



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

September 12, 2024 05:30 PM

Guerneville School Community Room, 14630 Armstrong Woods Road Guerneville, CA 95466

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94680567954?pwd=HlfqMzgHZNTP4wWW52poVqCLSVGr2w.1>

Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls • Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott • Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker • Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar • Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-1219 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

1. Announcement from the Spanish Interpreter

The interpreter will provide instructions on how to access the Spanish language audio channel in Zoom or get a headset to listen to the Spanish interpretation in-person.

2. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

Discussion **Possible Action**

This approval process ensures that the agenda accurately reflects the items to be discussed and decided upon. Members may request adjustments to the agenda, including reordering or deletion of items at this time. Any changes must comply with the Brown Act requirements for public notice and agenda setting. The agenda must be finalized before the Council proceeds with other meeting items.

4. Statement of Conflict of Interest

Discussion

This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Council Members to indicate any statements of conflict

of interest for any item listed on this agenda. The River MAC bylaws state that members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

5. Consent Agenda

Discussion Possible Action

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The Lower Russian River MAC will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Representatives, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

A. August 8, 2024 minutes

6. Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute. Due to Brown Act regulations, this is not a time for discussion of any item, however a brief dialogue about considering an item for a future agenda is permitted during this time.

7. Public Comments

On Matters not listed on the agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Lower Russian River MAC's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

8. County Update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Discussion

9. Presentation from Katrina Braehmer, Supervising Planner and Claudette Diaz, Planner from Permit Sonoma regarding the 2020 Safety Element Update and the New Environmental Justice Element

Discussion

The County's General Plan is the blueprint for land use, development, and public action in the unincorporated County. It provides policies for balancing change and preservation within our communities, fostering healthy communities, and protecting environmental resources. At a July 23, 2024 meeting, the Board of Supervisors held a workshop on the General Plan 2020 [Safety Element Update and New Environmental Justice Element](#). The workshop presented the status of the update process, identified communities of focus for the elements, and included a discussion on policy approaches for prioritizing improvements in disadvantaged communities (known as Environmental Justice Communities) and how best to incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into the General Plan. The agenda materials for the Board of Supervisors workshop included Policy Frameworks that outline potential policy strategies to address hazard safety and environmental justice issues in Sonoma County. The Policy Frameworks were developed from community input obtained throughout the planning process thus far and are intended to facilitate the policy development process. The Board workshop agenda materials can be found [here](#) and a video of the workshop can be found [here](#).

On September 12, 2024, Planning staff from Permit Sonoma will 1) present an overview of the requirements for the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements, and 2) seek input from the Lower Russian River MAC and members of the public on Lower Russian River's policy priorities and ideas to protect the public from hazards and prioritize the needs of environmentally-burdened and under-resourced communities. Permit Sonoma staff will facilitate a discussion with MAC members and

listen to comments from members of the public in attendance. The discussion will focus on 1) Emergency Preparedness, 2) Wildfire Resilient Landscapes, 3) Flooding Hazards, and 4) Healthy Environments (Pollution Burden). Feedback from the meeting will inform the draft Safety and Environmental Justice Elements, which will be released for a public review period prior to adoption. Staff will also provide information on next steps and how to continue to be involved.

These two element updates will be completed in advance of a comprehensive General Plan update process, which has recently begun, in order to comply with State mandates. The Board of Supervisors will hear an update from Permit Sonoma staff on the status of the comprehensive General Plan update process at their October 15th meeting in advance of the General Plan 2020 Safety and Environmental Justice Elements going before the Board for adoption.

10. Committee & Community Project Reports

Discussion **Possible Action**

Written reports may be included for review. Committee chair or delegate may briefly highlight parts of the update, respond to councilmember questions, and receive public comment.

A. Community Stewardship Project

11. Adjournment



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes

Regular Meeting

August 08, 2024 05:30 AM

El Molino Library, 7050 Covey Road, Forestville, CA 95436

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at by Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata.

Meeting recording available on District 5 YouTube Channel [here](#).

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls

B. Roll Call

Present: , Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata, Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls, Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker, Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes, Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar, Guerneville Alternate Kathy Dahl, Forestville Alternate Lisa Nahmanson

Absent: Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff, Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott, Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

Staff Present: Debbie Ramirez, District 5 Field Representative Tracy Lyons, District 5 Chief of Staff Steve Ehret, David Robinson, Sasha Ruschmeyer, Sarah Phelps: Sonoma County Regional Parks, Verne Ball, Sonoma County Council (remote)

2. Approval of Agenda Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker motioned to approve. A second was made by Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls.

The motion passed with the following vote:

8 In Favor 0 Opposed
 Abstained Absent Recused

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

There were no statements of conflict of interest.

4. Consent Agenda

A. July 11 Minutes

B. 2023 Annual Report

The consent agenda was approved, with the addition of Land Use Committee member names to the 2023 annual report.

Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar.

The motion passed with the following vote:

8 **In Favor** 0 **Opposed**
 Abstained **Absent** **Recused**

5. **Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda**

Vicki announced that the first annual "Pie in the Park" event would be held on August 31st to benefit the park and celebrate Lucy Hardcastle's 80th birthday. The event will take place from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at the park, featuring activities for children, and attendees are welcome to enjoy or possibly win pies. Vicki noted that participants do not need to bring pies but are encouraged to attend for a fun community event.

Mike reported that the Friends of Rio Nido have been successful in their outreach efforts for the emergency radio program. He shared that a training session is scheduled for Sunday at 11:00 AM, with close to 80 people already registered. The session is limited to 100 participants, and they may reach capacity. Mike also mentioned that similar events are planned for Sebastopol, Petaluma, and Monte Rio in September.

