

Disadvantaged Community Program Regional Needs Assessment Presented to the SFEP IC

November 15, 2022

# Goals

- Broad mandate for DACTIP from DWR: To include underrepresented and historically marginalized communities and Tribes into IRWM decision-making and planning processes
- Goals of the Bay Area DACTIP: Support communities and Tribes in leading conversations on problem identification and solutions development in their communities; to respect and amplify community and Tribal expertise and Tribal sovereignty
  - Change the paradigm of problem-and solution identification beginning outside of communities and Tribes who feel their effects and engaging communities at the last step

# Intended Outcomes

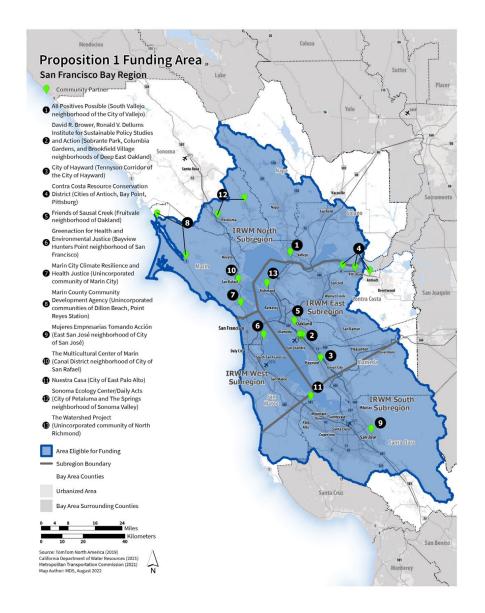
- Prioritize addressing issues that have been identified by communities & Tribes, how they would like to see these issues addressed
- Support the development of community and Tribal-led projects & proposals to address identified issues for Round 2 IRWM Implementation and other funding sources
  - Including technical assistance, capacity building, grant writing support

# Outreach Partner Process

Each community and Tribal group led the development of their own community-based needs assessment process to collaborate with and meet community members where they are to identify water-related needs and solutions.

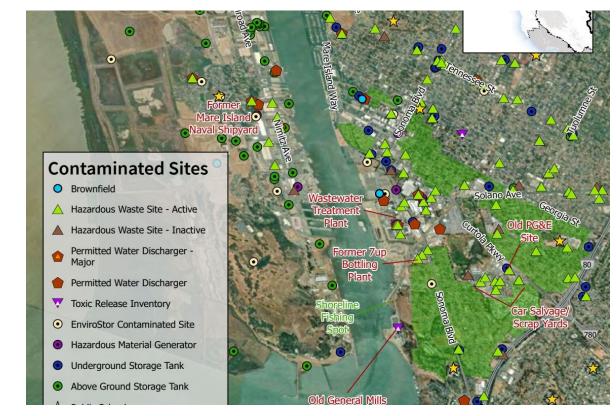


# Community Identified Issues



# All Positives Possible (Vallejo) Contact: LaDonna Williams

- Discolored water/water odor and concerns about water contamination
- Threatened access to nature/the shoreline
- Subsistence fishing contamination
- Water and air pollution from refinery mishaps and oil spills, industrial contamination
- Public health effects





Residents describe the residue pictured above, left in sinks from tap water, as looking like dirt but having the fe an oily substance. Community members have reported that water agency staff came to look, but said this subs wasn't from the pipes. This experience is described in Black Tears, Blue Fears video (link included at end of repo

Photos courtesy of All Positives Possible

# **City of Hayward (Tennyson Corridor)** Contact: Kait Byrne

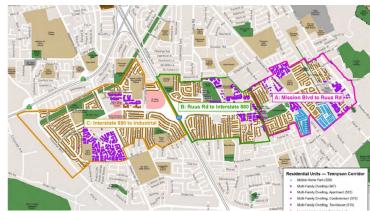


Corridor residents an opportunity to reflect on their



In summer 2018, Chabot students hosted Palma Ceia Fest at Palma Ceia Park in south Hayward, enabling them to engage with residents about the neighborhood's needs and their desires for their community.

Photo courtesy City of Hayward



Several recurring themes:

Other

- Desire to use less water in order to reduce bills
- Lack of knowledge about nearby water assets
- Concern about illegal dumping and pollution in nearby water assets

- Concerns about Sea Leve Rise
- Concerns about tagging in culverts
- Concerns about pollution, litter, and plastic going into the ocean
- CONCERNS: Desire for community gardens and increased access to food

# Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point) Contact: Elissa Robinson & Lisa Anich



Old

Pipes

Antioch DAC % of Respondents

Infrastructure/ Tastes Bad

Water

Unsafe

Drinking

Water

Unsure

of Water

Supply

Pittsburg % of Respondents

Contaminated

Fish

Keller

Canyon

Landfill Polution

Bay Point % of Respondents

Flooding

No

Concerns

Litter In

Streets/

Stormdrains

CCRCD attended community events to raise awareness of the ongoing Needs Assessment and provide the opportunity for people to fill out a survey in person.

