



STANISLAUS
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
COALITION

SSCC
Environmental
Justice
Recommendations

Modesto

2050

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

What follows are proposed goals and policies that the participants in the Stanislaus Sustainable Communities Coalition (SSCC) have developed to consider for insertion in the Modesto 2050 General Plan.

These goals and policies have been gathered from existing General Plans that have been adopted by California communities, they conform to the SB 1000 criteria, and they respond to the needs and concerns that were expressed by Modesto residents through the SSCC's community engagement process.

Background

What are General Plans and what do they have to do with Environmental Justice?

General plans in California are “the constitution for [all] future development” in their communities, and state law mandates that all cities and counties in California must adopt General Plans and must update them regularly.¹

The process of updating a community’s general plan offers residents an opportunity to shape local development for decades into the future, and the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, or Senate Bill 1000, which was adopted into law in 2016, compels cities and counties with low-income communities and communities of color, that have borne a disproportionate burden of pollution and associated health risks, to address Environmental Justice in their General Plans.

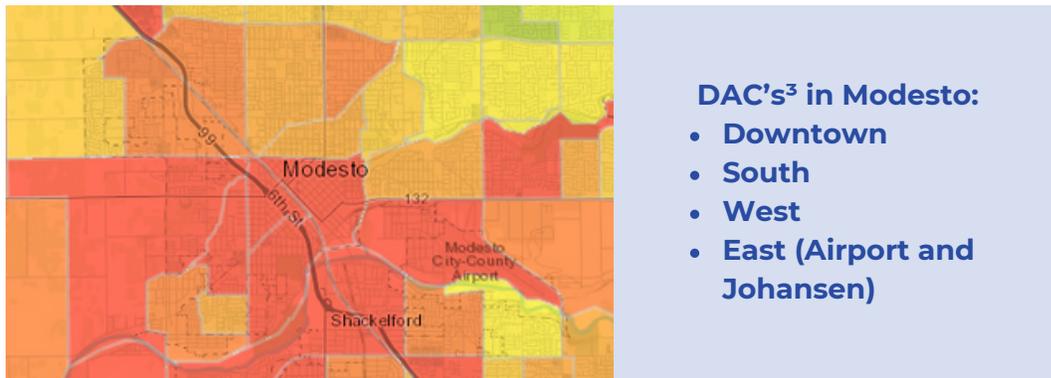
As a result, communities all over California have begun adding an Environmental Justice element (chapter) to their General Plan, or by including Environmental Justice-related goals, policies, and objectives in the other elements in the General Plan, or by a combination of both.

1. DeVita v. City of Napa, 9 Cal.4th 763, 772 (1995).

MODESTO'S DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Which are the communities in Modesto that are considered disadvantaged and how was that determination made?

In California, the areas that have suffered most from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens are considered disadvantaged. Ordinarily the word disadvantaged is subjective, but in this context, the [CalEnviroScreen²](#) a tool developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), is used to conduct an objective analysis of census tract-level information to determine which communities around the state bear the greatest burden of poverty, high unemployment, air pollution, water pollution, presence of hazardous wastes and high incidence of asthma and heart disease.



In Modesto, those disadvantaged communities (DAC's) are **Downtown, South, West and some neighborhoods in East Modesto (Airport and Johansen)**. They are the places with the poorest air quality, the most contaminated water, the poorest quality housing, the highest rates of poverty, and the ones with the most exposure to pesticides. As a result, the residents in those neighborhoods have the highest rates of asthma, heart disease, and other indicators of pollution burden or vulnerability.

2. oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen.
(footnotes continued on next page)

THE PLANNING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT (SB 1000)

Environmental Justice issues that must be addressed in California General Plans

SB 1000 Requirements		
1		CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
2		ADDRESS LOCAL NEEDS
3		POLLUTION & AIR QUALITY
4		ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES
5		HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS
6		SAFE & SANITARY HOMES
7		PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

SB 1000 states that the seven Environmental Justice (EJ) issues displayed in the chart to the left must be addressed in California General Plans. Importantly, these issues must be targeted and focused on the neighborhoods that comprise the most disadvantaged areas. For Modesto, that is Downtown, South, West, Airport and Johansen neighborhoods.