Lonnie brought forward a request from the public for future agenda consideration. He highlighted that a local group, "Bicycle Friendly Forestville," is seeking county support for installing wayfinding signs, adding bike lanes, and connecting existing bike paths. He proposed that the council consider inviting the group to make a formal presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Vicki raised concerns about noise pollution in the community, noting that there is currently no noise ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. She suggested that the council discuss how to provide clarity on this issue.

Debbie responded by informing the council that the Board of Supervisors is aware of the noise pollution concerns and that it would be addressed as part of the upcoming general plan process.

Lisa mentioned that she and Vicki would be at the Forestville farmers market the following day to talk about the MAC, and she invited anyone interested to join them.

Betsy provided an update on Russian River Pride, announcing a fundraiser, the Augtoberfest Beer Bust, to be held on August 24th at Timberline Restaurant in Guerneville, starting at 4:00 PM. She also shared details of the upcoming Pride parade on September 21st, with events planned throughout the week. Betsy noted that Forgotten Felines will participate in the parade and invited others to join by contacting the organizers.

6. **Public Comments**

Marco Suarez, Business Diversity Program Manager with the Sonoma County Economic Development Board, introduced himself and explained his role in supporting small businesses, particularly in the Russian River area. He mentioned his experience working with businesses during the floods and stated that he will attend future MAC meetings to continue supporting

local businesses.

Kimberly Lambert, a retired school board member, provided an update on the unification study initiated by the Sonoma County Office of Education. She explained the study's three scenarios: full unification of all 11 districts, splitting Sonoma County High School into two districts, or creating one unified high school district with a unified elementary district. She highlighted Forestville Elementary's interest in studying the second scenario and expressed her belief that West County students would benefit from creating a new district on the El Molino campus. She plans to provide further updates next month.

Brian Borchers, owner of Russian River Cycle Service in Forestville and member of the Bicycle Friendly Forestville group, spoke about the need to improve cycling safety in the county. He emphasized that dangerous road conditions deter many from cycling and advocated for adding wayfinding signs to guide cyclists away from unsafe areas. He also mentioned the closure of Old Monte Rio Road by landowners, which limits safe cycling routes.

Jim O'Donnell, a Forestville resident, expressed opposition to the proposed asphalt plant in Forestville. He raised concerns about the industrial nature of the plant, the height of the silos, and the increased truck traffic, which he believes will negatively impact community health and safety. He requested that the MAC hold a meeting in Forestville to discuss the potential impacts of the plant before the release of its Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Emily Shartin, Advocacy Coordinator for the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, voiced support for the Bicycle Friendly Forestville group. She mentioned the group's involvement in the update of the county's Active Transportation Plan and the importance of community input in the process. Additionally, she noted the recent approval of a countywide position focused on active transportation, which will support efforts to improve bike and pedestrian connections in unincorporated areas.

Nick Thayer, a Rio Nido resident, raised concerns about safety on River Road between Rio Nido and Armstrong Woods Road, citing its dangerous, windy, and hilly conditions. He suggested that the county install bubble mirrors to improve safety in the area at a low cost.

7. County Update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Debbie Ramirez reported on the application progress for 2025 River MAC appointees. The application deadline is 8/31.

8. Public Access, Safety and Stewardship along the lower Russian River

Don McEnhill from Russian Riverkeeper discussed public access rights on navigable rivers, emphasizing the importance of the public trust doctrine. He highlighted historical legal cases that affirmed public access rights and noted the ongoing tension between public access and property owners' concerns about trash and behavior. McEnhill shared that Russian Riverkeeper is working on solutions, such as a volunteer program to educate river visitors and promote cleaner beaches, similar to the Yuba River's River Ambassador Program.

David Robinson, Park Manager for Sonoma County Regional Parks, discussed the increase in river use since 2018 and the department's efforts to address the resulting challenges. These

include expanding public education, increasing trash services, and implementing alcohol bans during the summer months. He also highlighted the success of the Russian River Patrol and the life jacket loaner program, which have contributed to a reduction in drownings. Robinson also spoke about the Russian River Shuttle, which has reduced traffic and parking impacts while providing alternative transportation to popular river access points.

Sasha Ruschmeyer, Operations Specialist for Sonoma County Regional Parks, provided further details on the Russian River Shuttle. She discussed the evolution of the shuttle service, including ridership growth, the addition of tube rentals, and the implementation of a Smart Train connection to improve accessibility. Ruschmeyer also shared plans to expand the shuttle service and explore new routes across the county.

Sarah Phelps, Marketing Specialist for Regional Parks, presented on the "Leave No Trace" initiative, which promotes responsible outdoor recreation through education and public messaging. The initiative, a partnership between Regional Parks and Sonoma County Tourism, aims to reduce human impact on parks. Phelps highlighted various efforts, including signage, social media campaigns, and educational resources, and discussed future plans to expand these efforts across more parks and increase public awareness.

Steve Ehret, Park Planning Manager for Sonoma County Regional Parks, addressed the importance of destination stewardship and discussed ongoing efforts to manage river access points. He also spoke about the development and maintenance of class one bikeways, which provide safe, multi-use trails. Ehret shared updates on the extension of the West County Trail and plans for a lower Russian River trail that will connect several communities along the river. Additionally, he mentioned the development of a roundabout at Mirabel and River Road, which will include crosswalks to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Council Member and Public Comments

Council members and the public raised several concerns and suggestions regarding public access, safety, and stewardship along the Lower Russian River.

There were questions about extending the shuttle service to cover more of the lower Russian River, particularly due to increased traffic and congestion from Forestville to Monte Rio. It was suggested that the "Leave No Trace" and "Respect Russian River" campaigns be consolidated to avoid conflicting messaging. Additional questions addressed coordination between Regional Parks and other recreation districts, such as the Russian River Recreation and Park District and Monte Rio Recreation and Park District, with an emphasis on sharing resources and improving ADA access. Suggestions included using QR codes for easier access to information and inquiries about policies on e-bikes.

