



Environmental Justice Elements Planning Initiative
City of East Palo Alto Environmental Justice Element Development
In collaboration with
Climate Resilience Communities
5/23/2024

East Palo Alto Environmental Justice Community Workshop Summary

Event Date: 5/23/2024

Event Location: Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA, East Palo Alto, CA

“I am grateful to be at this meeting because despite not speaking the same language and understanding all the information, I can see who I should talk to and ask for more information. This workshop is helping me understand who is there to help at the City level.” - Workshop Participant

“Displacement is #1 - above all it scares me to think I might not be able to stay!” - Workshop Participant

Description: This report summarizes the outcomes of a public workshop on the Environmental Justice Element Update for the City of East Palo Alto’s General Plan. It was organized by PlaceWorks in collaboration with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) and Nuestra Casa for the East Palo Alto community on May 23, 2024. The primary facilitators were: Tanya Sundberg, Angelica Garcia, Lesley Lopez, Chase Donnell, Cade Cannedy and Kamille Lang.

Participant Demographics:

- The English workshop was attended by 26 individuals, more than half were Pacific Islanders and many youth were represented
- The Spanish workshop was attended by 96 individuals
- All participants were living or working in East Palo Alto
- Several parents attended along with their children

Objectives/Purpose:

Major Themes:

- Introducing the General Plan Environmental Justice Element
- Review and ground-truth state data that highlighted areas in East Palo Alto that are more disadvantaged or otherwise at risk from environmental justice issues than the city as a whole
- Getting resident input on the areas of greatest concern, answering questions the public may have about the topics, the data, and opportunities for participation going forward

Structure

- A brief presentation from PlaceWorks that provided exposure to the existing data and the state developed requirements for an Environmental Justice Element



- Majority of the time was spent in a Gallery Walk activity to allow for direct community review and feedback on their points of interest under the Statutory Requirements of Environmental Justice elements, which include:
 - Reducing pollution and improving air quality (indoor & outdoor)
 - Promoting public facilities
 - Promoting food access
 - Ensuring safe and sanitary homes
 - Promoting physical activity
 - Reducing any unique or compounded health risks
 - Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making process

Methodology:

Outreach: CRC created MOU agreements with an East Palo Alto based nonprofit organization who received \$3,000 as a lump sum to conduct outreach to their community members for all Environmental Justice Element workshops hosted in 2024. The organization CRC partnered with for the East Palo Alto workshop was Nuestra Casa. This organization was strategically selected because of their deep relationships with East Palo Alto residents, business owners and a variety of community leaders. Outreach was conducted in a variety of ways:

1. CRC hosted one-on-one outreach training with Nuestra Casa to ensure that the correct information was being shared with residents. Training included a brief slide deck presentation on what an Environmental Justice Element is, the importance of community participation, review of PlaceWorks developed outreach materials, and mock conversations to practice inviting folks to attend the workshop.
2. CRC distributed flyers during the East Palo Alto farmer's market prior to the workshop and also posted digitally in online Facebook, Nextdoor and Whatsapp groups. CRC posted flyers in physical locations and conducted warm outreach through established networks.
3. Other outreach strategies utilized by Nuestra Casa included:
 - a. Phone calls with East Palo Alto homeowners and renters
 - b. Outreach training for Nuestra Casa Promotoras
 - c. Door-to-door outreach conducted by Promotoras
 - d. Follow up phone call and text conversations as a reminder to those invited to attend

Facilitation: The below agenda explains the general outline of the meeting. It began with a presentation before attendees participated in a "Gallery Walk" exercise. This consisted of circulating to different poster boards, each with yes/no questions and a list of priority area options and a nearby facilitator to aid in emergent questions. Participants could mark an X or place a sticker dot near statements they agree with and add their perspective in more detail by writing on a sticky note. Participants were encouraged to review all the poster boards at their leisure in the allotted hour and fifteen minutes for the activity. After participants completed the gallery walk, folks were gathered back together to complete a short feedback survey on the workshop experience. They received a \$40 Target gift card upon the return of the feedback survey.



Logistics

Date/Time	Venue	Food	Stipend	Childcare
Thursday, May 23, 2024 6-8pm	YMCA in East Palo Alto	La Cazuela burritos (Provided by CRC)	\$40 target gift card per attendee (must be 16 years of age or older)	Childcare Room at YMCA, facilitated by CRC

Agenda

Time	Activity	Facilitator
6:00 - 6:15pm	Arrival, Food	CRC
6:15 - 6:30pm	Presentation & Q&A	PlaceWorks
6:45 - 7:30pm	Gallery Walk Activity	CRC, CBO Partners and PlaceWorks
7:30 - 7:45pm	Reconvene, Close	PlaceWorks and CRC

Materials Required:

From Venue	From CRC	From PlaceWorks	From City Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projector • HDMI plug in • Microphone • Stands for directional signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large post-its • Flipchart markers • Standard size post-its • Sign-in Sheets • Pens/writing Utensils for each participant • Stipends • Sticker Dots • Painter's Tape • Food for Participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide deck (English and Spanish) • Two Laptops with HDMI port (or AV connections) • Poster boards • Easels • Back-up directional signs • Remote clicker to advance slides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda (English and Spanish) x85 (double-sided) • Educational Handout (English and Spanish) - 40 English, 40 Spanish • Feedback Form (English and Spanish) x 85 (double-sided)



Key Takeaways

1. Enhanced Community Engagement
 - Major barriers to participation include time conflicts, lack of childcare, transportation issues and language barriers.
 - Residents desire more accessible meeting formats and translation services for community events and city council meetings.
 - There's a need for more information about available resources, such as food assistance programs like CalFresh, especially for young families and undocumented residents.
 - For several residents, they feel like they prioritize attending community workshops such as these but have continued to see relative inaction from the City and other government agencies requesting feedback. To ensure residents feel heard completely and involved thoroughly in a city-led activity, CRC strongly recommends further community engagement and transparency of how that engagement is conducted over time in the community.
2. Affordable Housing and Preventing Displacement
 - Housing affordability is the primary concern, with many residents facing displacement due to rising costs of both homeownership and rentals in their community.
 - There's a strong need for more affordable housing options, including 100% affordable housing, accessory dwelling units, housing co-ops, and transitional housing.
 - Protecting renters from displacement and preserving existing affordable housing are key priorities.
 - Many existing homes have issues with mold, pest infestations, and poor insulation that need to be addressed immediately for the health and safety of all those who reside within that building.
3. Food Access
 - There's a significant lack of affordable and high-quality food options in East Palo Alto.
 - Strong support for farmers markets, new grocery stores, and community gardens.
 - Need for more information about food assistance programs, especially for young families and undocumented residents.
4. Environmental Concerns and Public Safety
 - Water quality is an ongoing issue, with many residents reporting they can't drink the tap water in their home.
 - Air pollution from traffic and industrial sources is a significant concern.
 - Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and flooding are top safety concerns.
 - Groundwater rise is an emerging issue that residents want more information about.
5. Public Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Top priorities include improving parks, community centers, health care facilities, and creating safe routes for walking, biking, and public transportation.
 - Strong desire for more green spaces, sports fields, and recreational facilities for youth.
 - There is a need for more cooling centers and better flood control measures.
6. Physical Activity and Health
 - Barriers to physical activity include lack of sidewalks, bike lanes, and recreational facilities.