By addressing these areas, General Plans in California will now promote environmental justice in neighborhoods that have been burdened by environmental injustices for many decades.

3. DAC is a common acronym for “Disadvantaged Community.” The term is often not preferred by community members themselves, however this is the term that the state of California uses to identify jurisdictions that must address environmental injustice via SB 1000 and so this is the term that is used in this report.

ABOUT THE SSCC

The Stanislaus Sustainable Communities Coalition (SSCC) was established in 2011 as a coalition of diverse stakeholders addressing social and environmental justice issues through advocacy and education.

Our united mission is to create a more sustainable Stanislaus under the framework of regional planning through the lens of inclusion, integrity, transparency and ethical standards that promote healthy and equitable practices towards a more resilient community.

SSCC is composed of a core group of four main organizations: Catholic Charities Dioces of Stockton, California Health Collaborative, Tuolumne River Trust and Valley Improvement Projects. While these three organizations are the core of the coalition, SSCC host monthly meetings and are well attended regularly by community members and other supporting allies such as the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Faith in the Valley (Stanislaus), Sierra Club - Yokuts, West Modesto Community Collaborative, California Rural Legal Assistance, The Modesto Peace/Life Center, and others.



”
Creating a
more
sustainable
Stanislaus

SSCC RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

Between May and August 2022, the Stanislaus Sustainable Communities Coalition (SSCC) developed and implemented a community engagement plan to educate residents of West Modesto, South Modesto, and Airport Neighborhood about the issues covered under SB 1000, and to gather their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions about what should be addressed in the upcoming Modesto 2050 General Plan Update.⁴

Short webinars, which addressed issue areas covered by California Environmental Justice elements, were presented to multiple groups of community members in a series of "watch parties." The meetings were led by community leaders from the neighborhoods where the watch parties took place, and most were conducted in Spanish. A total of 130 people attended these watch parties and their feedback on the issues covered was recorded. Additionally, 10 surveys were completed by people from organizations that have been working on relevant issues in Modesto, and these completed surveys were tabulated.

A draft report was then written by Ogilvie Labs, a hired consultant, between May and September 2023. Working drafts of this document were shared and discussed with a total of 96 community members and representatives of community-based organizations at the following meetings:

- 5/26/23 Parklawn Neighborhood Meeting
- 6/2/23 Airport Neighborhood Meeting
- 6/7/23 King Kennedy Neighborhood Meeting (Senior Luncheon)
- 6/20/23 Stanislaus Sustainable Communities Coalition Meeting
- 9/19/23 Stanislaus Sustainable Communities Coalition Meeting

Many of these 96 individuals participated in the first round of community engagement, either via the watch parties or via the survey. Some new organizations and community members were involved in the second round of engagement. The following tables outline the organizations and individuals involved.

4. For more information about the SSCC community engagement process see appendix 1, "SSCC Transition Report" developed by the 2021-2022 SSCC Civic Spark Fellow

Table 1: SSCC Community Watch Parties

“By the numbers”

Host / Location	Date	Attendees	Language
WMC (Zoom)	6/29/22	9	Spanish
WMC (Zoom)	6/30/22	8	Spanish
WMC (In-Person)	7/9/22	12	Spanish
WMC (Zoom)	7/15/22	8	Spanish
WMC w/ Promotoras (Zoom)	7/19/22	29	Spanish
WMC (In-Person)	7/20/22	11	English
WMC (Zoom)	7/21/22	9	Spanish
PC (In-Person)	7/21/22	10	Spanish
WMC (In-Person)	7/22/22	10	Spanish
PC (In-Person)	7/22/22	15	Spanish
WMC (Zoom)	7/24/22	9	Spanish
Total: 11 Watch Parties	6 Zoom, 5 In-Person	130 Participants	10 Spanish, 1 English

WMC = WEST MODESTO COLLABORATIVE
 PC = PARKLAWN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

Table 2: SSCC Engagement of Stakeholders and Organizations in Modesto

Organization	Survey	Meetings	Email
West Modesto Community Collaborative		x	
Tuolumne River Trust	x	x	x
Valley Improvement Projects	x	x	x
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton	x	x	x
Stanislaus County Health Services Agency	x	x	
California Native Plant Society		x	x
American Cancer Society, CAN		x	
California Health Collaborative	x	x	x
California Rural Legal Assistance	x	x	x
Sierra Club - Yokuts Group		x	
Citizen's Climate Lobby - Modesto Area	x		
Young Adults Fighting Tobacco	x		
St. Francis of Rome	x		
Stan County Behavioral Health	x		
Visión y Compromiso		x	