Concerns were also raised about emergency access at Mother's Beach, where improper parking has obstructed emergency vehicles, and about public access to private beaches like Bohemian Grove and Johnson's Beach. Another comment suggested offering swimming lessons at Monte Rio Beach to help prevent drownings. Parking and safety issues were highlighted, especially along River Road, where visitors walking with floaties on the road, combined with a 50 mph speed limit, create a dangerous situation. It was also mentioned that parking and enforcement challenges may require law enforcement intervention.

Public members asked about the financial sustainability of the shuttle service, noting positive effects on reducing alcohol-related incidents. Other comments focused on the need for more trash receptacles and signage in parks, as well as concerns about unregulated beaches lacking proper facilities like trash cans and restrooms. There were also concerns about visitors

trespassing on private property due to alcohol bans in county parks.

Panel Responses

Steve Ehret clarified public access rights, explaining that beaches like Bohemian Grove and Johnson's Beach fall under the public trust doctrine, allowing public access up to the high water mark. He explained that while fees apply for driving onto Johnson's Beach, walking access remains free. He also mentioned rare exceptions to public access rules, such as in the case of Geyserville.

Sasha Ruschmeyer responded by acknowledging the parking issues at Mother's Beach and said that they are working on expanding the shuttle service. The shuttle, funded through Measure M, is not designed to generate revenue but to reduce traffic and environmental impacts. She mentioned ongoing efforts to transition to electric shuttles and partnerships with public transit agencies.

David Robinson addressed ADA access improvements, highlighting the addition of beach wheelchairs and mats for easier access. He also noted the hiring of an Accessibility and Inclusivity Manager to enhance park accessibility. Regarding e-bikes, he confirmed that class one and two e-bikes are allowed on trails with speed limits.

Sarah Phelps responded to concerns about trash management, stating that the parks are working to install more wildlife-proof bins and increase signage for proper waste disposal. She acknowledged challenges with maintaining trash receptacles but confirmed ongoing efforts to improve this.

The panel emphasized their commitment to finding solutions that balance public access with safety and environmental concerns.

DRAFT

9. Committee & Community Project Reports

A. Community Stewardship Project

the report was included with the packet

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM. Note that Councilmember Lazar left at 7:15 PM.



General Plan 2020
Safety Element Update
&
New Environmental
Justice Element

Katrina Braehmer and
Claudette Diaz



Presentation Overview

- Introduction to the General Plan 2020 Safety and Environmental Justice Updates
- Project History and Status
- Overview of the Policymaking Approach
- Discussion on Select Policy Topic Areas
- Q&A, time permitting

GENERAL PLAN

- Describes the community's vision for Sonoma County
- Includes goals, policies, and implementation strategies
- Identifies strategies for managing preservation and change
- Sets the foundation for the County's Specific Plans and Zoning Code

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Land Use | Agricultural Resources |
| Open Space and Resource Conservation | Housing |
| Water Resources | Circulation and Transit |
| Air Transportation | Public Facilities and Services |
| Noise | Safety |
| | *NEW* Environmental Justice |

Safety Element Update

- **Purpose:** Reduce the potential short- and long-term risks to people, property, and systems resulting from hazards
 - Wildfire
 - Flooding
 - Seismic and geologic hazards
 - Sea level rise and other climate-induced hazards
 - Drought
- **New requirements:**
 - Assessments of evacuation route capacity and residential egress
 - Assessment of climate change vulnerability and inclusion of adaptation and resilience policies and implementation measures

New Environmental Justice Element

- **Purpose:** To identify disadvantaged communities in Sonoma County and prioritize improvements in those areas to advance health
 - Pollution burden
 - Access to public facilities, services, and community amenities
 - Health and physical activity
 - Healthy food access
 - Safe and sanitary housing
 - Civic engagement in the public-decision making process
- **Definition of Environmental Justice:** “The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

(Government Code § 65040.12(e))

