1.) Pollution: including air, water, and soil

Reference Section

Issues Summary

- *The majority of the participants have or know someone who has had respiratory infections, such as asthma, heart disease and/or lung cancer.
- *"Many children have asthma. My children get sick easily and often complain about not being able to breathe."
- More than 75% of participants reported routinely seeing diesel trucks where they live, work, or play.
- There is concern that the conversation about air pollution from the trucks on the freeways that Supervisor Miley had with Oakland and San Leandro did not include the unincorporated communities. "There needs to be a focus on us, not just East and West Oakland."
- "Trucks have never been allowed on 580; exclusion of trucking was part of the legislation that created that freeway. We would absolutely be damaged by the opening of 580 to completely encircle Ashland with diesel particulate matter."
- *"Please protect trees and educate the public on the importance of large city trees for cleaning up pollution and shade!"
- "There is loud noise from the train."
- *"People throw out and abandon cars, furniture, and mattresses."
- *"Cigarette and marijuana buds are found on the streets."
- *"Please help keep the streets clean, there is a lot of trash on them."

Policy Solutions from ACHCC

- Preventative Education on Asthma. Promote collaboration between Public Health agencies, Planning Departments, and local districts to provide preventative education on Asthma. Present information in classrooms and in the community.
- Education/Awareness of Pollution. Develop a community-based campaign to raise awareness on the sources, impacts, testing and remediation of air, water and soil pollutions.
- Preventing Asthma. Policies focus on adding air filtration systems to buildings, providing education/prevention around asthma in classrooms; creating a campaign to reduce asthma rates; enforcing smoke-free housing; funding programs to help residents with deferred maintenance and inspecting homes before rented; phase out body shops near residences.
- Pollution Monitoring/Enforcement. Policies focus on collecting and monitoring data, tax proactive code enforcement, incentives to adopt remedial practices, creating a county tax fund from polluting businesses, mapping pollutants and testing levels regularly, citing litterers, phasing out polluting industries.
- Regulations/Screening. Policies focus on creating truck idling regulations, freeway screening, establishing a buffer from freeways for sensitive land uses, establishing pollution warning zones (e.g., signage), and.
- Soil and Water Contamination. Policies focus on education, enforcement, charging fees to contaminators, home testing kits for lead, providing safe drinking water in parks, preventing human habitation and run-off near creeks from encampments and toxic flows.
- Urban Greening. Policies focus on investments in tree canopies in the most burdened areas; creating a street tree master plan and special tree district; not placing parks in pollution zones; gardening education; and green gentrification (preventing displacement from improvements).
- EV/bike/ped/VMT reduction. Policies focus on incentivizing hydrogen fuel cell trucks and buses; investing in EV infrastructure/incentives, prioritizing bike lanes; incentivizing work-from-home; building electrification, and improving bus routes to enable commuting without cars.

Community concern gaps:

- Littering (cigarettes, marijuana buds, junk on streets)
- Illegal dumping (abandoned furniture, cars, mattresses, etc.)
- Community Policy Idea: Provide a place to leave unwanted furniture for a low or no cost.
- Trucking on 580 and lack of engagement with Priority Communities
- Noise from cars, trucks, planes or trains (51.2%)
- Graffiti (22.6%)

New Policy Solutions

- Have an annual community-wide bulky pickup day. (adding quarterly vs. annual)
- Annual pickups for hazardous materials, paint, etc
- The community policy idea around reuse of items sounds great
- Alameda County Public Works needs to build more walkable, more bikeable streets, and better transit
- Policy around truck braking noise - some are noisier than others.
- Update & Strengthen Tree Ordinance along with Master Tree Plan
- More community garbage cans & places to put used butts.
- Parking requirements need to be eliminated, more bike racks, particularly on private property
- Multi-Family needs resources to dispose of bulky items (need a place to take it)
- County Funded air filters in highly impacted areas - educated only goes a long way when you can leave your home or neighborhood
- No trucks on 580 lead to them exclusively going through other neighborhoods without that protection
- need more frequent pick-ups or access to them, especially for people losing their houses and need to move out fast
- Connect with county cannibus program | tobacco program to address littering related
- San Lorenzo Creek / tree protection

