to provide more opportunities for organized recreation. In addition, Grant School was addressed as both a currently liability for the community – as a haven for various activities that hurt the community – and, if repurposed, for its potential to house daycare, early childhood education, laundry, workforce development classes, meeting space for the community, exercise classes and recreational activities for kids, including midnight basketball, etc.



Figure 4: Vacant Grant School in South Vallejo

10. Pricilla VanLiew, MPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and South Vallejo resident

Comments addressed the role of economic opportunities and socio-economic status as being key elements for community health. Among the opportunities to address this are increasing employment opportunities for youth (e.g., providing summer jobs for community youth and its potential for reducing crime). Other topics included greening vacant lots, recognizing that increased provision of green space can increase perceptions of safety and community pride, and reducing the number of alcohol outlets as research indicates an association with reductions in crime. The importance of “marketing” actions in order to optimize their impact was also discussed.

F. South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment Workshops

As part of this HIA, three workshops were held over two days in February 2015 to solicit the community’s ideas on ways to improve community health in South Vallejo. Approximately 40 members of the public attended the three workshops.

The workshops were held in conjunction with the dedication of the new community garden at the Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church and along with two Food Bank bi-weekly food distributions. People at all three events wrote comments on a series of boards prepared to gather attendees' ideas to increase active recreation, improve access to healthy foods in South Vallejo, and improve safety. (Comments are included as part of as Appendix 1 of this report.) In addition, a questionnaire, also in Appendix 1, was distributed to members of a variety of community groups.

Participants used pens, sticky notes, and maps to show areas where improvement was needed and to provide ideas to improve food access, active recreation, or safety.

### 1. Food Access

Participants noted that it is difficult to access a full range of groceries in South Vallejo and that a bigger grocery store is needed in the area. Suggestions for locating a new grocery store included the vacant lot at Magazine Street and Sonoma Avenue, Lincoln Road East, and Lake Dalwigk.

Participants pointed out that all bus service in South Vallejo ends at 7 pm, too early for convenient food shopping for many people.

Suggestions included instituting a sweetened beverage tax to fund health education/obesity prevention programs, etc., and encouraging South Vallejo convenience stores to take advantage of assistance from the Solano County Department of Public Health, which assists with 'makeovers' to help owners add fresh fruits and vegetables and eliminate tobacco. Another suggestion was providing solar or wind-powered hot potable water to wash vegetables at each community garden.

Mentioned as potential resources were the East Bay Urban Agriculture Alliance and the Solano County Food Policy Council.

### 2. Active Recreation

A recurring theme was that parks in South Vallejo, such as Lake Dalwigk Park, are generally unsafe and underutilized. Participants said that improving them by providing, for example, safe playgrounds, would encourage residents to use them more. A new park was requested for the Sheridan Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street area.

Suggestions from participants included improving and expanding the network for bicycling and walking. Among the specific ideas were:

- Completing the disconnected sidewalk sections on Sonoma Boulevard
- Adding safe crossings for pedestrians at the cross streets of Sonoma Boulevard
- Creating a promenade along the South Vallejo waterfront
- Adding all-weather trails for bikes, pedestrians and dogs to the Lake Dalwigk area
- Supporting the Patterson Elementary "Safe Routes to School" walking school bus program that starts at Emmanuel Temple

### 3. Safety

A number of residents said they do not feel safe walking in South Vallejo, particularly at night. Some comments regarding safety were:

- “Go inside before dark.”
- “Dangerous, particularly at night.”
- “I live here and I don’t feel safe.”
- “I have lived here for 1 ½ years and I don’t feel safe in Vallejo.”
- “In dark areas, shooting and drugs happen.”

A suggestion to improve safety in South Vallejo was adding street lighting in key locations, such as Magazine and Porter Streets, the Magazine overpass, and Lincoln Road West. Also suggested were measures to slow traffic on 5th Street, 6th Street, and Sheridan Street. To address concerns about illegal activity, participants proposed upkeep and maintenance for, or re-purposing, the vacated Grant School.

## V. ASSESSMENT: COMMUNITY CONCERNS, WHAT’S BEING DONE, SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Based on the various research and outreach activities described above, the following health-related issues were selected for more detailed treatment in this HIA, with safety considerations a factor running through this analysis:

- Access to healthy food
- Active recreation
- Active transportation (walking/bicycling)

For each, three things are considered in this section:

- The nature of the issue in South Vallejo based on community concerns and input from government and non-profit staff;
- What has and is currently being done to address those concerns in South Vallejo; and,
- Some suggested approaches to further address those concerns.