Project History – Community Engagement Strategy

Completed

5 Equity Working Committee (EWC) meetings

6 stakeholder focus groups with community organizations and County staff

1 countywide online survey on climate adaptation

7 pop-ups at events across the county and with interest groups

Upcoming

1 countywide public workshop

1 additional online survey

Municipal/citizen's advisory council/commission meetings

1 Equity Working Committee reflection session



Project History – Background Analysis

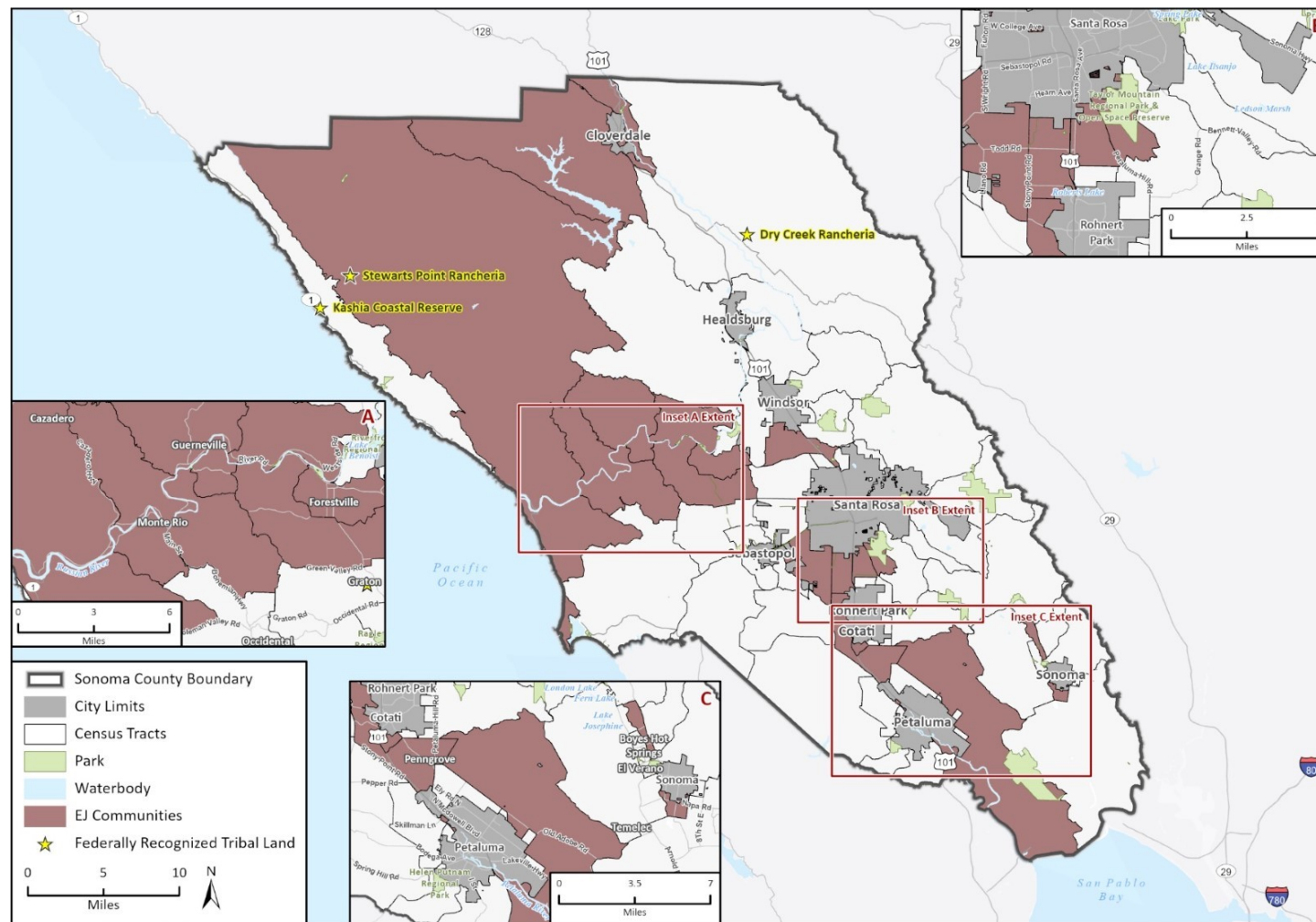
- **Environmental Justice Technical Report**
 - Identifies EJ Communities and explores data on EJ issues
- **Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment**
 - Explores the vulnerability of populations and County assets (such as parks, agriculture) to climate change
- **Evacuation Route Assessments***
 - High level assessments of evacuation route capacities and limitations

**In Progress*

Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities

Draft EJ Communities include:

1. Low-income census tracts with either:
 - Elevated pollution burden overall
 - Elevated levels of individual pollutants (e.g. pesticides)
 - Elevated housing burden
2. Federally recognized tribal lands