Photo courtesy of CCRCD

Friends of Sausal Creek (Fruitvale District) Contact: Anna Marie Schmidt Illegal Dumping/Trash; Contaminants in Streets, Storm drains, and Creek

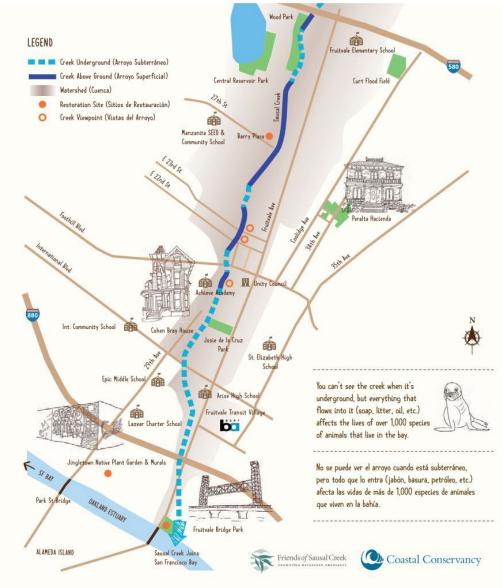
Lack of Confidence in Tap Water Quality and Infrastructure

Lack of Accessible Green Space



Water quality testing sites begin at the headwaters and continue to the mouth of Sausal Creek as it enters the estuary.

# MY SAUSAL CREEK WATERSHED









# Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice (BVHP, SF) Contact: Bradley Angel





Marin City Climate Justice and Health Equity (Marin City) Contact: Terrie Green

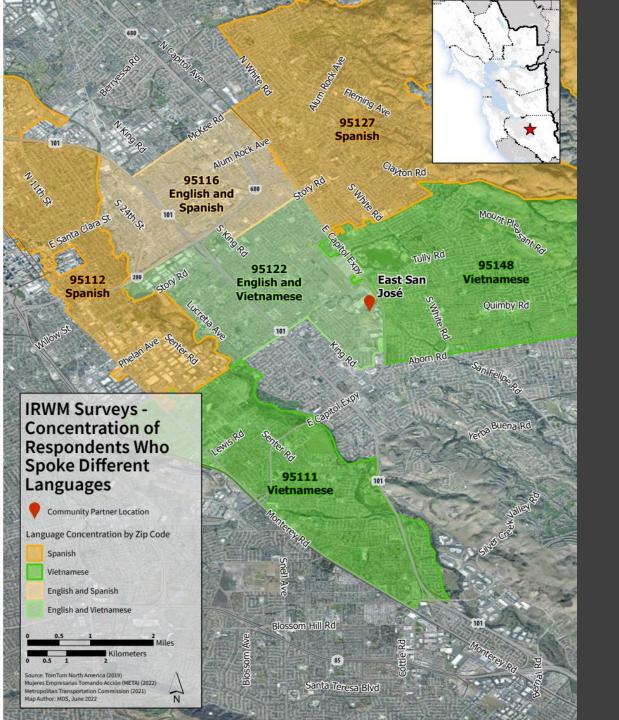
- Drinking Water Quality/Infrastructure
- Flooding & Contamination/Pollution
- Public Health Impacts

Marin County Community Development Agency (Pt Reyes Station, Dillon Beach) Contact: Arti Kundu

- Pt Reyes Station:
- Drinking water concerns
- Concern about water quality of local waterways
- Concern about on-site wastewater systems

- Dillon Beach:
- Drinking water concerns
- Concern about on-site wastewater systems

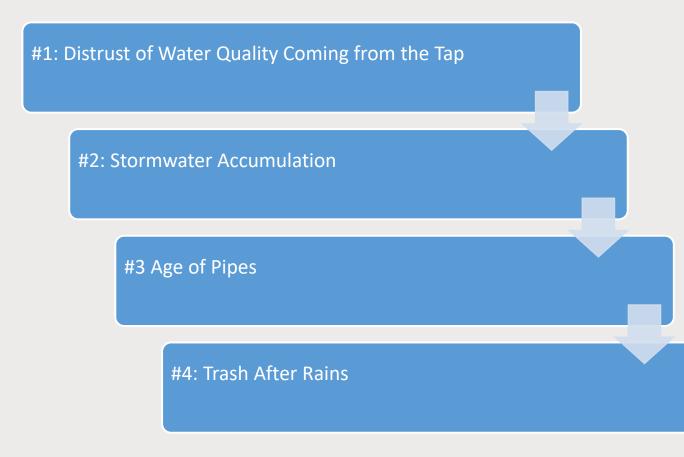




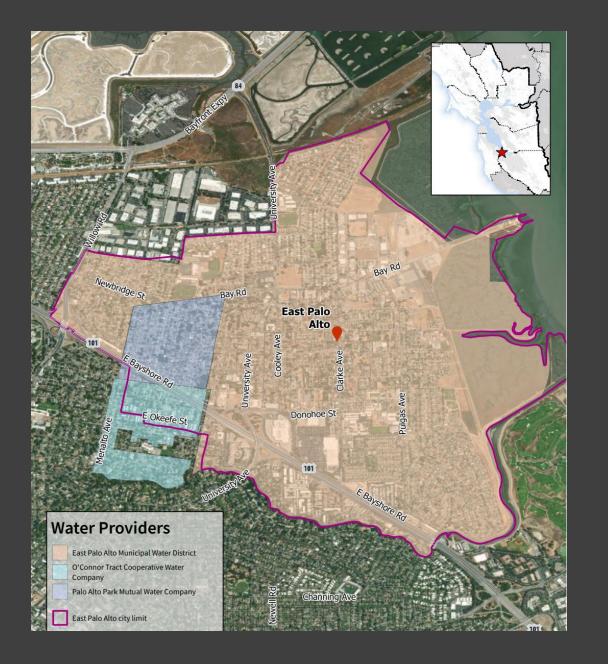
# Mujeres Empresarias Tomando Acción (East San Jose) Contact: Olivia Ortiz