- Residents want more parks, green spaces, and improved public transportation infrastructure.
- Residents desire for more affordable and accessible recreational programs and facilities.

Recommendations

Based on the cumulative results of discussions in which East Palo Alto residents, homeowners and otherwise involved community members offered direct feedback on their environmental justice and safety priorities, CRC recommends the following areas of policy proposals should be evaluated for incorporation into the City of East Palo Alto's General Plan Environmental Justice Element update.

Safety

- East Palo Alto should initiate **neighborhood specific** disaster preparedness planning and work closely with Community Based Organizations and pre-existing CERT groups like rEPAct to build block-level resilience to disasters.

Improving Air Quality

- Launch a community air monitoring program in partnership with programs like the collaborative project between Climate Resilient Communities and Stanford University entitled Our Communities, Our Bay or the [West Oakland Environmental Indicators AB617 project](#) to install low-cost sensors and engage residents in data collection.
- Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to establish an air pollution exposure reduction plan targeting East Palo Alto's most impacted neighborhoods near the highway, heavily trafficked roads, and industrial areas.
- Implement a "No Truck" route program banning heavy diesel trucks from residential streets, enforced through traffic cameras and significant fines.
- Invest in infrastructure improvements like traffic calming measures (ie. speed bumps) to reduce cut-through traffic and associated emissions in residential areas.
- Offer financial assistance and education to help residents identify and remediate indoor air quality and mold issues, which are expected to worsen with increased flood risks.

Promoting Civic Engagement

- Mandate that all public notices, agendas, and written materials be provided in Spanish and Pacific Islander languages like Samoan and Tongan. Require live simultaneous Spanish interpretation for all public meetings and events. Establish policies for regularly assessing community language needs and procuring additional services. Ensure substantial multilingual outreach, engagement, and capacity-building opportunities for all meetings and policies impacting East Palo Alto residents.
- Compensate residents for sharing their expertise and participating in public forums to encourage equitable engagement and acknowledge the contributions of the residents whose feedback is required for effective policy design and implementation.
- Partner with Community-based Organizations like El Concilio of San Mateo County, Nuestra Casa, and Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) to conduct targeted leadership development programs that build residents' capacity for advocacy.



- Revamp protocols to schedule public meetings during accessible hours and provide flexible participation options that are informed by community input.
- Establish a Community Engagement Commission with paid resident representatives to oversee outreach strategies and approve communication plans for major city initiatives.

Reducing Pollution

- Implement a comprehensive and sustainably funded rain barrel and rain garden rebate program to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and provide non-potable water for landscaping needs. Fresh Approach and Climate Resilient Communities have modeled this resident-led initiative in East Palo Alto and have seen success.
- Conduct regular tap water testing, raise awareness of potential groundwater threats, and explore options to assist families with water expenses, by conducting outreach and education about pre-existing state programs.
- Strengthen anti-idling policies near schools and residential areas through robust enforcement and higher incentives for compliance; take advantage of school bus electrification funding for local school districts.

Public Facilities and Transportation

- Incentivize use of alternative modes of transportation like biking, walking, and micro-mobility options (discounted bikes, e-bikes, e-scooters) to reduce vehicle emissions. Launch a bike library program offering free bike repairs, maintenance lessons, and affordable access to bicycles in collaboration with CBOs like Live in Peace and regional non-profits like the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition, Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange and FixIt Clinics.
- Conduct or revise existing parks equity analyses or Master Plans to build new parks and green spaces within a 10-minute walk of every East Palo Alto resident by 2030.
- Reexamine policies governing community centers to enable affordable and accessible programming for fitness and recreation, for example by partnering with the YMCA to further subsidize passes and lessons.
- Partner with the Ravenswood Family Health Center to open school-based clinics and others in high-need areas along El Camino.
- Invest in infrastructure upgrades to facilitate active transportation (walking, biking) and improve public transit accessibility. Implement a free youth bus pass program and increase bus frequency on key routes serving East Palo Alto. Assess engagement of EPA Express bus line and requests for user feedback for improvements. Improve and expand SamTrans Ride Plus programming in EPA to reduce wait times and trip lengths.

Food Access

- Adopt zoning policies to restrict new fast-food establishments and incentivize full service grocery stores or markets in relative food deserts.
- Launch a Healthy Corner Stores program with the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center to increase fresh produce availability at local markets.



- Ensure access to healthy, affordable food options through more frequent and better advertised farmer's markets, community gardens, and partnerships with convenience stores.
- Create a city grant program for neighborhood grocery and convenience stores to encourage the sale of healthy food options.
- Implement food recovery programs in schools and food facilities to reduce waste and provide nutritious meals to students and families, regardless of income levels.
- Collaborate with CBOs like Fresh Approach to establish additional community gardens at churches, schools and apartment complexes throughout East Palo Alto.

Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing

- Establish a proactive rental inspection program for vacant units between tenant occupancies to enforce health and safety codes, with fees funding low-income rental assistance. Long term goals should include establishing programs to assist homeowners and renters in addressing pest infestations, mold remediation, and home repairs/retrofits for improved safety, health, and energy efficiency.
- Partner with housing service providers and housing repair organizations like Rebuilding Together, Peninsula Clean Energy, and Climate Resilient Communities to provide free home repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, and healthy homes interventions for renters and low-income homeowners.
- Adopt anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies protecting tenants from unjust evictions and rent hikes, as part of an overall anti-displacement strategy.
- Create an anti-displacement strategy in collaboration with residents and CBOs that includes a study of multiple tenant protection measures including but not limited to: creation of a rental registry, the creation of a right to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction, tenant and community opportunity to purchase acts, the creation of community land trusts or other fiscal vehicles to purchase land for deeply affordable housing, expanded rent control laws, and additional outreach and engagement for existing tenant protection and housing services.

Summary of Community Feedback through Gallery Walk Activity:

Note: Highlighted concepts demonstrate the highest engagement from community participants. These concepts were voted most highly and capture the priorities of those who attended and voted during the meeting.

Promote Food Access

- Is there a lack of affordable and high-quality food in your neighborhood? - (13 votes)
 - 4 yes, 0 no in English Workshop
 - 9 yes, 0 no in Spanish Workshop

Place a dot next to the top improvements that could help increase access to affordable and healthy foods in your neighborhood:

- **New grocery stores (19 votes)**
 - 10 votes in English Workshop
 - Foodsco, Grocery Outlet

- +1 healthy variety, Costco would be good because it is affordable, Indian grocery stores
 - Sprouts, Trader Joe's, other healthy and variety of grocery stores
 - 9 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Convenience stores with affordable fresh food options (18 votes)
 - 4 votes in English Workshop
 - 14 votes in Spanish Workshop
- **Farmers markets (31 votes)**
 - 13 votes in English Workshop
 - + 1 a lot of people would go to farmers markets
 - A weekend or more frequent market than current would be better
 - We have farmers markets, but they are out of the way. Shopping Center parking lot was suggested as a place, or public park near the YMCA
 - 18 votes in Spanish Workshop
- **Community Gardens (19 votes)**
 - 7 votes in English Workshop
 - + People monopolize current community gardens
 - + Community gardens could be a convenient option
 - + Bigger and more space for community gardens. Currently insufficient space to meet demand.
 - 12 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Food Drive - (15 votes)
 - 0 votes in English Workshop
 - 15 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Food programs, such as CalFresh - (17 votes)
 - 4 votes in English Workshop
 - + Is CalFresh accessible to undocumented folks?
 - 13 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other feedback
 - We need space to grow food together and socialize in the same places
 - Amazon should instead be a Walmart in East Palo Alto
 - Local markets are necessary in EPA
 - I want to see support for local businesses so that money stays in the community
 - Farmers markets are too expensive for the average EPA resident
 - We would benefit from a large supermarket like Safeway in EPA
 - My community needs more information on CalFresh, especially for young families
 - This community needs more organic food options rather than all the processed foods
 - We need more places for people to donate food for those in need
 - More regulation to big farmers markets with fair prices
 - More access and resources for food collection/donation specifically targeting seniors and children
 - There is a lack of local EPA stores that accept WIC. I have noticed it is easier to find a store in Redwood City or San Jose

Reduce Safety Hazards

Place a dot next to your top safety concerns.