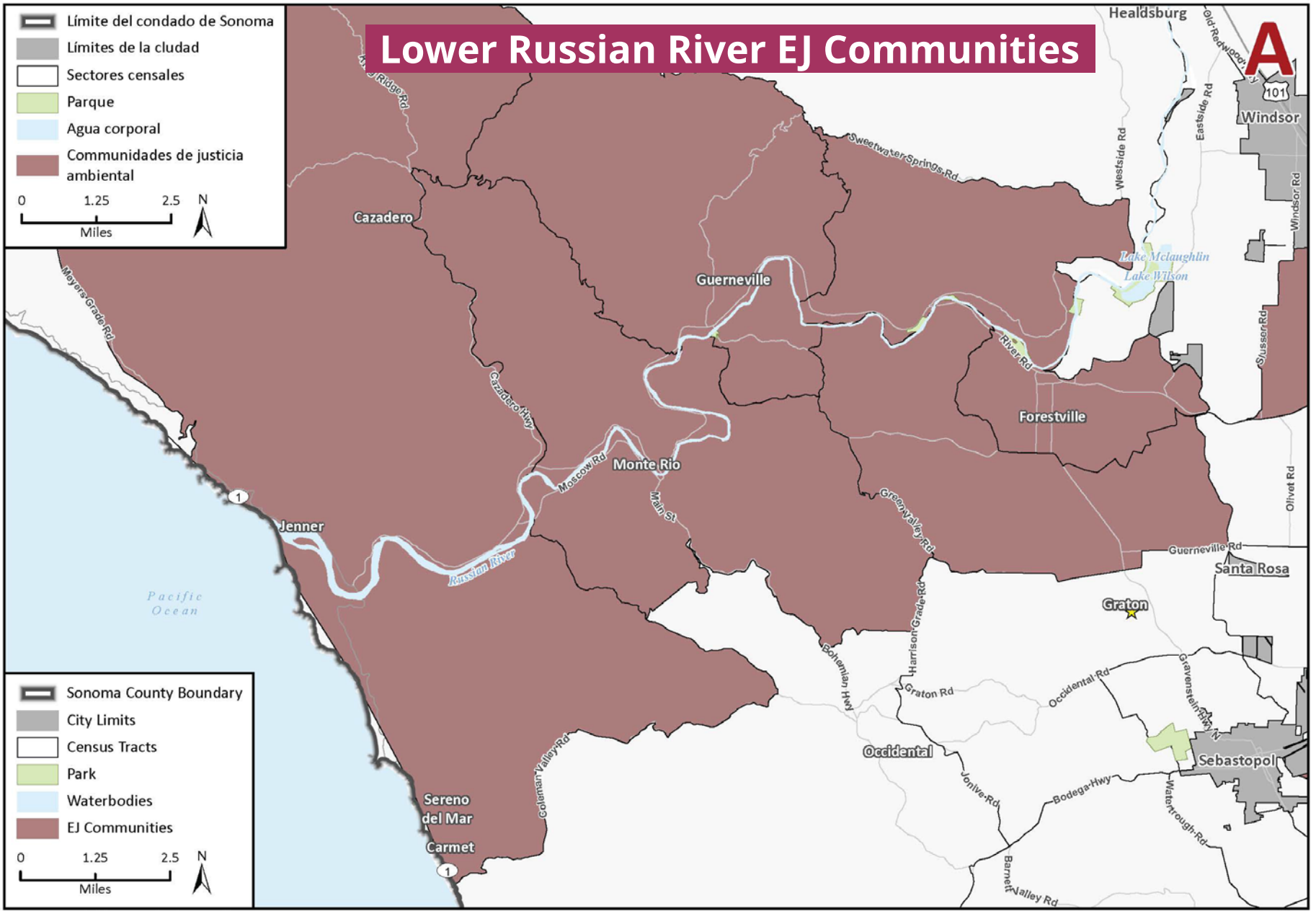


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Additional data provided by Sonoma County, 2022; CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; Priority Population Investments 4.0, 2022; Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2023.

22-12991-EPS-Sonoma Co EJ Tech Report.aprx
Fig. A Sonoma County DACs

Lower Russian River EJ Communities



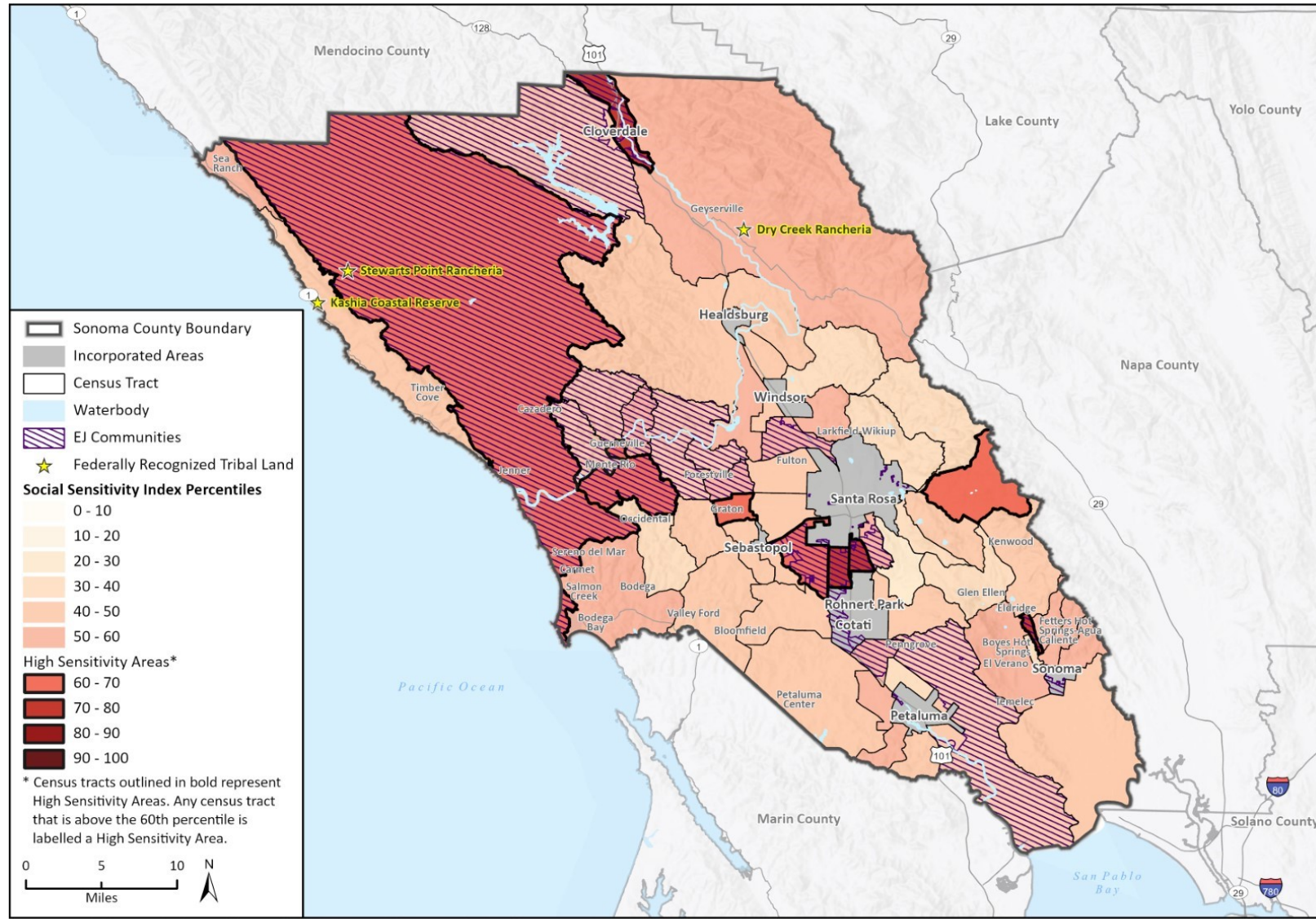
EJ Issues Affecting Lower Russian River Communities

- Exposure to pollutants such as:
 - Pesticides
 - Cleanup sites
 - Solid waste facilities
- Elevated rates of asthma and cardiovascular disease
- Poor access to transportation options including biking/walking
- Poor access to food retail options
- Poor broadband access

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 Additional data provided by Sonoma County, 2022; CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; Priority Population Investments 4.0, 2022

Fig X Sonoma County DACs v2 Inset A

Index of Climate Sensitive Populations



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2024. Additional data provided by Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2023; CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2021; Priority Population Investments 4.0, 2021; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020; CDC, 2010; American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021 5-year estimates, Table(s) B25070, B25091 & ACS, LEAD tool, 2018; Social Sensitivity Percentile Scores calculated by Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2022.