2.) Safe and Sanitary Homes: including rental protections, displacement, and housing quality

Reference Section

Issues Summary

- More than 60% of the participants said they do not feel safe in their own neighborhoods.
- More than 75% of participants reported spending over 40% of their gross income on rent/housing costs.
- "Gentrification is real. I miss my neighbors."
- A participant wanted to focus on the issues leading to displacement or how these new policies will not add to displacement and green gentrification.
- "There is a high unhoused population."
- "I have been living in my studio for 15 years now and there has never been any type of upgrade or maintenance."
- "Cockroaches in homes are a problem but no efforts are done to help get rid of them other than applying the gel."

Policy Solutions from ACHCC

- Education and Awareness. Policies focus on healthy home education, front lawn conversions to increase green space; acknowledging rental property owners who maintain safe, affordable, healthy homes; and involving local residents in the discussion of affordable housing crisis and preservation of affordable units.
- Partnerships. Develop partnerships, share data, and incorporate key healthy housing concepts and skills training/cross referrals into housing programs (affordable housing programs, housing authorities, non-profit housing developers, childcare facility organizations, rental property owner groups, tenant organizations) and medical practices, health agencies and in-home visiting programs.
- Safe and Clean Homes. Policies focus on creating mold and lead inspection guidelines and reporting systems, enforcing smoke free housing ordinance, funding air purifiers and indoor air monitors, creating energy efficiency incentives/regulations, passing pro-active rental inspection ordinances, adopting an international property maintenance code and embracing a cooperative compliance model.
- ★ Safe and Clean Communities/Streets. Policies focus on developing a Cleaner Communities Program, increasing investments in sidewalk infrastructure with a focus on areas that do not have sidewalks and areas that need repair, caring for street trees, and proactively controlling vectors.
- Anti-Displacement & Gentrification. Policies focus on create and implement anti-displacement policies that mitigate gentrification; prohibiting short-term or month-to-month lease agreements.
- Tenant and Landlord Resources. Policies focus on adopting tenant eviction and harassment protections, preventing rent increases, creating a tenant resource line, creating a rental registry program, creating a loan fund and remediation incentives to cover a range of needs, especially for low-income owner occupants and small property owners.
- Affordable Housing Development. Policies focus on establishing a community land trust, setting up a permit concierge to help homeowners navigate permitting process, streamlining application process for residential improvements, providing pre-approved ADUs, and creating clear roles for inspecting housing units.

Community concern gaps:

- No identified gaps in policy solutions

New Policy Solutions

- excessive birds when there's too much trash!
- corporate landlords: are they an issue here? how do we support local homeowners? HCD has some 1st time home buyer support!
- greenroofs as a local cooling and mitigating climate change
- Permit-ready ADU program (HCD)
- Real Estate Dev should require green roof tops when new devs, and rehabs should be incenytivized rooftops wiser. This can absorb water, increase humidity, which can weigh down particulate matter, and sequester carbon to fight climate change.
- Licensing and limitations for short term rentals.
- Bayfair as an area of corporate interest for speculation
- incorporating service hubs in mixed use housing areas
- Need to coordinate with SLVHA re: ADU building/approvals
- Rental Protections like Just Cause & Rent Stabilization
- NACA: Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America - home purchasing support/ equity
- Closing loopholes that allow for evictions/ rent stabilization
- Housing inspections should include pests
- How does CSUEB temp student housing impact housing need for families/locals
- Crack down on illegal short term rentals
- Community owned land/housing - example community land trust model
- nd make permanently affordable existing, inhabited units
- Program to acquire and rehab existing properties to make them available for habitation, permanently affordable--see Oakland, Hayward

3.) Public Facilities: including public improvements, public services, and community amenities

