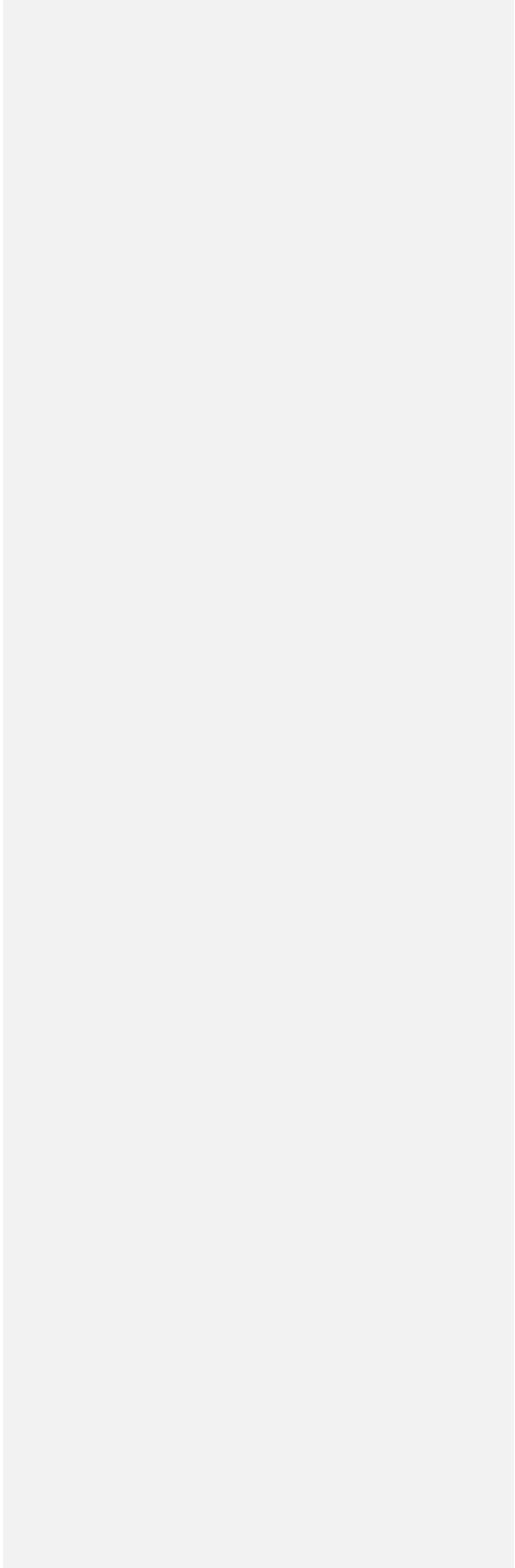


# Appendix E: Public Participation Summaries

[This Appendix will be updated as public participation is ongoing.]



## Introduction

Engagement for the 6<sup>th</sup> Housing Element began in 2021 and continued through the completion of public comment period on September 21, 2023. The following sections describe the public meetings, surveys, interviews, and other techniques utilized to engage the public on the draft Housing Element.

## Public Meetings

### ***November 18, 2021 Joint MAC Meeting***

On November 18, 2021, Alameda County held a joint meeting of the Castro Valley, Eden Area, and Fairview Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs). Each MAC represents a different geographic area of the Unincorporated County. A notice for the meeting and the agenda were posted on the County website prior to the meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom with the option to participate by phone. In addition to members from each of the three MACs, the meeting was attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. The meeting was recorded and the recording was posted on the County website.

County Planning staff presented a PowerPoint presentation that included a summary of state housing element law, including the required components, the purpose of the housing element, and the process for developing the revised housing element. The presentation explained the purpose of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, how it was determined for each jurisdiction, and the importance of the sites inventory to demonstrate the County's capacity to accommodate it's RHNA.

### *Summary of Comments Received at November 18, 2021 meeting:*

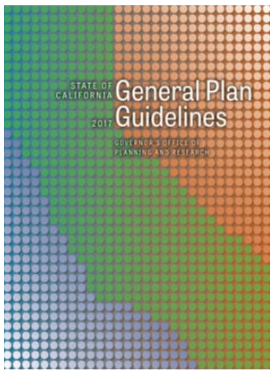
- Open space value should be factored into metric for identifying appropriate sites for housing
- Climate change should be considered in reviewing residential development proposals regarding requirements for elements such as energy efficient lighting and drought tolerant landscaping.
- It will be difficult to meet the RHNA and maintain the current quality of life in unincorporated communities.
- The RHNA numbers seems to be based on historical population growth and not more recent population loss.
- The County needs to look at how infrastructure is impacted by the increase in population that comes with adding more housing in an area.
- Water supply needs to be considered in determining appropriate sites for housing.

November 18, 2021 Meeting Presentation

# Housing Element Update & RHNA Allocation



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
NOVEMBER 18, 2021



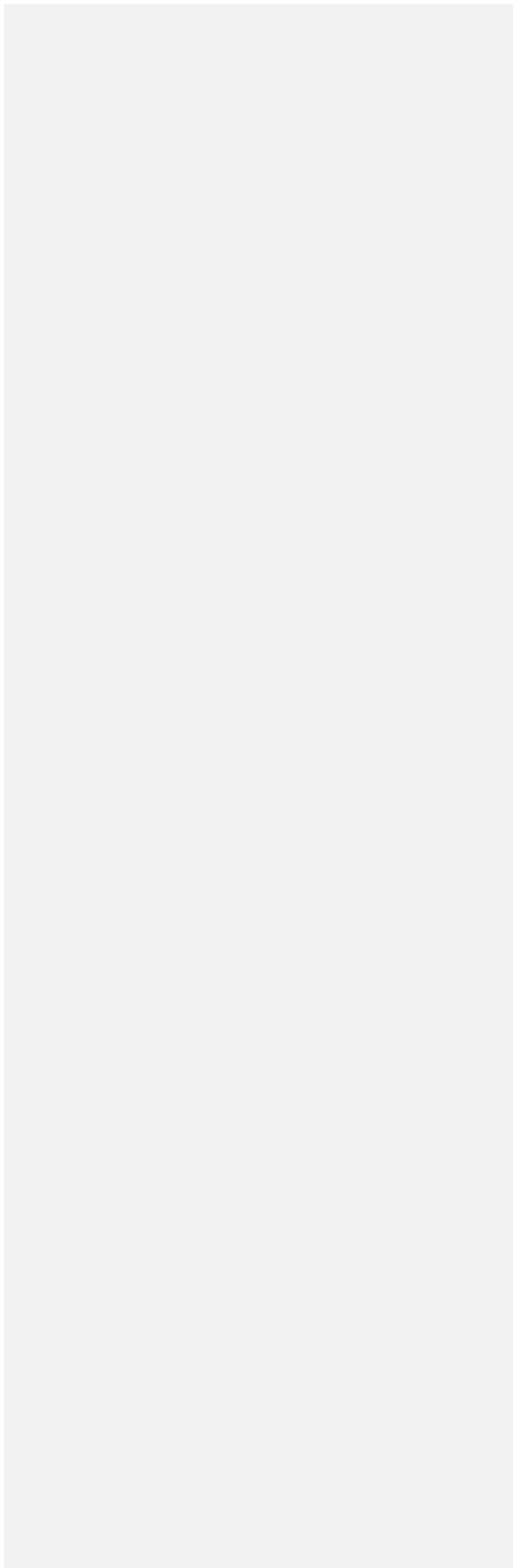
## General Plan Required by State Law (Government Code Section 65300 et seq.)

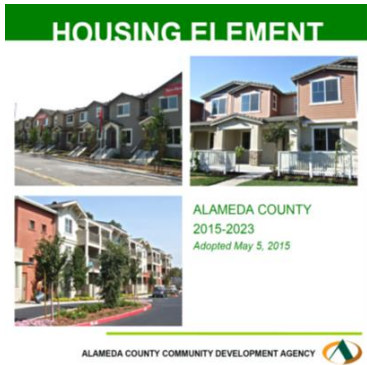
### Required Elements:

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open Space
- Conservation
- Safety
- Noise
- Environmental Justice (separate element or integrate policies throughout other elements)



County General Plan Documents	STATE REQUIRED ELEMENTS							
	Land Use	Circulation	Housing	Conservation	Open Space	Safety	Noise	Environ. Justice
<b>AREA PLANS</b>								
Castro Valley General Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
East County Area Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Eden Area General Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
<b>COUNTYWIDE ELEMENTS</b>								
Housing Element			X					
Conservation Element				X				
Open Space Element					X			
Safety Element						X		
Noise Element							X	
Ashland/Cherryland Community Health & Wellness Element to become Environmental Justice Element								X
Community Climate Action Plan	Optional Element							
Scenic Route Element	Optional Element							
Park and Recreation Element	Optional Element							
(An "X" indicates that the County document addresses topics related to the state required element.)								





The current County Housing Element was adopted in 2015.

<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/generalplans/documents/CompleteHousingElementBOSAdopted050515.pdf>

### Housing Element Update Required Components

- Evaluate existing Housing Element
- Assess Housing Need
  - Existing
  - Projected – Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
  - Populations with Special Needs
- Site Inventory & Analysis
- Governmental & Nongovernmental Constraints
- Programs required to implement stated policies and achieve stated goals and objectives
- Board of Supervisors approval
- Certification by State HCD

### Housing Element Update Schedule

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State law requires each local jurisdiction to revise its Housing Element every eight years.

---

All cities and counties within a region must update their housing elements on the same eight-year cycle.

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The next cycle for the Bay Area will be 2023 2031 (Sixth Cycle).

---

Revised Housing Element must be approved by State HCD and Board of Supervisors by January 2023.

## What is the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)?

- **Since 1969, State law has required that all jurisdictions plan to meet the housing needs of everyone in the community.**
- **State HCD** identifies total number of units, across all income groups, for which the region must plan for the eight-year RHNA period (2023 to 2031).
- **ABAG** collaborates with local governments and stakeholders to develop a formula to assign each community a share of the Bay Area's housing need.
- **Each local government** must update Housing Element of General Plan and zoning to show how it plans to accommodate its share of the regional need.

## What are the statutory objectives of RHNA?

Increase housing supply and mix of housing types, tenure, and affordability in all cities and counties in an equitable manner

Promote infill development and socioeconomic equity protect environmental and agricultural resources, encourage efficient development patterns, and achieve GHG reduction targets

Promote improved intraregional jobshousing relationship, including balance between low-wage jobs and affordable housing

Balance disproportionate household income distributions (more high-income RHNA to lower income areas and vice-versa)

Affirmatively further fair housing

## What's new for this RHNA cycle?

Greater emphasis on social equity

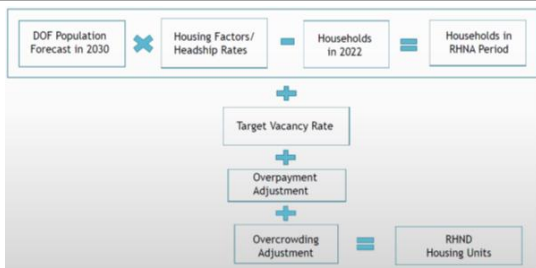
Higher total regional housing need

Expanded HCD oversight on methodology & allocations

More factors to consider in allocation (overpayment, overcrowding, greenhouse gas target, jobs-housing fit)

New requirements for identifying eligible sites for Housing Elements

## How does HCD calculate the Regional Housing Need Determination?



## ABAG Region RHND Increase from Current Cycle

CYCLE	VERY LOW INCOME (<50% of Area Median Income)	LOW INCOME (50-80% of Area Median Income)	MODERATE INCOME (80-120% of Area Median Income)	ABOVE MODERATE INCOME (>120% of Area Median Income)	TOTAL
<b>2015-2023</b>	46,680 units	28,940 units	33,420 units	78,950 units	187,990 units
<b>2023-2031</b>	114,442 units	65,892 units	72,712 units	188,130 units	441,176 units
<b>% Increase</b>	<b>145%</b>	<b>128%</b>	<b>118%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>135%</b>

## RHNA Methodology Development



PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT

## Final 2023-2031 RHNA Methodology

- **STEP 1: Group RHND by income**
- **STEP 2: Factor weight = units allocated by factor**
  - Allocation Factors for Very Low - and Low-Income Units
    - 70% Access to High Opportunity Areas
    - 15% Job Proximity - Auto
    - 15% Job Proximity - Transit
  - Allocation Factors for Moderate - and Above Moderate-Income Units
    - 40% Access to High Opportunity Areas
    - 60% Job Proximity - Auto
- **STEP 3: Calculate jurisdiction's units from each factor**
- **STEP 4: Apply equity adjustment**
  - Equity Adjustment redistributes lower-income units to ensure all 49 jurisdictions identified as exhibiting above average racial and economic exclusion receive an allocation of lower -income units that is at least proportional to its share of households in 2020

## Unincorporated Alameda County RHNA Increase from Current Cycle

CYCLE	VERY LOW INCOME (<50% of Area Median Income)	LOW INCOME (50-80% of Area Median Income)	MODERATE INCOME (80-120% of Area Median Income)	ABOVE MODERATE INCOME (>120% of Area Median Income)	TOTAL
<b>2015-2023</b>	430 units	227 units	295 units	817 units	1,769 units
<b>2023-2031</b>	1,251 units	721 units	763 units	1,976 units	4,711 units
<b>% Increase</b>	<b>191%</b>	<b>218%</b>	<b>159%</b>	<b>142%</b>	<b>166%</b>

## Comparison to Other Jurisdictions

JURISDICTION	2015-2023	2023-2031	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
Uninc. Alameda County	1,769 units	4,711 units	166%
Uninc. Contra Costa County	1,367 units	7,645 units	459%
Uninc. Santa Clara County	277 units	3,125 units	1,028%
Uninc. San Mateo County	913 units	2,833 units	210%

## Housing Element Sites Inventory and Analysis

- The land inventory must identify specific sites suitable for the development of housing within the planning period that are sufficient to accommodate the jurisdictions share of the regional housing need for all income levels (Gov. Code § 65583)
- The site-specific listing must be accompanied by analysis to demonstrate that the land is suitable for development in the planning period and sites and zoning are sufficient and appropriate to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need for all income levels.
- The analysis of sites must indicate whether the inventory can provide for a variety of housing types, including multifamily rental housing, factory-built housing, mobile homes, housing for agricultural employees, transitional and supportive housing, singleroom occupancy units and emergency shelters.

### Site Inventory Process



### Consequences of Not Fulfilling RHNA

- SB 35 (Weiner 2017) - local jurisdictions where construction of new housing units by developers has not met planning goals established through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process are required to offer a ministerial approval process for multifamily residential developments under certain circumstances.
- AB 1174 (Grayson 2021) clarified the requirements that must be met for an approved development to be valid indefinitely and the process for modifications to applications.



## Incentives for Housing Element Compliance

### Grant and loan programs that require an HCD certified housing element include:

- Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA)
- Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC)
- SB 1 Planning Grants
- CalHOME Program
- Infill Infrastructure Grants
- Prohousing Designation Program
- Local Housing Trust Fund Program (LHTF)
- Regional Transportation Funding: One Bay Area Grants (OBAG)

## Consequences of Housing Element Noncompliance

- General Plan inadequacy
- Litigation
- Loss of permitting authority
- Financial penalties
- Court receivership

## Status of Process

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- Funded by \$500,000 Local Early Action Program Grant from State HCD
- Request For Proposals to recruit consultant

### ***Public Meetings July to October 2022***

From July to October 2022, County staff presented updates on the housing element process (in addition to other concurrent general plan projects) and solicited feedback from decision-makers and the public at the following meetings:

- Board Unincorporated Services Committee – July 27, 2022
- Castro Valley MAC – August 8, 2022
- Fairview MAC – September 6, 2022
- Eden Area MAC – September 13, 2022
- Planning Commission – September 19, 2022
- Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) – September 27, 2022
- Sunol Citizens' Advisory Council (Sunol CAC) – October 19, 2022

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings were held virtually on Zoom with the option to participate by phone. In addition to members from each of the decision-making bodies, the meetings were attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. Each meeting was recorded and the recordings were posted on the County website. County planning staff presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the housing element update process. Staff explained the requirements for the affirmatively furthering fair housing assessment, the importance of fulfilling the County's RHNA obligation, and the process for selecting sites for the sites inventory.

#### *Summary of Comments Received at July - October 2022 Meetings:*

##### July 27, 2022 Board Unincorporated Services Committee

- Many speakers expressed concern about how pandemic eviction moratorium was affecting the housing market/potentially discouraging development of more units.
- More protections are needed for renters.
- Maintenance of existing rental units should be addressed.
- Concern about young adults being able to afford rent.

##### August 8, 2022 Castro Valley MAC

- Utility service providers should be consulted as part of the housing element process.
- Development should be coordinated between unincorporated communities.
- Concern about ability to fulfill new RHNA when fell short of fulfilling previous RHNA

##### September 6, 2022 Fairview MAC

- The location of earthquake faults should be taken into consideration in sites inventory.
- Stormwater runoff is a safety concern in Fairview and should be considered in housing element.
- Wildfire risk and slopes should also be considered.