### A. ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

#### Concerns

One of the topics that came up consistently is the need for greater access to healthy food. In fact, portions of South Vallejo meet the definition of a “food desert,” with residents living more than a mile away from a full service grocery store. [See orange-shaded area in Figure 5 below.] While a Grocery Outlet store was recently opened at the site of the old Safeway store on Marin Street in Downtown Vallejo, access to a full range of groceries remains a concern for some residents of South Vallejo. And local convenience stores are generally not sources of fresh produce.

## SOUTH VALLEJO - Food Desert Map

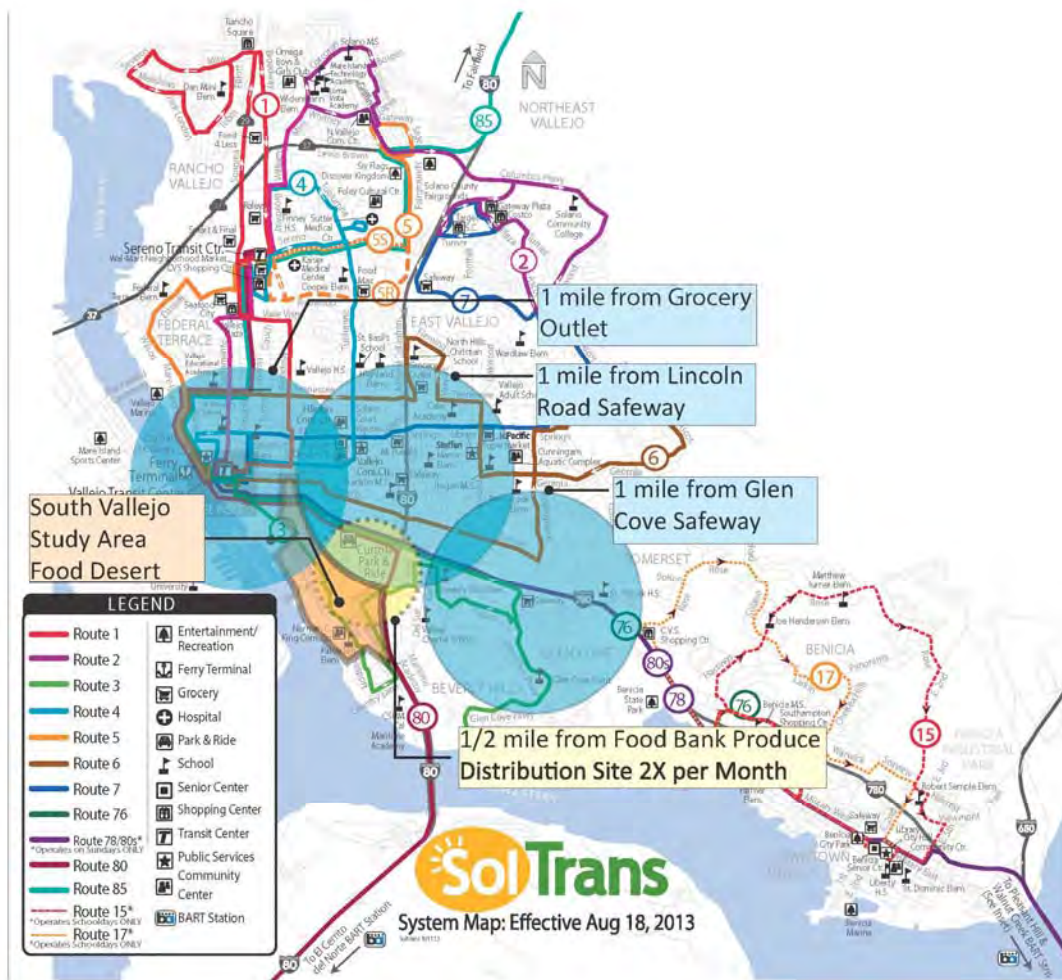


Figure 5: South Vallejo Food Access diagram with city bus routes

### SOUTH VALLEJO - Food Desert Map with New Store



Figure 6: A new grocery store at Sonoma Blvd. and Magazine Street (purple shading) would entirely eliminate the South Vallejo Food Desert

### What's being done?

The Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church of Vallejo at 900 6th Street in South Vallejo installed a Community Garden in the spring of 2015 using grant funding. Its mission is to grow food and distribute it to area soup kitchens and food pantries. Vallejo area food pantries generally have little fresh food to offer; this garden will provide fresh grown lettuce, carrots, peppers, and tomatoes throughout the summer.