Reference Section

Issues Summary

- Just under 90% of the participants live within a ten-minute walk from a park.
- Approximately 70% of the participants stated that affordability and walkability are barriers to the use of public transportation.
- A participant stated that the "Upper Grove neighborhood of Castro Valley has ZERO access to parks and schools: We have no schools or parks, and we are one of the highest density populations in the unincorporated area. It is a huge issue."
- "There is a lack of green space in the unincorporated areas. Ashland really needs parks."
- "The closing of schools in primarily Black and brown schools is happening all over the Bay Area. Hayward and Oakland School Districts are some examples. It is completely unacceptable and a shame."
- "A school opened in my community 2 years ago. The problem is that there is no safe area for students to ride bikes, walk, or skate. Maybe adding crosswalks or bike lanes and signs could organize the street better, improving the flow and safety."
- "Pathways need to be paved to prevent injury. Neighborhood Ordinance is not enforceable for potholes and cracked pavement."
- "Speed bumps are needed in many places to reduce vehicle speed."
- We need better lighting in public areas at night."
- "There needs to be more security cameras to help reduce crime."
- A Cherryland resident/participant expressed that she believes there should be a police station in Cherryland.

Policy Solutions from ACHCC

- Public Transportation/Connectivity: Policies focus on increasing public transportation routes or adding shuttles that connect to other public transportation, multimodal connectivity between El Cerrito and Fremont, reducing vehicle idling and supporting Alameda CTC multi-modal facilities- working with PWA to close the gap between E 14th and San Leandro border.
- Pedestrian Amenities/Infrastructure. Policies focus on funding safety and rethinking streetscapes to prioritize activating spaces for those who live, work and shop rather than emphasizing throughput and speed of vehicles (e.g., pedestrian-scaled streets with tree strips, wide sidewalks, lighting and speed bumps)
- Green Space/Placemaking. Policies focus on making quantitative goals for annual tree planting, and working with communities and businesses to create placemaking.
- Community Hubs/Gathering. Policies focus on strengthening existing facilities into hubs and supporting resilience hubs run by the community, including school-based hubs in collaboration with the community, and investing in and building out additional beautiful outdoor gathering space.
- School Closures/Collaboration. A policy focuses on putting pressure on school districts that are eliminating schools in PCs to either rethink their choices or convert former schools to public facilities that will meet the needs of PCs, such as addressing ACES spots for children of formerly incarcerated (whole family care).
- Mental Health. Policies focus on educating decision-makers about the extreme need for institutional mental health and substance addiction; that the community care model is inadequate; and that affordable housing must be linked to supportive services including mental health services.
- Services for Vulnerable Populations. Policies focus on exploring the ability of mixed-use housing to support vulnerable populations, using existing hubs for re-entry populations with dedicated space/time, creating one-step welcome hubs similar to REACH for adult populations, opening up in Ashland/Cherryland a similar center as Fremont Family Resource Center, and creating opportunities for home-based healing models (e.g., family homes to support reentry, homeless, etc.).
- Prioritizing PCs. Policies focus on defending public facilities and open space in areas with a significant deficit from densifying in areas that already lack amenities,

Community concern gaps:

- Affordability and accessibility of public transit

New Policy Solutions

- Leverage our legislative advocacy to support efforts to reduce the cost of transportation for consumers.
- Better bus stops, shelters, lighting, timed signals, real time information
- Essential needs access points that are known to community (e.g., MH, immigration, etc.)
- Invest in greenway project and open flat space
- Connect with groups like Transform and ACTC
- HARD's San Lorenzo Creekway Project
- Plan and build separated multi-use trails including the EB Greenway, San Lorenzo Creekway, and north end of the Foothill Trail
- Establish tree polices and ordinances for street trees, protection of existing trees, tree coverage in new developments with focus on tree coverage and climate change.
- Need funding for nonprofit community groups that have a mission to plant trees and increase tree coverage
- need for parks: use school playgrounds as park space and safe places for kids to ride bikes away from traffic.
- Need for counties, cities and unincorporated areas to pay for tree care yet also allow for canopies to grow out fully. Pollarding young or mature trees does not lead to canopy cover, and without canopy cover, asthma will be more impacted from vehicular particulate matter.
- More protected, separated safe bikeways for bikes, scooters, eboards, etc
- Have a map of suggested safe bike routes.
- School district land open to public for recreational use after school hours. Schools thinking of monetizing this, which will impede access. These are owned by community, community needs access