MODESTO RESIDENT CONCERNS AND SSCC RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations that stem from the community engagement process that the Stanislaus Sustainable Communities Coalition organized between May 2022 and September 2023

The recommended policy language is written in a format and using language typically found in a General Plan. The objectives are taken from the SB 1000 toolkit that is recommended for use by the California Department of Planning and Research. The proposed Environmental Justice Objectives, Goals and Policies that are in this document are derived from mid-sized California cities with resource levels and demographic profiles comparable to Modesto.⁵ These were used as source material because the issues they addressed are relevant to those raised by Modesto residents and the way they addressed them was direct and actionable.



The goals and policies that are laid out in these recommendations are in direct response to the issues identified through this resident engagement process.

5. Reference General Plans include: Woodland (2017 Healthy Community Element); Duarte (adopted 2022); El Cajon (adopted 2021); Gardena (adopted 2022); Inglewood (adopted 2020); Monrovia (adopted 2022); Garden Grove (draft); Huntington Park (draft); and Victorville (draft).

Highlighted Quotations from Modesto Residents

Here are a few quotations from the Modesto Watch Parties that took place in West and South Modesto in 2022.

"Estamos en un lugar muy desfavorecido. No tenemos banquetas. La barredora pasa seguido barriendo las calles. Los parques y jardines están muy verdes mientras que los de nosotros están muy secos. Mucha contaminación. Todo lo de West Modesto está muy deteriorado y nadie hace nada"

"We're in a very disadvantaged area. We don't have sidewalks. The street sweepers often pass by our streets. Their [other neighborhoods'] parks and gardens are all very green, while ours are very dry. There's a lot of pollution. Everything in West Modesto is very deteriorated and nobody's doing anything"

"La ciudad no da la importancia de oírnos y hacer cambios que pedimos"

"The city doesn't give any importance to hearing us or making the changes we're asking for"

"Desde que llegué aquí yo y mi familia no teníamos ningún problema de salud. Pero ya vemos que desde que vivimos aquí él usa inhalador"

"Before arriving here, neither my family nor I had any health problems. But we're already seeing since living here that he has to use an inhaler"

Recommendations



Objective 1: Increase Civic Engagement in DAC's

The state of California is requiring that cities and counties with disadvantaged communities include goals and policies to increase civic engagement among DAC community-members. In other words, members of the community have a voice and a say in the decisions that will affect their neighborhoods. During the SSCC community engagement process, concerns about the lack of civic engagement were brought up several times. The section below outlines the concerns that were raised around civic engagement, and proposed solutions or policies that SSCC member organizations recommend the city undertake.

Community Concern

C1.1

Too much reliance on CBO's to "check boxes"

City and County departments often rely on community-based organizations (CBOs) to check boxes by participating in already existing spaces. For example, to fulfill requirements set forth by a grant application, a project or public process.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P1.1

Provide more participation opportunities for residents of DACs

Provide more opportunities for residents in the disadvantaged neighborhoods to participate by:

- Providing volunteer opportunities with the city, specifically for residents of DACs, as a way to further build local relationships.
- Inviting residents that live in the DACs to become board, commission, and committee members as openings occur.
- Support, sponsor, and promote residents of DACs to plan and participate in a variety of community events to strengthen social cohesion and overall identity of the city.

Community Concern

C1.2

Feelings of Distrust

The City of Modesto doesn't seem to care about the concerns of residents.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P1.2

Develop a Disadvantaged Communities Outreach Plan

Develop a Disadvantaged Communities Outreach Plan (DCOP) for the Implementation of the Environmental Justice Element as well as for broader participation in community activities, and especially in decision making:

- Coordinate with Community-Based Organizations (CBO's), neighborhood groups, religious institutions, businesses and school districts to develop the DCOP
- Outline strategies and best practices for facilitating community participation and incorporating community input into decision-making processes, including city governance and delivery of services
- Strategies and best practices must include the following:
 - Ways to provide information and solicit feedback from older residents who do not use or have access to computers or social media (e.g. flyers, senior centers, and neighborhood canvassing)
 - Multiple methods of translating all communications and services into multiple languages, especially Spanish
 - Requirements to hold meetings at different locations, times, and in different formats and languages
 - Requirements to distributing materials and hosting events far enough in advance to allow sufficient time for review and comment
 - The importance of conveying complex information in an easily digestible format and of facilitating meetings using diverse methods that can engage all participants and can appeal to multiple styles of learning.