Figure 7: New community garden at Emmanuel Church at 6th and Atherton Streets in South Vallejo

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano holds Free Produce Days (e.g., twice-monthly at Emmanuel Temple in South Vallejo.) Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting program included Cal Maritime Garden as one of 10 gardens included in the Community Gardens & Nutrition Education project

### What more might be done?

A number of solutions were suggested by community members, government and nonprofit staff, and a review of "healthy communities" literature and the experience of other communities:

1. Bring a grocery store to South Vallejo.
  - Commission a market feasibility study for a grocery store that would identify key factors in attracting a quality grocery store.
  - Consider alternatives to a for-profit grocery, such as attracting a co-op, non-profit, or publicly-owned store.

Co-benefits: Economic development, community vitality





Figure 8: Photo of vacant lot at Magazine St. and Sonoma Blvd. (Lot is about 5 acres in size.)

2. Start a farmers market in South Vallejo.

Co-benefits: Economic development, community vitality

3. Improve access to food bank distribution sites.

4. Explore using an internet website such as 'CropMobster' to provide with notification of nearby fruit trees or vegetable gardens with produce to be picked.

Co-benefits: Community vitality

5. Encourage Community Supported Agriculture ("CSA"), where consumers purchase produce directly from a local farmer in advance and receive regular delivery of in-season crops.

6. Encourage more community and school gardens, including "food forests" based on perennial plants.

Co-benefits: Community vitality

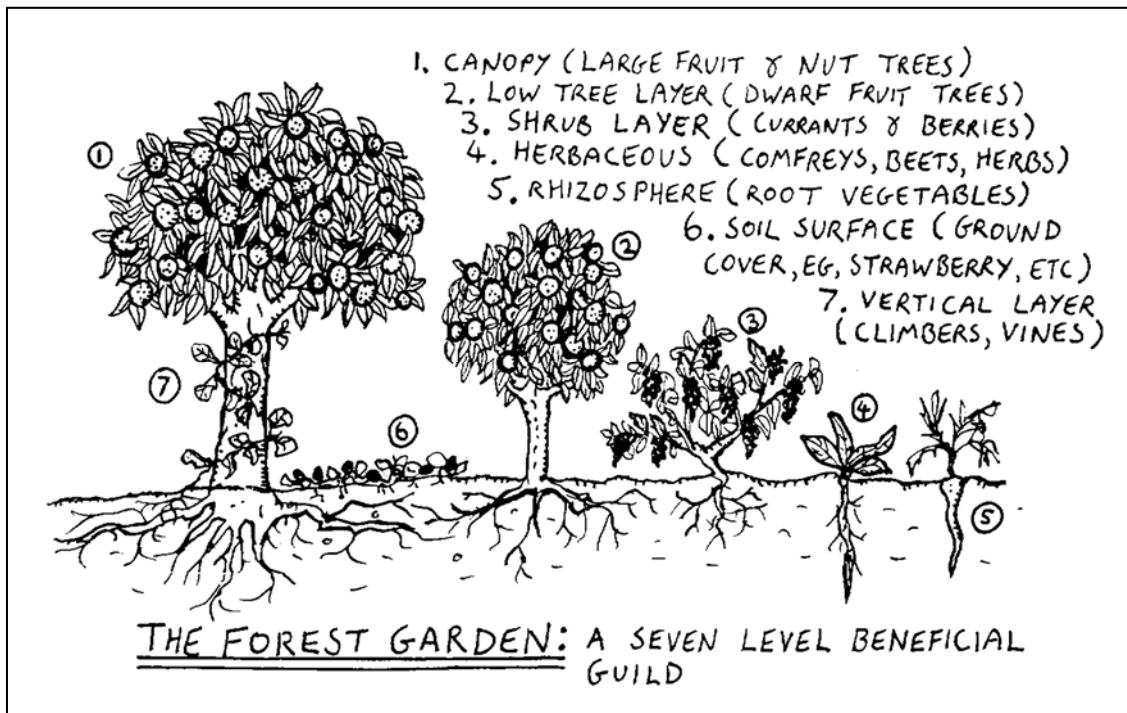


Figure 9: Diagram of a Food Forest

7. Encourage “urban farms” as a local source of fresh produce.

Co-benefits: Economic development, community vitality

8. Encourage the use of Solano County incentive programs to get convenience stores to provide fresh produce.

Co-benefits: Economic development, community vitality

9. Create a program to link local farmers with local grocery stores, restaurants and schools to provide high quality produce at a reasonable cost.

Co-benefits: Economic development

10. Improve the frequency and location of City bus routes to provide direct connections outside of South Vallejo (e.g., with the Lincoln Road Safeway, See Figure 5).