4.) Food Access: including healthy food outlets, food programs, urban farm & gardens, food economy

Reference Section

Issues Summary

- 56% of the participants do not live within a ten-minute walk to a grocery store or farmer's market.
- 25% of the participants lack sufficient access to food resources such as a food bank.
- Participants mentioned that Cherryland does not have a supermarket
- "The only 'supermarket' that anyone can be referring to in Cherryland is the 99-cent store!"
- "Often food is overpriced, I do not have enough income, especially when food and everything else is really expensive."
- "Stores need to do a better job advertising their fresh produce. The storefront always has unhealthy items such as soda, cigarettes, and candy displayed first. I think if fresh produce was more visible, it would attract families or the youth to buy more of it."
- "School lunches need to be evaluated. The majority of the food is thrown away, uneaten. There needs to be a better understanding of what the students would want to eat in order to minimize food waste and feed more students."

Policy Solutions from ACHCC

- Business Enforcement/Incentives. Policies focus on offering incentives to food/alcohol businesses to offer and advertise healthier food options; limiting non-healthy food distributers (e.g., fast food, liquor stores); supporting a Healthy Retail Program.
- Food Distribution/Accessibility. Policies focus on mapping out the food eco-system (strengths, gaps and opportunities); increasing food delivery to seniors/disabled; incentivizing/coordinating/subsidizing local farmers/produce markets to bring food to neighborhoods; and assessing opportunities for farm-to table initiatives
- Affordable Food: Policies focus on collaborating and organizing bi-monthly open streets/farmers market style with various vendors, including SNAP and free ACCFB stand for free access to fresh produce and/or affordable organic local produce; investing in food coupons/incentives at local stores to increase community F/V intake and support local; and connecting food benefits to local farmer's markets.
- Community Gardens/Growing Opportunities. Policies focus on connecting UCCE Master Gardeners to community garden coordinators; creating incentives to design rooftop gardens; incorporating community gardens in shelter/transitional housing; creating edible landscaping and parklets; and developing a local farm and garden plan, as in Alameda;. coordinating with local farmers and produce markets to bring food into neighborhoods.
- Education/Engagement: Policies focus on exploring resident-led co-op enterprises in all food-related activities (distribution, catering, growing); training community members/youth on how food is grown and tending community gardens; educating the community about ordinances that allow for livestock for food.

Community concern gaps:

- Lack of grocery stores
- School lunch adequacy

New Policy Solutions

- Prioritize zoning/ permitting for grocery stores/healthy food establishments
- ALL IN Eats
- "Food as medicine" plugged in schools and school health centers
- Include housing programs (transitional, supportive, low income, etc.) in circular food economy
- Considering agricultural/ gardening programs in schools or expanding internships with Dig Deep Farms
- Allocating space for community gardens
- Look into programs to attract grocery stores to unincorporated.
- have conversations with stores about what it would take to bring grocery stores to the communities. (they have formulas) (EDD could reach out)
- Partnering with REACH Ashland Youth Center's Youth Food Program, Cooking Classes, and development of Cafe
- Incentives local restaurants to host healthy cooking events for schools/families
- Access to fruits and vegetables. Community classes to teach kids about these foods through cooking classes
- SLZUSD continues to explore funding to improve school lunch menu/meals
- Lift Healthy Retail Program findings and practices
- don't allow fast food in community already faced with high rates of diabetes/ heart issues, etc.
- NOTE: SEVERAL STICKY'S IN THE OTHER BOARD ACTUALLY APPLY TO THIS ONE, AND VICE VERSA.
- Revisit school lunch nutrition standards| promote universal free lunch and breakfast | 2nd breakfast
- Guerilla gardening giveaways - folks can swap fruits/veg they grow with each other
- Strong bicycle connections with BART and buses are needed including separated bicycle lanes and provisions for securing bicycles so the are not stolen at places like BART.
- Can we get back to school lunches actually being cooked in school kitchens?
- with new ardenwood farm and masonic farm, capacity for fresh food is growing, thinking aboyt how to link in to school lunchest etc
- Support edible landscaping at schools and incorporation into school lunches