September 13, 2022 Eden MAC

- Preservation of trees and open space in the urban area should be taken into consideration, not just building housing.
- Environmental justice should be incorporated into the housing element.
- The County should adopt an inclusionary zoning ordinance.
- The public should be involved in the sites inventory to promote housing equity.

September 19, 2022 Planning Commission

- All unincorporated communities should share the burden of providing adequate sites to accommodate RHNA.
- New state law allowing residential development in commercial areas should be considered.
- Given the limited availability of potential sites, local opposition should not eliminate inclusion of some sites.

September 27, 2022 Agricultural Advisory Committee

- Concern housing development will result in loss of open space.
- Concern about condition of roads and lack of water impacting ability to build more housing in rural areas.
- More housing should be built in the cities instead of in the unincorporated areas.
- Ag worker housing and accessory dwelling units should be encouraged in rural areas.

October 19, 2022 Sunol Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Concern about consequences of completing HE late and potential enforcement by HCD.

*Example July-October 2022 Meeting Presentation:*

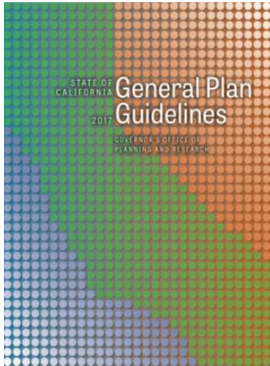
## Update on General Plan Projects Housing Element, Environmental Justice Element, and Safety Element/Community Climate Action Plan

Unincorporated Services Committee

July 27, 2022



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



### General Plan Required by State Law (Government Code Section 65300 et seq.)

**Required Elements:**

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open Space
- Conservation
- Safety
- Noise
- Environmental Justice (separate element or integrate policies throughout other elements)

County General Plan Documents	STATE REQUIRED ELEMENTS							
	Land Use	Circulation	Housing	Conservation	Open Space	Safety	Noise	Envir. Justice
<b>AREA PLANS</b>								
Castro Valley General Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
East County Area Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Eden Area General Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
<b>COUNTYWIDE ELEMENTS</b>								
Housing Element			X					
Conservation Element				X				
Open Space Element					X			
Safety Element						X		
Noise Element							X	
Ashland/Cherryland Community Health & Wellness Element to become Environmental Justice Element								X
Community Climate Action Plan								Optional Element
Scenic Route Element								Optional Element
Park and Recreation Element								Optional Element
<small>(An "X" indicates that the County document addresses topics related to the state required element.)</small>								

## General Plan Projects 2021-2024

Housing  
Element

Environmental  
Justice  
Element

Safety Element  
& Climate  
Action Plan

# Housing Element

## Housing Element Update Process

State law requires each local jurisdiction to revise its Housing Element every eight years.

All cities and counties within a region must update their housing elements on the same eight -year cycle.

The next cycle for the Bay Area is 2023 -2031 (Sixth Cycle).

Revised Housing Element deadline for approval by State HCD and Board of Supervisors January 2023.

Estimated completion date – January 2024.

## Housing Element Update Required Components

- Evaluate existing Housing Element
- Assess Housing Need
  - Existing
  - Projected – Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
  - Populations with Special Needs
- Site Inventory & Analysis
- Governmental & Nongovernmental Constraints
- Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
- Programs required to implement stated policies and achieve stated goals and objectives
- Board of Supervisors approval
- Certification by State HCD

## Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

AB 686 (2018) requires that housing elements demonstrate the local jurisdiction is “affirmatively furthering fair housing.” Jurisdictions need to demonstrate compliance with the statute by:

- Analyzing existing fair housing and segregation issues
- Identifying fair housing goals
- Developing strategies to implement these goals
- Ensuring sites in the inventory are identified in such a way that promotes AFFH

## What is the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)?

State HCD identifies total number of units, across all income groups, for which the region must plan for the eight-year RHNA period (2023 to 2031).

ABAG collaborates with local governments and stakeholders to develop a formula to assign each community a share of the Bay Area’s housing need.

Each local government must update Housing Element of General Plan and zoning to show how it plans to accommodate its share of the regional need.

## What’s new for this RHNA cycle?

Greater emphasis on social equity

Higher total regional housing need

Expanded HCD oversight on methodology & allocations

More factors to consider in allocation (*overpayment, overcrowding, greenhouse gas target, jobs-housing fit*)

New requirements for identifying eligible sites for Housing Elements

## ABAG Region RHND Increase from Current Cycle

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% Increase	145%	128%	118%	138%	135%

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% Increase	191%	218%	159%	142%	166%

## Comparison with Other Counties

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## Housing Element Sites Inventory and Analysis

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- The analysis of sites must indicate whether the inventory can provide for a variety of housing types, including multifamily rental housing, housing for agricultural employees, transitional and supportive housing, single room occupancy units and emergency shelters.

### Housing Element Schedule

July 2022 -February 2023	Technical Studies and Issues Evaluation
July-October 2022	Sites Inventory
July-December 2022	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
July 2022 -HE Approval	Community Engagement
March 2023	Public Review Draft Housing Element
April-December 2023	State HCD Reviews Draft Element
January 2024	Public Hearing Draft Housing Element
February 2024	Final Housing Element Adopted
October 2022 -February 2024	CEQA Analysis

### **December 5, 2022 Planning Commission Work Session**

On December 5, 2022, County staff held a work session with the Planning Commission to request input for the housing element update. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom with the option to participate by phone. The meeting was attended by the Planning Commissioners, County Planning Department staff and members of the public. The meeting was recorded and the recording was posted on the County website. Staff provided an update on the status of each section of the draft housing element. Information presented included preliminary data for the housing needs assessment, prospective policies and programs, and a map showing properties on the draft sites inventory.

#### *Summary of Comments Received at December 5, 2022 Meeting:*

- Concern about consequences of completing housing element late, potential enforcement by HCD, and builder's remedy.



- Concern about impact of more ADUs and higher density on existing housing – need to improve amenities in impacted neighborhoods.
- Housing can't be built in the same way it has been and include higher density. The County needs to reduce parking requirements to accommodate higher density housing.

*December 5, 2022 Planning Commission Work Session Presentation:*

## Housing Element Update



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 5, 2022

### Housing Element Update Process

The Housing Element is an opportunity to shape how unincorporated communities grow in the next 8 years.

State law requires each local jurisdiction to revise its Housing Element every eight years.

All cities and counties within a region must update their housing elements on the same eight-year cycle.

The next cycle for the Bay Area is 2023-2031 (Sixth Cycle).

Housing Element deadline for approval by State HCD and Board of Supervisors January 2023.

Expected date for submittal of draft element to State HCD- April 2023

Estimate for approval by State HCD and Board of Supervisors – Fall 2023 (depends on number of rounds of review by HCD).

## Housing Element Update Required Components

- Assess Housing Need
  - Existing
  - Projected – Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
  - Populations with Special Needs
- Policies and programs required to fulfill identified need and address issues
- Site Inventory & Analysis
- Governmental & Nongovernmental Constraints
- Evaluate existing Housing Element policies & programs
- Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
- Community Engagement

## Housing Needs Assessment

Goal: to cover the demographic, employment, and housing trends and conditions that affect the housing needs of the community.

128 subsidized, deed-restricted housing units located in 6 residential developments are at risk of being converted to market rate housing by 2033.

28.9% of unincorporated homeowners and 51.5% of renters are cost burdened, meaning they spend 30% or more of gross income on housing costs.

26.3% of renters spend 50% or more of their income on housing, compared to about 10.6% of homeowners.

Of the unincorporated senior population, 36.8% are cost burdened.

14.1% of households in unincorporated Alameda County are extremely low income.

41.1% of unincorporated households are low-income households (earn less than 80% of Area Median Income [AMI]).

## Prospective Policies and Programs

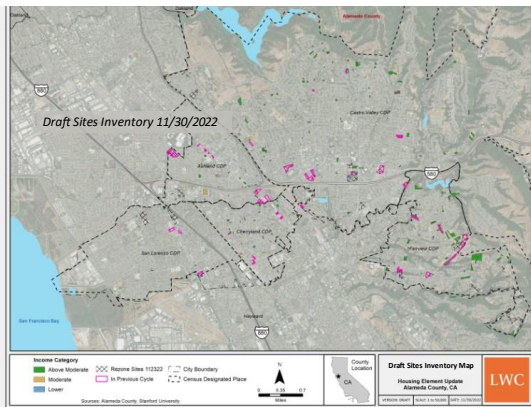
- Rezoning sites to meet the RHNA
- Tracking ADU permit issuance to build accountability
- Creating a process for SB 9 lot splitting
- Finding ways to address potential displacement within unincorporated
- Targeting additional community resources in lower resource areas with additional prospective housing
- Updating the building code for maintenance and code enforcement
- Passing an inclusionary zoning ordinance or other community benefit program
- Protecting tenants' rights through rent stabilization, a rental registry, and establishing a rental inspection process
- Working with BART to facilitate the development of housing at the Castro Valley and Bay Fair BART stations.
- Creating universal design guidelines

## Unincorporated Alameda County RHNA Increase from Current Cycle

CYCLE	VERY LOW INCOME (<50% of Area Median Income)	LOW INCOME (50-80% of Area Median Income)	MODERATE INCOME (80-120% of Area Median Income)	ABOVE MODERATE INCOME (>120% of Area Median Income)	TOTAL
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% Increase	191%	218%	159%	142%	166%

## Income Categories for Alameda County

Income Category	Percent of median income	Annual income (1-person household)	Annual income (3-person household)	Annual income (4-person household)
Extremely low - income	30%	\$28,800	\$37,000	\$41,100
Very low-income	50%	\$47,950	\$61,650	\$68,500
Low income	80%	\$76,750	\$98,650	\$109,600
Median income	100%	\$87,900	\$113,050	\$125,600
Moderate income	120%	\$105,500	\$135,650	\$150,700



## Housing Constraints

- Goal: analyze and recommend solutions to existing and future governmental and nongovernmental barriers to housing development.
- Requirements for creation of private streets
  - Need for consistent objectivity in residential design standards, especially lot size analysis
  - Process for implementing 100% residential projects in mixed-use zones without requiring rezoning.
  - Amending zoning code for consistency with State law.

## Program Review

- Goal: analysis of previous Housing Element's policies and programs.
- The 2015-2021 Housing Element had 7 goals, 79 policies, and 31 corresponding programs.
  - Staff are working to coordinate with others to obtain feedback to inform the review.

## Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Goal: (1) to analyze the history of fair housing in unincorporated; (2) to affirmatively further fair housing throughout the Housing Element, especially through the Site Inventory and Programs and Policies.

- Accessed records at the Hayward Area Historical Society
- Opened a venue for residents to share their housing stories <https://bit.ly/achousingstory>
- Targeted outreach stakeholders representing populations with 'special housing needs,' such as elders, renters, and people with disabilities, to understand their housing needs and policy priorities
- Working with our consultants to develop draft policies

## Community Engagement

### SO FAR:

- General Plan updates shared with EMAC, CVMAC, FVMAC, Sunol CAC, AAC, USC, and this body
- Hosted office hours
- Met with the "Environmental Justice Bucket" of the Ashland Cherryland Healthy Communities Collaborative (ACHCC)
- Contacting key landowners
- Scheduling meetings with key stakeholders

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- Developing and publicizing a more detailed quantitative survey
- One or more in-person gallery walks, to enable deeper discussion of the Site Inventory
- A panel featuring housing leaders from unincorporated communities with discussion of housing needs and challenges
- And a large, virtual, feedback forum where staff will describe how comments and input from throughout the update process has informed the public review draft.

Contact  
Information

Liz McElligott, Alameda County Planning Department  
[Elizabeth.mcelligott@acgov.org](mailto:Elizabeth.mcelligott@acgov.org) 510-670-6120

Contact our team: [housingelement@acgov.org](mailto:housingelement@acgov.org)

Planning Department Website:  
<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/>

Housing Element Website:  
[http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/housing\\_element/housing\\_element.htm](http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/housing_element/housing_element.htm)

Share your housing stories: <https://bit.ly/achousingstory>

### ***Public Meetings February 2023***

In February of 2023, County staff presented updates on the housing element process (in addition to other concurrent general plan projects) and requested input from decision-makers and the public at the following meetings:

- Fairview MAC – February 7, 2023
- Eden Area MAC – February 14, 2023
- Planning Commission – February 21, 2023
- Board Unincorporated Services Committee – February 22, 2023
- Castro Valley MAC – February 27, 2023

The meetings were held in-person with the option to participate virtually on Zoom or by phone. In addition to members from each of the decision-making bodies, the meetings were attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. Each meeting was recorded and the recordings were posted on the County website. County planning staff presented a PowerPoint presentation that provided an update on the status of each section of the draft housing element. Information presented included preliminary data for the housing needs assessment, prospective policies and programs, and a map showing properties on the draft sites inventory.

#### ***Summary of Comments Received at February 2023 Meetings:***

##### **February 7, 2023 Fairview MAC**

- Parking available on residential streets is inadequate.
- Private streets are an issue because of maintenance needs and lack of parking.

##### **February 14, 2023 Eden MAC**

- San Lorenzo Village should be developed with commercial uses, not residential.

- The historic resources in the communities should be considered and more ADU's should be encouraged.
- The natural resources on the 238 bypass parcels should be taken into consideration.
- The history of racial displacement should be included in the housing element.
- It's important to include San Lorenzo's history of racial discrimination and also current gentrification issues.

#### February 21, 2023 Planning Commission

- The long development application review process is a constraint on development.
- Non-governmental constraints include high EBMUD hookup fees, and PG&E takes too long to hookup electrical connections for new developments.
- Mobile home parks should be replaced with denser housing.
- Missing middle housing is important to provide opportunities for home ownership.
- Regarding construction of housing at BART sites, BART ridership is down so less parking is needed.

#### February 22, 2023 Unincorporated Services Committee

- Commercial property in San Lorenzo area should remain commercial.
- Support services and infrastructure improvements are needed to encourage the development of more housing.
- ADU's should be encouraged to increase housing supply.
- Schools are overcrowded because of closures.
- More low-income housing is needed in the area to counteract the impacts of historic redlining.
- County policies and ordinances like the eviction moratorium are not friendly to rental property owners and the development of more housing.
- The root cause of the housing crisis is lack of supply. Infrastructure improvements are needed.
- Housing providers deserve protections, not just tenant protections.
- Housing supply is important. Incentives for more housing need to be provided.
- There are too many restrictions on rental housing.

#### February 27, 2023 Castro Valley MAC

- Preserving commercial property is important. Communities need amenities.
- Excited to see potential for new development in Castro Valley. Mixed use developments should be encouraged.
- Too much low-income housing is being considered near former Caltrans 238 by-pass parcels.
- Mixed income housing should be encouraged, not just low-income, and developments should include retail space.

- Concerned that the current environment is not friendly to property owners. How can the County attract builders if rental property owners can't collect rent? Utility capacity needs to be considered.
- Infrastructure and school capacity needs to be considered.

*Example February 2023 Meeting Presentation:*

## Housing Element Update

Unincorporated Services Committee      February 22, 2023



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Housing Element Update Process

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The Housing Element is an opportunity to shape how unincorporated communities grow over the next 8 years.

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State law requires each local jurisdiction to revise its Housing Element every eight years.

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All cities and counties within a region must update their housing elements on the same eight-year cycle.

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Housing Element deadline for approval by State HCD and Board of Supervisors January 2023.

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Expect to distribute draft for 30-day public review period in late March and submittal of draft element to State HCD in late April 2023

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Estimate for approval by State HCD and Board of Supervisors – Fall 2023 (depends on number of rounds of review by HCD).

## Housing Element Update Required Components

- Assess Housing Need
  - Existing
  - Projected – Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
  - Populations with Special Needs
- Policies and programs required to fulfill identified need and address issues
- Site Inventory & Analysis
- Governmental & Nongovernmental Constraints
- Evaluate existing Housing Element policies & programs
- Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
- Community Engagement

## Prospective Policies and Programs

- Targeting additional community resources in lower resource areas planned for additional housing
- Addressing potential displacement within unincorporated
- Rezoning sites to meet the RHNA
- Tracking ADU permit issuance to build accountability
- Passing an inclusionary zoning ordinance or other community benefit program
- Working with BART to facilitate the development of housing at the Castro Valley and Bay Fair BART stations.
- Creating universal design guidelines

## Unincorporated Alameda County RHNA Increase from Current Cycle

CYCLE	VERY LOW INCOME (<50% of Area Median Income)	LOW INCOME (50-80% of Area Median Income)	MODERATE INCOME (80-120% of Area Median Income)	ABOVE MODERATE INCOME (>120% of Area Median Income)	TOTAL
2015-2023	430 units	227 units	295 units	817 units	1,769 units
<b>2023-2031</b>	<b>1,251 units</b>	<b>721 units</b>	<b>763 units</b>	<b>1,976 units</b>	<b>4,711 units</b>
% Increase	191%	218%	159%	142%	166%



## Income Categories for Alameda County

Income Category	Percent of median income	Annual income (1-person household)	Annual income (3-person household)	Annual income (4-person household)
Extremely low - income	30%	\$28,800	\$37,000	\$41,100
Very low-income	50%	\$47,950	\$61,650	\$68,500
Low income	80%	\$76,750	\$98,650	\$109,600
Median income	100%	\$87,900	\$113,050	\$125,600
Moderate income	120%	\$105,500	\$135,650	\$150,700

## Sites Inventory

- State law requires each city and county to demonstrate that zoning & general plan designations allow enough housing development capacity to accommodate RHNA.
- Inventory sites have been identified in every Unincorporated Community.
- Property owners will decidewhether or notto develop their properties.
- Applications for housing developments still need to go through an approval process.
- For purposes of assigning properties to an income category, State HCD generally uses density as a proxy for income level, assuming higher density units will be more affordable.