11. Support local agriculture on vacant land as appropriate.

Co-benefits: Environmental (reduced energy use and air pollution); economic development

# SOUTH VALLEJO - Community Gardens & Food Forests Planning Map



**Legend**

- ● ● Area within one half mile (10 minute walk) of existing Community Garden
- □ □ Size of residential area that would be within a half mile of a hypothetical new Community Garden or Food Forest

Figure 10: This Map shows the existing Community Garden and how the addition of 2 more gardens would allow most South Vallejo residents to be within a half mile of a community garden. The black dotted circle represents the area within a half mile of the existing Emmanuel Temple Community Garden. The white dotted circles show the residences within a half mile of hypothetical future gardens.

## B. ACTIVE RECREATION

### Concerns

One area of concern regarding active recreation focused on providing more facilities and programs for active recreation closer to more South Vallejo residents. For example, creating public access to and encouraging development of recreation opportunities at the South Vallejo Mare Island Strait shoreline is viewed as a way to improve public health and fitness, while providing a focal point of neighborhood pride and encouraging environmental awareness.

Another concern is the quality of existing programs and facilities – what they offer to local residents. For example, stakeholders said that parks could be improved if safe playgrounds and skate parks were added to them.

A third concern is the safety of existing facilities and access to them. According to residents, public parks in South Vallejo are generally unsafe. Local parks would be safer if they were better used. Lake Dalwigk Park was mentioned in particular as being unsafe.

### What's being done?

Vallejo's Participatory budgeting program included Beverly Hills Park (one of 13 parks included in the Parks and Recreation Improvements project)

According to Fighting Back Partnership, Vallejo has over 350 Neighborhood Watch groups.

### What more might be done?

Among the suggestions from community members, government and nonprofit staff, and a review of "healthy communities" literature and the experience of other communities were:

1. Add 'all weather' trails for bikes, pedestrians and dogs to the Lake Dalwigk area.

Co-benefits: Community vitality, safety

2. Create additional access to the waterfront in South Vallejo and a continuous trail/route to the Mare Island Causeway, to reach Mare Island recreation opportunities.

Co-benefits: Community vitality, safety

3. Add safe playgrounds and other activities to existing parks to make them more useful to residents.

Co-benefits: Community vitality, safety

4. Commission a study on the history of South Vallejo and incorporate that information into a park exhibit or feature to create pride of identity for South Vallejoans.

Co-benefits: Community vitality

5. Promote joint-use projects and programs with local schools to maximize the use of existing resources and increase the availability of parks and play areas within neighborhoods.

Co-benefits: Community vitality, safety



Figure 11: Installing all weather paths around Lake Dalwigk would encourage pedestrian activity



Figure 12: South Vallejo Mare Island Strait shoreline adjacent to old General Mills site



Figure 13: Existing waterfront walkway at Cal Maritime Academy

6. Provide funding to add longer hours to the South Vallejo Community Center

Co-benefits: Community vitality

7. Provide more free or low cost after school daycare.

8. Utilize Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. For example, create guidelines for parks and recreation facilities with particular focus on:

- road design, including the provision of 'eyes-on' from neighboring residential areas
- design and orientation of buildings, restrooms and parking areas
- defensible space with no hidden areas or structures that block visibility and natural surveillance
- ownership and control over public space
- cameras and other technologies
- lighting and signage

Co-benefits: Safety, community vitality

9. Improve coordination with active neighborhood councils and associations, community groups, and civic organizations to provide neighborhood watch and community surveillance.

Co-benefits: Safety, community vitality

10. Redesign and rezone the Lake Dalwigk area to incorporate more 'eyes-on' the park. For instance, the zoning could require new infill buildings with frontages that will provide eyes on the street and park.

Co-benefits: Safety, community vitality



Figure 14: Example of a residential complex in South Vallejo that provides inadequate 'Eyes-On' the street



Figure 15: Example of a Residence in South Vallejo that provides 'Eyes-On' the street

## C. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY

### Concerns

Concerns related to Vallejo’s opportunities for active transportation (walking and biking) are generally of two types: 1) the need for facilities and programs that promote active transportation; and, 2) the safety of existing facilities. In fact, there is substantial overlap between these two types of concerns.

Safety concerns fell into two categories. One related to the design of existing facilities or the absence of needed facilities. For instance, community members spoke of the need for safety improvements for children walking to school. They noted that it is unsafe to cross Sonoma Boulevard, pointed out a disconnected sidewalk system on Sonoma Boulevard, and identified speeding cars as an issue generally.



Figure 16: Gap in sidewalk on Sonoma Boulevard north of Magazine St.

The other category of concerns has to do with the safety of the active transportation network related to crime and perceptions of safety. Reports, for instance, indicated residents feeling unsafe walking on many South Vallejo streets, especially at night. Magazine Street was mentioned repeatedly as being especially dangerous.

### What’s being done?

- Collaboration between Fighting Back Partnership and the Vallejo Housing Authority to reduce crime “hot spots” by increasing street lighting, etc.
- The ‘Safe Routes to School’ walking school bus program started in April of 2015 from Emmanuel Temple to Patterson Elementary.