# Multicultural Center of Marin (Can District, San Rafael) Contact: Marco Berger





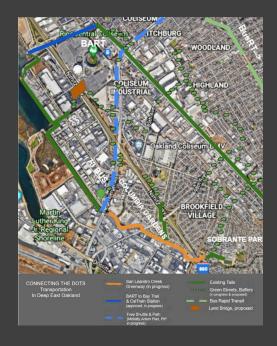


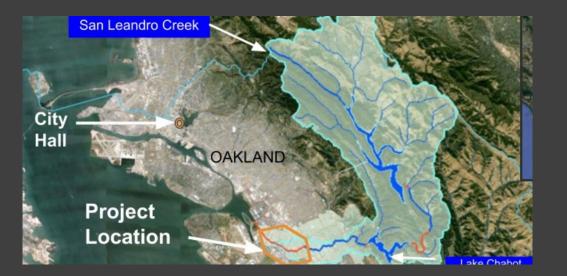
# Nuestra Casa (East Palo Alto) Contact: Rosa Nelson

- Tap Water Quality + Infrastructure
  - 75% of over 715 residents said they buy bottled water for cooking or drinking
- Flooding
  - Identified by 39% of respondents as a concern in EPA

"The water tastes like pain" – A son of one of Nuestra Casa's promotoras speaking about the water at the primary school in East Palo Alto

"At certain times of the year the water is brown or cloudy" – Anonymous resident of East Palo Alto





Brower/Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Action (Deep East Oakland) Contact: Robin Freeman

- Illegal dumping
- Safety
- Jobs
- Flooding
- Polluted Water
- Lack of investment in water infrastructure/overall lack of investment in Deep East Oakland
- Homelessness

"Everything flows into the water...illegal dumping is an issue...Deep East Oakland hasn't had the same reinvestment as other parts of Oakland that have more wealth" – East Oakland Resident

"My concern is safe drinking water that is not mixed and re cleaned with polluted water" – Burgers + Design participant



Sonoma Ecology Center & Daily Acts (The Springs, Sonoma Valley; Petaluma) Contact: Brianna Schaefer; Tony Passantino

#1: Drinking water	
#2: Storm water	
#3: Trash/dumping	
#4: Community improvements	







# The Watershed Project (North Richmond) Contact: Anne Bremer

- Areas of need identified:
  - Clean drinking water improvements
  - Urban greening, green infrastructure or parks
  - Solutions to sea level rise and flooding
  - Sewer system improvement and protection
  - Water conservation measures and use of recycled water
- Highest Priority Projects:
  - North Richmond Pump Station Upgrade
  - Tap water testing + education and outreach
  - Flood risk reduction in the Rheem Creek Watershed
  - Wildcat Creek Trail Improvements



Michelle Rivera Project Assistant California Indian Environmental Alliance Presenting on behalf of Alexander Tavizon

Land Acknowledgment

# Methodology

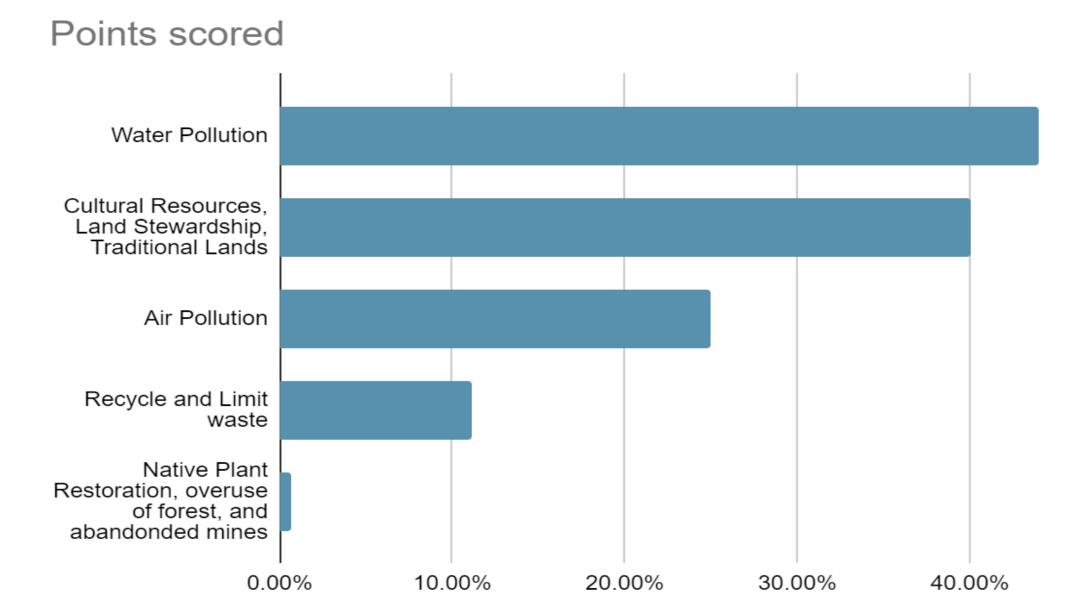
Through efforts from CIEA, with the funding of the IRWM grant, we were able to reach out to several Tribes throughout the Bay Area where we asked them to join CIEA as a partner under this grant. The Tribes that participated in this process were:

- Muwekma Ohlone of The San Francisco Bay Area
- Association of Ramaytush Ohlone
- Indian People Organizing for Change/Sogorea Te' Land Trust/ Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- Him-r^n Ohlone, Jaquin, Saclan Tribe, Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok
- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
- Napa Suscol Intertribal Council

**Tribal Advisory Committee** 

Recommendation When Surveying Tribes

# Tribes Identified Priorities - Q36-38 pg 35

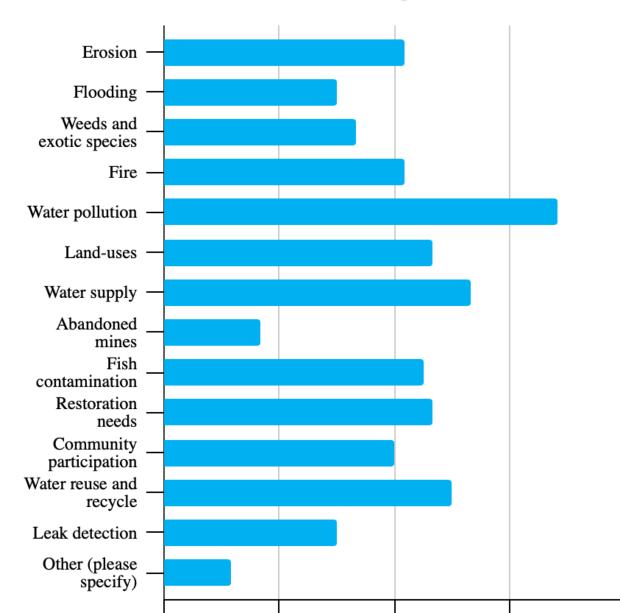


# Data Shows:

- Only 31% of respondents stated they lived on their traditional territories, which highlights the disparities between one being able to live on their traditional territories and being forced out due external factors such as gentrification, cost of living, and other issues resulting from colonization and settler colonialism.
- We asked Tribal members had access to drinking water, only 1% said no, which can be interpreted to mean that all members have some access to water and that it is the quality in question.

 43% of Tribal respondents use a different source of water than the tap water for cooking and cleaning purpose.

# What topics would you want covered in a workshop on Watershed Assessment and Management?



Responses

# Needs Assessments Top Priorities



# DRINKING WATER

Many communities and Tribes in the Bay Area reported concerns about the safety and quality of drinking water from the tap.

- Some reported concern about the role dated infrastructure is playing in water quality, and concern about lack of agency of renters to address infrastructure issues.
- Many groups reported relying on bottled water for cooking and drinking.

In addition to drinking water quality, many communities and Tribes also mentioned concern about water affordability

• Necessitates calculated trade-offs with other necessities for those on tight budgets.

## Dillon Beach and Pt. Reyes Station

In Dillon Beach more than half of respondents have water quality concerns. In Pt. Reyes Stations over a third have water quality concerns. In both locations, taste of water is an issue.

## **Canal District, San Rafael**

Overall, many community members feel that faucet water is not safe and have concerns of possible health effects. Specific concerns cited include: water is unclear, has an unusual color, is cloudy, and has a chlorine or metallic smell. Many homes rely on purchased bottled water.

### **Marin City**

Most residents were concerned about the quality of water in Marin City and use bottled water as their main water source. Many respondents connected poor quality of water to health issues.

### **Bayview Hunter's Point**

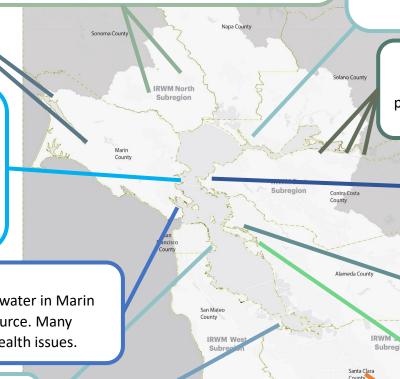
One-fifth of residents rated their drinking water as bad and almost another fifth rated theirs as poor.

#### **East Palo Alto**

<sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> of respondents report buying bottled water for cooking and drinking. Respondents indicated that they perceive water quality depends on location and believe that expensive water is of better quality. There is also concern about the environmental effects of buying so much bottled water. Specific water quality issues identified include: water is brown, yellow, rusty, black, cloudy, contaminated; tastes bad, smells bad, chlorine, bleach, causes health issues including rashes, burns skin, people's hair falling out, and eyes burning.