- **Wildfire and Smoke: Fires burning in natural areas that can spread into populated areas, causing damage and releasing smoke - (18 votes)**
 - 5 votes in English Workshop
 - 13 from Spanish Workshop
- **Extreme Heat and Heatwaves: When temperatures rise above normal levels for high temperatures, which can lead to abnormally high levels for a consecutive number of days, or a heatwave. - (21 votes)**
 - 5 votes in English Workshop
 - 16 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Drought Conditions: An extended period of dry conditions where water is less available for people and ecosystems. - (11 votes)
 - 3 votes in English Workshop
 - 8 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Flooding: When the amount of water on the ground exceeds the capacity of drains and creeks to carry it away, leading to standing bodies of water or overflowing of storm drains - (15 votes)
 - 4 votes in English Workshop
 - 11 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Severe Weather: Includes high winds, lightning, hail, and related events, which can create secondary effects such as power shutoffs. - (9 votes)
 - 1 vote in English Workshop
 - 8 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Earthquakes: Vibrations of the earth's surface that cause ground motion and potential landslides, which can cause harm and damage - (7 votes)
 - 0 votes in English Workshop
 - 7 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Sea Level Rise: The rising of ocean water levels as a result of rising global temperatures, which poses a risk to coastal communities and ecosystems. - (12 votes)
 - 6 votes in English Workshop
 - 6 votes in Spanish Workshop
- **Air Quality Hazards: Air-borne hazards that are harmful to health, including ozone, particulate matter, and pollutants exacerbated by climate change, such as wildfire smoke. - (17 votes)**
 - 7 votes in English Workshop
 - 10 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Hazardous Materials: includes explosives, toxic chemicals, and radioactive materials that can threaten human and environmental health and safety when improperly used, stored, or disposed of. - (15 votes)
 - 4 votes in English Workshop
 - 11 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other (fill in):

- Groundwater Rise +3
- Other feedback: Better support from city for tree falling due to high winds
- Groundwater is a major issue and not a lot of information or resources to address those issues at the residential level
- Need more cooling centers
- We need more protection from all kinds of flooding
- There are SO many toxic sites and we need to clean them up
- There needs to be more security on the bus. I recently encountered someone on the bus that was being really aggressive and I felt unsafe. I have not taken the bus since.

Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process

Place a dot next to the barriers that make it difficult to participate in community engagement and public decision-making processes.

- Time Conflicts - (13 votes)
 - 4 votes from English Workshop
 - + A lot of times I don't know about meetings until after they happen.
 - + Tired after, meetings conflict with work, virtual options would be more convenient
 - 9 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Access to transportation - (18 votes total)
 - 7 votes in English Workshop
 - + Making transportation more accessible and affordable and baby friendly
 - 11 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Childcare - (21 votes)
 - 7 votes in English Workshop
 - + Providing adequate childcare during community and council meetings
 - Many community events do not have translation, barrier to participate
 - 14 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Meeting format - (6 votes)
 - 1 votes in English Workshop
 - 5 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Power dynamics: when differences in status or privilege between people affect interaction and engagement - (21 votes)
 - 10 votes in English Workshop
 - 11 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Level or prior knowledge regarding the planning process - (20 votes)
 - 6 votes in English Workshop
 - 14 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Information is not available, easy to understand, or provided in your language - (25 votes)
 - 3 votes in English workshop
 - Tongan/Spanish/Samona/Figian/etc
 - City council meetings don't have translation, hard for many to participate
 - 22 votes in Spanish Workshop

- Other (fill in):
 - Access to transportation ought to be free for the low income communities
 - Childcare (lack of) impedes working families from attending community events
 - I am interested in having a language interpretation support line for government meetings like this one.

Enhance Public Facilities

Place a dot next to the public facilities priorities you have in this list and/or identify other public facilities priorities.

- Community centers - (22 votes)
 - 4 votes in English Workshop
 - 18 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Parks - (37 votes)
 - 10 votes from English Workshop
 - Better lighting at parks
 - 27 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Safe and affordable water and wastewater services - (27 votes)
 - 1 vote in English Workshop
 - 26 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Safe and welcoming routes to walk, bike, and use public transportation - (33 votes)
 - 6 votes in English Workshop
 - 27 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Flood control - 32 votes
 - 10 votes in English Workshop
 - 22 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Healthcare - (33 votes)
 - 8 votes in English Workshop
 - + Increasing more health care facilities
 - 25 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Reliable Internet access - (26 votes)
 - 0 votes in English Workshop
 - 26 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other (fill in): N/A
- Other feedback:
 - OTR (over the ramp) part of East Palo [west] Alto is not well-maintained (potholes, etc.)
 - Right now, a lot of homeless youth and individuals have to go to libraries for shelter. I would like to see more spaces for them.
 - No greenery
 - No spaces for sports, recreation, kids to play
 - Creek in West side of East Palo Alto in danger of flooding. What will the city do?
 - More bike lanes!
 - How can we inform community members about groundwater rise and how it will make an impact in flooding?



- Increase access to and expand healthcare facilities
- Does this category include Resilience hubs and Cooling Centers?
- Park by 7/11 is treated like a dog park so kids can't safely play. And there are no amenities there!
- I would like to see more affordable transportation options in EPA
- We need more police support and resources to make sure my community feels safe here
- I would like to see more transparent information on the policy resources provided when they are called to help.
- There needs to be an emergency button available at all parks so that the police can be notified when things become unsafe and are called immediately.
- There should be more trees where there are parks
- I want to see more outdoor places to host exercise classes
- There should be a discount or subsidy for a gym membership
- More fields and maintained places for youth to use
- Free physical activity classes for children, especially over the summer
- More sports fields
- A community pool would enhance EPA so that children grow up here learning how to swim and feeling connected to the community with the pool space
- Cars often block the streets and limit access to pedestrians. I would like to see more restrictions on cars so that the streets are safer for folks to walk and bike on.
- There are a lot of car races at night on public streets. I would like to see more security from the police so that this can be reduced or eliminated completely.
- More lights on the streets would make me feel safe at night
- I want to see more green spaces that are maintained

Reduce Additional Unique or Compounded Health Risks

Place a dot next to the following hazards or improvements that were not addressed in other boards but are important to you. You can also add additional issues that are not listed.