Safety Element.aprx
Fig X Social Sensitivity Analysis

Next Step: Draft Elements

1. Development of draft policies and measures for the elements
2. Release draft elements for public review
3. Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors public hearings for adoption



Policy Framework Purpose and Structure

- **Purpose of the Frameworks:** Outline desired outcomes of the General Plan and potential policy strategies
 - **Issue Statement:** Summary of the key concerns related to the topic
 - **Key Existing Plans:** Existing Sonoma County documents and plans that may be leveraged and built upon for addressing the issue
 - **Desired Outcome:** A general statement that expresses the outcomes towards which planning efforts are directed
 - **Community Input:** A summary of input received through community engagement efforts
 - **Strategy Ideas:** Statements of intent or direction on how to achieve the desired outcome, which will inform future iterations of the policies that will be included in the General Plan

General Plan Structure

- Goal
 - Policy
 - Implementation Action

Safety Element – Policy Frameworks

Extreme Heat,
Air Quality, and
Drought

Emergency
Preparedness
and Response

All Hazards
General Public
Safety

Resilient
Landscapes
(Wildfire)

Sea Level Rise

Seismic and
Flooding
Hazards

Key Thoughts

While we review the policy frameworks, think about:

- Which strategies are highest priority for your community?
- What concerns do you have with the proposed strategies?
- What's missing from the strategies that you think is important?

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Policy Issue

Alerts and Evacuation



Issue: Alerts and Evacuation

Background

- Barriers to safe and timely evacuation include:
 - Deficiencies in the electrical grid
 - Gaps in the transportation system
 - Spotty telecommunication system
 - Differences in language
 - Lack of adequate emergency facilities and services
 - Lack of evacuation locations
 - Inequitable distribution of resources

Input

- Focus on emergency preparedness, not reactivity
- Explore alternative alert systems
- Encourage individual evacuation planning



Issue: Alerts and Evacuation

Desired Outcome

Community members, especially those that face systemic inequities, can evacuate safely and timely due to resilient infrastructure, accessible and effective emergency alerts, and improved access to financial resources before, during, and after disasters for recovery.

Proposed Strategies

1. Prepare Community for Evacuation
2. Retrofit Critical Communications Services
3. Address Accessibility Barriers to Emergency Alert Programs
4. Conduct An Evacuation Needs Assessment
5. Evaluate and Improve Ag Pass Program
6. Advance Worker Evacuation Programs
7. Build Relationships with CBOs to Assist with Evacuation Efforts

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

- Which strategies are highest priority for your community?
- What concerns do you have with the proposed strategies?
- What's missing from the strategies that you think is important?

Wildfire Resilient Landscapes

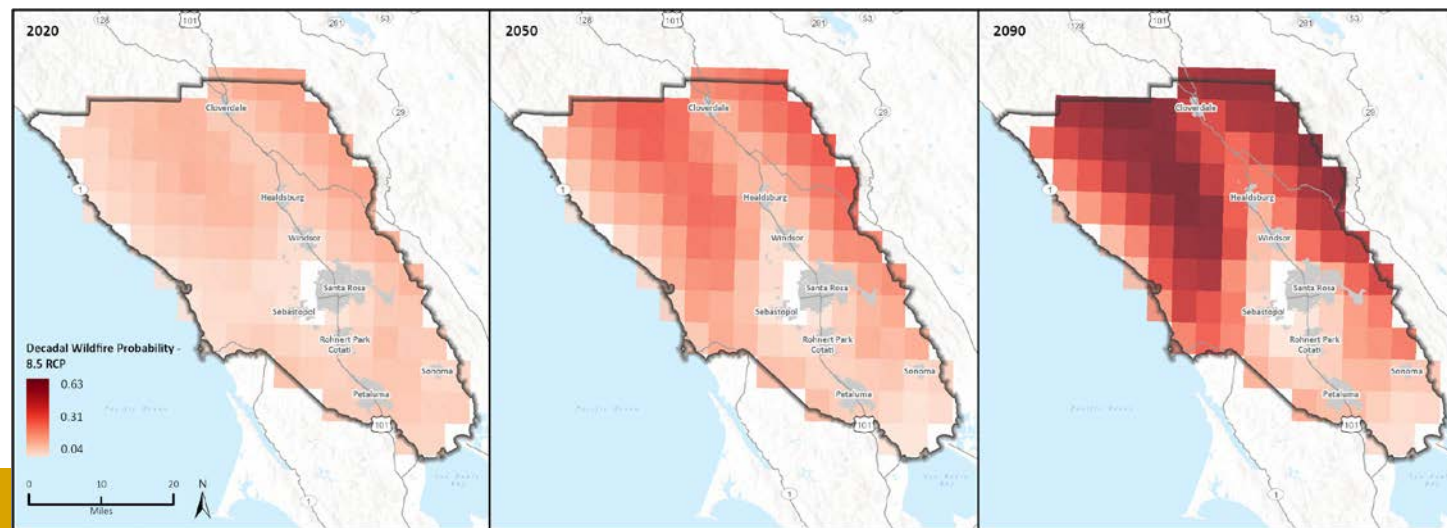
Issue: Wildfire

Background

- Over 400,000 acres burned in Sonoma County since 2015
- Increasing wildfire frequency and severity will result in human and wildlife risk, loss of habitat and agriculture, and loss of available food sources and seed bank
- Habitat loss may not recover depending on the type of land cover that is destroyed in a wildfire and quick succession fires can prevent or delay the recovery of natural systems