### Sonoma Valley and Petaluma

Many people, especially in the Latinx community, do not trust tap water for drinking. Many people are choosing to purchase bottled water or filter their tap water in place of drinking water directly from the tap.



### Vallejo

Drinking water was identified by community members as brownish/discolored and foul smelling. Some residents feel negative health effects are connected to poor water quality which causes anxiety when drinking water, cooking or bathing. Many residents feel they have no choice but to purchase bottled water, causing further financial burdens on low-income residents.

## Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point

Taste of water and unsafe drinking water are top priorities. Some participants noted that they buy bottled water for their animals to drink—that is the extent to which they felt their tap water is not safe to drink.

### **North Richmond**

Almost half of respondents experience problems with their tap water and many choose to drink bottled water.

## Fruitvale District, Oakland

Almost all participants voiced an opinion that their tap water isn't safe to drink, and folks buy purified water to cook and drink. Participants were also concerned about the rising cost of water.

## **Deep East Oakland**

Respondents expressed concerns about polluted drinking water, including taste, cloudy appearance, smell, and cost.

## East San Jose

Safety of tap water was the top concern. Many participants buy bottled water for cooking and drinking. Specific concerns cited include water is brown/yellow and tastes/smells like bleach. Other priority issues include old infrastructure, cost of water and industrial contamination.

# FLOODING

Many communities and Tribes in the Bay Area reported concerns about flooding related to storm surges, sea/water level rise, and groundwater rise. Flooding also causes a variety of other issues related to:

1) Public Health: Flood waters mix with contaminated materials that communities and Tribes are exposed to, or must wade through,

2) Transportation Access: Flooding cuts off access to homes, community centers, grocery stores, doctor's, and other important areas, and

3) Infrastructure: Flooding damages or destroys infrastructure, including but not limited to, utilities, which again affects public health.

Many communities and Tribes also express concern over trash, litter, illegal dumping and the backup of storm drains due to clogging with trash, which intersects with flooding issues.

**Dillon Beach and Pt. Reyes Station** Dillon Beach: 27% of respondents concerned about flooding of drinking water wells; 17% flooding from storm surges. In Pt. Reyes Station, 64% were concerned about flooding outside of town interfering with access in and out of town. 56% were concerned with flooding within the town, and 40% were concerned with homes along creeks flooding

## Canal District, San Rafael

"Stormwater accumulation" is the second most important priority for this community: heavy rain floods the streets and limits access to markets, community centers, schools, and residents' homes. Trash in streets can clog drains and exacerbate flooding issues.

### **Marin City**

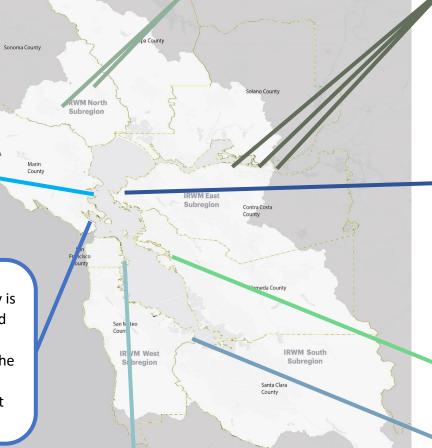
Flooding was the top concern expressed by respondents. Marin City is subject to flooding from stormwater, groundwater emergence, and sea level rise. Chronic flooding has twice shut down southbound traffic completely on Highway 101. Residents refer to the area as "the bowl without a spout". Community members must wade through contaminated floodwaters to access necessary services. Recurrent contaminated floodwaters create other public health impacts.

### **Bayview Hunter's Point**

63% of respondents are concerned about flooding/SLR vulnerability in BVHP. SLR and storm surges could cause flooding of many of the hazardous and radioactive waste contamination sites and homes, transportation infrastructure, and utilities along the SF Bay waterfront. Toxic materials and waste beneath the surface could be dredged up and exacerbate public health risk of the area.

#### **Sonoma Valley and Petaluma**

Storm water was one of the top issues that flood streets (67% of respondents), trails or sidewalks (32%), cause erosion (23%) and sewage-manhole overflows (14%), a public health issue.



**Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point** Respondents are concerned with poor drainage and problems during king tides or long periods of rain. In listening sessions, participants said that flooding due to blocked storm drains is associated with neglected waterways, storm drains, homes and commercial areas. Antioch participants also mentioned a sewage smell.

### **North Richmond**

Flooding from storms: 73% have personal experience with flooding including difficulty walking or driving, damage to infrastructure including flooding of homes, potholes in streets. Other related concerns include sea level rise and vulnerability of the wastewater treatment plant, and trash or other pollutants in floodwaters.

### **Deep East Oakland**

Flooding was one of the biggest issues raised in the needs assessment. Residents expressed concern that there are inadequate drainage lines to handle the rainy season. This type of flooding disrupts pedestrian access to sidewalks.

### **East Palo Alto**

After drinking water quality and infrastructure and pipes, flooding was the next most identified issue, noted by 38.6% of respondents (275). Many respondents said they would use any available public funding for flood control measures. In the listening sessions, many mentioned several areas that were said to flood severely in the winter.