## Methodology for Identifying Sites

1. Identified projects in the development pipeline.
2. Identified vacant public and private parcels, using assessor’s data, satellite imagery, and local knowledge.
3. Identified underutilized parcels, defined as property where the value of the land is higher than the value of the existing improvements (pavement, buildings, etc.)
4. Staff is in the process of reviewing vacant and underutilized sites appropriate for rezoning to accommodate more units to help meet the RHNA.
5. Taking into consideration potential environmental hazards and sensitive areas

## Key Inventory Sites

- Bay Fair & Castro Valley BART station parking lot
- Castro Valley Boulevard Rite Aid Site
- County Radio Communications Station at Foothill Boulevard and 150th Avenue in Castro Valley.
- First Presbyterian Grove Way site, adjacent to Trader Joe's in Castro Valley.
- 177 Lewelling Blvd. (Crunch Fitness) & adjacent parcels
- San Lorenzo Village area
- Large site in East County inside the Urban Growth Boundary to the east of the City of Pleasanton.

### Draft Sites Inventory for Ashland



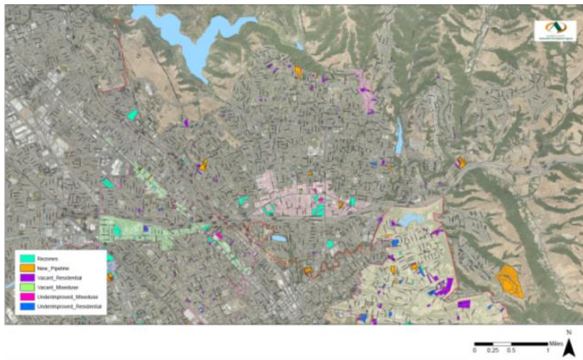
### Draft Sites Inventory for Cherryland



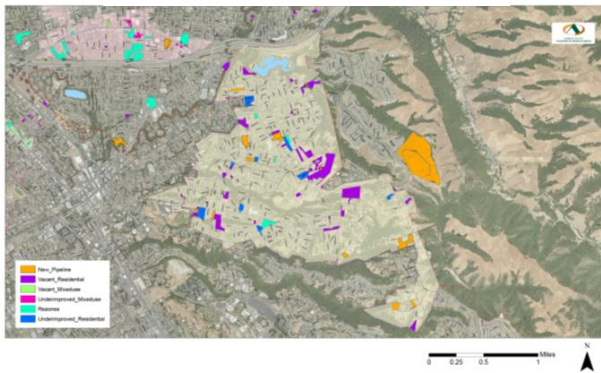
### Draft Sites Inventory for San Lorenzo

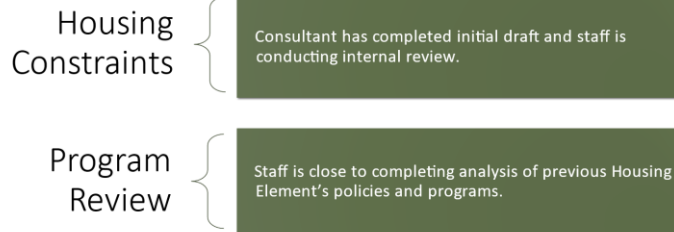


### Draft Sites Inventory for Castro Valley



### Draft Sites Inventory for Fairview





## Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Purpose: (1) to analyze the history of fair housing in unincorporated; (2) to affirmatively further fair housing throughout the Housing Element, especially through the Sites Inventory and Programs and Policies.

- Accessed records at the Hayward Area Historical Society
- Opened a venue for residents to share their housing stories: <https://bit.ly/achousingstory>
- Targeted outreach to stakeholders representing populations with 'special housing needs,' such as elders, renters, and people with disabilities, to understand their housing needs and policy priorities
- Working with our consultants to develop draft policies

### Community Engagement

July-Oct 2022	Updates to EMAC, CVMAC, FVMAC, Sunol CAC, AAC, USC, and PC
Nov 2022-Jan 2023	Hosted online office hours
Nov 2022-Present	Small group interviews with key stakeholders
Nov 2022-Present	Contacted key landowners to determine interest in including their property in inventory.
Dec 2022	Met with the "Environmental Justice Bucket" of the Ashland Cherryland Healthy Communities Collaborative (ACHCC)
Ongoing	On-line survey
Ongoing	"Share your housing stories" online template
Feb 2023	Updates to EMAC, CVMAC, FVMAC, Sunol CAC, AAC, USC, and PC
March-April 2023	Public Review Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Workshops</li> <li>• Presentations to EMAC, CVMAC, FVMAC, Sunol CAC, AAC USC, PC, T&amp;P, BOS</li> </ul>

## Current Meeting Schedule

<b>February 7</b>	Fairview MAC
<b>February 14</b>	Eden MAC
<b>February 21</b>	Planning Commission
<b>February 22</b>	Board Unincorporated Services Committee
<b>February 27</b>	Castro Valley MAC

## Comments Received at Recent Meetings

### Fairview MAC

- Concerns about inadequate private streets and lack of parking.

### Eden MAC

- Objections to more residential development in San Lorenzo Village
- Objections to the potential replacement of Crunch Fitness
- The historic value of the communities should be taken into consideration.
- The natural resources on the 238 bypass parcels should be taken into consideration.
- It is important to address the current threat of gentrification as well as historic racial displacement.

### Planning Commission

- BART ridership is down so not as much parking will be needed at stations in the future.
- Only 500 to 600 housing units were built in the Unincorporated County during the last housing element cycle, well below the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA of 1,769.

We want to hear from you!

Email our team: [housingelement@acgov.org](mailto:housingelement@acgov.org)

Housing Element Website (*Sign up for email notices.*):  
<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/housing-element/housing-element.htm>

Housing Element Survey:  
<https://bit.ly/unincorporatedhousingelementsurvey>

Share your housing stories:  
<https://bit.ly/achousingstory>

### ***Agricultural Advisory Committee – April 25 & May 23, 2023***

At its April 25 and May 23, 2023 meetings, the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) received a presentation from Planning Department staff on the housing element update process. The meetings were held in-person with the option to participate virtually on Zoom or by phone. In addition to members of the AAC, the meetings were attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. The meetings were recorded and the recordings were posted on the County website. Staff informed the AAC that farmworkers are identified in state law as a population with special housing needs and the state requires that the need for farmworker housing be analyzed and addressed in the housing element. Staff requested the Committee's input on the need for farmworker housing in the County and how the need can be addressed in the housing element policies and programs. Staff added that the Committee can continue to explore and develop programs to facilitate the construction of farmworker housing after the housing element has been adopted.

#### *Summary of Comments Received at April 25 & May 23, 2023 Meetings:*

- Agriculture has steadily declined in the County and there is a need to increase agriculture.
- There is more of a need for farmworkers for labor intensive crops, but cattle ranching needs fewer workers.
- The landscape industry uses lots of H-2A migrant workers and they stay in hotels and could this be part of the discussion. Cross training between agricultural sectors should be considered to keep workers busy all year and available.
- The agricultural scope should include entire farm to fork sector to meet specialty crops economy. Member Norton said seasonal workers tend to migrate to Stockton/Tracy and they carpool in. Most probably would prefer to stay near farms and ranches. He spoke on federal law and standards for farmworkers housing.
- Septic requirements are an issue and alternatives should be considered.
- This is a way of using housing as a strategy for employment and have workers close by instead of commuting hours to work.

### ***Public Meetings July-August 2023***

From late July through August of 2023, County staff presented the Public Review Draft of the County Housing Element and requested input from decision-makers and the public at the following meetings:

- Board Unincorporated Services Committee – July 26, 2023
- Eden Area MAC – August 8, 2023
- Fairview MAC – August 10, 2023
- Castro Valley MAC – August 14, 2023
- Public Meeting (San Lorenzo Library) – August 21, 2023
- Agricultural Advisory Committee – August 22, 2023

The meetings were held in-person with the option to participate virtually on Zoom or by phone. In addition to members from each of the decision-making bodies, the meetings were attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. Each meeting was recorded and the recordings were posted on the County website. County planning staff presented a PowerPoint presentation that explained the various sections of the Public Review Draft Housing Element. Information provided included a summary of the goals, policies, and programs, maps showing properties on the draft sites inventory, and multiple ways for the public to submit comments on the draft.

*Summary of Comments Received at July-August 2023 Meetings:*

July 26, 2023 Unincorporated Services Committee

Supervisors:

- Stressed the need to encourage housing by keeping the cost of construction per unit low.
- Stressed the need to make the public aware of the consequences of not fulfilling the County's RHNA

Members of the public:

- Expressed concern about fear of displacement among renters and the lack of a safety net.
- Expressed the need to address equity and fair housing issues in the Eden Area.
- Opposed the potential loss of commercial sites in San Lorenzo to housing.

August 8, 2023 Eden Area MAC

Council Members:

- Voiced concern about proposed increased density in Eden Area, specifically Ashland and San Lorenzo Village
- Voiced concern about assignment of additional low-income housing in Eden Area, especially Ashland
- Voiced concern about net export of jobs and possible replacement of commercial areas with housing
- Desire to have commercial first floors, specifically at former Cherryland Place
- Voiced concern about affordable and senior housing projects being exempt from Park Fee (Program 2.D)
- Noted that regional population is in decline
- Desire for additional tenant rights to be present in the Housing Element

Members of the public:

- Against the possibility of Crunch Fitness (APNs 413-15-33-5 and 413-15-34-3) being rezoned to enable housing
- Against removal of housing cap in San Lorenzo Village area

- Against addition of high-density housing in Ashland; for the addition of high-density housing in Castro Valley
- Expressed desire to maintain the suburban nature of existing community, particularly San Lorenzo

*Fairview Municipal Advisory Council, August 10, 2023 (Special Meeting)*

Council Members:

- Voiced concern about additional housing in Fairview overall (323 proposed units of housing)
- Voiced concern over constrained access to water and parking
- Voiced concern over minimum public notice period for development projects
- Voiced support for the development of the Castro Valley and Bay Fair BART sites
- Disappointed in program to limit use of site development review to only noncompliant projects (see Program 3.B)
- Expressed desire for Fairview to remain a rural place

Members of the public:

- Voiced concern about additional housing in Fairview overall
- Voiced concern over constrained access to water
- Voiced concern over the impact on traffic in Fairview and access to surrounding communities
- Voiced concern over possible development at the Bayhill Foods location (note: staff are currently reviewing an application for a development with 19 units and several commercial spaces for this site)
- Voiced concern over minimum public notice period for developments

*Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council, August 14, 2023*

While the Eden Area MAC had fewer than 15 attendees, the Castro Valley MAC had approximately 190 virtual attendees in addition to a full in-person meeting room. Twenty-nine people gave comments; many commenters expressed similar ideas. Comments received at the Castro Valley MAC meeting are summarized below.

Council Members:

- Voiced concern about Unincorporated Alameda County's RHNA (4,711) and the percentage allocated in Castro Valley (42%)
- Voiced desire for RHNA process to be redone with more recent data
- Expressed desire to move the Urban Growth Boundary in order to allocate new units to East County
- Expressed desire to hear from school districts, the Sheriff's office, and various utility providers in relation to the Housing Element
- Voiced concern about how the existing infrastructure in Castro Valley could support additional housing



- Expressed concern about higher crime levels and lower property values in relation to new housing
- Multiple county departments should be considered constraints for Appendix C
- Voiced concern about affordable and senior housing projects being exempt from Park Fee (Program 2.D)

Members of the public:

- Both support and protest of higher densities in the Castro Valley Business District, specifically near BART and the Lucky grocery store. Reasons for include: increased walkability, more foot traffic, lower greenhouse gases, increased efficiency, and supporting public transit. Reasons against include all other concerns listed in this section.
- Both support and protest of future development at the Castro Valley BART site, particularly at the density set by AB 2923
- Voiced concern about existing Castro Valley infrastructure being able to support new housing. Infrastructure included: parking capacity; road capacity for future traffic; Castro Valley and Hayward USDs' respective capacities; and the sidewalk network.
- Voiced desire for RHNA process to be redone with more recent data
- Voiced desire for county staff to focus on job creation before housing creation
- Supported addition of housing so that existing and future residents can afford to stay in Castro Valley
- Expressed concern about higher crime levels and lower property values in relation to new housing
- Expressed concern about the future quality of life in Castro Valley with additional housing
- Expressed desire to maintain suburban quality of Castro Valley community
- Called for a financial study to determine impact on property values or impact on county tax revenues with addition of new housing

*Public Workshop, August 21, 2023*

The following are comments received in person at the August 21<sup>st</sup> workshop held at the San Lorenzo Library.

- Voiced support for inclusionary zoning and universal design policies
- Voiced support for the Housing Element as part of the County's response to climate change
- Voiced support for more lower income housing to support families and workers
- Voiced desire for higher densities (fourplexes) to be allowed in single family zoning by right
- Voiced concern over disjointed planning processes of Hayward Unified School District and the county regarding community growth and school closures
- Against the development of the Bay Fair BART station, especially in relation to parking
- Voiced concern over removal of commercial in downtown San Lorenzo and general lack of commercial to support new housing

- Voiced concern over the amount of above moderate-income level housing required and the large cost to build it
- Voiced concern over insufficient commitment to change over AFFH findings

*Agricultural Advisory Committee, August 22, 2023*

Committee Members:

- Voice appreciation for the element creating programmatic space for their future work (see program 4.E)

Members of the Public:

- Explained how very little housing can be built in East County
- Explained how Alameda County did not reach its RHNA in the previous cycle; compared to the units actually constructed in the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle, the new RHNA is 6 times bigger.

*Example July-August 2023 Meeting Presentation:*

# Housing Element Public Review Draft

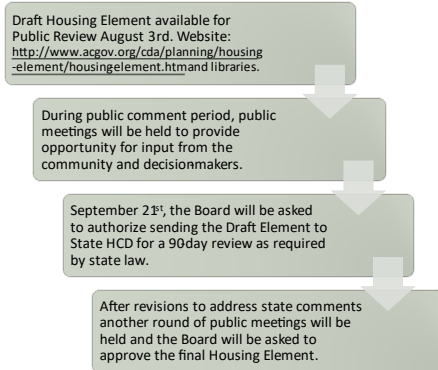
Castro Valley MAC

August 14, 2023



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Project Status



## Contents of the Draft Element

- Section I** • overview of the document and relevant regulations.
- Section II** • summary of the projected housing need
- Section III** • summarizes adequacy of available housing sites and housing resources
- Section IV** • Housing Plan - contains goals, policies, and actions related to housing in the County

## Housing Element Appendices



**Appendix A:** Housing Needs Assessment – analysis of the existing and projected housing needs of the community, including groups with special needs.



**Appendix B:** Sites Inventory and Methodology – inventory listing adequate sites zoned for residential uses and available for development within the planning period to meet the County's fair share of regional housing needs across all income levels.



**Appendix C:** Housing Constraints – contains an assessment of impediments to housing production across all income levels covering both governmental and nongovernmental constraints.



**Appendix D:** Existing Programs Review – evaluation of the results of the goals, policies, and programs adopted in the previous Housing Element that compares projected outcomes with actual achieved results.

## Housing Element Appendices cont'd.



**Appendix E:** Public Participation Summaries – includes a detailed summary of public outreach conducted during the preparation of the Housing Element. Not yet complete since the outreach process will continue through adoption of the Element.



**Appendix F:** Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment – assesses accessibility to jobs, transportation, good education, and health services relative to the housing sites identified in Appendix B to determine how the inventory affects fair housing conditions and access to opportunity.



**Appendix G:** Housing Resources – provides a list of financial, administrative, and other resources at the local, regional, state, and federal levels to help the County address its housing needs.

## Unincorporated Alameda County RHNA Increase from Current Cycle

CYCLE	VERY LOW INCOME (<50% of Area Median Income)	LOW INCOME (50-80% of Area Median Income)	MODERATE INCOME (80-120% of Area Median Income)	ABOVE MODERATE INCOME (>120% of Area Median Income)	TOTAL
2015-2023	430 units	227 units	295 units	817 units	1,769 units
<b>2023-2031</b>	<b>1,251 units</b>	<b>721 units</b>	<b>763 units</b>	<b>1,976 units</b>	<b>4,711 units</b>
% Increase	191%	218%	159%	142%	166%

## Income Categories for Alameda County

Income Category	Percent of median income	Annual income (1-person household)	Annual income (3-person household)	Annual income (4-person household)
Extremely low - income	30%	\$28,800	\$37,000	\$41,100
Very low-income	50%	\$47,950	\$61,650	\$68,500
Low income	80%	\$76,750	\$98,650	\$109,600
Median income	100%	\$87,900	\$113,050	\$125,600
Moderate income	120%	\$105,500	\$135,650	\$150,700

## Consequences of Not Fulfilling RHNA

- SB 35 (Weiner 2017) - Where construction of new housing units by developers has not met a jurisdiction's RHNA, cities and counties are required to offer a ministerial approval process for multi-family residential developments under certain circumstances:
  - 2/3 of the units must be residential
  - Must be located in urban area
  - Percentage must be affordable
  - Must comply with adopted "objective standards"
  - Subject to prevailing wage for construction workers
  - Must engage in Tribal Consultation
  - Public Hearings not required because a ministerial process



## Sites Inventory

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- State law requires each city and county to demonstrate that zoning & general plan designations allow enough housing development capacity to accommodate RHNA.
- Inventory sites have been identified in every Unincorporated Community.
- Property owners will decide whether to develop their properties.
- Applications for housing developments still need to go through an approval process.
- As required by State HCD, assigning properties to an income category is generally based on density, assuming higher density units will be more affordable.