- Cooling Centers - (21 votes)
 - 8 from English Workshop
 - 13 from Spanish Workshop
- Earthquake retrofit assistance - (21 votes)
 - 2 votes in English Workshop
 - 19 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Retrofitting buildings & houses to improve energy efficiency - (22 votes)
 - 5 votes in English Workshop
 - 17 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Efficient Circulation - (15 votes)
 - 0 votes in English Workshop
 - 15 votes in Spanish Workshop
- More trees - (26 votes)
 - 7 votes in English Workshop

- 19 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Smoke free multi-unit housing - (20 votes)
 - 2 votes in English Workshop
 - 18 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Noise pollution - (15 votes)
 - 2 votes in English Workshop
 - 13 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Conservation and recapture of water - (32 votes)
 - 8 votes in English Workshop
 - 24 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other (fill in):
 - Downtown center: for youth, it is important that we have a space for youth to get tutoring, food, activities, etc.
 - Having a space for foster kids
 - Old homes, no solar panels. If we had solar panels, we wouldn't have to deal with the power outage
 - Oak Wood Drive trees have been cut down to make more space

Reduce Pollution from Traffic and other Sources and Improve Air Quality

Identify any land use compatibility concerns you have in your neighborhood.

- My neighborhood has an over concentration of industrial or polluting facilities - (8 votes)
 - 0 votes in English Workshop
 - 8 votes in Spanish Workshop
- It is hard for me to get around without a car - (20 votes)
 - 8 votes in English Workshop
 - No sidewalks on continuous both sides of the road, uneven, no street lights, RidePlus isn't reliable and can take lots of time
 - You have to plan your day around transit/Emeryville hop on/hop off
 - Shuttles are good example of positive transit
 - Better bike lanes and sidewalks are needed
 - 12 votes in Spanish Workshop

(Continuation of Reducing Pollution feedback) Place a dot next to your concerns about water and/or add in more detail

- Quality - (32 votes)
 - 10 votes in English Workshop
 - Contamination
 - Can't drink from tap, tastes bad, utensils caking, using this water makes my family sick from the tap and we use bottled water all the time instead
 - Lots of microplastics in faucet water, animal waste in water and animals need better water
 - Even filtered water comes out dirty, "I can only use water bottles".
 - Standby pollution by Dumbarton Bridge
 - 22 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Affordability - (3 votes)

- 0 votes in English Workshop
- 3 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Accessibility - (5 votes)
 - 3 votes in English Workshop
 - 2 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other (fill in)
 - Groundwater rise +2

(Continuation of Reducing Pollution feedback) Place a dot next to the pollution concerns you have in your neighborhood.

- Industrial Facilities - (3 votes)
 - 3 votes in English Workshop
 - 0 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Gas Appliances - (7 votes)
 - 5 votes in English Workshop
 - 2 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Smoking - (19 votes)
 - 1 vote in English Workshop
 - 18 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Traffic - (25 votes)
 - 8 votes in English Workshop
 - All of University Ave is really bad because at intersection of commuter highways
 - 17 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Wildfire Smoke - (10 votes)
 - 5 votes in English Workshop
 - 5 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other feedback:
 - Old Romic site continues to be an issue
 - What is being done by the city in regards to remediation?
 - How can we push for more attention to the remediation of toxic/superfund sites?
 - Traffic from companies building like Amazon, Facebook, IKEA
 - We need more trees to be planted because this way we get rid of so much smog produced by the industries in EPA and the cars that drive through

Provide Safe and Sanitary Homes

Place a dot next to your top concerns and/or add in your concerns (with new or old housing).

- Location: Place new homes in neighborhoods with...
 - Safe and accessible ways to walk, bike, and use public transportation - (23 votes)
 - 5 votes from English Workshop
 - 18 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Parks - (4 votes)
 - 3 votes from English Workshop
 - 1 votes from Spanish Workshop

- Schoolyards - (0 Votes)
 - 0 votes from English Workshop
 - 0 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Community Gardens - (8 votes)
 - 1 vote from English Workshop
 - 7 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Work/education opportunities - (23 votes)
 - 4 votes from English Workshop
 - 19 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Personal services, such as medical offices, banks, childcare, etc. - (16 votes)
 - 1 vote from English workshop
 - 15 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Other (fill in):
 - Youth Shelters +3
 - Resources for Undocumented folks +2
- (Continuation of Safe and Sanitary Homes) Quality: Improve existing homes to address...
 - Pest infestation - (8 votes)
 - 3 votes from English Workshop
 - 5 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Water leaks - (1 vote)
 - 0 votes from English Workshop
 - 1 vote from Spanish Workshop
 - Mold - (17 votes)
 - 6 votes from English Workshop
 - 11 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Poor insulation - (4 votes)
 - 2 votes from English Workshop
 - 2 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Plumbing and exposure - (4 votes)
 - 2 votes from English Workshop
 - 2 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Toxins like lead - (10 votes)
 - 0 votes from English Workshop
 - 10 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Second/third hand smoke - (17 votes)
 - 2 votes from English Workshop
 - 15 votes from Spanish Workshop
- (Continuation of Safe and Sanitary Homes) Affordability:
 - Mitigate rising housing costs - (25 votes)
 - 6 votes from English Workshop
 - 29 votes from Spanish Workshop
 - Protecting renters from displacement - (24 votes)
 - 8 votes in English Workshop

- 16 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Preserving existing affordable housing - (19 votes)
 - 6 votes from English Workshop
 - 13 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Build more affordable housing, such as 100% affordable housing, accessory dwelling units, housing co-ops, transitional housing, etc. - (10 votes)
 - 5 votes from English Workshop
 - 5 votes from Spanish Workshop
- Additional feedback
 - Create more programs to educate residents who are pursuing homeownership for the first time
 - Plumbing issues affect water quality
 - Family members displaced to Sac models too
 - Kids can't stay if they want, too expensive
 - Rodents, rats and mold are huge issues in homes closest to the bay
 - Info about affordable homes is hard to access for monolingual non-English speakers
 - Rent control - afraid to mention it for being kicked out
 - Mold is a HUGE concern in the west/south side of University Ave. Landlords don't want to address it. I just moved to Woodland Apartments, on the lease it says "if you get mold, it is your problem to deal with, not ours."
 - Unsafe to walk because of speeding cars
 - Air purifiers for apartments with smokers
 - Transitional age youth housing - after high school is needed in EPA
 - Mold goes unaddressed because people live together and don't want to involve their landlords
 - I earn a lot and still can't afford it here
 - There is a major fear of landlords here - addressing problems can cause rent increases
 - I know a lot of people that had to be displaced to other states or back to the islands
 - Most homes don't have AC - Woodland Apartments don't have AC small amount can afford to buy on their own
 - Affordability is the root cause of displacement in EPA
 - Who is policing rent increases?
 - People commute long distances
 - Hard to get off BMR/affordable units
 - No youth shelters harmless youth in our community
 - Displacement is #1 - above all it scares me to think I might not be able to stay
 - Putting rent control keeps renters and helps with community building
 - Legal status should be removed as a requirement to find housing. It is a major barrier that creates unsafe conditions for folks that live in EPA.

- The city needs to be involved in modernizing multi-family housing units because several apartment complexes I have lived in locally are old and dangerous to be in
- We need more trees in our community for better health
- The pipes of public infrastructure need to be updated because the water is not safe to drink in EPA
- There needs to be more security and protection in public spaces. I don't know what to do when someone is publicly being aggressive and how to find support or resources at the moment.
- There needs to be more public security and support from police to protect folks. As a tenant, I am not sure what to do when my safety is challenged on the property without any support on site to help.
- Planting more trees does not just benefit me, it also benefits the planet.