# ILLEGAL DUMPING/TRASH

Many communities and Tribes in the Bay Area report concerns about illegal dumping and trash in streets that ends up in storm drains and water bodies such as creeks and the ocean. This concern was often linked to crime, disinvestment, and lack of services as well as to housing insecurity.

Trash and litter that backs up storm drains can exacerbate flooding issues and result in community and Tribal members wading through contaminated standing water.

Waterway pollution and contamination – including oil, plastic, and paint - was further detailed under this problem, as community and Tribal members connected the street level trash with their concerns with the pollution and contamination in creeks and other waterways.

One community member summed up the health effect on the community, "Fish eat the plastic, and then we eat the fish, and the other animals and everyone gets sick...".

#### **Sonoma Valley and Petaluma**

The primary trash and dumping issues reported were trash and small litter, large illegally dumped items, and homeless-camp waste, all of which were thought to have impacts on water quality.

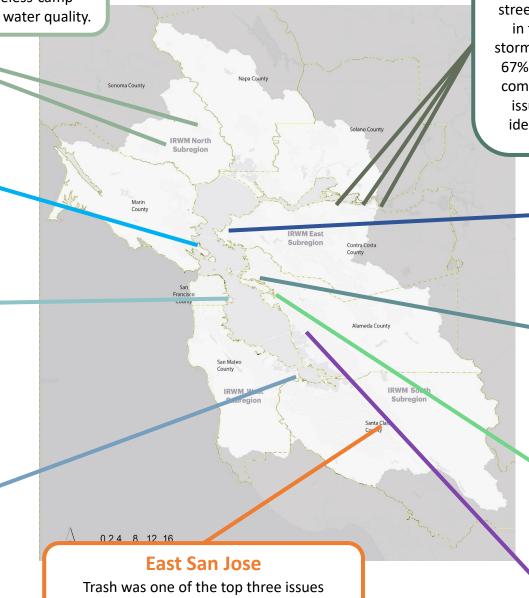
## **Canal District, San Rafael**

Trash was observed floating in the streets of the neighborhood during and after big rains causing a clogging of drains and unsightly neighborhoods.

**Bayview Hunter's Point** 55% of respondents are concerned about illegal dumping.

### **East Palo Alto**

23.8% (170) respondents identified litter/trash as an issue in East Palo Alto. In the listening sessions, many mentioned worries about trash/litter pick up and control, better waste management, including more trash cans, and cleaning trash from storm drains.



identified by Spanish-speaking respondents.

**Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point** Polluted stormwater and trash in creeks, waterways, and streets were among the most common problems identified in the listening sessions. In surveys, litter in streets and storm drains was most frequently chosen as the top priority. 67% of survey respondents identified it as an issue in their community and 40% of survey respondents said it was the issue they would address first. Illegal dumping was also identified as an issue contributing to trash on roadways.

### **North Richmond**

Respondents were concerned about the amount of trash or other pollutants in floodwaters.

### Fruitvale District, Oakland

Illegal dumping and trash in streets and in storm drains is a concern, with some attributing it to people experiencing homelessness and concerned about low security in the community.

### **Deep East Oakland**

Illegal dumping was the third most identified issue through the needs assessment process and was particularly highly identified through the San Leandro Creek water survey.

#### Hayward

Pollution, litter, and plastic going into the ocean were identified as issues.

# CONTAMINATION/POLLUTION

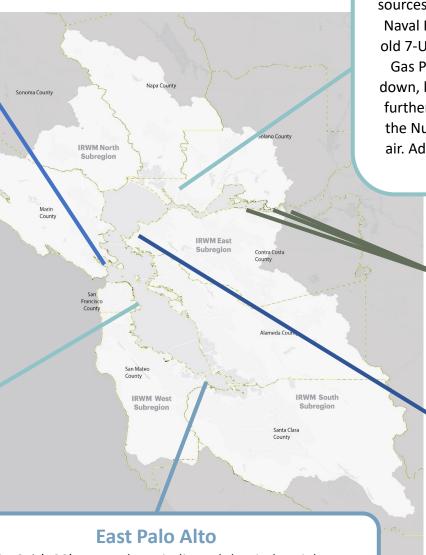
Many communities and Tribes in the Bay Area report concerns about industrial and hazardous contamination, and how this contamination/pollution can get into waterways, and ultimately into peoples' bodies through exposure and/or ingestion.

There are many sources of hazardous and industrial contamination/pollution in communities: old gas stations, dry cleaners, and highways contaminate groundwater and pollute stormwater runoff, exposing community and Tribal members to toxins in waterways and possibly leaching into drinking water supplies.

Clogged storm drains from trash and illegal dumping can cause contaminated runoff and flood waters to back up in communities and Tribal areas, with the result that residents must wade through these contaminated waters to access important services such as grocery stores and work.

#### **Marin City**

Current and historic sources of pollution and toxic environmental conditions are creating serious health consequences in the community, including one unassessed Superfund site and possibly others. Residents are concerned about chemicals and petroleum contaminants or residue persisting in the soil, as well as contamination from the shipyard area, flood water containing toxins, contamination from Highway 101 stormwater runoff, lead pipes, and sewage leaks. Longtime residents share reports of toxic dumping as part of wartime industry. Prior to the Gateway Shopping Center there was both a dry cleaner and a gas station located on the property, and three kerosene stations throughout the community.