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## Methodology for Identifying Sites

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1. Identified projects in the development pipeline.
2. Identified vacant public and privately owned parcels, using assessor's data, satellite imagery, and local knowledge.
3. Identified underimproved parcels, defined as property where the value of the land is higher than the value of the existing improvements (pavement, buildings, etc.)

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## Inventory Sites Identified

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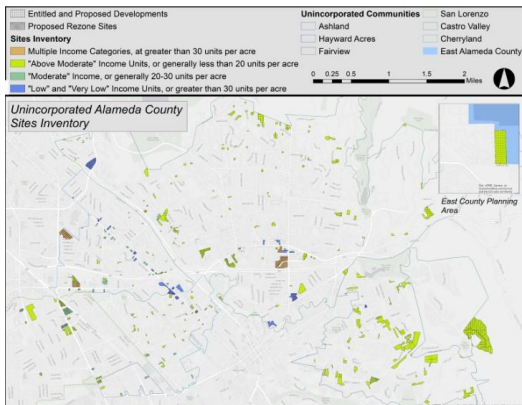
- 472 total sites
- 250 vacant sites
- 81 sites identified as underimproved
- 67 sites to be rezoned (to increase density allowed or to add housing as an allowed use)
- 74 sites with "pipeline" housing projects

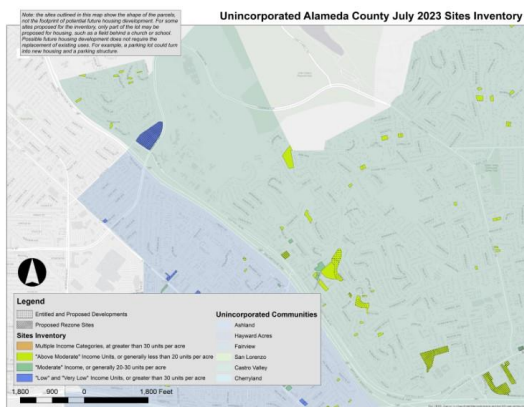
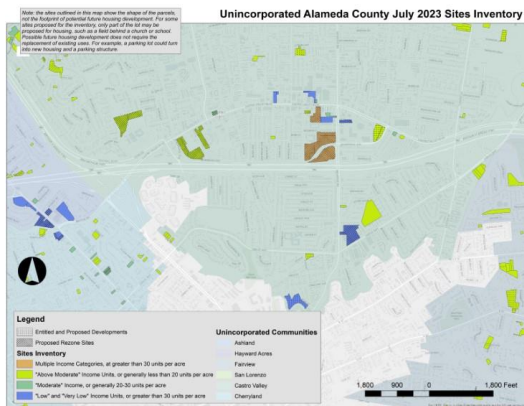
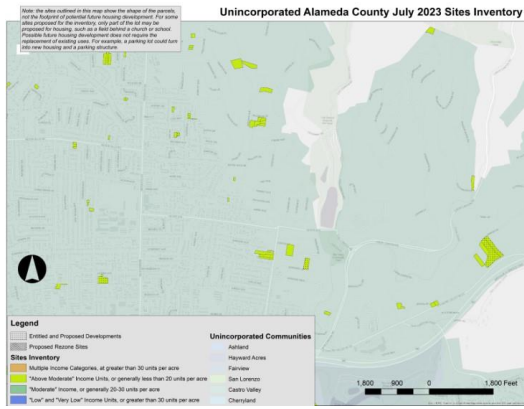
Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

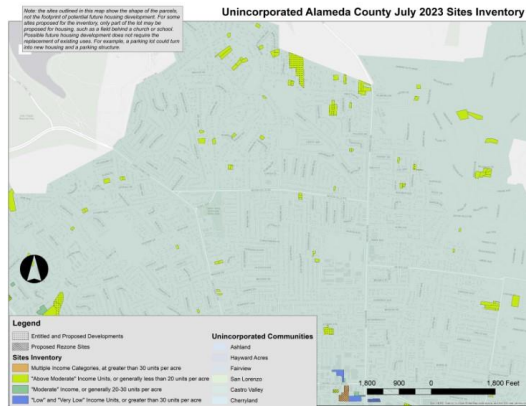
Unincorporated Community	Units Per Area	% Of Total Units	Above Moderate Income Units	Above Moderate Units As % Of Total Units Per Area	Moderate Income Units	Moderate Units As % Of Total Units Per Area	Low And Very Low Income Units Per Area	Low And Very Low Income Units As % Of Total Units Per Area
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>1,972</b>	<b>41.9%</b>
<b>Eden Area</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>31.8%</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>26.5%</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>41.7%</b>
Ashland	1,358	28.9%	231	17.0%	267	19.7%	860	63.3%
Cherryland	215	4.6%	72	33.5%	81	37.7%	62	28.8%
Hayward Acres	47	1.0%	17	36.2%	30	63.8%	-	-
San Lorenzo	591	12.6%	383	64.8%	208	35.2%	-	-
Castro Valley	<b>1,978</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>38.8%</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>51.8%</b>
Fairview	<b>323</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
Unincorporated Pleasanton	<b>194</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Additional units (projected ADUs)	328		32		98		198	
<b>Total Units Including ADUs</b>	<b>5,034</b>		<b>1,988</b>		<b>876</b>		<b>2,170</b>	

Key Inventory Sites

- Bay Fair & Castro Valley BART station parking lots
- County Radio Communications Station at Foothill Boulevard and 150th Avenue in Castro Valley.
- First Presbyterian Grove Way site, adjacent to Trader Joe's in Castro Valley.
- San Lorenzo Village area
- Pipeline site in East County inside the Urban Growth Boundary east of the City of Pleasanton.







## Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Compliance with the state statute requires:

- analyzing historical and existing fair housing and segregation issues in unincorporated communities
- identifying fair housing goals,
- developing strategies to implement these goals, and
- ensuring sites in the inventory are identified in such a way that promotes AFFH

## Section IV - Draft Housing Plan

- The Housing Plan of the Housing Element describes the housing goals, policies, and programs for the County.
  - Goals indicate the County's direction and intent on housing -related needs.
  - Policies are statements that describe the County's preferred course of action among a range of other options.
  - Programs provide actionable steps to implement the goals and further progress toward meeting the County's housing allocation.



## Draft Goals

- Goal 1: Accommodate a range of housing for persons of all income levels in accordance with the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).
- Goal 2: Ensure a wide range of housing types to accommodate the housing needs of moderate- and lower-income residents and households.
- Goal 3: Mitigate constraints to housing development and affordability.
- Goal 4: Create housing opportunities for people with special needs.
- Goal 5: Conserve and improve the existing housing stock to enhance quality of life and provide greater housing stability.
- Goal 6: Ensure fair housing opportunity for all persons without discrimination in accordance with state and federal law.
- Goal 7: Minimize the adverse environmental impacts of housing and encourage sustainability measures.

## Current Meeting Schedule

July 26	Board Unincorporated Services Committee
August 8	Eden Area MAC
August 10	Fairview MAC (Special Meeting)
August 14	Castro Valley MAC
August 22	Agricultural Advisory Committee
September 5	Planning Commission
September 21	Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting

We want to hear from you!

Housing Element Website (*access draft document after August 3<sup>rd</sup> & sign up for email notices.*): <http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/housing-element/housing-element.htm>

Submit comments by email: [housingelement@acgov.org](mailto:housingelement@acgov.org)

Help set priorities and submit comments using online engagement tool: <https://alamedacounty.consider.it/>

Call us at (510) 670-5400 or mail us your comments at 224 West Winton Avenue, Room 111, Hayward, CA 94544.

***Planning Commission, September 5, 2023***

At its September 5, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission received a presentation from Planning Department staff on the Public Review Draft Housing Element and voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize staff to submit the draft to the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The meeting was held in-person with the option to participate virtually on Zoom or by phone. In addition to members of the Planning Commission, the meeting was attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. The meeting was recorded and the recording was posted on the County website.

Comments received from Commissioners:

- Commented that the sites inventory analysis was very thorough.
- Inquired how SB 9 was considered in the sites inventory
- The item should be continued because the community did not have adequate opportunity to review the sites inventory during the public comment period.
- The consultant's report regarding permit streamlining is not adequately addressed in the draft element.

Comments received from Members of the Public:

- Objected to loss of commercial uses in San Lorenzo if developed with housing. Supported keeping San Lorenzo suburban.
- Expressed concern that Ashland is already overburdened and the sites inventory would continue to concentrate populations of poverty in the area.
- Affordable housing developers should be required to pay park dedication fees since people living in their housing will use parks.
- Expressed support for the housing element but noted concern about concentration of low-income housing along East 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The County should prioritize resources in the unincorporated areas, including a new Office of Unincorporated Services, expanding funding for housing by supporting the regional housing bond, and providing permanent supportive housing for the homeless.
- The housing element should include more specific timeframes for implementation of the programs and should state explicitly how programs relate to AFFH findings.

***Board of Supervisors, September 21, 2023***

At its September 21, 2023 meeting, the Board of Supervisors received a presentation from Planning Department staff on the Public Review Draft Housing Element and voted to authorize staff to submit the draft to the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The meeting was held in-person with the option to participate virtually on Zoom or by phone. In addition to members of the Planning Commission, the meeting was attended by County Planning Department staff and members of the public. The meeting was recorded and the recording was posted on the County website.

## **Other Public Outreach Activities and Events**

### ***Website***

The County's website has hosted a dedicated Housing Element Update webpage (<https://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/housing-element/housing-element.htm>) to provide information on the Housing Element update process and timeline, resources (e.g., reference material, draft documents, etc.), meeting notices and materials, and County contact information. Any person could sign up to receive email notifications about upcoming meetings and availability of information.

### ***Online Office Hours***

From November 2022 to January 2023, County staff held online office hours to discuss Housing Element questions with a variety of groups. While the office hours were not well attended, staff was contacted by a resident of the Unincorporated Area who said she needed help finding adequate housing for her family who was living in an overcrowded unit. County Staff put her in contact with County HCD resources.

### ***Public Workshop for Property Owners***

On February 9, 2023, the County hosted a workshop for property owners of parcels in the sites inventory to explain what the Housing Element is and why their properties were included in the inventory. Workshop attendees were also encouraged to participate in the Housing Element survey, share their housing story, and to sign up for emails on the project website.

#### ***Summary of Comments Received at February 9, 2023 Property Owners' Workshop:***

- Interested in rezoning property to allow residential development.
- County should coordinate contact with other property owners to facilitate joint development of adjacent properties.
- Concern regarding access to utilities.

### ***Interviews***

During the public comment period, staff specifically reached out to the school districts and utility providers who serve unincorporated Alameda County for comments and to discuss future capacity, largely in response to public comments concerning school and utility capacity. Staff met with Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan), Castro Valley Unified School District, and Hayward Unified School District. Staff also communicated with San Lorenzo Unified School District and EBMUD.

## **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)-Targeted Outreach**

### ***Ashland Cherryland Healthy Community Collaborative***

The Ashland Cherryland Healthy Community Collaborative (ACHCC) has been a significant part of the creation of the concurrently written Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. Members represent a variety of organizations and government agencies that serve and/or represent people in the Eden Area. In 2021, the following agencies and organizations formed the “EJ Bucket” of the ACHCC to help inform the policies and programs of the EJ Element:

- AC Transit
- Alameda County Community Food Bank
- Alameda County Economic and Civic Development Department
- Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
- Alameda County Healthy Homes Department
- Alameda County Library
- Alameda County Office of Education
- Alameda County Planning Department, Code Enforcement
- Alameda County Probation Department
- Alameda County Public Health Department
- Alameda County Public Works Agency
- Alameda County Sheriff’s Office
- Alameda County Transportation Commission
- ALL IN Alameda County
- Bike East Bay
- Cherryland Elementary Family Resource Center
- Deputy Sheriffs’ Activities League
- Eden Community Land Trust
- Eden I&R
- Eden United Church of Christ
- Friends of San Lorenzo Creek
- Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District (HARD)
- La Familia
- Mandela Partners
- My Eden Voice!
- 100k Trees for Humanity
- Padres Guerreros
- REACH Ashland Youth Center
- Resources for Community Development
- San Lorenzo Unified School District
- Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
- YMCA East Bay

Since many of the organizations participating in the “EJ Bucket” of the ACHCC work with and advocate for special needs groups identified in the Housing Element, amidst ongoing engagement for the EJ Element, staff presented information regarding the Housing Element at the November and December 2022 meetings of the ACHCC as a means of (1) educating attendees about the Housing Element process, 2) inviting attendees to further discuss their organizations’ needs in relation to housing, and (3) advertising open surveys.

*Summary of Comments Received at November-December 2022 ACHCC Meetings:*

- Questioned basis for high RHNA since County is losing population.
- Resources should be focused in burdened areas where more housing is planned.
- Affordable housing development planned in Ashland in partnership with new park is example of improving resources in low resource area.
- County Probation Office sees challenges for its clients.
- Contamination and habitat value should be considered on potential housing sites.
- School capacity should be considered.
- There should be a tax policy to disincentivize self-storage units.

Staff then returned to update ACHCC members on September 5, 2023, to let them know about specific programs in the Housing Element.

**Interviews**

In addition to those attending ACHCC meetings, County staff reached out to the following organizations while writing the Housing Element Draft:

- Eden Community Land Trust
- East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO)
- The Supportive Housing Community Land Alliance (SHCLA)
- REACH Ashland Youth Center, sponsored by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
- Resources for Community Development (RCD)
- My Eden Voice (MEV)
- The Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL)
- Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)
- The Alameda County Probation Department

More information about these organizations and their work with special needs populations is available in Appendix F, the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment. Staff successfully met for individual conversations with the following organizations: EBHO; SHCLA; REACH Ashland Youth Center; RCD; MEV; and the Alameda County Probation Department.

## Summary of Public Comments Received

In response to the County's Housing Element outreach efforts, individual residents concerned with affordable housing and with housing access for people with disabilities reached out to staff.

### Concerns heard by staff:

- Generally about housing and housing security and the disparities between homeowners and renters in urban unincorporated Alameda County.
- Lack of existing protections from yearly rental increases beyond state law
- Service providers can't help people with other problems in their lives when they're dealing with poor housing conditions or housing instability; whether or not they want to work in the housing sphere, providers are forced to because this problem is the age and state of housing structures; unregulated units
- Overcrowding, especially in Ashland and Cherryland. This goes on to effect other parts of peoples' lives.
- Residents especially in Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo, and Hayward Acres have specific housing needs
- Between affordability and the size of units, there are people living effectively unsheltered in backyards or in storage units.
- Homelessness can look different in Unincorporated: more people couch-surfing or living in their cars, less people visibly sleeping outside than in other parts of Alameda County
- There are not enough services for people experiencing homelessness located specifically in Unincorporated.
- Alameda County needs to provide housing with services to people currently experiencing homelessness, ideally with some of the local medical providers involved.
- Can manufactured housing be a part of solving the housing crisis in Unincorporated Alameda County?
- Tiny homes at are just a temporary solution for people experiencing homelessness; we need mental health and substance use support
- Some residents have difficulty working with ECHO housing
- People with disabilities have wide needs for housing.
- Greater transparency with the Housing Element process
- South and Central County do not have the same kinds of resources for people re-entering society that Oakland does, and that makes it difficult for people in other parts of the county to access them. While this is true for all returning people, there especially are not resources for women.
- Existing housing options for people on probation do not accommodate family structures. They're generally communal, have little privacy, and do not include options for dependents, pets, or partners.
- Waitlists for housing-related resources for people on probation are so long that sometimes their probation period ends before they're able to take advantage of any of them.

### Stated needs and ideas heard:

- An unincorporated-specific navigation and resources center
- Protections against rising rents
- Services in the Unincorporated County for people experiencing homelessness
- Additional affordable housing, specifically to help systems-impacted people stay housed
- A Universal Design policy like the City of Alameda
- Making it easier to navigate the jurisdictional divides in Central Alameda County by working with San Leandro and Hayward as much as possible

**Online Survey 1**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
<b>Castro Valley</b>	21	40.4%
<b>Eden Area</b>	24	46.2%
<b>Ashland</b>	7	13.5%
<b>Cherryland</b>	3	5.8%
<b>Hayward Acres</b>	3	5.8%
<b>San Lorenzo</b>	11	21.2%
<b>Fairview</b>	2	3.8%
<b>Neighboring municipalities</b>	5	9.6%
<b>Total</b>	52	100.0%

A housing needs survey was offered in Spanish and English on the County website while staff were drafting the Housing Element. Links to the survey were sent to the County’s Housing Element listserv, posted to various online newsletters and in flyers in San Lorenzo Village and along the East 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Mission Boulevard corridor in Ashland and Cherryland.

