



Healthy Neighborhoods Collaborative
1106 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

October 22, 2018

Mr. David Kwong
Community Development Director
City of Stockton
345 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Mr. Kwong,

The Healthy Neighborhoods Collaborative would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the draft Stockton General Plan. We are pleased at how far this General Plan update has come since the previous one, and would like to commend city staff for their extensive outreach efforts in which significant attendance at public workshops has been well noted by planners and city officials alike. We appreciate and are thankful for city staff's inclusion of many of our policy suggestions as presented in our previous letter back in March 2017.

The Healthy Neighborhoods Collaborative is made up of public health, environmental, environmental justice, housing, and transportation advocates as well as community and faith groups. Together we are working toward a more healthful, equitable, and sustainable city.

As a Collaborative, we have identified areas that the draft General Plan can be tightened to ensure our existing neighborhoods become more healthful, equitable, and sustainable. Stockton needs to invest first in its existing neighborhoods and residents. We would be very happy to meet with you and the consultant team to discuss these further in detail.

Please note: original is in italics, and added suggestions are non-italicized and underlined. Subtractions are strikethrough. As many of the policies and actions are reiterated in multiple areas, suggestions are only made once but apply to all instances where that policy or action is mentioned throughout the draft or, if added entirely, to all applicable categories.

Land Use

Additional Actions for Policy LU-5.2

Action: Enforce water conservation measures

Action: Coordinate with water agencies and non-profit organizations to promote public awareness on water quality and conservation issues and consistency in water quality impacts analyses.

Additional Action for Policy LU-6.2

Action: Ensure prioritization of development and redevelopment of vacant, underutilized, and blighted infill areas be considered through strategies such as zoning changes and anti-gentrification methods.

Additional Action for Policy LU-6.3

Action: Require a no-idling zone within a 1 to 2 block radius on both sides of streets and side streets of schools locations.

POLICY LU-6.4

Action LU-6.4B Maintain a reasonable proximity and balance (i.e., magnitude) between job generating uses, housing opportunities, and resident services and amenities, including transit and active transportation.

POLICY LU-6.6

Action LU-6.6B Participate in the San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) regional planning programs and coordinate City plans and programs with those of SJCOG, including the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, among others, and work with non-profit organizations also engaging in these planning programs. (LU-1.10)

POLICY LU-6.7

Action LU-6.7A Work with community-based organizations to develop and implement a comprehensive and accountable long-term strategy to engage the Stockton community in planning decisions. (LU-8.2)

Community Health

POLICY CH-1.1

Action CH-1.1A Plant and maintain appropriate shade trees along all City streets to reduce heat exposure, prioritizing areas of the city with significantly less tree canopy, and provide a buffer between the travel way and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and provide other amenities like well-marked crosswalks, bulb-outs, and pedestrian scale street lighting. (NCR-8.2)

Action CH-1.1B Prepare a parks master plan through an open and engaging process inclusive of community residents that assesses the quality and distribution of existing parks, facilities, and community centers throughout the city relative to the population served (i.e., within a set walking distance) and their needs (i.e., considering age, income, and abilities), and, based on this information, identifies and prioritizes new, renovation, and expansion park and community center projects and describes funding means and timelines. (RW-1.1, IM RW-1, IM RW-2, IM RW-7)

POLICY CH-1.2

Action CH-1.2D Prioritize pedestrian and active transportation improvement projects, in low-income/disadvantaged communities, that connect residential areas to retail locations that sell healthy food.

Additional Actions for Policy CH-1.3

Action: Adopt and Implement an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (per AB551) to allow privately-owned vacant property to be productively used for growing food.

Action: Partner with nonprofits, local farmers and San Joaquin County Public Health Services to conduct public outreach and education to aid in the development of an urban agriculture ordinance.

Action: Identify new potential locations for farmers' markets in low-income and nutrient deficient neighborhoods, including opportunities to hold markets on publicly owned land.

POLICY CH-2.1

Prioritize maintenance of streets and improvement of sidewalks, parks, and other infrastructure in areas of the city that historically have been comparatively underserved by public facilities, including implementation of complete streets where needed, especially in conjunction with infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects.

(RW-2.10)

Action CH-2.1A When considering parks and infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects, consider the following through an open and engaging process inclusive of community residents: ■ Whether the affected community is underserved or disadvantaged. ■ What the priority needs of the community are and whether the project would address those needs. ■ Whether the project would negatively impact the community, such as through increased exposure to pollutants or displacement of residents or local businesses.

Action CH-2.1B Provide incentives for rehabilitation or redevelopment of distressed properties that takes into consideration anti-gentrification strategies.

Action CH-2.1C Develop incentives to promote reuse of distressed areas, such as through, re-zoning, permit streamlining, density bonuses, and other appropriate tools. (IM LU-5)

Action CH-2.1D Conduct marketing to potential developers to encourage the redevelopment and conversion of distressed commercial strips into housing and mixed-use areas that includes strategies to avoid gentrification. (LU-4.9)

Action CH-2.1F Work with transit agencies, non-profit organizations, and communities, to maintain and improve transit service in underserved and disadvantaged neighborhoods to connect residents with jobs, shopping, and services.