Input

- High concern regarding air quality during fire season for both residents and workers
- Improve home hardening and buffers to protect properties
- County needs improved power and communications systems during emergencies
- Concerns regarding the financial burdens fires create





Issue: Wildfire

Desired Outcome

Prevent unnecessary exposure of people and property to risks from wildland and structural fires, with priority on outdoor workers, shelterless populations, and populations most at risk of exposure during fires

Note: An "" indicates an existing Safety Element goal or objective.*

Proposed Strategies

1. *Use Complete Data
2. *Regulate New Development
3. *Utilize the Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan and CWPP
4. Improve Post-Fire Relocation and Other Housing Assistance Programs
5. Promote Community Preparation
6. Explore Alternative Fire Prevention Measures
7. Streamline CEQA Review for Fuel Reduction
8. Equitable Resilience Assistance
9. Safeguard Business Continuity

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

- Which strategies are highest priority for your community?
- What concerns do you have with the proposed strategies?
- What's missing from the strategies that you think is important?

Flood Hazards



Issue: Flood Resilience

Background

- There is an expected 37% increase in rainfall by the end of the century
- Climate change may cause more intense and frequent flood events resulting in increased
 - Strain on emergency services
 - Stressed water drainage systems
 - Property damage
 - Habitat loss
 - Injuries to people
 - Spread of water-borne disease
 - Mental and behavioral stress
 - Loss of income

Input

- Increased frequency and intensity of floods are of major concern
- Residents have questions regarding the accuracy of FEMA flood maps
- Major hazard events have disproportional impacts on low-income and special needs populations
- Concern regarding the health impacts and trauma resulting from hazard events
- Need for urban areas to be better prepared to handle flooding



Issue: Flood Resilience

Desired Outcome

All community members and emergency service providers in Sonoma County are protected from the impacts of flooding to the greatest extent feasible and the County has developed a robust protocol for handling major flooding events.

Proposed Strategies

1. Critical Facility Siting
2. Pursue FEMA Grant Program Funding
3. Require NPDES and LID Standards
4. Utilize Open Space as Floodplains
5. Restore Natural Benefits of Floodplains
6. Explore Rewilding Opportunities
7. Public Education on Flood Resilience

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

- Which strategies are highest priority for your community?
- What concerns do you have with the proposed strategies?
- What's missing from the strategies that you think is important?

EJ Element – Policy Frameworks



Healthy Environments (Pollution Burden)