The survey received 52 responses, as shown in Table F-3. In addition, 294 potential responders clicked through to the survey; while they did not complete the survey or did not intentionally click on the link, these 242 users read more about the Housing Element process.

Demographics of responders include the following:

- 40.4% of responses (21 people) have lived in the area for 5 years or less; 48.1% of responses (25 people) have lived in Unincorporated County for 11 or more years
- 32 responders (61.5%) identified themselves as a combination of one or more: American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latine, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.
- 40.4% (21 people) live in Castro Valley, and 46.2% (24 people) live in the Eden Area. 5 people (9.6%) live in adjacent cities or otherwise work in Unincorporated Alameda County.
- 40.4% of responses (21 people) said that the existing housing types available in Unincorporated Alameda County do not meet their needs.

When asked what housing issues the county should focus on solving in Unincorporated Alameda County, people responded in the following ways:

- 26 people (50%) of responders answered that “Affordability: rental housing is too expensive for people” was one of the 2 things the county should focus on.
- 13 people (25%) of responders answered that “Overcrowding: there are too many people living in one home” was one of the 2 things the county should focus on.
- 13 people (25%) of responders answered that “Housing quality and maintenance: housing needs repairs or significantly updated features” was one of the 2 things the county should focus on.

These responses are consistent with the housing needs analysis in Appendix A which found that 25 percent of renter households spend between 30 and 50 percent of their incomes on housing and 26 percent of renter household spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing. The analysis also found that 8.5 percent of residents of the Unincorporated Area live in overcrowded conditions, with the highest levels of overcrowding in Cherryland (17 percent of residents) and Ashland (15 percent of residents).

When asked about the housing issues faced while living in Unincorporated Alameda County, people responded in the following ways:

- 36.5% of responders (19 people) said that they do not face housing issues in Unincorporated Alameda County.
- Of the 33 people who responded with having housing problems
  - o 18 people (54.5%) said that “Monthly rental housing costs are too expensive”
  - o 15 people (45.5%) said that “[they] cannot find affordable housing”

When asked about what amenities they’d like to see near more dense housing, people answered the following ways. Note that responders were allowed to choose up to 2 options

- 46.2% (24 people) answered that they’d like additional parks and play areas
- 42.3% (22 people) answered that they’d like additional grocery and shopping areas
- 30.7% (16 people) answered that they’d like additional open space and trails.

The following responses to open ended questions are arranged thematically:

#### *On Needing Affordable Housing*

- I would like to see more affordable housing for all types of populations. I would like to see more affordable housing all over not just in certain areas. ... Affordability is too high. Can't afford to live here. More affordable housing in unincorporated Alameda County would help a lot of people from displacement as well as provide better quality of life. I wish my rent was lowered. ... There are a lot of people against affordable housing in unincorporated communities and there has to be a way to still complete affordable housing in these communities. It's giving segregation and red lining.
- My brother moved to Texas because he cannot afford housing here, I am looking for housing to move out of my parent house.
- I would love to find a place of my own that I can afford (I have a full time job and work extra some weekends, but housing is still not attainable).
- [in response to why existing housing does not meet their needs] Unaffordable
- Rent to[o] expensive
- Las rentas son muy altas y piden muchos requisitos para poder rentar. Quieren 3 veces más de ingreso de lo que se pagaría de renta [*Rents are very high and they (landlords) have many requirements in order [for one] to be able to rent. They want three times more than what is paid for rent itself.*]
- Need help with rental assistance
- [I need] Stable suitable affordable housing in a decent area. ... Rent is too high and hard to find suitable stable housing
- Los precios en la renta están muy elevados [*The rental prices are raised very high.*]
- Currently renting a room for my daughter and I. Rent assistance is very helpful. ... I can't move out on my own because rent is expensive and I'm a single mom.



- [I need] Renters protection, affordability. ... I would like for community members to have access to safe, affordable, and healthy housing particularly for our African American and new-comer communities.
- Ayuda financiera para pagar mi renta, que es muy cara, ayuda para pagar gas y electricidad son muy caros ,se necesita Mas viviendas de costo accesible para no tener que compartir la casa con otras 2 familias ... Necesidad de ayuda para comparar un departamento a costos razonables. ... Necesidad de ayuda para comparar un departamento a costos razonables. O ayuda financiera para poder pagar renta. ... Hay muchas personas sin vivienda, y no hay suficientes viviendas y las rentas son exageradamente CARAS. *[Financial help to pay my rent, which is very expensive, help to pay for gas and electricity, which are very expensive, there is need for more housing with accessible costs to not have to share an apartment with 2 other families ... [There is] Need for help to compare [a higher cost apartment rental] [with] an apartment [rented] at reasonable costs ... Or financial help for being able to pay rent ... There are many people without housing (now), and there is not sufficient housing, and the rents are exaggeratedly HIGH.]*
- There should be more affordable homeownership types ... much more! Condos, community land trusts, etc...
- [I need] More affordable housing and assistance for low-income families.

*On Transit and Housing:*

- Building house near transit corridors. Do not put additional house in established neighborhoods.
- I fully support mixed use housing near the Castro Valley BART station. I live 0.5 miles from the station and would love for the surrounding area to be built up and include more diverse, modern dining and retail options along with housing. I 100% support a more pedestrian-friendly downtown, with more frequent and accessible public transit options.
- Please increase density near the business district and BART as a way to improve walkability/rideability/livability.
- Build affordable housing near transit centers and not in existing neighborhoods.
- We agree with redeveloping Castro Valley BART's parking lot into housing, but we drive to BART so some sort of parking structure would be best to enable BART accessibility (most folks in Castro Valley would drive and park at BART).
- We still need to build more low-income housing near transit centers.

*On Overcrowding*

- We need an housing of own that is able to accommodate the family size of 5
- Adult children living with us. Need extra private areas for family.

### ***Online Survey 2***

During the public comment period, staff used the online survey tool 'Consider.It' to gain community perspectives on how to prioritize different programs and policies. This platform allows participants to both weigh in on existing ideas as well as post their own. The tool was promoted through public meetings and the email listserv. Community members with La Familia reached out to staff to ask for the survey to be rephrased in a less technical way so that it could be shared with their clients. Ultimately, no post received more than 15 responses, so the tool was not used to inform program prioritization.

The following is a summary of the responses provided:

- 8 participants agreed that Castro Valley has a disproportionate number of low income units compared to Fairview. This idea was submitted by a participant.
- 7 residents disagree with the sites inventory overall
- 8 participants agree with the development of the Sheriff Radio Dispatch site, and 7 agree with the addition of housing in the San Lorenzo Village area
- 13 participants were of mixed feelings regarding the development of BART station parking lots
- Participants generally agreed with staff prioritizing policies and programs that further fair housing
- 10 participants were of mixed opinion on allowing taller buildings in transit-oriented areas.

Public comments received during the housing element process are also provided in Section 1.E. of the main body of this housing element document, along with programs to address the comments listed, and in Appendix F, the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment.

**Responses to Comments**

The following are county staff's responses to comments received during the public comment period.

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	<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Response</i>
1	<u>Claudia Albano</u>	<u>Wanted to give you a comment on the draft housing element and ask a question. You describe the unincorporated area and it talks about the census designated communities, but I think that it should include a few sentences that there are non census designated communities in the unincorporated area, Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acres that have very high poverty rates and you know it's important I think to include them, I mean to call them out, otherwise it just focuses the readers attention that there's an unincorporated area and there's these census designated places, but it doesn't talk about the non census designated places. So that's my comment.</u>	<u>In response to this comment, staff and consultants added additional description of Hayward Acres in the program section of the Housing Element draft. Additionally, Hayward Acres is discussed alongside all other communities in Appendix F, which discusses AFFH.</u>
		<u>The second one was I'm wondering about. We have some overlap between the tenant protections that are being talked about and this document. and I'm wondering is there kind of, I know it's coming forward, but is there any kind of conscious effort to kind of think about some of those things. Like for example, I know that there's the demand for rental inspection but there isn't a proactive rental inspection. And so are you just waiting for that to be as well as other as whether other tenant protections or is that just really not covered in this document?</u>	<u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u>  <u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units, Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program</u>

			<p><u>6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></p>
		<p><u>And then the other question was there's the EJ element that is a draft form now. I'm wondering if any of those policies around housing, should be referenced at least you know should redo these metrics at least thought about it in the and maybe there asking about and maybe they should be referenced to an equity issue. And I do think the whole equity issue should be called out, and maybe that's part of my thinking and wanting to call out Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acre because you know they kind of get lost between the zip code stuff and not being sense of designated places and I don't want their needs because they are so great to get lost</u></p>	<p><u>Comments and policy ideas generated through the Environmental Justice Element process are reflected in the Housing Element. Equity and the differences between the Eden Area and other unincorporated communities are the primary topic of Appendix F, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.</u></p>
2	<u>Serena Weed</u>	<p><u>In regard to putting low income housing in CV I have a few thoughts I would like to share:</u></p> <p><u>First and foremost I would be much more accepting of this if it was affordable housing for all and not just section 8. I imagine a facility where we can create jobs to make sure this is a safe and clean living environment. This would be beneficial to moms raising children, college students, middle aged and elderly. Almost everyone is a paycheck away from being homeless due to the increased costs.</u></p>	<p><u>Any household with an income that meets the low income threshold could qualify to live in the low income housing contemplated in the HE. No Section 8 voucher would be required. Section 8 vouchers provide a rent subsidy that allows the voucher holder to rent market rate housing.</u></p>
		<p><u>The increase of people living in CV would be dramatic and cause traffic ( Streets and street lights would need to be altered to accommodate traffic)</u></p>	<p><u>Traffic considerations will be a part of each development, as is required by CEQA.</u></p>
		<p><u>Do these units have garages? I am against street parking meters.</u></p>	<p><u>Details of future units will be determined by the relevant design guidelines.</u></p>

		<u>Castro Valley needs places for teens and young adults to hang out and socialize. Some of the proposed sites could be used for this.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>Rite Aide use to have a huge selection of fabrics, yarn and crafting materials. Now one has to travel outside of CV to find these items. These items are essential because they allow people of all ages to be creative and unique. These items are often required in school projects.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>Furthermore I do not see low income housing having a positive impact for CV. Affordable housing for everyone. Thanks for taking the time to read this. I will think positive thoughts for the future of CV.</u>	<u>As discussed in Appendix F, there are current residents of Castro Valley who are rent burdened or mortgage burdened, meaning that they pay 30% or more of their monthly income to keep housing. Future low income housing will help these residents stay in Castro Valley.</u>
3	<u>M. A. Caruso</u>	<u>Please preserve Lucky Castro Valley, it's the only good grocery store in Castro Valley. Safeway is overrun with crime and overcharging, the CV natural market has little in the way of essentials</u>	<u>Staff envision future development at this site as including both retail and housing.</u>
4	<u>Ally Wilson</u>	<u>Hi, We are residents of Castro Valley and we opposed reducing CV BART parking lot for housing. We rely on BART for work commute and leisure activities. Prior to pandemic, CV BART parking is full around 9:30am. This add to unfair burden on parents that have to drop off kids at school and cannot arrive at CV BART parking lot in time. As a result, I have to drive far away to another station or commute to work.  <u>CV should not have to solely burden 1/2 of Alameda unincorporated affordable housing quote, this responsibility should be spread out.</u>  <u>Alameda planning department can also approve variance for increased density for the proposed affordable apartment. BART can be save by adding 2 stories to the proposed apartment, rather than making the whole community suffers by reducing the effectiveness of BART.</u></u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>  <u>Commenter was sent Housing Element draft completion of the draft.</u>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<p><u>Let's not create new problem with shortsighted strategies.</u></p> <p><u>Lastly, we request to view the Housing Element plan that is not available on your website.</u></p>	
4	<u>Kevin Burke</u>	<p><u>My wife's grandparents are over 90 years old and live in a home on Sydney Circle in Castro Valley. There are no amenities in walking distance. They need to drive a car to get anywhere, which is becoming more and more precarious for them.</u></p> <p><u>I'm extremely concerned for their well being, as well as the well being of other people on the road.</u></p> <p><u>Smaller housing options for seniors near downtown, within walking distance of amenities would help them avoid being isolated.</u></p> <p><u>I am encouraged by the rezonings in downtown Castro Valley which would help facilitate this, and would encourage Alameda County to further reduce constraints (parking, setbacks, heights, egress requirements) to facilitate the development of housing that can increase mobility for seniors.</u></p> <p><u>Alternatively, Alameda County could consider permitting commercial development (corner stores, accessory commercial units) in single family zones.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
5	<u>Ann and John Fagliano</u>	<p><u>I cannot believe what I have read about the housing element plan... are you crazy? We are all already dealing with high traffic, crowded schools, no bus transportation for our children in our community</u></p> <p><u>Wanting to add to our community more people, when we already cannot support what we have.</u></p> <p><u>Getting rid of Luckys supermarket and leaving us with just Safeway that is insane.</u></p> <p><u>Have any of you tried to shop at these stores now, you circle the parking lot forever to get a space.</u></p> <p><u>Parking will be insane. Just dropping off and picking up at any of the school sites is insane.</u></p> <p><u>Canyon Middle school has Heyer Street backed up to Redwood at any given morning or afternoon, that includes the high school also.</u></p> <p><u>Perhaps on paper it looks good but for our community it is not!!! I think our tax dollars can be spent more wisely of course being unincorporated our hands are tied.</u></p> <p><u>Hopefully we will pack your meeting on August 14, 2023 and speak our minds. It is a no vote for us to even consider dropping this on our community.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p> <p><u>Please find comments from SLZUSD and CVUSD included in this document.</u></p>