Promote Physical Activity

- Are there barriers to being active in your neighborhood? (Note: this question was printed and small text and might not represent the feedback conducted on the rest of the board)
 - 11 votes yes, 0 no in English Workshop
 - 1 votes yes, 0 no in Spanish Workshop

Place a dot next to the top improvements that would make it easier to be physically active in your community.

- No smoking policies - (28 votes)
 - 4 votes in English Workshop
 - 24 votes in Spanish Workshop
- More parks and green space including partnerships/agreements with schools, churches or other private properties to access more space - (25 votes)
 - 10 votes in English Workshop
 - 15 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Sidewalks - (33 votes)
 - 11 votes in English Workshop
 - 22 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Bike lanes = (19 votes)
 - 5 votes in English Workshop
 - 14 votes in Spanish Workshop
- More recreational facilities or gyms, including dance studios. - (31 votes)
 - 11 votes in English Workshop
 - 20 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Streetlights or lighting - (34 votes)
 - 11 votes in English Workshop
 - 23 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Provide safe routes to school to encourage active transportation - (23 votes)
 - 6 votes in English Workshop
 - 17 votes in Spanish Workshop

- Reliable, accessible, and convenient public transportation connecting homes to schools, work, and public facilities - (19 votes)
 - 3 votes in English Workshop
 - 16 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Improve public transportation infrastructure: covered rest areas, shade, age friendly seating, bike storage - (28 votes)
 - 7 votes in English Workshop
 - 21 votes in Spanish Workshop
- Other Feedback
 - More programs and organizations involved to bring these resources contextually into the community
 - More school signage
 - Stop lights take too long to change for pedestrians
 - Add more sidewalks
 - Add more pedestrian crossing signage
 - Only YMCA, no other gym and most others are expensive
 - There are few and discontinuous sidewalks and there are no streetlights
 - Limited public transportation like Caltrain ridesharing is unreliable
 - Want to build more community gardens
 - Accessible and free opportunities with extended hours
 - Maintain the parks that already exist and keep the streets clean. Take care of what is already here.
 - People need to pick up after their pets when they are at the parks
 - I would like to see more water games and activities with water built into the infrastructure of the park
 - We need parks where there is diversity to keep our children and grandchildren more entertained as avoid using their digital devices as much as possible
 - Our parks need more maintenance so they stay clean and they are not a place where illegal drugs are used and sold
 - Our city needs to do something about the homeless population at our parks. Those folks are using the sidewalks as a public restroom and there is runoff that is impacting the parks.
 - I would like to see more water fountains and more water games at the parks

Preliminary Disadvantaged Communities Map

Figure 1: Spanish Workshop Map Feedback

CA AMBIENTAL DE EAST PALO ALTO

Comunidades Desaventajadas

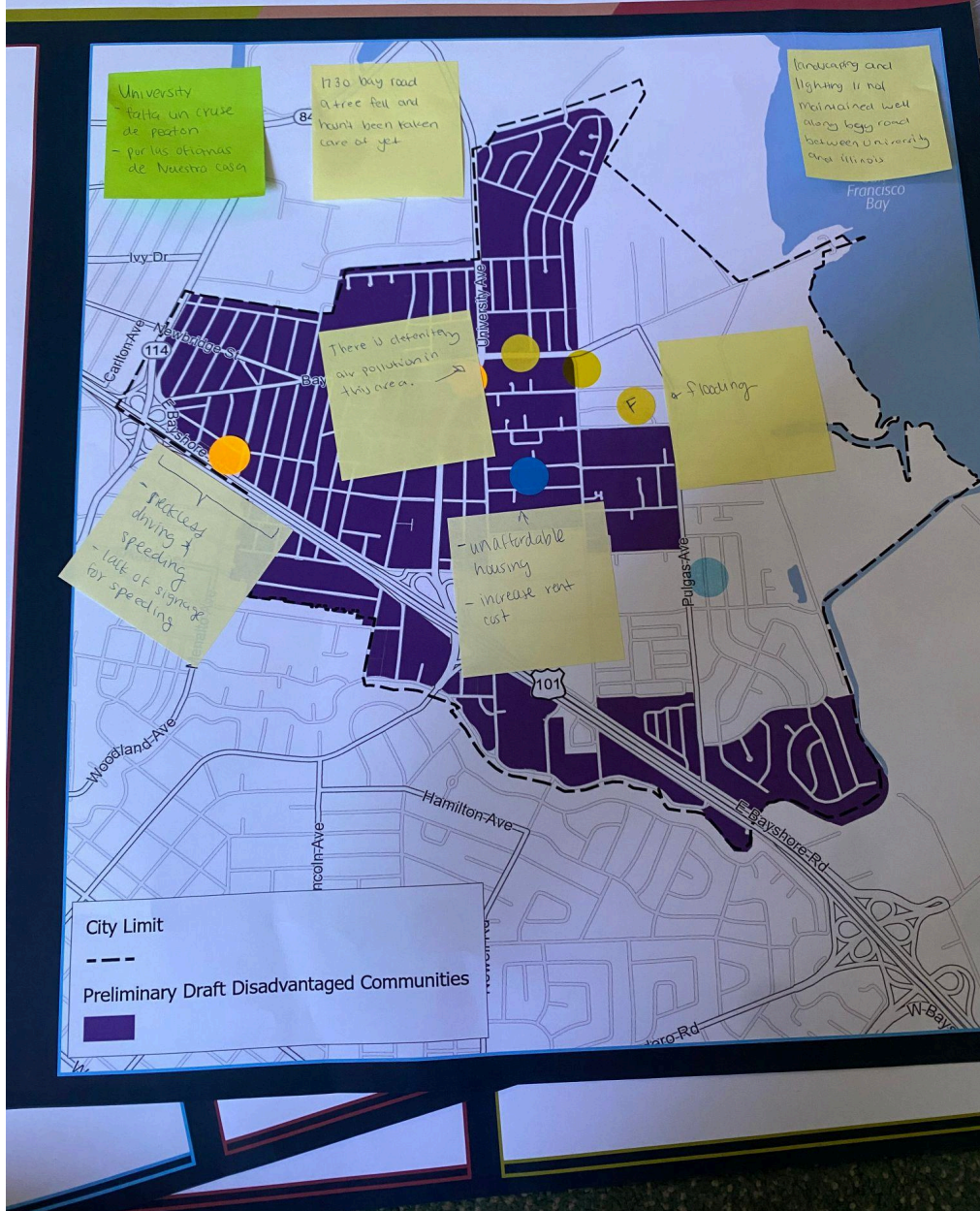
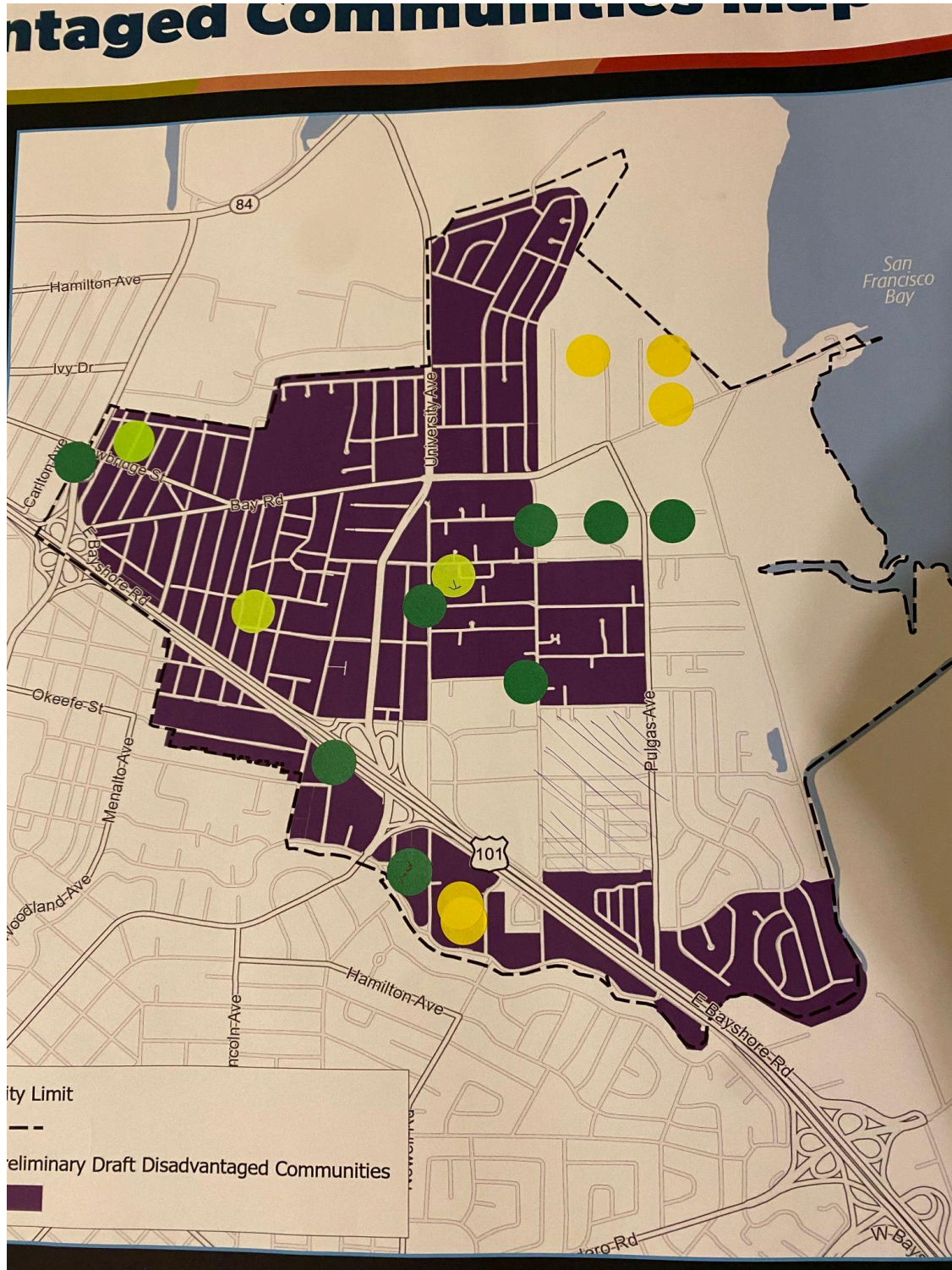