Policy Issues

Pollution Exposure

Clean Water and Water Stewardship

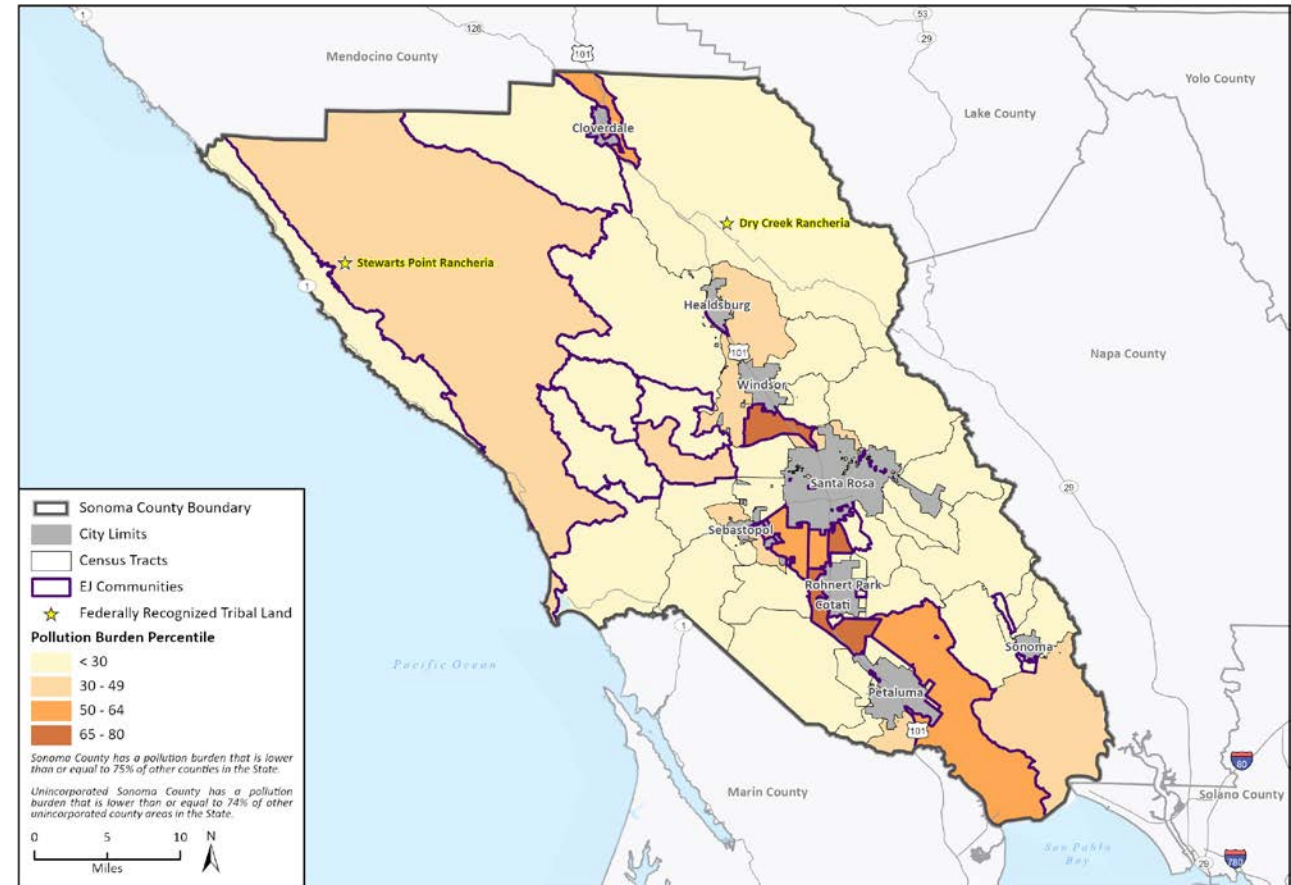
Issue 1: Pollution Exposure

Background

- 13 EJ Communities score notably high (75th percentile or higher) relative to all other census tracts
- Areas impacted most by solid waste are in the central and southern portions of the county
- Taylor Mountain EJ Community has significant levels of Diesel Particulate Matter
- Russian River Valley, Shiloh South, and Sonoma City South/Vineburg have moderately elevated levels of pesticides

Input

- Protect farmworkers from pollution and provide disaster pay (air quality from wildfires, pesticide exposure, impaired water)
- Include protection of groundwater resources from fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides
- Provide free lead tests to households and remediation if discovered





Issue 1: Pollution Exposure

Desired Outcome

All residents of Sonoma County, especially EJ Communities, are safe from pollution exposure and its effects.

Potential Strategies

1. Site Polluting Sources Away from Communities
2. Require Buffer Zones
3. Green Highways with Native Plants and Trees
4. Develop a County-wide Food Recovery Program to reduce food waste in landfills
5. Partner with Local Agricultural Community Members to Reduce Pesticide Pollution
6. Work with Agricultural Producers to Implement Organic Growing Practices
7. Work with CalTrans to Reduce or Eliminate Pesticide Use Along Roadways
8. Work with Cal/OSHA to Enforce Health and Safety Standards
9. Reduce Pesticide Use on County-owned Properties




Issue 2: Clean Water and Water Stewardship

Background

- EJ Communities in Sonoma County have moderate impacts from impaired water bodies
- Drinking water contamination is not considered impacted
- Petaluma Airport/Arroyo Park EJ Community has the highest score for groundwater threats heavily impacted by leaking underground storage tanks (USTs)

Input

- All people should have safe access to drinking water
 - Promote and develop a groundwater and well testing and remediation program
 - Partner with local organizations to create water stewardship programs
- 




Issue 2: Clean Water and Water Stewardship

Desired Outcome

Achieve safe groundwater and surface water standards in EJ Communities

Potential Strategies

1. Host Cleanup Events
 2. Develop a Multi-Lingual Watershed Education Campaign
 3. Explore Partnerships for Water Stewardship Programs
 4. Minimize Agricultural Spray and Runoff
 5. Minimize Roadway Runoff
 6. Identify Funding Sources for a Well Testing Program
 7. Seek Funding for Water Toxin Removal
 8. Develop a Displacement Reduction Program to Incentivize Landlords to Address On-Site Water Issues
 9. Identify Strategies to Enforce Water Protection
 10. Encourage Residents to Apply for the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Storage Tanks (RUST) Program
- 

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

- Which strategies are highest priority for your community?
- What concerns do you have with the proposed strategies?
- What's missing from the strategies that you think is important?

Questions?

- Environmental Justice and Safety Element Updates
 - Katrina Braehmer, Katrina.Braehmer@sonoma-county.org
 - Claudette Diaz, Claudette.Diaz@sonoma-county.org
- General Plan Update
 - GeneralPlan@sonoma-county.org
- Resources:
 - [July 23, 2024, Board of Supervisors Workshop Materials](#)
 - [Environmental Justice and Safety Element Update Webpage](#)

Thank you!



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

Community Project: STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 2024 Report

Members: Lisa Nahmanson (Chair: Forestville Alternate); Brian Andriola (MAC Alternate: Hacienda); Patty Thayer (MAC Alternate: Monte Rio/Villa Grande); Vesta Copestakes (Volunteer: Forestville (Past Rep from Forestville)); Carol Shumate (Volunteer: Russian Riverkeepers)

Staff: Debbie Ramirez and Lupe Catalan

Next Meeting Time: 4th Thursday (9/26/24 at 5pm)

What we are currently engaged in:

- Encroachment Permit Process: Patty will follow this up regarding how to get bubble mirrors on dangerous portion of Old River Road; looking into the process to determine what it takes to get it done.
- Hacienda Traffic Calming Deliverable: All agreed that a calming initiative comparable to Rio Nido would be a benefit to the community. Brian will circle up with Vicki Clewes to determine next steps; Vesta shared a map to depict where the slower speed limit signs could begin.
- Garbage in Downtown Guerneville and Forestville: Lisa attended a meeting with Mags from the RR Chamber and Che Casul (D5 Director of Community Initiatives...our Public Infrastructure Liaison); Carol provided a short history of Cal Trans trash pick up in our downtowns (a state owned road); Garbage cans at Bus Stops; we discussed the politics of trash cans.
- Storm Drains and Culverts: the group is interested in this concept of why culverts need to actually fail to be tended to by the County; Brian explained that Hacienda submitted their culverts list to Johannes (Public Infrastructure) before the pandemic; not much movement from the County until something failed.
- Hacienda Bridge Graffiti: Brian checked in with our group and we all agreed that it was a heavy lift and a good effort but the graffiti is ongoing so we are handing this back to the County to handle.
- Forestville Downtown Crosswalks Project: ongoing; construction is set to start in Spring of 2025; Lisa walked the project with Olivia the engineer from SOCO Public Infrastructure on July 30, 2024; Che Casul; members of FPA and members of Chamber. Multiple entities are involved.