Community Concern

C1.3

Improve the city website

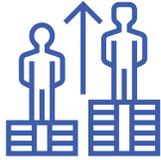
City of Modesto Website is hard to navigate. The City's meetings and events calendar should be updated more frequently.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P1.3

Keep the website up to date and easy to navigate

Ensure that the City's website is easy to navigate for all users, that it is available in multiple languages, and that the calendar of city meetings and events is kept up to date.



Objective 2: Addressing the Needs of DAC's

Objective 2 is the heart of the Environmental Justice Element. It requires that the specific needs of disadvantaged communities are met, needs that are distinct from those of the greater community. This may require taking special actions to ensure that existing conditions in a DAC are not exacerbated. Most of the concerns that were raised during the SSCC community engagement process were specific to those neighborhoods and do not necessarily reflect the needs of the city as whole. All of the issues that were raised during the watch parties have been included in the other six objectives. This objective only includes SSCC recommendations to ensure that the needs of these communities stay at the top of the city's priority list.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P2.1

Bi-Annual Review of Environmental Justice Element

Require a review of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element, once every two years, to monitor progress on goals, policies, and implementation of programs and actions. Provide this information to disadvantaged communities in appropriate languages by mail and at events.

P2.2

Community Progress Reports

To be conducted every two years, along with the Environmental Justice Element review. Utilize data reporting from CalEnviroScreen to measure progress in each disadvantaged community and develop additional indicators through continued engagement with disadvantaged communities.

P2.3

Create funding priority zones

Create "priority zones," DACs that are designated and prioritized for public investments, public services, or increased environmental protections.



Objective 3: Reducing Pollution and Improving Air Quality

The state of California is requiring that cities and counties with disadvantaged communities include goals and policies that reduce pollution and improve air quality in those communities. During the SSCC Community Engagement process several residents expressed concerns about pollution and air quality in their neighborhoods. The section below covers those concerns as well as the SSCC recommended policy solutions.

Community Concern

C3.1

Trucks and industry create air pollution

Emissions from vehicles, semi-trucks, industrial businesses (winery, canneries, auto wreckers, etc.), agriculture and trains (passenger and freight). Proximity to the freeway.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P3.1.1

Reduce particulate matter

Reduce Particulate Matter (Diesel PM and PM 2.5) pollution for sensitive land uses near residential zoning, major transportation corridors, freeways and highways by coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies to develop mitigation strategies, including green walls and freeway-adjacent vegetative barriers.

P3.1.2

Work with local industrial businesses on pollution strategies

Work with local industrial businesses to develop site-specific upgrades that reduce pollution exposure beyond the minimum regulatory standards. Coordinate with all industrial businesses to facilitate a resolution to existing issues and establish interim strategies for insulating the community from impacts. Develop a report outlining resolution strategies for each applicable facility.

P3.1.3

Increase access to public transportation

In conjunction with Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority (StanRTA), ensure transit stops are not more than 1/2 mile apart on routes that serve disadvantaged communities and that all stops are ADA compliant (American Disabilities Act) and are equipped with adequate seating, canopies, and signage.

P3.1.4

Increase active transportation along public transportation routes

Prioritize investments in projects that encourage increased use of active transportation along public transportation routes in disadvantaged communities. This can include building and / or improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

P3.1.5

Prioritize active transportation projects

Collaborate with residents and community partners to plan and prioritize active transportation projects in their communities.

Community Concern

C3.2

Air pollution

Air pollution is a big concern.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P3.2.1

Tree equity plan

In partnership with CBO's develop a tree equity plan to help improve air quality and protect against extreme heat in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

P3.2.2

Truck prohibited streets

Reduce air pollution exposure caused by commercial vehicles and truck routes across the city by designating Truck Prohibited Streets. Perform a detailed analysis of truck routes in disadvantaged communities to identify routes abutting residential land uses that can be effectively rerouted. Develop a Truck Route Ordinance to designate Truck Prohibited Streets and include fines and penalties to enforce restrictions.