- According to Fighting Back Partnership, Vallejo has over 350 Neighborhood Watch groups.

What more might be done?

A number of solutions were suggested by community members, government and nonprofit staff, and a review of “healthy communities” literature and the experience of other communities:

1. Install traffic calming devices to slow traffic speeds by a combination of narrowing lanes, adding bike lanes, installing bulb outs and well-marked crosswalks, etc.

Co-benefits: Safety, community vitality

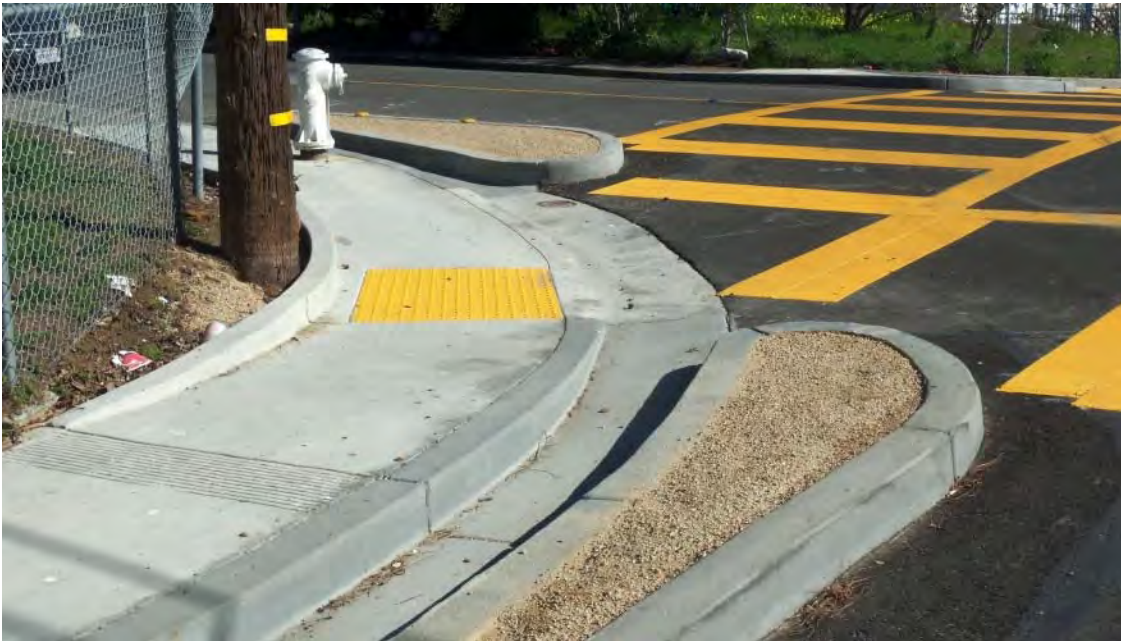


Figure 17: Example of traffic calming bulb-outs in South Vallejo

2. Complete the disconnected sidewalk sections and remove litter on Sonoma Blvd to encourage parents to allow their children to walk to school.

Co-benefits: Safety

3. Create a public place such as a pedestrian shopping street or plaza as a walking destination.

Co-benefits: Economic development, community vitality

4. Add safe crossings (bulb outs, well-marked crosswalks, etc.) for pedestrians at the cross streets of Sonoma Boulevard to calm traffic and encourage parents to allow their children to walk to school.

Co-benefits: Safety

5. Add school crossing guards at key intersections.

Co-benefits: Safety

6. Mark existing bike lanes and add new bike lanes as appropriate.

Co-benefits: Safety

7. Reinstate the police substation on Magazine Street.

Co-benefits: Safety, community vitality

8. Improve lighting (e.g., using light emitting diode style (LED) street lighting, particularly to:

- Magazine and Porter Streets
- Magazine overpass over I-80
- Lincoln Road West
- In the vicinity of the Vacant Grant Elementary School

Co-benefits: Safety

9. Retrofit buildings and encourage mixed use along Magazine Street and Sonoma Boulevard to provide more 'eyes-on' the street, particularly at night.

Co-benefits: Economic development, community vitality



Figure 18: Key site to retrofit at corner of Magazine St. and Sonoma Blvd.



Figure 19: Example of a street environment in South Vallejo with no 'Eyes-On'

## VI. CONCLUSION

This HIA looks at opportunities to improve community health in South Vallejo. It does so by identifying issues, existing resources to address those issues, and a range of potential actions that might be taken. In this way, it provides information and insights that will help in developing a Healthy Community Element to be included in Vallejo's General Plan and in creating a healthier Vallejo.