27.8% (198) respondents indicated that industrial contamination is an issue in East Palo Alto.

#### Vallejo

South Vallejo has historical and current pollution from many sources, including the Old Sperry Flour Mill, Mare Island Former Naval Base, the Ryder Street Wastewater Treatment Plant, the old 7-Up Plant, the former Pacific Gas & Electric Manufacturing Gas Plant, and other companies, some of which have closed down, leaving their contamination behind. Some polluters have further impacted community health through incidents such as the NuStar Energy explosions that sent toxic particles into the air. Additional polluters attempting to start business in Vallejo have been stopped by community activism.

> **Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point** Listening session participants voiced concerns about contaminated fish and Keller Canyon landfill pollution.

#### **North Richmond**

Community members hope to see protections from sea level rise along the shoreline, where the landfill and wastewater treatment plant are at risk from flooding and thus severe pollution problems.

#### **Bayview Hunter's Point**

64% of respondents are concerned about industrial/hazardous contamination.

# **GREEN SPACE**

Many communities and Tribes in the Bay Area report concerns about lack of access to green space and nature for recreation. Many communities and Tribal members felt that there were few well-lit, safe, nearby green spaces where children and families can recreate.

There is additionally limited access to existing spaces: folks don't know where to go or how to get there, or parks that are considered safe are too far away. This includes bodies of water such as creeks, waterways, and the ocean.

Many communities and Tribes that participated in the Bay Area DACTIP have historically been excluded from green public spaces, and/or have been the last to receive green infrastructure improvements.

Communities and Tribal members mentioned lack of trees and plants along sidewalks in their areas. Lack of greenery is also connected to lower physical and mental health.

#### Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point

Listening session participants communicated the need for more water for park landscaping, better access to shorelines, safer fishing, as well as safe drinking fountains in parks. Antioch listening session participants want safe places to view and access the river. Some mentioned reducing homeless encampments along the waterfront, access to recreation facilities, and outreach fairs or festivals sponsored by water districts. Bay Point residents mentioned the need to improve access to safe parks and trails.

### **North Richmond**

Community members feel there are not enough safe, accessible outdoor places for recreation in North Richmond and would like to see more parks, green space, and amenities such as lighting and drinking fountains on existing trails. On their post-surveys, 23% of residents wrote that they hope to see more urban greening, green infrastructure, or parks.

### Fruitvale District, Oakland

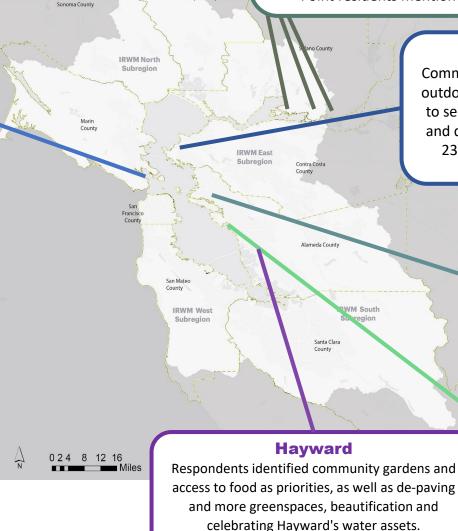
Public/Green space was an identified issue. Many surveyed felt that there was a lack of safe play space for children and families and that there was not enough access to outdoor recreation.

### **Deep East Oakland**

Lack of park space was the most identified issue in the needs assessment process.

### **Marin City**

Marin City does not have a community green space for gatherings and recreation.



Napa County

# **Regional Connections**

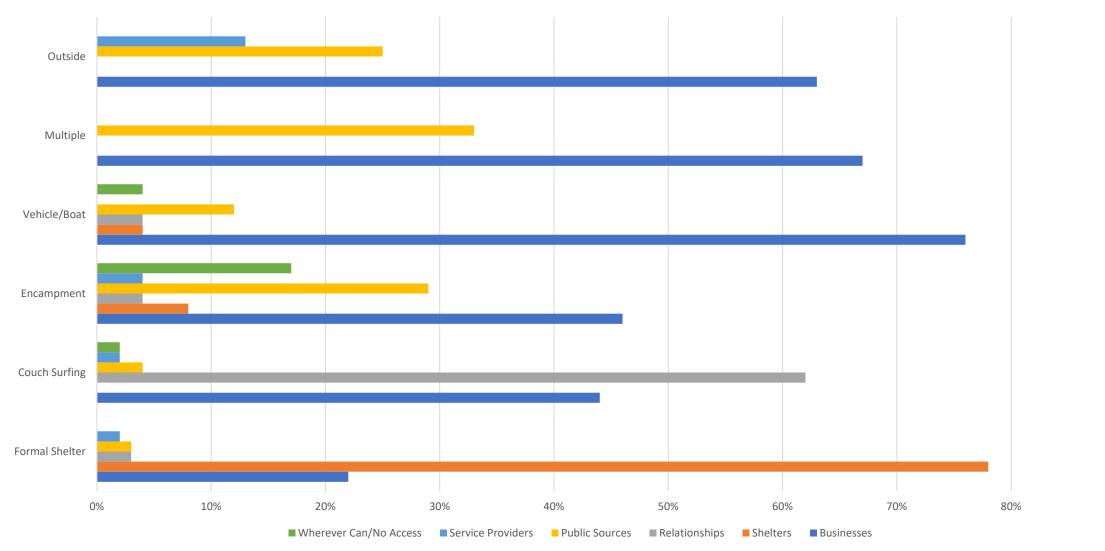
## DIGNITY ON WHEELS

Rebuilding The Lives Of The H One Shower & Laundry Loar' www.dignityonwher 650.330.800/

Bay Area DACTI Program Needs Assessment with People Experiencing Homelessness

orese.