P3.2.3

Air filtration grant program

Reduce the impacts of particulate matter and toxic release air pollution on sensitive receptors in the city by establishing an Air Filtration Grant program for low-income residents, allowing for free indoor air filtration improvements to qualifying community members.

Community Concern

C3.3

Airborne pesticides

Airborne pesticide use and risk of exposure.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P3.3

Air Quality Monitors

Work with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and local organizations, such as Valley Improvement Projects, to increase the number of air quality monitors in disadvantaged communities.

Community Concern

C3.4

Pesticide contamination of water

Groundwater contamination from agricultural runoff.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P3.4

Water Restoration Funding

Water Restoration Funding Sources (all unincorporated areas within the City of Modesto's sphere of influence). Partner with Stanislaus County and the City of Ceres to prioritize applying for state and federal funding sources to restore contaminated water bodies within these communities.

Community Concern

C3.5

Cigarette butts

Too many cigarette butts in the neighborhood

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P3.5

Tobacco-Free Outdoors

Make parks, public sidewalks, downtown, transit stops, and civic center's smoke and tobacco-free by adopting an ordinance, placing signage, and removing ash receptacles. Enforce through education only (no police enforcement).



Objective 4: Equitable Access to Public Facilities

Under SB 1000, cities and counties with disadvantaged communities include goals and policies that promote equitable access to public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and parks.⁶ During the SSCC Community Engagement process residents spoke a lot about the need for more and higher quality public facilities in their neighborhoods. The section below details their concerns as well as the SSCC recommended policy solutions.

Community Concern

C4.1

Need for drains and sewer in unincorporated pockets

The streets flood in the rain. No drains (sewer), just wells. No underground sewers and storm drains in unincorporated islands (pockets) within the City of Modesto limits.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P4.1.1

Examine facilities and eliminate gaps

Examine public buildings and facilities in unincorporated areas and in disadvantaged communities to eliminate current gaps in weatherization efforts to ensure the safety and resiliency of these facilities for a variety of climate scenarios including extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke.

P4.1.2

Require infrastructure rehabilitation as condition of approval

Consider the impacts of new developments on aging infrastructure and require infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements as a condition of approval, where feasible.

6. SB1000 refers to public facilities as “public improvements, public services, and community amenities” pursuant to California Government Code Section 66000. This includes a variety of public buildings and infrastructure, such as community centers, schools, parks, and open space, and emergency services. The prevalence of these public facilities plays an important role in providing residents amenities and services that enhance community resilience, health, and wellbeing.

Community Concern

C4.2

Neighborhood Blight & Lack of Street Sweeping

Lack of garbage cans in public areas & too much illegal dumping. There is a lack of street sweeping. Trash in alleys – esp. discarded needles. Drug materials, syringes and alcohol bottles are scattered about.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P4.2

Ensure equitable service

Ensure the delivery of efficient, equitable, and effective services, operations, and maintenance in disadvantaged communities. Services include public safety, water, sewer, waste management, and electricity. Coordinate with shared jurisdictions to establish response teams or contingency plans between jurisdictions when service issues arise. Coordinate with service providers to ensure equality of services across the entire city.

Community Concern

C4.3

Lack of Response/ Responsibility

Lack of communication between the City and the County. They do not respond and deny responsibilities as a jurisdiction.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P4.3

Make services more accessible

Make city information such as numbers to call for code enforcement, programs offered through the city, and housing needs easy to understand and easily accessible for residents, especially those living in unincorporated pockets.

Community Concern

C4.4

Lack of community facilities in disadvantaged areas

Libraries - Need for a library where they offer some classes would really help in the areas of West and South Modesto. That would motivate families to give more time to their kids' studies.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P4.4

Guarantee siting

Guarantee siting for new civic buildings, provision of city services, infrastructure improvements, and community amenities based on community-identified locations and feedback from Disadvantaged Communities (e.g., community centers, schools, parks, and open space, and emergency services, and improvements for transportation infrastructure, such as road maintenance, bike, and pedestrian facilities, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility).