Beyond the health issues addressed in this HIA for South Vallejo, the Healthy Community Element will have the potential to address a wider range of health-related issues. In doing so, future actions can be expected to build upon the kinds of collaborations evident in South Vallejo and currently existing throughout the City. A task of the Healthy Community Element and its implementation will be to prioritize future actions and identify ways of maximizing the value of existing resources in Vallejo and the region.

The Healthy Community Element will also include a set of "indicators" to measure the benefits actually achieved through implementing the actions identified in the Element and inform an ongoing process of effective and cost efficient implementation.

APPENDIX I: HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP REPORT



HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

March 26, 2015

EMMANUEL TEMPLE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23<sup>R<sup>D</sup></sup>, 2015

11:30-1:30PM

EMMANUEL TEMPLE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF VALLEJO

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24<sup>T<sup>H</sup></sup>, 2015

11:30AM TO 1 PM AND

7 PM TO 8 PM

**Introduction:**

A series of 3 public workshops were completed with a total of approximately 32-40 members of the public attending over the two days. These workshops were held to solicit the community's ideas on ways to improve community health in South Vallejo as part of the Propel Vallejo General Plan Update project. Boards were prepared to solicit attendees ideas to improve safety, increase active recreation and increase access to healthy foods in South Vallejo. Scans of the comments made to the boards is included at the end of this report. This summary provides a recap of the process and the public input received at those meetings. A questionnaire was also sent out. It is also included as an attachment at the end of this report.



Figure 20: HIA workshop at the Emmanuel Temple during food distribution and opening of community garden

**Attendees:**

The first workshop was held at the same time as the dedication of the new community garden at the Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church and at the same time as two Food Bank bi-weekly food bank distributions. People from all three events wrote comments on the boards.

**Methodology:**

Participants were asked to use pens to denote areas on maps where improvement was needed and to denote ideas to increase safety, food access or active recreation. Sticky notes were available for use by participants as well.

## BOARD SUMMARIES

### FOOD ACCESS:

**General Comments:** Participants noted that it is difficult to access fresh groceries in South Vallejo and that a bigger store was needed in the area. Suggestions for locating a new grocery store included the vacant lot at Magazine St. and Sonoma Avenue, Lincoln Road East and Lake Dalwigk.

**Grocery Stores:** Since there are no grocery stores in South Vallejo, residents travel out of the area to shop for groceries. Stores that they mentioned were: Mi Pueblo on Solano Ave., Food Max on Tuolumne, WalMart at Sereno and Broadway, Safeway on Lincoln Road W, Island Pacific, 99 cent store at Spring/Oakwood, Food for Less, Grocery Outlet and CostCo.

**Bus Service:** Soltrans provides transit service to Vallejo, including South Vallejo. Participants said that all bus service in South Vallejo stops at 7 pm and that is too early. A stop time of 10 pm would be preferred. Another suggestion was adding bus stops to Magazine Street, at grocery stores and at job opportunity areas. A small bus to take residents to stores was also requested along with more school buses.

**Community Gardens:** Provide solar or wind power generation at each community garden site to produce hot potable water to clean vegetables.

#### Suggested Resources from participants:

- East Bay Urban Ag Alliance
- Solano County Food Policy Council

#### Policy Suggestions from Participants:

- Institute a sweetened beverage tax to fund health education/obesity prevention programs etc.
- Encourage South Vallejo convenience stores to take advantage of Solano County assistance. They offer 'makeovers' to help owners add fresh fruits and vegetables and eliminate tobacco.
- Encourage development of a new food market in South Vallejo.

#### Zoning Suggestions from Participants:

- Currently 3 hens are allowed per backyard in Vallejo. 5 hens per backyard would be ideal to provide adequate fresh egg supply for a family. *Consultant note: Per the Vallejo Planning Department there is no limit on the number of hens allowed in Vallejo. It is only controlled, if at all, as it relates to it becoming a potential nuisance. Per the Vallejo Planning Department, having a limit, such as 5 hens, would be ideal from an enforcement perspective.*
- Change the zoning /general plan policies to encourage food gardening in front yards. *Consultant note: Per the Vallejo Planning Department, there is nothing in the code that says gardening is not allowed. The City's only concern has to do with proper maintenance of the front yard; maintenance is handled by Code Enforcement.*

## SAFETY:

**General Comments:** South Vallejo residents are relieved that the Cal State University Maritime Academy demolished the former Vallejo Inn on Maritime Academy Drive in 2014. While they feel safer in that regard, in general residents do not feel safe walking in South Vallejo, particularly at night. They also noted that police take a long time to respond for calls for help. Some quotes from the workshop regarding safety are:

- “Go inside before dark.”
- “Dangerous, particularly at night.”
- “I live here and I don’t feel safe.”
- “I have lived here for 1 ½ years and I don’t feel safe in Vallejo.”
- “In dark areas, shooting and drugs happen.”