# Participant recommendations for improving their access to WASH

Sections of neighborhoods should have sun showers, like for surfers at the beach

Bottled water assists during non-shelter hours

"Toilets/handwashing station would be easier if added for nonshelter hours outside the gate"

*Compostable toilets- benefit earth, people + the environment-use for gardening* 

More public restrooms that are cleaned by us. We can give homeless people jobs to maintain the bathrooms

*Card swipe using EBT type card at laundry* 

Everything is good now that Im indoors

"People stop denying and saying no"

More widely publicize when and where existing services, such as laundry and shower pop-ups are available.

Lights inside and outside of porta potties

Laundry coins donated and mobile laundry van to help transport



The most effective long-term solution to meet the human right to water for people experiencing homelessness is permanent housing that has adequate water and facilities for drinking, hygiene, and sanitation.

In the meantime, water remains a human right, and interim solutions to meet these basic needs for people experiencing homelessness must be implemented and expanded

### **Overall Recommendations**

Municipalities must formally recognize water as a human right and invest in infrastructure and services to provide safe and accessible water for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene purposes for all people. Decision-makers at every level should ensure that all planning commissions and policy development processes relating to homelessness meaningfully include people with current or past lived experience with homelessness.

**County and municipal** governments should directly engage people experiencing homelessness and service providers in their area on how to tailor and implement the broad recommendations provided through this and other efforts regarding how to improve WASH access. This includes exactly where and exactly which services and facilities would be the most useful in different areas.

# Recommendations from DST, VOICES, and DACTI Program Team



The Point in Time Count should identify one or two questions to add to their yearly or bi-yearly assessment to gather more information on access to WASH to inform service provision and facility development.



Future research should further investigate how demographic factors, including living situation, and water access are correlated for different people experiencing homelessness to best prioritize those who have the least access.



Funding agencies, researchers, and local stakeholders in all sectors should explore ways to leverage non-traditional funding sources to provide necessary services for people experiencing homelessness.



Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to provide facilities such as restrooms and handwashing stations should include maintenance costs, including safety measures.



Funding agencies should work directly with service providers to critically examine funding and service guidelines and identify and address elements that make it hard for service providers to be reimbursed for providing meaningful WASH services. These funding agencies include HUD, state agencies, and local governments.



More general fund dollars should be allocated for people experiencing homelessness.

# Follow up/Next steps

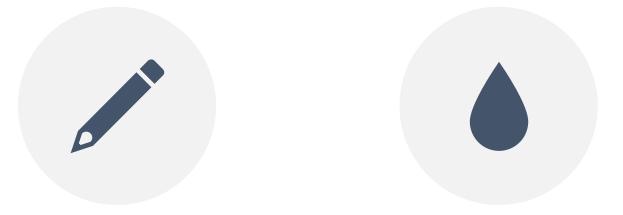
Follow up	Follow up in each locality to understand where and which of these broad facilities and service recommendations are most helpful to people experiencing homelessness in different contexts and locations
Further data analysis	Further data analysis to understand how these needs differ by living situation, demographics, and other factors
Examine and reform	Critically examine and reform policy and funding restrictions that currently make it difficult or impossible for service providers to fill existing gaps

### Outreach Partner Next Steps

- Holding further conversations and gathering data where necessary to better understand the context for these issues, such as gathering more community and Tribal perspectives on specific issues and solutions,
- Collecting environmental and other technical and spatial information related to these issues to inform the best solution,
- Completing feasibility studies and engineering plans for priority projects,
- Developing funding proposals to address identified needs.

## Programmatic Next Steps





CAPACITY BUILDING

GRANT WRITING SUPPORT TAP WATER QUALITY TESTING EFFORT

### Recommendations

- Tribes recommend that Federally recognized and Federally unrecognized are supported through the DACTI program. Federally unrecognized Tribes be specifically considered for assistance since other federal options are not afforded to them
- Encourage communication between water providers and Tribes they service. Creating a network could address needs, potentially develop projects, and discuss the quality of water Tribes are receiving.

#### Recommendations + Best Practices

 Implement Best Practices elevated by communities and Tribes as stated in the "Best Practices for Bringing Equity Section," section.

Most importantly, grant and planning processes should engage and acknowledge the leadership of communities and Tribes from the very beginning, and allocate more funding, resources, and time to building relationships with communities and Tribes and addressing structural inequities.

## Implications

- Continuity of engagement
- Funding matching

### THANK YOU!

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions!

Email: <u>micheller.ciea@gmail.com</u>

Phone #: 323-631-2216

www.cieaweb.org



## Thank you! Questions?