5.) Health & Physical Activity: including active transportation, access to parks & rec, neighborhood safety, physical & mental healthcare

Reference Section

Issues Summary

- 80% of the participants said they lack access to mental health facilities in their community.
- Around 70% of the participants said they lack access to recreational facilities in their neighborhood.
- A participant explained that there is a need for mental health facilities to address the mental health crisis. "Mental health is a daily living experience of feeling comfortable in your environment."
- "Cardio/heart health has been terrible in Ashland and Cherryland, leading to death because of lack of insurance. That means reporting to emergency services rather than preventive care."
- A participant commented "In the Upper Grove neighborhood kids are exposed to addicts passed out on the sidewalk and human waste and needles on lawns and in the street."
- A participant mentioned that he has observed an increase in store robberies and car thefts.
- "Robberies and thefts affect our mental health just as much as our financial stability. Car windows are broken into and it takes money to repair, money that is not easy to obtain."

Policy Solutions from ACHCC

- Education/Accessibility: Policies focus on increasing awareness of programs on an ongoing basis and how to sign up, including language access; expand health education programs (nutrition, physical activity) for families with children; and organizing trips for youth to regional parks.
- Mental Health Programs/Activities: Policies focus on investing in mental health facilities and services, collaborating with local agencies to offer preventative mental health support, and passing organizational policies on health, wellness, and physical activity, similar to the Alameda County Wellness Policy.
- Houseless Neighbors Support Services: Policies focus on providing support to re-entry and homeless populations to promote health and wellness for them and their families. Engage re-entry individuals by paying them tend to open spaces, parks, and public facilities.
- Adult and Senior Programs: Policies focus on supporting mixed use reentry hubs similar to REACH Ashland Youth Center, but for adults; working with local churches to organize and combine health and wellness events (e.g., senior class on health education combined with walking or yoga).
- Outdoor Activities. Policies focus on increasing outdoor recreational spaces for mixed-use activities (e.g., outdoor roller hockey rink in Pleasonton);
- Organized Outdoor Events: Policies focus on organizing annual events, such as walks, runs, biking, summer block parties, including events for people with disabilities; "scaling up" local initiatives (e.g., walking group to running festival, cooking group to cook-off festival, etc.)
- Programs/Opportunities for Vulnerable Populations. Policies focus on year-long affordable programs; engaging/paying re-entry individuals to care for parks and open space areas; training re-entry individuals in gardening; offering youth jobs in leading activities; and addressing whole family health for reentry and unhoused populations.

Community concern gaps:

- Prevalence of cardiovascular/heart disease
- Lack of health insurance
- Crime is a related issue (lighting in public spaces, need for more security cameras)

New Policy Solutions

Civic Engagement: preview of August topic

Issues Summary

- 86% participants feel insufficiently informed about plans/projects that occur in their community.
- Over 60% of the participants feel as if their voices do not matter when they come to county led meetings, "We are heard, but when it comes to decision making votes at the planning department, and board of supervisors we are ignored and damaged by harmful planning choices that have created a built environment that results in poor health and economic outcomes".
- Unincorporated areas are often left out of conversations and are put last in terms of priority for actual positive changes.
- "The decision-makers need to take accountability for hindering the improvement of these communities."
- "The single biggest obstacle we face is the lack of local governmental accountability. We are overseen by bureaucratic agencies who have no consequences for neglecting us and making unhealthy choices on our behalf. They are not guided by the priorities of our communities and never will be until they can be held directly accountable to the people who live here."
- "Seniors are not able to do the survey, because they don't know how to do it or they don't have smartphones or internet".
- "Have information in multiple languages."
- "Have meetings at a location that community members feel welcomed and familiar with."
- "Post workshop and survey notices in more places, like Next Door."

New Policy Solutions