POLICY CH-2.2

Action CH-2.2A Aggressively facilitate the conservation and rehabilitation of older neighborhoods through the following approaches: ■ Utilize all federal, State, and local programs for conservation and rehabilitation projects. ■ Prioritize older disadvantaged neighborhoods for investment using funds such as the Community Development Block Grants. ■ Encourage private investment in older neighborhoods. ■ Cooperate in joint public-private partnerships to invest in older neighborhoods. (DV-3.5)

POLICY CH-2.3

Action CH-2.3A Build strong ties with disadvantaged communities to ensure that local residents can make significant contributions to planning decisions through the following: ■ Use culturally appropriate approaches. ■ Consider the convenience of the timing and locations of meetings to community members. ■ Use social media and other communication techniques for those without time to attend public meetings. ■ Provide translation services and translated materials when needed. ■ Partner with non-profit organizations who are already active within the community

Action CH-2.3B Expand efforts to repair and rehabilitate substandard housing in

disadvantaged communities taking into consideration anti-gentrification strategies.

POLICY CH-3.2

Encourage neighborhood-serving commercial uses in areas where frequently needed goods and services are not widely available, especially for these areas with no availability within a 2-mile radius. (LU-4.8)

POLICY CH-5.1

Accommodate a changing climate through adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency planning and projects.

Additional Action for Policy CH-5.1

Action: Coordinate with relevant agencies and non-profit organizations to promote public awareness and readiness on natural disaster related emergency preparedness.

POLICY CH-5.2

Action CH-5.2C Expand educational and outreach efforts to promote recycling by residents of multi-family housing, businesses, and schools.

Transportation

POLICY TR-1.1

Action TR-1.1A Direct truck traffic to designated truck routes that facilitate efficient goods movement and minimize risk to areas with concentrations of sensitive receptors, such as schools, for example by disallowing truck routes to pass directly on streets where schools are located, and vulnerable road users, like pedestrians and bicyclists. (TC-2.19, HS-2.6)

Action TR-1.1E: Work with local school districts to provide pedestrian crossing enhancements like stop signs, within a two-mile radius of schools, and encourage activities like a walking school bus, and create education programs that teach students bicycle safety.

POLICY TR-2.1

Action TR-2.1A Require safe and secure bicycle parking facilities to be provided at major activity centers such as public facilities, employment sites, schools, and shopping and office centers, along with showers and lockers for major employment sites. (TC-5.7, TC-5.10)

Additional Action for Policy TR-2.1

Add action TR-2.1C to Maintain and implement the City of Stockton Safe Route to School plan.

POLICY TR-2.2

Connect housing and employment development in areas with good transit access, through open and inclusive processes where appropriate. (TC-4.3, HS-4.12)

Action TR-2.2B Obtain input from community residents, relevant non-profit organizations, local and regional transit operators on major new development projects to ensure projects are designed to support transit and provide adequate transit service and access. (TC-4.4, IM TC-13)

Additional Action for Policy TR-2.2

Action: Support efforts to electrify buses

POLICY TR-3.1

Action TR-3.1 B Where feasible and appropriate, reduce the width of existing streets using bulbouts, medians, pedestrian islands, shade tree landscaping, appropriate signage, and similar methods, while not jeopardizing emergency response.

Action TR-3.1C Preserve right-of-way for transit and bicycle uses when designing new roadways and improving existing roadways, and ensuring adequate and clear signage. (TC-4.7)

Safety

POLICY SAF-4.3 *Coordinate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and non-profit organizations to promote public awareness on air quality issues and consistency in air quality impacts analyses.*

CalEnviroScreen Map

The 2040 Envision Stockton General Plan Update presents a unique opportunity to improve and revitalize many of the city's existing neighborhoods. To remain consistent with this goal we encourage the city of Stockton staff and consultants to revisit the Disadvantaged Communities map in Figure 6-1 on page 6-5. The map depicts disadvantaged communities using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, CalEnviroScreen. The colors on the map shown range from shades of red and orange representing severely disadvantaged communities to shades of green for those with lower rankings. Although this map is illustrated using a 5% percent scale and CalEnviroScreen uses a 10% scale we want to ensure that communities outside of central and south Stockton whose census tracts do not appear to be disadvantaged according to this map do not miss out on the benefits of policies and actions

designed to improve such communities. To ensure that all neighborhoods throughout the city can benefit from the equity measures set forth in the general plan it is necessary to update the disadvantaged communities map to one that more closely depicts the current CalEnviroScreen 3.0, and to provide a clear and inclusive definition of a disadvantaged community as it pertains policies and actions in the general plan.

Accountability

Lastly, to ensure continued public participation and measures for accountability, the general plan should include a table or reference to which agency or department is responsible for implementing each of the specified action. As we see in Richmond's 2030 General Plan, such additions would ensure community partners and residents are able to stay engaged through the implementation of the 2040 Envision Stockton General Plan.

The Healthy Neighborhoods Collaborative calls on the City of Stockton to continue on this path of health, sustainability and equity through the General Plan, and promote existing neighborhoods as priority. We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you in more detail, and to continue engagement in the General Plan process.

Sincerely,

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Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton

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Eric Parfrey, Chair, California Executive Committee
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Robert Bivens, President
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And the residents of Stockton:

Jeri Bigbee
Beatriz and Miguel Flores
Brandi Moore
Charlene West
Ernest Williams
Roslyn Burse
Shani Richards
Cynthia Grayson
Jennifer Flores
Christina Peoples
Shapresha Galloway
LaTina Griffin
Candis Bishop
Alice Moore
Willie Moore
Tiana Moore

CC:

Mayor Michael Tubbs
Vice Mayor Elbert Holman
Councilmember Dan Wright
Councilmember Susan Lofthus
Councilmember Susan Lenz
Councilmember Christina Fugazi
Councilmember Jesus Andrade
Planning Commissioner Don Aguillard
Planning Commissioner Elizabeth Hull
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