

FACT SHEET

The **Eden Area Livability Initiative** is an integrated partnership between the community, the county and other public sector jurisdictions that have a stake in the unincorporated urban communities of Alameda County. The Livability Initiative is the **strategic development of a shared vision and plan** and **builds pride** for the unincorporated urban communities of Alameda County.



Mission

To create, strengthen and sustain a livable community in the urban unincorporated areas of Alameda County.

Goals

- To encourage planning and action across disciplines and interest areas
- To engage the community in a significant way
- To call for County Agencies to collaborate in new ways
- To build stronger partnerships between the County, other jurisdictions and the community

Objectives

- To increase community participation in decisions that affect the community
- To find a shared community vision
- To ensure coordination and implementation of this vision and plan between the County government and the community
- To strengthen relationships between government and the community
- To ensure appropriate policy formation and implementation
- To make the unincorporated communities of Alameda County a great place to live, work, and play!

Projected Outcomes

A Vision - *'An image of the future we seek to create'*

The livability and health of our community depends on clearly defining a vision of what we want our community to become in the future. The Livability Initiative will define a vision, reach agreement on a set of strategic actions/priorities and seek the necessary tools and resources to achieve these actions. A vision statement can galvanize a community to achieve defined objectives, provided the vision is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound).

An Engaged Community

This Initiative is a collaborative effort which will engage the community in a significant way, encourage planning and action across disciplines and interest areas, and build stronger partnerships between the County, other jurisdictions, and the community to realize the Initiative's vision and strategies. We will achieve an engaged community through Community organizing which "is the art and science of creating vehicles or organizations for ordinary people to use for participating in the social, political, environmental, and economic decisions that impact on their lives."

Community Priorities

This process will produce a list of priorities that will be developed and ranked by members of the community involved throughout this process. A large community meeting, called a "Charrette," will be held in 2008 to help prioritize the list of identified community priorities and catalyst projects into highest importance. It is our hope that these priorities will be given special attention and that funding will be prioritized to achieve project implementation and action.

Catalyst Projects

The Livability Initiative, unlike many other planning efforts, will lead to and is grounded in achieving action and change. In order to achieve change, we will need to first develop potential catalyst projects aimed at achieving our goals and objectives. A catalyst precipitates an event and can be a dynamic force for change. This Livability Initiative will act as a catalyst to unite the community, and will also lead to a list of other catalysts to provide energy and action for the future. Quite often you will hear someone say that a community needs a catalyst project. This means that the community needs an action, event or project to get people interested in and excited about the community in which they live.

Livability Principles

Alameda County's Eden Area Livability Initiative was launched with the development of a set of Livability Principles identifying regional and local beliefs that will be used as a guideline to develop an integrated approach for future planning, development, land use and service delivery decisions within the urban unincorporated area of the county. It is anticipated that these guidelines will be used as an integrating tool throughout the departments of Alameda County governed by the Board of Supervisors and as a basis to improve cross-jurisdictional coordination among the various agencies not governed by the Board of Supervisors serving the residents of the unincorporated area.

Structure of Eden Area Livability Initiative

The community-based and geographically focused Leadership Committees and community-based Task Forces are open to anyone in the community interested and willing to actively participate in the Initiative.

The People of this Initiative are:

- Community-based Institutional Leaders = Blue Ribbon Steering Committee
- Community Leaders = Geographically Based Leadership Committees
- Public Engagement (Everyone & You!) = Task Forces
- Technical Advisors & Staff = Technical Advisory Committee

Definitions of structural components of Eden Area Livability Initiative

Blue Ribbon Steering Committee

Provides oversight and guides the planning process; Represents different interests and segments in the community, including public agencies; Provides education and communication to the member constituencies on the Initiative's plans and actions; Serves as leaders of the Initiative; Are a sounding board to the process; Steers the process; and Provides input and generates support for actions and implementation.

Leadership Committee

Provides leadership to the Community Engagement process; Synthesizes the recommendations of the Task Forces and community with an emphasis on their representative geographical area/community; Shares Community input with leaders from other communities; Participates in the process as task force members and/or conveners.

Task Forces

Involves anyone in the community interested in the particular Task Force topic area; Focuses on a particular topic across all geographic areas; Examines present conditions, trends, plans and studies, and identifies strategic challenges and opportunities for topic area; Drafts topic area visions, priorities, goals, and strategic actions for review by the Blue Ribbon Steering Committee. The Task Force Target Areas include:

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| 1. Community Development | 5. Civic & Cultural Development |
| 2. Safety | 6. Economic Development |
| 3. Health & Social Services | 7. Community Engagement |
| 4. Environment | 8. Education |

Technical Advisory Committee

Includes key staff persons from County and other public agencies, non-profit organizations and others who have direct knowledge and influence in the Initiative topic areas. The Advisory Committee offers the Blue Ribbon Steering Committee, Task Forces and the Supervisors' office input on existing and future strategic challenges and opportunities facing the Initiative's target areas.

Funding

- California Department of Transportation = \$150,000 Ashland & Cherryland Environmental Justice Grant
- Office of Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker
- Office of Supervisor Nate Miley
- County Agencies

How to get involved & contact information:

Please contact Lucy Wicks, Livable Communities Coordinator, Office of Supervisor Miley, at 510-891-5587 or Lucy.Wicks@acgov.org for more information and to learn how you can get involved.
Website coming soon!