Figure 2: English Workshop Map Feedback



Feedback attached to Maps:

- All of EPA is disadvantaged
- Even in gated communities, people live with fixed income, seniors veterans, disabled people
- Too many potholes throughout the city



- We need WAY more streetlights in our city

Logistical Recommendations:

- Gather email addresses and phone numbers in the sign in sheet so we can follow up
- Purchase vegan and vegetarian options that are clearly labeled
- Provide outreach materials to the venue of the workshop so that folks who are already going to the YMCA could learn about it on as they are at the facility

Lessons Learned:

- Exit survey was a great way to keep track of their feedback in the moment and make sure we had what we needed to hand them their stipend when deployed consistently throughout both the English and Spanish workshop
- Childcare is essential so that parents can actively participate in the meeting and still be able to check in on their children. We saw significantly more Spanish speakers bringing children to the event and relying on the childcare as a support for the evening
- A registration link would have allowed for all partner organization to understand how many people are planning to attend instead of going back and forth with best guesses
- Have emergency and contingency plans in place like considering what to do when the power goes out and ensure that all staff are aware of the plan so that we know how to pivot as a team and can assure that the meeting will still go on in a productive and meaningful way

Appendix 1: Post- Workshop Feedback Survey Results

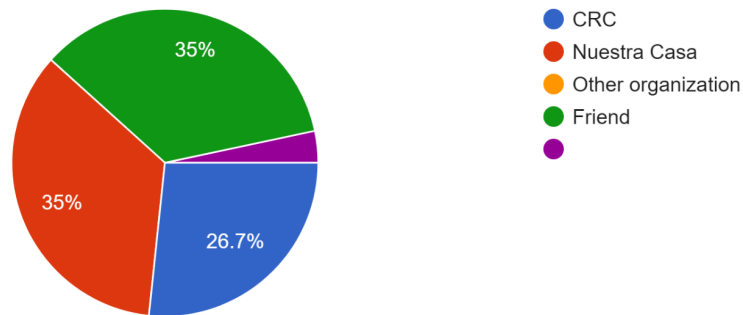
Total surveys completed: 60

(Note: Majority of Spanish workshop members completed survey, English workshop recipients did not complete survey due to power outage and disbursement of resources)

Q1: How did you hear about today's event?

How did you hear about today's event

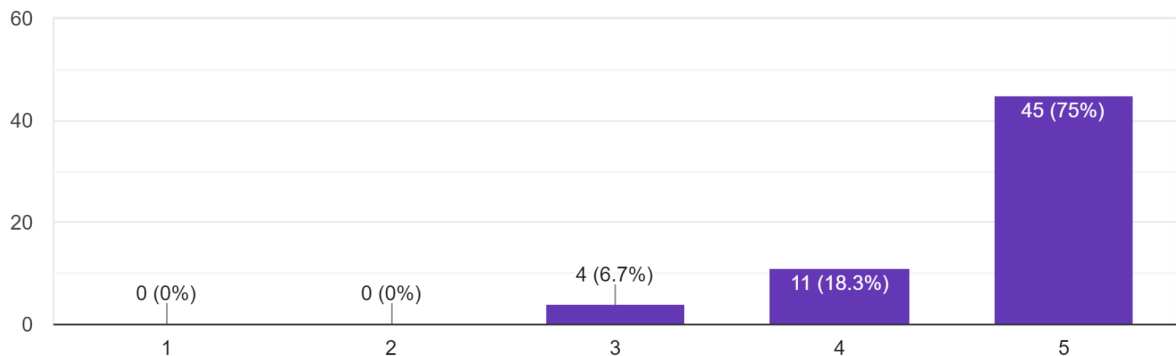
60 responses



Q2: I learned information that is useful to me (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

I learned information that is useful to me (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