		<p><u>I also see a massive amount of the yellow handicap curves being done oh yes great but then we have no sidewalks and have to go into the streets...Does that make sense...wasteful!!!! Look at the whole picture don't just try and dump a mass of people into an area that services are not available. We do not have the capacity now to serve what our community needs, this will only add to congestion and probably increase our crime rate.</u></p> <p><u>I realize becoming our own city they say is too costly but we are a purse for you to use at your convenience. We should all stand up for our community and not let you push housing projects that we will not be able to afford in the future.</u></p> <p><u>Bart is another issue you want to build units there. There is not enough parking there now. When Bart was built it lacked in parking. What happened? All the Bart commuters started parking in the neighborhood. Owners of their homes could not park in front of their houses. Now the neighborhood has to buy passes to park in front of their house. Totally ridiculous and that was an Alameda County rule. They did not take into account the overflow of traffic and parking issues and now you want to add more housing ...learn from your mistakes.</u></p> <p><u>We will be over populated and how is security going to be addressed that's another issue. We are already beginning to face the backlash of crime with no end in sight and lack of support.</u></p> <p><u>My husband and I will be at the meeting on August 14, 2023 and hopefully a lot of our community memebers will be there. This is not a matter that you will just be able to slap onto our community and leave us will multiple problems in the years ahead.</u></p> <p><u>It is very easy for your committee to draw up a project and it looks pretty on paper but it's not reality.</u></p> <p><u>No one listened and took into account the community's concerns on your last decisions to place housing on bart's property that left a parking problem ,the community was left with over population in their neighborhood. Alameda County is able to dip into the unincorporated treasure chest and help themselves. We don't even have sidewalks in our community to access our town leaving us with dirt, gravel, rocks, uneven pavement and need to resort to walking in the street, our community needs a lot more than infusing our population with housing. Housing in the existing Bart parking was fought long and hard and in the end the neighborhood lost. The County found a solution to their error...PARKING PERMITS THAT THE HOME OWNERS PAY FOR!!!!</u></p> <p><u>Alameda County needs to take a closer look at our backyard before fencing us in.</u></p>	
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<p>6</p>	<p><u>Ann and John Fagliano</u></p>	<p><u>I was online and commented on tonight's meeting. I found it quite disturbing. I feel the State of California is shoving this whole housing units down our throats. Of course the State of California can mandate these proposals but I do not think any impact on the community was even a thought on their minds. Over 200 people showed up for the meeting not including the online people. Once this hits the entire community there will be more. I do not feel we have the police force, schools, walking, sidewalks, grocery stores traffic concerns addressed. As far as the homes being out of reach that is not only in Castro Valley community that is everywhere. Homes are out of reach. Rentals are out of reach and what about jobs what will Castro Valley have to offer? What is Castro Valley benefit to these so called improvements that the states we have to have. We have people behind their desks making decisions and drawings that our community cannot support. It was questioned at the meeting how many of the low housing will be section 8, I do not think that was answered. I think there were alot of concerns from the community and hopefully our community will get them answered. It almost sounds like a done deal, but hopefully it can be toned down. The 5 story housing for the current Bart Station you are out of your mind. That state does not have to guarantee parking and where are those people going to park. The county already goofed on that one with the units they built. The home owners in the area have to pay for the permit. I believe the permit has a time limit so after that time expires they will again be drowning with park issues. Some one also commented that people should use public transportation, ride their bike or walk....really??? With crime as it is right now it is not safe to do any of that I would not even consider it. We are in a sad mess but hopefully we can comprise. I just feel putting more people here that we cannot support what is the state going to bring improve so our community will be able to prosper.. I do not see the State of California suppling us with new schools, upgrade transportation. I DON'T SEE IT HAPPENING .Only way this will happen is our tax dollars increasing. I do not think this is a win win for Castro Valley, it just seems like the State mandates need some amendments and your 2020-2021 statistics are flawed. There were very many concerns tonite at this meeting and it did not seem like the community was part of the State's attention. Its sad because if this proposal is approved The state will bring an increase in crime, traffic, understaffed schools, and the list goes on. And then and only then we will be at meetings to correct the problem that was created with no solution in sight. I cannot understand why is it that our state demands proposals but yet they do not consider the impact on people that live in our community. I do not think all of our questions were answered here tonight. We had plenty of concerned citizens tonight wondering how our community will be heavily impacted, that did not seem to be included in this housing equation. I feel there needs to be a lot more done to enable this project to move forward. Further studies into our traffic concerns, schools, transportation, crime, sidewalks, and shopping. We have been told that some of these properties are private so it is up to the owner what they</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
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		<p>want to do. Hopefully we will have a say in this matter or the state will come in here and steamroll the process and leaves with greater issues and problems. This is a sad mess. I hope the MAC board stays strong the community will strongly support them. I hope we can get this on the ballot. I feel we need to make a BIG STINK so the state of California will wake up to their insane ideas to what they feel we should do in our community.</p>	
7	<u>Amanda Liu</u>	<p><u>To whom may read this.</u></p> <p><u>It bring our awareness that a new plan for land used was brought on the table for discussion. New construction will be built in the city of Castro Valley, CA.</u></p> <p><u>We are residents in the city for over ten years, and witness the growth of Castro Valley. Not only business but also population.</u></p> <p><u>Even tho there are many vacant buildings around the city that could turn into better usage for entertainment purposes, which are beneficial the city for prosperity. We would not agree that building more housing in the city will benefit who are already living in the neighborhood.</u></p> <p><u>Bring in more houses with denser the neighborhood not only by population, but will bring more stresses to the school district. There are currently two high schools, two middle school and nine elementary schools in the city. Whenever before school time and after school times, the streets where the schools are located are overloads. It is common to see cars not moving for ten minutes. If there are more population in the area, why don't the land planner think ahead and plan another school or better routes to help with traffic?</u></p> <p><u>Castro Valley High School is now becoming more populated than ever. Students are getting harder and harder to talk to their consaultor about their career or college plans. Classes are often unavailable due to too many students enrolled. These are red flags that needs to be addressed.</u></p> <p><u>If there are more housing will be planned for the city, at least the county/state need to address things right in the area. Think about why business vacant and not to use empty lot for more population.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p> <p><u>Regarding the Castro Valley School District, County staff have met with them to discuss future capacity needs. As housing projects are proposed, school district staff will be contacted for comment regarding their ability to serve additional students. Please find comments from SLZUSD and CVUSD included in this document.</u></p>
8	<u>Caleb Smith</u>	<p><u>My name is Caleb Smith, and I am a resident of Alameda County who would like to comment on your draft Housing Element as a private citizen. I am grateful that your department is noting forward progress on this document, even though I remain gravely</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

	<p><u>concerned by both the delay in the drafting process and with the content of the document itself. My feedback touches on several areas:</u></p> <p><u>Friendly warning now- the actions in your housing action plan lack adequate specificity in timeline, resources source, and outcome. If not amended you will likely be asked to do so by State HCD. This is a particular issue with programs 2.C, 2.E, 2.F and 2.I</u></p>	
	<p><u>It should not require your department until 2025 to comply with state laws that were in effect in 2021 (action 2.A). There should be an action to come into compliance with ALL state laws for housing no later than February 2024.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
	<p><u>I am seriously concerned that the proposed densities for the Bay Fair and the Castro Valley BART stations are too low to be prioritized by BART for development. If I read correctly, the proposal is to rezone to 75 dwelling units per acre. This would equate to a roughly 4-6 story building and would represent a tragic missed opportunity. The sites should instead be zoned for at least 200 dwelling units per acre. Alternatively, they could be zoned for a building envelope of at least 12 stories and allow unlimited density on site. The proposed timelines for the station developments are also far too slow. Alameda County should pursue station rezoning earlier in the plan cycle to provide BART with maximum flexibility. Finally, replacement parking should not be required via the zoning code- that is a business decision that should be left to BART alone.</u></p>	<p><u>Staff are committed to rezoning the Castro Valley and Bay Fair BART parking areas to facilitate housing construction in accordance with AB 2923.</u></p>
	<p><u>It is especially important to increase zoned densities at BART stations because of the serious AFFH issues raised by this draft Housing Element. The low-income housing appears to be primarily concentrated in Ashland, one of the most disadvantaged parts of unincorporated Alameda County, while it appears there is no low income housing envisioned for San Lorenzo (despite a major corridor suitable for upzoning) or Hayward Hills (which could be at least rezoned to allow fourplexes). The low level of low income housing in Castro Valley is of considerable concern- the area surrounding the Castro Valley BART station would be a better location than sites distant from transit in Ashland. Allowing moderate density projects in existing single-family neighborhoods in Castro Valley could also expand housing opportunities. I hope HCD examines the AFFH angle here further.</u></p>	<p><u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u></p> <p><u>Staff continue to implement SB 9 and ADU development through</u></p>

			<u>interim guidelines, in accordance with state law.</u>
		<u>Tenant protection language is inadequate. Program 6.5 lacks adequate detail to gauge the resources that will be devoted to it or their effectiveness. Otherwise there are a lack of adequate tenant protections to prevent displacement, homelessness, and substandard housing conditions. Alameda County should implement a proactive rental inspection program for all rental units and explore additional strategies to protect tenants.</u>	<p><u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units, Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program 6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></p>
		<u>The Housing Element would benefit from additional language explaining how development on the proposed sites would be ministerial or otherwise require minimal discretionary permitting</u>	<u>Staff are in the process of finalizing the Housing Element Overlay, which includes a streamlined permitting process.</u>
		<u>For community engagement, I would strongly encourage the County to hire a separate community engagement consultant to assist with its outreach effort if it has not already</u>	<u>Staff are committed to enacting the policies and</u>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<u>done so. Ideally, this group would already be active in unincorporated Alameda County rather than be a conventional planning firm.</u>	<u>programs described in the draft Environmental Justice Element, which include a variety of engagement protocols (see goal EJ7 and corresponding policies and actions).</u>
9	<u>Helena Lee</u>	<u>We understand it's a state law, but is the existing infrastructure, schools and law enforcement adequate in Castro Valley to support the new housing? Our parents have been fighting traffic every day to bring their children to school. Our seniors are feeling isolated because there is no public transportation to bring them shopping. Our home owners, especially those who bought their houses in the last few years, are starting to feel the properties devalued due to the increase of crime. Everyone in Castro Valley wants to keep quality of life the same; what value do these 1979 new housing give to the city? We have no objection to building more affordable housing, but definitely not in the downtown areas. We need better planning to deal with the increased population before any new home is built.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
10	<u>Stanley Stadelman</u>	<u>If the Castro Valley BART Station parking area is to be used for housing where are BART users to park? Any development on this site should include parking for BART users at least equal to existing on-site parking. In the next five years people will be going back to the office. We will need more parking at the BART station not less. In addition, any housing element introduced to this site should provide parking equal to one space per living unit plus 10% for guests. There is no existing on-street parking available. If this means BART will need to provide a multi-level parking structure all I can say is "It's about time".</u>	<u>Development guidelines for the Castro Valley BART station must conform with state law AB 2923, which includes a maximum of 1 vehicle parking spot per housing unit. In accordance with program 1.C, further details regarding future development at this site, including the possible construction of replacement parking, will be a part of future engagement processes.</u>
		<u>I can envision the Lucky's store and adjacent strip commercial becoming a single multi-use residential over commercial project with the Lucky's or other as the primary tenant. I have always been impressed with the high use the strip commercial receives. This is a high use area. The Lucky's store is old and needs to be replaced but not as housing only. The community needs a competitor / option to Safeway. Where will people shop if you remove the commercial and replace it with housing?</u>	<u>Staff envision future development at this site as including both retail and housing.</u>

		<u>I know the community strongly expressed a negative response to multi-level housing, but it is something to be considered. Hayward has remade itself not just residentially but probably also fiscally by providing multilevel housing over commercial and parking both within the CBD and down Mission Blvd. Dublin has also done this. Putting housing over parking at the BART station and the Lucky's site could be a plus in the long term to the City. There are other sites on the Boulevard where this type of development should be considered. The Rite Aid site, several trailer courts, the very old commercial across the Boulevard from Pete's hardware.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>I think designating areas as low and very low is a mistake. I would rather see ALL projects with a 15% affordable housing requirement.</u>	<u>Designating sites by income category is a part of the Housing Element process, as required by the state department of Housing and Community Development. Alameda County has committed to pursuing an inclusionary zoning law, in accordance with program 6.J.</u>
		<u>I also think identifying 3 or 4 sites for low and very low housing within the existing CBD is a mistake. This is where we shop, dine, and meet friends for coffee. It needs to be the safest place in town. I suggest this housing element be spread out equally up and down the Boulevard as a part of other housing elements per comment #4 above. If attaining the required number of low and very low housing units requires increasing the number of moderate and high housing units so be it.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
11	<u>Jeff Van</u>	<u>My name is Jeff Van. I'm 26 years old and I'm an active member of the Castro Valley community. I went to school in Castro Valley from Kindergarten through high school and I currently spend the majority of my free time in Castro Valley. In fact, I'm more familiar with Castro Valley than I am of my own neighborhood in San Leandro. I was unable to attend the CVMAC meeting on 8/16/2023 and I would like to say that I very strongly support the current Housing Element Plan as it is drafted here.</u>  <u>The Bay Area, along with the entirety of the United States, is currently in a dire housing shortage and we as a community have a social responsibility to have more transit oriented development and pedestrian oriented development. I believe that these projects are a huge opportunity for our community to rise to the occasion and build more housing.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<p><u>A 2016 Redfin study has shown that property values in neighborhoods actually increase with walkability, and I'm confident that the current Housing Element would increase the walkability of nearby properties by bringing more commercial spaces closer to the surrounding properties.</u></p> <p><u>Additionally, the future residents living in these new housing units will have the benefit of living in a very pedestrian-oriented environment, with grocery stores like Safeway and the CV Marketplace only a block or two away, the Castro Village (and all of its restaurants/businesses) right across the street, and healthcare facilities along with pharmacies right next door, not to mention the BART station that is only a few blocks away f. This level of walkability will breathe new life into the business district of Castro Valley and the surrounding area, the area that encompasses and surrounds the Castro Village.</u></p> <p><u>I'd like to ask that we move forward with the current housing plan as it is written. The benefits of mixed-use development and multi-family housing will bring an unprecedented amount of wealth and vitality to the Castro Valley community and especially the commercial/business district, and I ask that you join the community in building a more inclusive and equitable future for Castro Valley.</u></p>	
12	<u>Roxann Lewis</u>	<p><u>I was glad to here that just because these vacant lots, or other areas have been identified it doesn't mean that they will all be built on! I do understand that this is mandated by the State of California and the Planning Department must submit a plan or developers can come in and have an easier time getting their developments approved.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
13	<u>Foster Wood</u>	<p><u>I am a longtime resident of Castro Valley. Additional housing is needed in Alameda County and elsewhere in California and I have no problem with the proposal to increase the number of housing units in the county.</u></p> <p><u>However, your plan provides for 1,978 housing units to be built in Castro Valley, which represents 42 percent of all the proposed units in unincorporated Alameda County. I am not against building a number of housing units in Castro Valley.</u></p> <p><u>However, building 1,978 units in Castro Valley (and apparently all concentrated in the downtown area) will impose too great a strain on Castro Valley's infrastructure and its citizens. I can foresee our streets being clogged with the additional vehicles of the people living in these units, and our schools being overwhelmed with the children of the parents living in these units-among other things.</u></p> <p><u>In sum, I believe a more equitable distribution of these housing units is in order.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received. For an analysis of how the distribution of units relates to income levels, housing tenure, race, exposure to environmental harm, and other demographic details, please see Appendix F, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.</u></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD Review Draft - October 2023

14	<u>Vicki Stadelman</u>	<p><u>It was obvious from the recent Castro Valley MAC meeting that the present housing policy document put forth by our Alameda County Planning Department is not in the best interest of Castro Valley as a community.</u></p> <p><u>It was pointed out again and again that these mandatory housing quotas from the state are not feasible considering limitations of infrastructure that are necessary for the health and welfare of the residents. Major considerations like water, traffic, schools, safety, crime, fire protection, neighborhood stability, are all being ignored completely. The Planning Department staff has spent much time and effort trying to identify sites and conditions for housing development required by the state, but the fact remains, these are not wanted or needed in Castro Valley.</u></p> <p><u>It is naïve to think that cramming housing units into existing cities/municipalities will solve socio-economic problems. It is offensive to think that the state can override the local needs and purview of local planning departments. It is frustrating to think that the general consensus is that we have no say or control over this outcome... that it is inevitable.</u></p> <p><u>I, for one, don't want to stand by and see the idiocy of these projects go forward BEFORE infrastructure has been well researched and developed!!!! Please inform me of any meetings, petitions, or other means of legal protest that are available to us as community members.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
15	<u>Patricia Lindsey</u>	<p><u>Hello, I want you to know that until a complete environmental report is done on how the RHNA of 4,711 units affect the infrastructure of Castro Valley, I am opposed to it.</u></p> <p><u>Castro Valley is a small town. It was never meant to become a city. I have lived here for 30 years but will be leaving if this building takes place. I am already depressed about the number of rental units in my neighborhood and the noise from the rentals and the traffic going up and down Redwood Road.</u></p>	<p><u>The draft mitigated negative declaration for the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle housing element is currently available online. The comment period closed on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.</u></p>
16	<u>Daryl F. Camp, Ed.D. Superintendent San Lorenzo Unified School District</u>	<p><u>The San Lorenzo Unified School District would welcome students and families who move into these new housing options. Please let us know if you need more specifics about options and programs in our school district.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
17	<u>Shannon Carlson</u>	<p><u>I attended the Zoom meeting for the MAC meeting presenting the need for more housing in the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. There was a lot of information to cover: graphs, maps, State info, etc.</u></p> <p><u>I have a couple suggestions (should there be another such meeting), that might get more people on board. Perhaps it could have been stressed at the beginning by the</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received. Staff appreciate feedback on how to better communicate on technical</u></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<p><u>speakers that the housing needs HAVE to be addressed because of State Mandate, that it's not something we can ignore. It would have helped to make it very clear, not just on the slides, but by the speaker(s) that this is a draft that has to be submitted by a certain date, that this is not the final. I feel that slides are wonderful to go back to to reread, but people need to hear bullet points: 1)This is the first draft, 2)There is no eminent domain involved, 3)If property owners do not wish to sell or improve their property, they do not have to, etc. Simple, concise information. Not everyone is a fast reader, perhaps eyesight is not good for reading from a distance or digesting all that printed information.</u></p> <p><u>I would have loved to have had the maps bigger and in more sections so it would be easy to see where these properties are actually located. I had trouble following the speaker's pointer on the map as the pointer was too small.</u></p> <p><u>I do want to be involved with what is going on in my Community and appreciated the chance to hear of these important issues.</u></p>	<p><u>issues like the Housing Element.</u></p>
18	Ann Maris	<p><u>The issue of lack of trauma-informed care has come up several times during the past few years as I have attempted to participate with the affordable housing developers building and doing community outreach in my local neighborhoods. The county needs to require trauma-informed care training of commissioners, who have been abusive to the public, companies, which are paid by the county to interact with the public, and any subcontractors who interact with the public. Particularly in neighborhoods or project areas which are known to include people of color or people of low income backgrounds, who may have been the subject of various types of abuse and crimes, and may not have had the resources to overcome historic traumas.</u></p> <p><u>For example, the county's "food as medicine" program has an RFP out note that requires contractors to have training in trauma-informed care. This should be standard practice. Here is a link to San Francisco's work on improving their trauma-informed practices. <a href="https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oprograms/TIS/default.asp">https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oprograms/TIS/default.asp</a></u></p> <p><u>As I understand it, one part of the SB 1000 environmental justice element involves getting people to participate who normally don't participate in the government process. I have witnessed numerous times when county council members or commissioners, who are appointed by our elected supervisors, and who we expect to represent us, are abusive and degrading to the public participants. One particularCVMAC member is infamous for this. Instead of being relieved of his position, he was elevated to the planning commission. This rewards insensitive behavior and directly conflicts with acceptable trauma-informed care.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>