Community Concern

C4.5

Lack of community facilities in disadvantaged areas

Not enough spaces in Community Centers for community meetings. Not enough bathrooms in parks.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P4.5

Funding and financing

Support funding and financing mechanisms to provide and enhance community-desired public facilities and services in Disadvantaged Communities.

Community Concern

C4.6

Lack of community facilities in disadvantaged areas

Lack of activities for the children, youth and families. Need more low-cost sports and recreational activities. Need a public gym/space where they give classes on health, nutrition, and exercise.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P4.6.1

Convert underutilized space

Explore the feasibility of converting City-owned vacant lots or underutilized public right-of-way into small parks, community gardens, or open spaces throughout the city, focusing on Disadvantaged Communities, where there is a general lack of parks and green space.

P4.6.2

Developer requirements

Require multifamily residential development to provide active private open space for residents and their guests to offset the demands on neighborhood parks.

P4.6.3

Shared use agreements

Establish shared use agreements with schools, private properties with large open spaces, and religious institutions as a method for increasing access to recreational facilities and community gathering facilities, particularly in park poor areas.

P4.6.4

Establish South Modesto High School

Prioritize siting, planning, and funding for a new high school in South Modesto.



Objective 5: Promote Healthy Food Access

Ensuring access to healthy food is a challenge for many California communities. SB 1000 requires California cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to include goals and policies in their General Plans that will promote access to healthy foods. During the SSCC Community Engagement process residents did bring this issue up and also spoke about having too many unhealthy establishments, such as liquor stores in their neighborhoods. The section below details their concerns as well as the SSCC recommended policy solutions.

Community Concern

C5.1

Need for coordination

Lack of coordination between community gardens and food retail in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P5.1

Implement SB 1383 food recovery

Implement the requirements of SB 1383 to coordinate the recovery of edible food from food generators (i.e. grocery stores, schools, hospitals, etc.) with local organizations to distribute the food.

Community Concern

C5.2

Affordability

Healthy foods are frequently unaffordable for residents.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P5.2

Food Assistance Usage

Food Assistance Usage. Promote efforts to expand usage of food assistance benefits (e.g. CalFresh, WIC, and Market Match) at farmers' markets, farm stands, and community-supported agriculture sources to help increase the purchasing power of low-income residents.

Community Concern

C5.3

Too many bad options

Too many unhealthy options such as junk food, tobacco, and cannabis in these neighborhoods. The only stores in some neighborhoods are liquor stores. Kids smoking at school.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P5.3

Zoning and Tobacco Retail License

Update zoning regulations, and work with the City to amend retail operating standards to require existing liquor stores, convenience stores, and ethnic markets located in or within one-half mile of residences to stock fresh produce and other healthy foods. Adopt a local ordinance for a comprehensive tobacco retail licensing program that would limit the density, location, and advertising of tobacco retailers from 1,000 feet of schools and 1,000 feet of each other.



Objective 6: Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes

The condition of housing affects resident's health and well being. SB 1000 requires California cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to include goals and policies in their General Plans that will promote safe and sanitary homes. During the SSCC Community Engagement process residents spoke about affordability and dilapidated conditions. The section below details their concerns as well as the SSCC recommended policy solutions.

Community Concern

C6.1

Need for rental inspection program

The City of Modesto approved a rental inspection program in 2019. The program has yet to be implemented. Residents often do not want to report deplorable living conditions in their home because they are afraid they can be evicted.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P6.1.1

Implement rental inspection program

Implement and expand the Modesto Housing Safety Program that was approved by Modesto City Council in 2019 to ensure that all rental units will be inspected by the city to ensure compliance with all applicable building, fire, health, and zoning codes.

P6.1.2

Offer housing rehabilitation programs

Offer the following city-sponsored safe and sanitary home programs: a Lead Hazard Control Program, a Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Program, Extreme-heat Weatherization, a Minor Home Repair Program, and an Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program.

Community Concern

C6.2

Affordability and crowding

Crowded homes; many families living in one house.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P6.2.1

Preserve and monitor affordable housing

Work with property owners, tenants and non-profit housing agencies to preserve assisted rental housing, and implement a strong affordable housing monitoring program.

P6.2.2

Accessory dwelling units

Encourage and facilitate the provision of accessory and junior accessory dwelling units in existing and new development as a form of multi-generational housing.