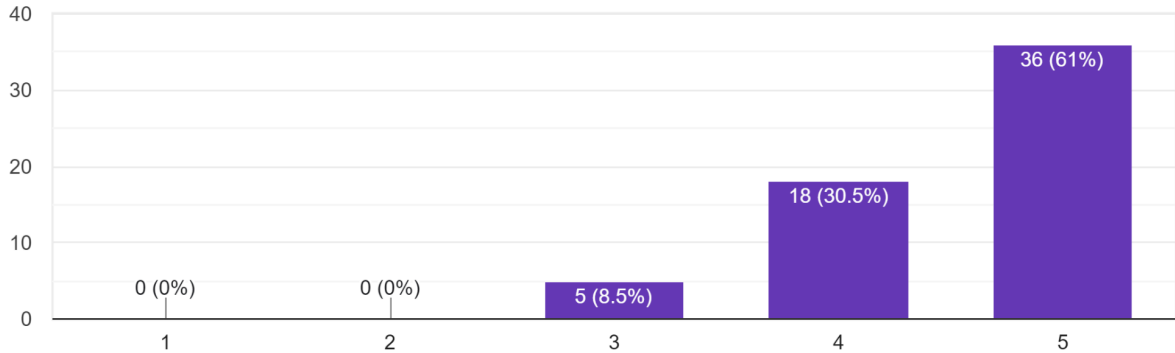
60 responses



Q3: I have a better understanding of what environmental justice is (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

I have a better understanding of what environmental justice is (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

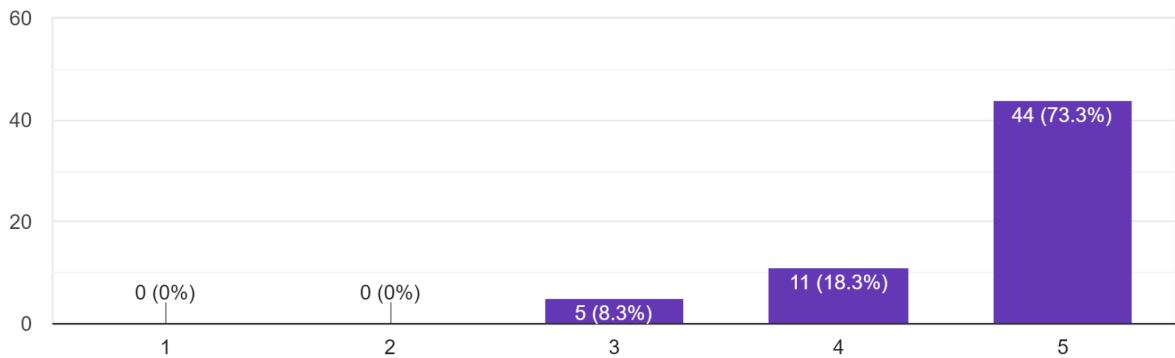
59 responses



Q4: I have gained new perspective about issues that may exist in East Palo Alto (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

I have gained new perspective about issues that may exist in East Palo Alto (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

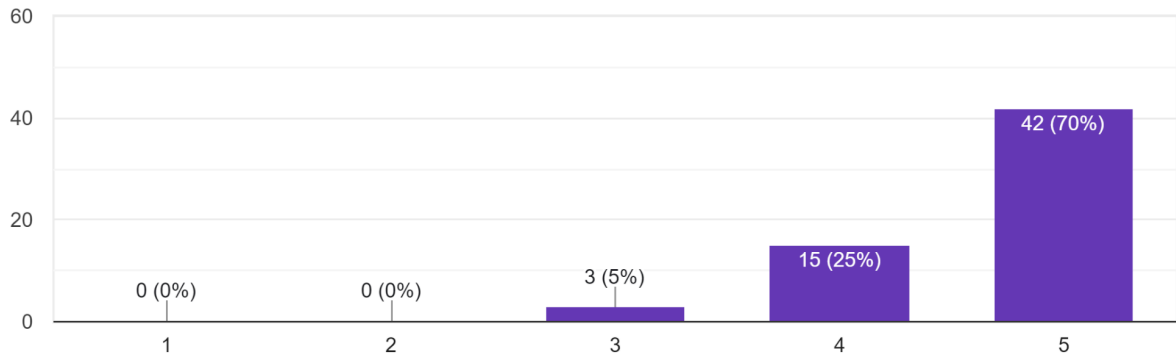
60 responses



Q5: The format of the meeting worked well for me (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

The format of the meeting worked well for me (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree)

60 responses



Q6: What key points are you taking away from today's meeting? (44 responses)

Common Trends

1. Desire for improved air quality and addressing pollution sources like smoke:
 - a. "No one wants to live near where there are a lot of smokers and there is no legal process."
 - b. "Better air quality"
 - c. "Air quality issues and reasons why it is important to prioritize"
2. Need for accessible and safe walking/transportation infrastructure:
 - a. "It is important to have more places that are safe and accessible to walk to. Public transportation is really important as well.:"
 - b. "So many sidewalks flood in EPA!"
3. Importance of environmental justice and addressing community needs:
 - a. "I learned about city programs and problems."
 - b. "Environmental Justice issues and why they are categorized as such."
 - c. "I understood the importance of this workshop and the topics presented as essential to healthy human life in East Palo Alto."
 - d. "What environmental justice is and what it looks like in East Palo Alto."
4. Desire for community input and having voices heard:
 - a. "We need our opinions heard so that we know that our safety is being prioritized in the future."
 - b. "Give more of my opinion to improve overall care of this community."
5. Appreciation for information shared and the opportunity to learn:
 - a. "I learned a lot about how the needs of the community intersect with the needs of the city."
 - b. "It all felt really important to me and I appreciate the opportunity to learn more."
6. Concerns about housing, public services and long-term planning:
 - a. "How to improve the city, rent and housing control methods, nad more daycares."
 - b. "What the city wants to focus on is keeping it cleaner and controlling the climate system... the current initiatives are designed for yesterday, not tomorrow."

All feedback shared to this question

- safety and better for EPA



- one of those elements that i learned more about was second or third hand smoke. No one wants to live near where there is a lot of smokers and there is no legal process, just an assumption that we must endure it. There are pounds of harmful smoke getting emitted and the City is not doing anything about it.
- Thank you for the workshop
- with whom to talk, regardless of the language, I can communicate and help our blessed community
- There is no commander center in EPA!
- They need people's opinions
- improve air quality at more community centers for people with health problems
- air quality issues and reasons why it is important to prioritize
- The unique value and support a Community Center can provide for folks in EPA
- So many sidewalks flood in EPA
- Better air quality
- We need our opinions heard so that we know that our safety is being prioritized in the future.
- how to get information
- give more of my opinion to improve care
- there is a lot of help
- I learned that there is help to solve problems
- advancing environmental health in EPA can help people too
- All of the aspects of the workshop were helpful
- There are a lot of layers to the impacts of what is effected in East Palo Alto.. I also learned that the city gives water because it will be better than what is available.
- I learned that some city problems have to be solved and there is a lot more to solve that will provide multiple benefits.
- Environmental Justice issues and why they are categorized as such
- It is important to have more places that are safe and accessible to walk to. Public transportation is really important as well.
- I learned a lot about how the needs of the community intersect with the needs of the city
- Lots of new information about environmental justice and what it looks like in East Palo Alto
- I understood the importance of this workshop and the topics presented as essential to healthy human life in East Palo Alto
- What environmental justice is and what it looks like in East Palo Alto

- What the city wants to focus on is keeping it cleaner and controlling the climate system. I also learned that everything the city wants is long term, and in my opinion it is for yesterday not tomorrow. because we are dealing with many high-risk places.
- Let's build something important and take care of what we have!
- How to improve the city, rent and housing control methods, and more daycares
- I learned more about the community's goals and plans to get there
- Specific points and perspectives to address smoking in public spaces, creating my own definition of environmental justice, how the city thinks and plans for road protections
- I learned about city programs and problems
- Public aid programs and services
- the positive comments my community made, and hopefully they come true
- It was interesting to see the ideas that the city has as well as seeing that we all have certain or similar opinions within our community
- It all felt really important to me and I appreciate the opportunity to learn more
- It is all so important and very high priority
- I am worried about the health of all the trees.
- What are the best activities for the city and for the community
- I understand the term Environmental Justice and what the terms means in my community now
- good comments that I wrote and I really do hope they are fulfilled
- Great comments to learn and share with my community!
- All of the points made by my community were insightful.