### Participants’ Ideas to Improve Safety in South Vallejo:

- **Add Lighting to Increase Safety on:**
  - Magazine and Porter Streets
  - Magazine overpass
  - Lincoln Road West
  - Vacant Grant Elementary School
- **Calm Traffic to Increase Safety by Slowing Traffic on:**
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Sheiridan Street
- **Illegal activity:**
  - Suspicious activity occurs in the vicinity of the marijuana dispensary on Lemon Street at Sonoma Blvd.
  - Drug activity occurs in the NW edge of Lake Dalwigk Park.
  - Prostitution occurs on Magazine Street and Sonoma Blvd south of Lemon Street to I-80 ramp.
  - Garbage is dumped on streets, sidewalks and vacant properties
- **Provide Security Cameras in Strategic Locations**
- **Provide upkeep and maintenance for or re-purpose the vacated Grant School.**
- **Reduce Crime and Loitering by pumping classical music into targeted areas.**

## ACTIVE RECREATION:

**General Comments:** The recurring theme for this topic was that parks in South Vallejo are generally unsafe and that making them better by providing safe playgrounds and other activities such as 'Darts' would encourage residences to use them more. It would also make the parks safer if they were better used. Lake Dalwigk Park was mentioned as being unsafe due to the presence of homeless people, addicts and the unemployed. A new park was requested for the Sheridan St. and 6<sup>th</sup> Street area.

### Active Transportation / Recreation Ideas:

- Biking: Mark existing bike lanes and add new bike lanes where possible.
- Walking:
  - Complete the disconnected sidewalk sections on Sonoma Blvd to encourage parents to allow their children to walk to school.
  - Add safe crossings (bulb outs etc.) for pedestrians at the cross streets of Sonoma Boulevard to calm traffic and encourage parents to allow their children to walk to school.
  - Create a waterfront promenade along the South Vallejo waterfront for active recreation and to provide a way to bike or walk to Mare Island recreation opportunities.
  - Add 'all weather' trails for bikes, pedestrians and dogs to the Lake Dalwigk area.
  - Make Magazine Street safe to walk.
  - Support the Patterson Elementary "Safe Routes to School" walking school bus program that starts at Emmanuel Temple.

## OTHER IDEAS:

### Suggestions:

- Provide more free or low cost daycare
- Provide a laundromat
- Build low cost rental apartments at empty field at Magazine St. and Sonoma Blvd.



THE FOLLOWING PAGES SHOW WORKSHOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL, QUESTIONNAIRE, & PARTICIPANT COMMENTS. NOTE THAT THE GROCERY OUTLET WAS NOT IN PLACE AT THIS POINT.