Community Concern

C6.3

Abandoned and poorly maintained homes

Abandoned homes & many poorly maintained homes. Sewage backing up in abandoned homes.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P6.3

Conduct absentee owner outreach

Conduct periodic absentee owner outreach to inform owners of their legal requirements to maintain and upkeep their rental properties.



Objective 7: Promote Physical Activity

Modesto residents expressed many concerns about crime, pedestrian safety, stray dogs, and poor conditions of parks. All of these concerns restrict them from being able to get outside and utilize existing facilities to exercise and connect with each other. Under SB 1000, cities and counties with disadvantaged communities must include goals and policies that promote physical activity. The section below details resident concerns as well as the SSCC recommended policy solutions.

Community Concern

C7.1

Gangs and crime

Gangs and public drug dealing.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P7.1

Police/community cohorts

Continue police/community cohorts run by the city Police Department to encourage relationships and understanding.

Community Concern

C7.2

Mistrust of Law Enforcement

Lack of police enforcement; Fraught resident relationship with law enforcement and reluctance to engage with law enforcement as trusted partners.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P7.2

Continue Forward Together

Continue efforts with “Forward Together” to convene a diverse group of stakeholders, including residents, across the fields of criminology, social and behavioral sciences, public health, epidemiology, law, and public policy to meet and produce an accessible synthesis of research evidence and recommendations for local disadvantaged communities.

Community Concern

C7.3

Pedestrian safety

***Speeding cars and unsafe car behavior (distraction, spinning, etc.).
Lack of traffic enforcement.***

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P7.3

Implement traffic calming

Use traffic-calming measures and devices (e.g., sidewalks, streetscapes, speed humps, traffic circles, and signals) to create safe routes through and between disadvantaged neighborhoods for pedestrians.

Community Concern

C7.4

Lack of sidewalks and lighting

Lack of Sidewalks and street lighting. Streets are dark near the park and it isn't safe to walk there.

SSCC Policy Recommendations

P7.4.1

Sidewalk installation and repair

Expand sidewalk installation and repair programs in unincorporated communities of Airport, West, and South Modesto, particularly in areas where sidewalks link residential neighborhoods to local schools, parks, and shopping areas.

P7.4.2

Pedestrian Corridors

Promote pedestrian-friendly corridors by improving traffic and pedestrian safety and by providing pedestrian amenities such as benches, outdoor seating and bus stops with shade, potted plants, decorative paving, and detailed lighting elements along the street frontage in disadvantaged communities in the City of Modesto.

Community Concern

C7.5

Lack of safe routes to school and parks

Lack of safe and supervised routes to school and parks

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P7.5

Support safe routes to schools and parks

Support programs and physical improvements in disadvantaged communities that address needs for safe routes initiatives such as traffic safety assessments near schools and parks, complete street design including sidewalks, stop signs and lights, streetlights, and flooding resistance measures.

Community Concern

C7.6

Stray dogs

Unleashed dogs; Irresponsible dog owners, people experiencing homelessness and stray dogs. Residents are terrified of unleashed dogs. Residents will carry long tree branches or other protective equipment to protect them from these dogs.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P7.6

Implement dog capture program

Establish program, goals, and timelines for the City of Modesto to address the issue of stray dogs through dog-capture programs so that residents and children may feel safe walking the streets of their neighborhoods.

Community Concern

C7.7

Poor conditions of parks

Poor condition of parks. Homelessness in the parks. Bathrooms are inaccessible/locked/ unusable. People experiencing homelessness to shower/wash clothes, etc. Some play structures are not in the best conditions.

SSCC Policy Recommendation

P7.7.1

Update existing facilities

Ensure that all city parks and open spaces are safe for resident use by assessing and retrofitting existing facilities with adequate lighting, playground equipment, bathroom amenities, adequate drainage, and green space.

P7.7.2

Homeless outreach

Target homeless outreach services in park areas and connect individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate resources and case management services to secure rapid housing in a safe and welcoming environment.

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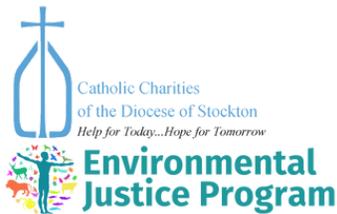
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