Q7: Is there particular information you would like for us to cover at a future workshop? (39 responses)

Common Themes:

- Air Quality and Pollution
 - Addressing air pollution from sources like traffic, smoke and industrial activities locally
 - Planting more trees to improve air quality
 - Initiatives for smoke and air quality monitoring/abatement
- Public Safety and Security
 - Enhancing safety and security in public spaces like parks
 - More street lighting for safer walking at night
 - Traffic calming measures like speed bumps on roads like O'Keefe Street
 - Emergency preparedness and action plans
- Housing and Tenant Protections
 - Increasing access to affordable/low-income housing
 - Stopping rental abuses and enacting lawas to protect tenants
 - Addressing issues like mold, pests in rental homes



- Flooding and Disaster Preparedness
 - Mitigating and preventing flooding in prone areas
 - Disaster preparedness planning at neighborhood level
 - Cleaning drains and improving drainage infrastructure
- Community Engagement and Resources
 - More workshops on city government, public participation
 - Mental health resources and rehabilitation services
 - Guidance on pensions, immigration services, tenants rights
- Parks and Green Spaces
 - Prioritizing safety, accessibility and maintenance of parks
 - Planting more trees in parks and public spaces
 - Creating play areas for children in park s
- Food Access
 - Increasing access to affordable, healthy and organic food options
 - Farmer's markets and community gardens
 - Addressing food waste and recovery

All Responses for this Question:

- Yes, gather volunteers to help our community, such as cleaning, planting trees
- low income housing
- Air quality and smoke abatement
- inform us to ask to help our community
- planting trees for a better air
- EPA Police Department initiatives, O'Keefe Street safety and emergency action plans
- No
- stop rental abuses and make laws to protect people
- Safe park areas walk with peace of mind and more lighting at night
- park for children to play more
- Enhancements to safety and security in EPA's public spaces
- Water quality, safe roads, air quality
- pension guidance
- Low income housing
- programs to clean the city
- More speed bumps on O'Keefe!! I see too many accidents on this road and a LOT of people driving unsafe.
- What organic food is available is VERY expensive
- N/A
- How to prevent and mitigate flooding
- How to deal with smoke and otherwise poor air quality



- I want more information on where I inform how our friends, family and neighbors so that they can obtain more information on foreign executive services, rights, health, housing, immigration, etc.
- More information on public health and public safety laws that are still relevant to maintain public health standards today. How to participate in county and city council meetings and analyze what is happening at that level.
- Mental health resources, more flood abatement and resources
- How to ask for help for people for folks who smoke marijuana, do not smoke anywhere, and talk about rehabilitation center issues
- More proposals of solutions and how they co-benefit
- Yes, there would be more regular and often so then one goes out to the parks or to public places.
- Yes, workshops and information about what was done the previous year and how that informs the next steps
- The benefits and initiatives ongoing to plant more trees in East Palo Alto
- Planting trees
- talk more about the apartments
- What the city is doing to advance security and protection of its residents
- Smoke and air quality
- I want to see more attention and detail to creating safer and more accessible parks
- More workshops on how city government works and how to stay invested completely in this
- I want to see more priority and care taking for the parks.
- How to advance public safety and security

Appendix 2: CBO Partner Nuestra Casa Feedback:

What was your role in participating in the Environmental Justice workshop on May 23?

- Participate
- Encouraging people to participate
- Childcare
- Help the people who attended the workshop and make notes on a sheet for the projects
- Promoter

What was your favorite part of the event?

- The information on the different changes in East Palo Alto
- learn from the community
- Childcare



- help people write down their topics of interest for their community
- My favorite part of the event was that people were able to write on sticky note about their concerns about East Palo Alto

What did you think went well?

- community participation
- everything was good, the attention, the food, the organization
- everything was very good with the children
- Honestly, that workshop was very good, thank you
- I think it went well just too crowded

What suggestions do you have to improve this event?

- Have a better space for events, the space was very small. and have a better way to guide the community since there was a lot of confusion where each person did not know where to go.
- Don't turn off the light and give us more time
- more support for care
- I heard that people don't like that the burritos throw away a lot of food.
- I suggest we can approve by having a microphone so people can hear better for people that are in the back and after people wrote their sticky notes people wanted to discuss their concerns but that wasn't possible. Have a larger room so people can be less crowded

Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Train the people who are going to participate more since they do not know how to answer the questions.
- I like all
- the event was very
- all good thanks

I think it was a great way to start introducing the EJ Element to the EPA community. Community members had a lot to say about these issues, and it was clear they had significant concerns and felt that not enough is being done. I think there was a great amount of interaction and it made space for allowing people to speak directly to the whole group or individually at the posters, which was especially helpful for those uncomfortable with public speaking.

Space was a bit of an issue. I noticed some community members stayed in their seats because the posters were quite crowded. I think planning for larger workshops in the future would be a good idea since community members are likely to share this info with friends/neighbors.

I think the way the event was structured was pretty interactive. However, I know not everyone got a chance to come up to the posters because of how many people were in the space. It was a bit cramped and moving around in the section I was in was a bit difficult. I know that's not something people can really plan for, but I'm concerned that it left many people out of conversations and voicing their opinions. Despite that, I had some really good conversations with the people I did get to interact with!

EJ Element Workshop Feedback

Pros



- Separate rooms for English and Spanish were perfect
- Love the interactive aspect of the workshop (Gets people moving instead of lectured at)
- Great to have a childcare area
- The posters had good information on it
- Lots of people came!

Cons

- The space was too small
- Could barely hear the speaker from the back (maybe get a microphone for next time)
- Would be great to have one or two projectors to be able to see the slides from the back as well
- Might be nice to have it outside if there is no venue with enough space
- Would be nice to have a paper with information about the workshop and interactive activity in case people arrive late they still know how to get involved
- A debrief near the end of the event would help people ask questions and summarize what big issues were important to them based on the popularity of certain items on posters

Logistical Feedback

1. The venue was pretty tight which made it hard for community members to move around and engage with the boards.
2. Also because of the venue, it was hard to hear and see the presentation that happened in the beginning.

Content Feedback:

1. This might be tricky since it could lead to bias, but I think if there is a portion in the beginning that says what happened in EPA, like the storms for example. This is just so people can remember some of the things and counteract some of the recency bias. I noticed a lot of people having concerns for the heat, and I wonder if there was a correlation with the time of year. Since the EJ element is happening during summer/fall it would be useful to do a recap. This could be from the perspective of the community rather than the City or CRC.
2. I think inviting some of the people from the City and County to participate and speak a little to the group would foster a relationship where community members can see who will see their concerns and priorities,

Logistical Recommendations for Future Workshops

1. Having a mic for the presentation and also someone from the community to introduce the efforts going on so the community feels more comfortable and more encouraged to participate
2. Have two separate days for each cohort, allowing for quality support for each section
3. There should also be a section to comment on the exercises/sections. Do they find it valuable to capture specific data more than others?