February 2015  
South Vallejo Food Access Map with Transit Routes

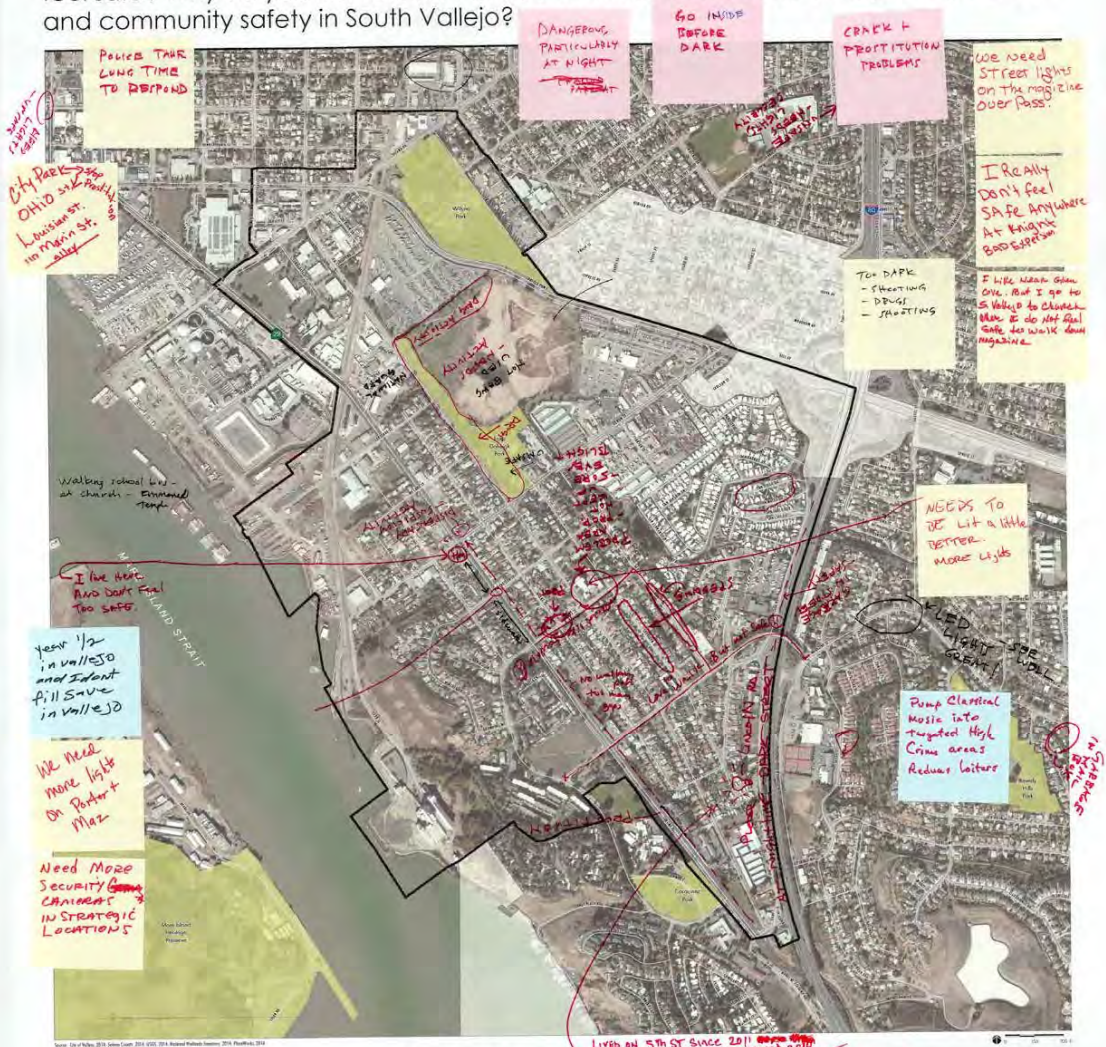
# SOUTH VALLEJO-Food Access

Questions: Where do you shop for food? How do you get there? What do you see more options for food shopping in South Vallejo? If so, what types (i.e. groceries, community gardens, farmer's markets) and where?



# SOUTH VALLEJO-Safety

Where do you feel safest walking in South Vallejo? Are there places where you don't feel safe? Why do you not feel safe there? What could be done to improve personal and community safety in South Vallejo?



**Comments:**

- Ideas for improving personal and Community safety for me (and my family) in South Vallejo
- Places where you (and your family) don't feel safe. Why do you not feel safe there?

*Lived on 5th St since 2011. I don't feel safe walking on 5th St because of the drugs and prostitution. I feel safer when I'm with my family. I don't feel safe walking alone at night. I don't feel safe walking alone at night.*

February 2015

# SOUTH VALLEJO-Active Recreation

Where do you exercise outside? Where do you not? What are your ideas to make it so that you (and your family) would get more exercise in your neighborhood?



Source: City of Vallejo, 2014; Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, 2014; NOAA, 2014; National Geographic, 2014; Pantheon, 2014.

- South Vallejo Area
- Vallejo City Limit
- Street
- Railroad
- Park

### Comments:

- Ideas that would get me (and my family) to get more exercise outside in South Vallejo
- Reasons that I (and my family) don't exercise outside in South Vallejo

February 2015



### Health Impact Assessment Questionnaire if you can't attend the Open House

The open house will be at Emmanuel Apostolic Church, 900 6th Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 on  
**Monday February 23, 2015:** 11:30 am – 12:30 PM: Health Impact Assessment workshop map exercise – OR –  
**Tuesday February 24, 2015:** 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Health Impact Assessment workshop map exercise

**Questionnaire Instructions:** Please answer the questions, print and mail or drop the completed questionnaire off **by Feb 25<sup>th</sup>** at Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. Attn: Mark Hoffheimer, Senior Planner. Or scan your answers and e-mail them to Mark at [Mark.Hoffheimer@cityofvallejo.net](mailto:Mark.Hoffheimer@cityofvallejo.net) or Lois at [Lois@FisherTownDesign.com](mailto:Lois@FisherTownDesign.com). Please add more pages if needed.

1. Do you find it easy to get healthy food such as fresh produce? If not, what would make it easier for you?

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2. Where do you feel safest walking in South Vallejo? Are there places that you don't feel safe? Why do you not feel safe there? What could be done to improve personal and community safety in South Vallejo?

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3. Active Recreation: Do you have good opportunities to walk, run and play outside in South Vallejo? What are your ideas to make it so that you (and your family) would enjoy exercising more outside in South Vallejo?

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