		<p><u>In the years I have been participating regularly with the county processes and with county and affordable housing led organizations, I have seen improvement. I hope that community continues to experience improvements in how they are treated in order that they/we may flourish and live more joyfully even in difficult times.</u></p> <p><u>Please consider requiring trauma-informed care training throughout the county processes, perhaps by uplifting an ordinance, or otherwise modifying policies in General Plan elements.</u></p>	
19	<u>Joan Lewis</u>	<p><u>I am a little overwhelmed by the plan to build multilevel housing in certain areas of our community. I am especially concerned about new housing in the Castro Valley BART parking lot. This parking lot is critical to encourage people to use BART instead of driving on freeways! Taking away a large number of the BART parking lot makes no sense to me! The parking lot may not be full at present, but it's availability for the future is just good planning for encouraging BART ridership!</u></p>	<p><u>Development guidelines for the Castro Valley BART station must conform with state law AB 2923, which includes allowing 4-6 story development. In accordance with program 1.C, further details regarding future development at this site, including the possible construction of replacement parking, will be a part of future engagement processes.</u></p>
20	<u>Rick Kelley</u>	<p><u>Pertaining to the 6th Housing Element Draft Plan for Castro Valley</u></p> <p><u>1) The distribution of housing in the Alameda County Housing Element draft plan is in clear violation of the principles of Environmental Justice by which the County claims to abide. It forces many hundreds of new homes, thousands of new residents, and most of the low income residents into one small area in the middle of town, an area that is already disproportionately beset with air, noise and light pollution, traffic and crime. Most of the proposed housing, including the low-income housing, is to be built in or immediately adjacent to the only part of Castro Valley that is rated as significantly negatively impacted by environmental injustice per the CalEnviroScreen analysis (Census Tract 4310). These residents already suffer disproportionately from the systemic oppression of exposure to chemical and environmental stressors. This plan, if implemented as written, will make it much, much worse.</u></p>	<p><u>The draft Environmental Justice Element includes many programs and policies regarding improving the quality of life in the Environmental Justice Priority Communities, which includes southern Castro Valley.</u></p>

		<u>In contrast, residents further up the hills will only be minimally impacted; residents in faraway Columbia and Palomares Hills (for example) will virtually be exempted. This is plainly unjust, irresponsible, and unacceptable.</u>	
		<u>2) The Castro Valley Unified School District cannot possibly manage the expected influx of hundreds or possibly thousands of new children, many low income or English learners possibly requiring additional support. Almost all of the grade school age children in these homes in central Castro Valley would normally attend Castro Valley Elementary or maybe Marshall schools, which is obviously impossible, these schools are full already. So what will happen--bussing to other schools up the hill? The District cannot even provide buses for existing students. Building new schools? That requires new bonds and higher taxes and Castro Valleyans are still paying off a huge school maintenance bond passed a few years ago. The result may be split sessions, overpacked classrooms, slashed enrichment and athletic programs and deterioration of the town's excellent school system. Meanwhile, Hayward has closed two of their schools in Castro Valley.</u>	<u>County staff have met with the Castro Valley School District to discuss future capacity needs. As housing projects are proposed, school district staff will be contacted for comment regarding their ability to serve additional students.</u>
		<u>3) The tight packing of so many new homes, most likely without adequate off-street parking as is now legal (overriding Alameda County rules) will create a widespread parking nightmare. Castro Valley will require parking meters and 24 hour restricted parking in the large areas around the new homes. No local traffic or parking impact study has been conducted. See point #1, Environmental and Social Injustice.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>4) The County's nominally laudable goal to resurrect the bucolic "Streetcar Suburbs" of the 1890s, where everyone rides public transit, walks to stores, and cars do not yet exist, is wishful thinking. It might work if you were building a brand-new community from scratch (as is planned between Sacramento and Vallejo), but it cannot be readily retrofitted into a place like Castro Valley built around automobiles. Walkable downtowns in places like Walnut Creek are only possible because these cities have built high rise parking garages, an unlikely prospect in unincorporated Castro Valley.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>5) Castro Valley has been disproportionately targeted for low/extremely low income housing projects. The percentage and absolute number of these is far higher than in any other unincorporated part of the County. Fairview, for example, has a mandate to build only a relative handful of low/extremely low income units. Further, most of the Castro Valley units, along with the mixed income housing, are crowded together tightly in one area, tending to recreate the failed "Housing Projects" design of the 1960s and 1970s.</u>	<u>As described in Appendix F, much of Castro Valley is considered a high opportunity area, especially when compared to other neighborhoods in the unincorporated areas.</u>

			<u>To be included in the sites inventory, a site must have access to sewer lines. This is not the case for many vacant tracts in Fairview.</u>
		<u>6) The Planners failed to consider the possibility of extending development outside of the so called "Urban Growth Boundary." The boundary has been established solely by Alameda County and thus can be modified by Alameda County. It may be time to reevaluate this designation. Measure D, for example, may have been a good idea in 2000, but now it is directly contributing to the destruction of older communities by forcing the erection of ultra dense housing.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>7) It is concerning that the planned low income housing is exempted from the Quimby Act and thus will not contribute to the expansion and maintenance of parks and recreational activities that will be needed for the new residents. It is unclear if these projects will fully contribute to the property tax base, which provides a portion of the funds to run the schools.</u>	<u>In 2004, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed the Park Dedication Ordinance. To limit the impact of increased fees on development in the unincorporated areas, the following kinds of projects were exempted, among others: affordable housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, housing in Sunol, and group housing, as described in chapter 12.20 of the county municipal code.</u>
		<u>I make the following recommendations: A) I urge that this plan be revised to better balance the issue of social and environmental justice against the competing goals of a so called Transit Oriented District. The massive overcrowding in the Redwood Road/Castro Valley Boulevard intersection area is not viable. The roads, schools and stores cannot support this. It is an unjust imposition on the people living there who are already oppressed by traffic, air, noise and light pollution and BART parking. The new housing, including the low income housing, needs to be distributed throughout the community. B) I urge the County to work proactively with the CVUSD to identify funds for building additional schools for this massive influx of students. Two abandoned schools</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<p><u>owned by Hayward are present in Castro Valley, soon to be repurposed—these may be needed for the CVUSD instead.</u></p> <p><u>C) Consider designating some of the properties for seniors, as already exists at the BART station. This fulfills the County's responsibility under the Housing Element but greatly reduces the impact on Castro Valley, particularly on the schools. This seems to be a simple change that can be quite beneficial.</u></p> <p><u>D) I urge that the allocation of low and extremely low income units be reassessed and more equitably spread throughout the unincorporated area.</u></p> <p><u>E) I recommend examining the current urban growth boundary to determine if it is possible to build more than a mere 194 new high income homes in the hundreds of square miles of unincorporated Alameda County to the east of Castro Valley. It is time to revisit the matter, which is fully within the purview of Alameda County.</u></p> <p><u>F) I think it is too soon to write off BART and usurp half of its parking lot for housing, especially considering that the Flex bus has been cancelled by AC Transit. Do as Lafayette has done, let BART be for the 6th Housing Element cycle. If BART goes bankrupt, then the whole parking lot will be available for housing in the 7th cycle.</u></p> <p><u>G) I ask that your office fully explain and detail all of the federal, state, county and community service district laws and regulations that will not apply equally to the dedicated low/extremely low income projects, such as the aforementioned exemption from the Quimby Act "in lieu" requirement.</u></p>	
21	<u>Marc Crawford, Vice Chair Alameda County Planning Commission</u>	<p><u>Housing Sites Table Page B-40</u></p> <p><u>I think is irresponsible for the Draft Housing Element to have gone on the road show without the Housing Sites Table attached to it. Now that the Housing Sites Table is completed the Draft Housing Element should go back on the road show so it can be fully evaluated by the communities that will have to live with it.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix B, which includes all sites in the sites inventory in several tables, has been available on the Planning Department website since August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the beginning of the public comment period.</u></p>
		<p><u>Government Constraints Page C-2</u></p> <p><u>The Government Constraints section attempts to describe the entirety of constraints from the government as the General and Specific Plans. The second bullet point below Permits and Procedures is not even discussed. The County just spent over \$250,000 on a consultant to evaluate the permit process in the Planning, Fire and Environmental Health Departments and the Public Works Agency. The report from the consultant with recommendations was nearly 200 pages long due to the myriad of problems identified.</u></p> <p><u>Clearly, these four departments need to be listed as governmental constraints in this section of the Housing Element because they have the most substantial negative impact on housing production. The constraints that are encountered by the negligent</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received. The consultant's report is mentioned on page C-39 of the draft Housing Element.</u></p>

		<p><u>and incompetent leadership of these departments are the greatest impediment to the production of housing in the County.</u></p> <p><u>Omitting this fact not only delegitimizes (rendering it nonconforming) the Housing Element document, but it also proves that county staff's intransigence will never allow for improvement to the current situation</u></p> <p><u>I recommend that the Planning Commission continue the item until such time as the Housing Site Table can be reviewed by each community.</u></p>	
22	Bruce King	<p><u>I have two written testimony comments on the draft Housing Element that will be presented at the September 5 Planning Commission (item J.1). Please forward these comments to the Planning Commissioners.</u></p> <p><u>Comment #1 - Parcel Group 9</u>  <u>The northernmost parcel on Caltrans/Hayward Parcel Group 9 is in the unincorporated county. The City of Hayward has not designated a use for this parcel in their last Parcel Group 9 presentation. See attached PG9 2020 presentation, and see an excerpted picture in this email. Verbally, the City of Hayward said they did not think this parcel was good for housing because of proximity to the freeway, but there's already a ton of people that live near our freeways. This parcel should be considered for inclusion in the Housing Element.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
		<p><u>Comment #2 - BART Parking Area</u>  <u>The Housing Element needs to include an assessment of the extent that parking is needed now and in the future at the CV BART station to enable BART ridership. In general, housing should not be placed in the Castro Valley parking lot area, unless there is a condition to replace the same amount of parking within new parking structures. Many people that live too far from BART won't use BART if there is not sufficient parking.</u></p>	<p><u>Development guidelines for the Castro Valley BART station must conform with state law AB 2923, which includes a maximum of 1 vehicle parking spot per housing unit. In accordance with program 1.C, further details regarding future development at this site, including the possible construction of replacement parking, will be a part of future engagement processes.</u></p>
23	Liz Pionkett	<p><u>Lived in Castro Valley close to 60 years. Do not want it to become a city. There is too much building to be on the Castro Valley Boulevard (Castro Valley Boulevard highrises/residential, now you're pulling parking areas, turning them into</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<u>prospective housing? Do you really think Castro Valley Boulevard can handle all that traffic? It can't handle it now – I hope you receive enough letters to change your mind. Lets not think about money – lets think about people.</u>	
24	<u>EBMUD</u>	<u>(see attached)</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>  <u>Staff are committed to helping applicants comply with relevant utility design guidelines.</u>
25	<u>Blake Wellen</u>	<u>(see attached)</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
26	<u>Meliza Orcher</u>	<u>My name is Meliza Orcher and I'm a homeowner and mother in Central CV. We bought our home here for the proximity to the outdoors, for the convenience of public transport, for the great schools, and for the charming feel of downtown. While we came here for those services, what really captured me was the community. Immediately after moving into our home, we we drawn in and made welcome by our neighbors, who gifted us pastries from 7 Hills and olive oil from Amphora. CV, I've learned, is a place where you can go across the street and ask for a cup of sugar, and receive so much more - advice on pruning our rose bushes, an extra pipe wrench, the name of a trusted handyman. Which is why it's such a shame to see so many of my community members here arguing against boosting our local economy and community by opposing these additional units in town. Our home values We all love CV. It's a beautiful and charming place. But the argument that more housing will drive our home values lower is actually false in the Bay Area. The demand for housing where we live is huge. We all know that the pandemic drove a bunch of people out of the city and into the suburbs. If we can all dig into our altruism here, this town has the empty lots and underdeveloped plots in our town to make a tiny dent in the housing crisis in California. Increased homelessness = lower housing value; Increased poverty = lower housing value. And you know what, once you go past a certain point on CV Blvd, it's not as charming. There's such an opportunity here to use some of that space for increased development, whether it's housing or the economic development that will occur when more people live and work in this community. The lack of affordable housing in our community - coupled with inflation and increased poverty - will do even more damage to our housing values than building housing units.</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>

	<p><b><u>More people = more economic development</u></b>  <u>While we're here, let's talk about economic development in our town. Who here goes to Hayward or Dublin or San Leandro to get services?</u>  <u>There's such a dearth of mom &amp; pop shops in our town today. If we want to buy local and support our local businesses, we need to have those businesses here in the first place, and fill up those empty buildings that are zoned for businesses. If we have more people here, we will have more businesses here, then we'll have more jobs here. All of that will increase the value and charm of this community.</u>  <u>Who here is frustrated with how long it can take to get services here in town, because we're still so understaffed? Let the people who want to work here, live right here near downtown - instead of having those</u>  <u>folks drive in from Hayward and San Leandro and increase traffic.</u></p> <p><b><u>A walkable town</u></b>  <u>And since we're talking about traffic...</u>  <u>My home is close enough to downtown that I walk most places - when I'm not in a boot or heavily pregnant. The proposal for the majority of these lots are right next to downtown and public transport. I'm looking forward to seeing how developers intend on addressing concerns for clogging up roads.</u>  <u>I'm a huge advocate for complete streets efforts - and with public transport being as decimated as it has been since the pandemic, I'd love to see an increased presence in public transportation options, with increased demand for it - inclusive of your teenagers who all drive up redwood road to school.</u></p> <p><b><u>Diversity of culture</u></b>  <u>I grew up in Lafayette, where the schools are just as good, but the people were and are not physically representative of me. After years of trying, I'm now pregnant with my first child. We bought a wonderful home</u>  <u>in CV at the peak of the pandemic, at a price that, had my husband and I not been lucky and overeducated enough to find stable and well paying careers, is far too expensive for young people like me to buy. You are so</u>  <u>welcome for helping drive up your equity.</u>  <u>But we wanted to be in a place where our children can grow up around people that look like them and that represent the world - not just the white owners of it. The more we as a community restrict housing here, the more likely it is that our children won't be able to reap the benefits of different cultures and diversity of thought that changes the world for the better.</u>  <u>I get it. Change is hard. But it happens and either you roll with it or you get stuck in the past. I want my unborn child to grow up experiencing the same loving and wonderful community that you all have had. In order to do that, we can't let our town die by</u>  <u>preventing people like me and others from living here by blocking housing</u></p>	
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		<p><u>development. I want to see our community continue to be generous and share that cup of sugar for our neighbors, instead of closing our doors and locking them out in the heat and the cold and the rain. I want to see us thrive.</u></p> <p><u>We need to let this development happen if we want to combat homelessness and poverty on our streets. We need to let this development happen if we want to keep our small businesses open. We need to let this development happen so we can watch our children grow in a community that centers love over fear.</u></p>																									
27	<u>Kelly Abifar</u>	<p><u>Ashland has the highest RHNA allocation — why doesn't the housing element call for higher density on Castro Valley Blvd parcels such as the RV encampment?</u></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">RHNA allocation</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Population</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Units per 10,000 population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ashland</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,358</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">570</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castro_Valley</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,978</td> <td style="text-align: center;">66,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fairview</td> <td style="text-align: center;">323</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">290</td> </tr> <tr> <td>San Lorenzo</td> <td style="text-align: center;">591</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cherryland</td> <td style="text-align: center;">215</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">130</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Ashland has 1.8 sq mi versus Castro Valley's 17 sq mi.)</p>		RHNA allocation	Population	Units per 10,000 population	Ashland	1,358	24,000	570	Castro_Valley	1,978	66,000	300	Fairview	323	11,000	290	San Lorenzo	591	30,000	200	Cherryland	215	16,000	130	<p><u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u></p>
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28	<u>EBHO (September 1)</u>	<p><u>Dear Planning Commissioners,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Alameda County's Draft Housing Element. East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) is a member-driven organization working to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities in the East Bay by educating, advocating, organizing, and building coalitions across Alameda &amp; Contra Costa Counties. Many of our 400+ individual and organizational members live in, work, and provide affordable homes throughout the County.</u></p> <p><u>We appreciate all the work by County staff that has gone into producing this document. We offer our comments with the hope that the County will incorporate them to produce a final document that makes significant progress to achieve housing justice and meet</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>																								



		<p><u>all of the County's current and future housing needs. While the County narrowly met its low-income RHNA, only 34%, 20%, and 40% of its very-low-income, moderate, and above moderate-income RHNA goals, respectively, were met in the last Housing Element Cycle. With a 200% increase in very low- and low-income needs for the 6th Cycle, Alameda County will have to do significantly more than it has in the past to meet the urgent needs of current and future residents and to comply with State requirements.</u></p> <p><u>We emphasize the County's responsibility to advance programs and policies to bolster affordable housing production and identify new resources and funding to expand production and preservation. The County has a significant state mandate to affirmatively further fair housing throughout every part of the Housing Element Update. We hope to continue to collaborate with the County to make Alameda County a place for all to afford to call home, regardless of income and background.</u></p>	
		<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p><u>State law requires localities to make a "diligent effort...to achieve public participation of all economic segments of the community in the development of the Housing Element." Despite being behind in the Housing Element Process, the County must continue to take intentional, proactive, and robust actions to solicit and incorporate input from community members, with a particular effort to include low-income people, people of color, non-English speakers, people with disabilities, and others who face regular systemic barriers to being heard in public decision making. We appreciate the outreach, stakeholder input sessions, community workshops, and surveys that staff has conducted so far, and look forward to more such events as this process moves forward.</u></p> <p><u>We also look forward to Appendix E: Public Participation Summaries being further updated throughout the Housing Element Update as public participation continues. While we note the accounting of previous public meetings and the summary of public comments received at the meetings, we urge staff to supplement the summaries with a response describing how comments have been incorporated, or why they have not been incorporated along with a justification for not including them.</u></p>	<p><u>Please see the section titled "Integration of Comments into the Housing Element" for information about how comments were integrated into the element.</u></p>
		<p><u>Housing Plan - Programs &amp; Policies</u></p> <p><u>We strongly support many proposed policies across production, preservation, protection, and preventing displacement and ending homelessness. We call attention to the following issues, all of which HCD has consistently required other jurisdictions to</u></p>	<p><u>Staff and consultants have constructed the proposed timelines to align with relevant departments'</u></p>

	<p><u>address in their own Housing Elements, which are currently not sufficiently in compliance with State Housing Element Law.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>In many cases, program time frames lack definition or specific milestones: deadlines for completion should be described in greater detail, rather than noting a year or "Ongoing", which is the case for a majority of the programs.</u></li> <li>- <u>It is insufficient to commit to consideration or exploration of policies. The Housing Element should, at a minimum, commit to bringing concrete legislation putting into place any new policies proposed before the Board of Supervisors for adoption by a specific date. Moreover, these dates should be in the first few years of the housing element, as postponing these studies to the later years means that many of these new programs if implemented at all, will have minimal impact on the housing element cycle.</u></li> <li>- <u>When identified, quantified outcomes are vague. Many of the action items lack detail, therefore it is unclear what outcomes are anticipated or how the effectiveness of these actions, particularly in addressing fair housing and equity issues, will be assessed in the future.</u></li> <li>- <u>The demonstration of how each major goal, program, and policy addresses AFFH and priority factors for AFFH should be more explicit. We strongly urge the County to utilize a table, to call out any actions addressing AFFH, or devote another section of the Housing Element to summarizing AFFH actions, as other successful jurisdictions have done. The table, or something similar, should summarize each program, action, targeting, schedule, and metric toward direct and indirect beneficial impacts to AFFH. The requirement to affirmatively further fair housing must fully inform the program and policies, and while the County very likely considered this, it is not evident with the current structure of the Housing Plan.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>staffing capacity, as well as the capacity of County Counsel.</u></p> <p><u>Please see section IV.C Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Action Matrix of the main body document of the element for a table explicitly relating AFFH and programs and policies.</u></p>
	<p><u>Policy 1.1: Utilize Public Land for Affordable Housing to Provide a Range of Housing</u>  <u>It is encouraging that the County is signaling its intention to utilize public land for affordable housing. At a minimum, the County must follow the Surplus Land Act (SLA), which requires all local agencies to offer surplus land for sale or lease to affordable home developers and certain other entities before selling or leasing the land to any other individual or entity. We strongly believe the County should actively pursue and prioritize its Public Land for 100% affordable housing, to directly address the factor of disparity in unincorporated Alameda County identified on page 67 in Appendix F, of a limited supply of affordable housing in areas with access to opportunity. HCD has frequently required other jurisdictions this cycle to more fully outline their process to use the SLA as well as justify their assumptions regarding the development of publicly owned land.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>

	<p><u>Program 1.C: Facilitate Housing at Bay Fair &amp; Castro Valley BART Sites</u>  <u>EBHO strongly believes that any development on the Bay Fair &amp; Castro Valley BART sites should maximize affordable housing, especially considering BART's commitment of at least 35% of new units to be affordable. We look forward to engaging in the community process as the County coordinates with BART and San Leandro staff to develop RFPs and enter ENAs with development partners. Additionally, we note that it has been a consistent piece of feedback from HCD for jurisdictions with BART sites that they include detailed plans including dates for specific milestones for the cooperation with BART on the development of these sites.</u></p> <p><u>Program 1.N: Allow Religious Institution-Affiliated Housing</u>  <u>We strongly support the County amending the Zoning Ordinance to better facilitate development and allow religious institution-affiliated housing development projects by right. EBHO's members include non-profit housing developers, communities of faith, and low-income residents of the County, where we've personally encountered increasing interest in faith-based affordable housing development.</u></p> <p><u>Program 2.F: Affordable Housing Trust Fund "Boomerang" Program</u>  <u>We support the continuation of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund "Boomerang" Program to provide services to support low-income households and those experiencing homelessness with tenant legal support, a navigation center, expanded winter shelters, the AC affordable housing web portal, and more.</u></p> <p><u>Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing</u>  <u>We support the County's effort to continue preserving the affordability of housing at-risk of conversion to market rate, with a particular focus on at-risk renter and senior households and the at-risk developments in the next 10 years identified in Table A-24. We look forward to seeing the County collaborate with and provide assistance to nonprofit housing developers to preserve at-risk units.</u></p> <p><u>Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units</u>  <u>To enhance the vague action to study the legal and programmatic feasibility of amending the Zoning Code to limit the redevelopment of existing affordable housing projects to other uses, along with requiring that adequate replacement housing is provided when projects would result in substantive losses of low &amp; moderate-income housing units, the County should add a quantified objective of bringing back the results and bringing forward an ordinance before the Board of Supervisors shortly after the study is completed.</u></p> <p><u>Program 3.D: SB 35 Processing &amp; Permit Streamlining</u></p>	
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	<p><u>We support active encouragement and facilitation of the use of SB 35 to provide by-right approval for 100% affordable housing, including training and direction to Planning staff that this should be affirmatively pursued.</u></p> <p><u>Policy 4.4: Permanent Supportive Housing Development &amp; Programs 4.A, 4.B, 4.C: Emergency Shelters, Low Barrier Navigation Centers (LBNCs) and Supportive Housing</u>  <u>We strongly support the County amending its Zoning Code to allow for emergency shelters, LBNCs, and permanent supportive housing, which support “Housing First” principles, a proven highly effective approach to supporting those experiencing homelessness.</u></p> <p><u>Program 4.G: Assist Seniors and Disabled Persons to Maintain and Rehabilitate their Homes</u>  <u>We support the creation of an ongoing list of resources to help seniors maintain and/or rehabilitate their homes, and the County’s intention to create Universal Design standards to be usable by all. We urge that the time frame of January 2026 be more detailed, and indicate quantified outcomes through the development of the Universal Design standards, including gathering robust community input throughout the entirety of the process.</u></p> <p><u>Program 5.C: Code Enforcement</u>  <u>It is important for the County to continue to enforce Code Enforcement to promote safe housing conditions, and we hope to see details in quantified outcomes as to how many households have been served in recent years. We strongly suggest that anti-retaliation protections for tenants who call Code Enforcement are considered, as well as the right to return after repairs protections, as proposed in the Just Cause Ordinance first presented to the Board of Supervisors on December 20th, 2022.</u></p> <p><u>Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot</u>  <u>We support the collection of data through a complaint-based rental inspection pilot, and look forward to seeing the yearly reports submitted to the Transportation &amp; Planning Committee regarding the pilot’s efficacy. While tenants can currently call the County’s Code Enforcement program, many tenants opt to not report violations to the County for fear of landlord reprisal. Thus, EBHO supports the study, development, and adoption of a proactive rental inspection program.</u></p> <p><u>Program 6.K: Inclusionary Housing</u>  <u>We support the adoption of an inclusionary housing ordinance to support new housing choices and affordability. Rather than the County “should also consider alternatives,</u></p>	
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	<p><u>such as land dedication and/or payment of an in-lieu fee", we strongly recommend the County commit to considering these alternatives, as part of the research into the development of the inclusionary housing ordinance. Therefore, the time frame and quantified outcomes for this program should be supported with more substance as to how the County plans to explore this strategy.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Policies &amp; Programs to Protect Tenants</u>  <u>The County is legally required to develop concrete, measurable, and realistic actions to address disparities identified in the assessment of Fair Housing, including displacement risk, which is especially pronounced for renters in unincorporated areas. While the Board of Supervisors previously considered a Fair Chance Housing Ordinance, a Just Cause Ordinance, and a Rental Registry Ordinance, no policies have been passed.</u></p> <p><u>To better protect tenants from displacement, as detailed in Program 6.G, we support the County's partnership with the legal service providers providing services through Alameda County Housing Secure, and strongly urge that funding continue to be prioritized to these organizations that provide essential legal services to low-income tenants and homeowners disproportionately impacted by the affordable housing crisis and vulnerable to displacement. This is paramount, given the end of the County's eviction moratorium earlier this year in late April, and the rapid increase in eviction cases filed since, with 243 lawsuits filed in the first 20 days following the expiration of the eviction moratorium. To date, the Eden Area, the communities of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward Acres, and San Lorenzo, have no local tenant protection policies. It is estimated that at least 39% of Eden renters are not covered by any tenant protections, considering the limitations of the statewide Tenant Protection Act, also known as AB 1482 (2019). 4 Namely, AB 1482 exempts single-family homes, and with the existing housing stock in the County, nearly one-third of renters live in single-family homes. This results in renters being especially vulnerable to housing insecurity when faced with rent increases, widespread and severe habitability issues, and unlawful evictions. As accounted in the County Wide Trends, evictions are a major concern throughout the County, and this is only magnifying the greater risk that lower-income communities face of losing housing and being displaced.</u></p> <p><u>Over half of renters in Unincorporated Alameda County are cost-burdened, and nearly 5% and 10% of renters experience severe and moderate overcrowding, respectively, compared to 3.7% for those who own.6 As described on page 51 in the Housing Needs Assessment, more households in Ashland and Cherryland, with 75% and 64% households, respectively, rent their home compared to other communities in Unincorporated Alameda County. These renters are often more cost-burdened, and more likely to live in overcrowded conditions and substandard housing than owner-</u></p>	<p><u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and any future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units, Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program 6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></p>

	<p><u>occupied households. The Eden communities of Ashland, Cherryland, and Hayward Acres each have high poverty rates of 18%, some of the highest in all of Alameda County.7 Over 61% of people in the urban unincorporated areas are Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), compared to just 53% of the total population of the County.</u></p> <p><u>In 2020, Alameda County became one of the first-ever recipients of a Partnership for the Bay Area's Future Challenge Grant, intended to be used for the study and development of tenant protection policies for the unincorporated areas, including proactive code enforcement inspections of rental housing, rent stabilization, and a local Just Cause for eviction ordinance. This, along with years of community input and advocacy from organizations and individuals for tenant protections for the urban unincorporated areas emphasizes the urgency and overdue need for basic tenant protections in the County, policies that many of the incorporated cities of the County have passed.</u></p> <p><u>In order to earnestly affirmatively further fair housing in Alameda County, the County must accept the regional consensus that tenant protections are a critical part of providing safe, stable, and affordable housing, mitigating displacement risk. As HCD notes in the AFFH Guidance Memo, the lack of tenant protections is a common investment barrier to AFFH and a contributing factor to fair housing issues of supporting patterns of segregation and racial concentrations of poverty.10 With this in mind, the Housing Element should commit to passing a package of tenant protections early in the planning period.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)</u>  <u>There is a need to strengthen the connection between the AFFH assessment and the housing element itself. The new statutory requirement to affirmatively further fair housing requires more than the analysis of fair housing issues, it must fully inform the site inventory and Housing Plan. While the analysis identifies key factors contributing to segregation and disparities in housing conditions and opportunity throughout the County, the policies programs, and site inventory must be developed in response to address these factors, with clear metrics to determine whether these actions result in improvements.</u></p> <p><u>The requirement to affirmatively further fair housing must fully inform the site inventory and action plan, and HCD's guidance on affirmatively furthering fair housing is clear that the Housing Plan must be clearly related back to the priority factors previously identified that support and maintain inequitable opportunities and outcomes, and segregation and displacement risk. We encourage the County to review HCD's April</u></p>	<p><u>Staff have consistently referred to all available HCD and MTC guidance regarding the creation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low</u></p>

		<p><u>2021 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Guidance, which includes detailed explanations of specific requirements for housing elements, to ensure it is fully meeting these requirements.</u></p> <p><u>Finally, we note that the current Site Inventory does not appear to satisfy AFFH requirements, as it concentrates the majority of planned lower-income housing in the areas of Ashland and Cherryland, without identifying adequate affordable sites in the higher-income and higher resources areas of Castro Valley and Fairview. HCD has consistently required that site inventories spread affordable housing into areas with higher resources, so while we appreciate the locating of some affordable projects in the areas where lower-income households will need it to avoid displacement, the Site Inventory should also add locations in the higher resource and income areas identified in the AFFH section of the Housing Element.</u></p>	<p><u>income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u></p>
<p><u>29</u></p>	<p><u>EBHO (September 19)</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Alameda County's Draft Housing Element. East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) is a member-driven organization working to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities in the East Bay by educating, advocating, organizing, and building coalitions across Alameda &amp; Contra Costa Counties. Many of our 400+ individual and organizational members live in, work, and provide affordable homes throughout the County.</u></p> <p><u>We appreciate all the work by County staff that has gone into producing this document. We offer our comments with the hope that the County will incorporate them to produce a final document that makes significant progress to achieve housing justice and meet all of the County's current and future housing needs. While the County narrowly met its low-income RHNA, only 34%, 20%, and 40% of its very-low-income, moderate, and above moderate-income RHNA goals, respectively, were met in the last Housing Element Cycle.</u></p> <p><u>With a 200% increase in very low- and low-income needs for the 6th Cycle, Alameda County will have to do significantly more than it has in the past to meet the needs of current and future residents and to comply with State requirements.</u></p> <p><u>We emphasize the County's responsibility to advance programs and policies to bolster affordable housing production and identify new resources and funding to expand production and preservation. The County has a significant state mandate to affirmatively further fair housing throughout every part of the Housing Element Update. We hope to continue to collaborate with the County to make Alameda County a place for all to afford to call home, regardless of income and background.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>

	<p><u>Public Participation</u>  <u>State law requires localities to make a “diligent effort...to achieve public participation of all economic segments of the community in the development of the Housing Element.” Despite being behind in the Housing Element Process, the County must continue to take intentional, proactive, and robust actions to solicit and incorporate input from community members, with a particular effort to include low-income people, people of color, non-English speakers, people with disabilities, and others who face regular systemic barriers to being heard in public decision making. We appreciate the outreach, stakeholder input sessions, community workshops, and surveys that staff has conducted so far, and look forward to more such events as this process moves forward.</u></p> <p><u>We also look forward to Appendix E: Public Participation Summaries being further updated throughout the Housing Element Update as public participation continues. While we note the accounting of previous public meetings and the summary of public comments received at the meetings, we urge staff to supplement the summaries with a response describing how comments have been incorporated, or why they have not been incorporated along with a justification for not including them.</u></p>	<p><u>Please see the section titled “Integration of Comments into the Housing Element” for information about how comments were integrated into the element.</u></p>
	<p><u>Policy 1.1: Utilize Public Land for Affordable Housing to Provide a Range of Housing</u>  <u>It is encouraging that the County is signaling its intention to utilize public land for affordable housing. At a minimum, the County must follow the Surplus Land Act (SLA), which requires all local agencies to offer surplus land for sale or lease to affordable home developers and certain other entities before selling or leasing the land to any other individual or entity. We strongly believe the County should actively pursue and prioritize its Public Land for 100% affordable housing, to directly address the factor of disparity in unincorporated Alameda County identified on page 67 in Appendix F, of a limited supply of affordable housing in areas with access to opportunity. HCD has frequently required other jurisdictions this cycle to more fully outline their process to use the SLA as well as justify their assumptions regarding the development of publicly owned land.</u></p> <p><u>Program 1.C: Facilitate Housing at Bay Fair &amp; Castro Valley BART Sites</u>  <u>EBHO strongly believes that any development on the Bay Fair &amp; Castro Valley BART sites should maximize affordable housing, especially considering BART’s commitment of at least 35% of new units to be affordable. We look forward to engaging in the community process as the County coordinates with BART and San Leandro staff to develop RFPs and enter ENAs with development partners. Additionally, we note that it has been a consistent piece of feedback from HCD for jurisdictions with BART sites that they include detailed plans including dates for specific milestones for the cooperation with BART on the development of these sites</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>



	<p><u>Program 1.N: Allow Religious Institution-Affiliated Housing</u>  <u>We strongly support the County amending the Zoning Ordinance to better facilitate development and allow religious institution-affiliated housing development projects by right. EBHO's members include non-profit housing developers, communities of faith, and low-income residents of the County, where we've personally encountered increasing interest in faith-based affordable housing development.</u></p> <p><u>Program 2.F: Affordable Housing Trust Fund "Boomerang" Program</u>  <u>We support the continuation of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund "Boomerang" Program to provide services to support low-income households and those experiencing homelessness with tenant legal support, a navigation center, expanded winter shelters, the AC affordable housing web portal, and more.</u></p> <p><u>Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing</u>  <u>We support the County's effort to continue preserving the affordability of housing at-risk of conversion to market rate, with a particular focus on at-risk renter and senior households and the at-risk developments in the next 10 years identified in Table A-24. We look forward to seeing the County collaborate with and provide assistance to nonprofit housing developers to preserve at-risk units.</u></p> <p><u>Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units</u>  <u>To enhance the vague action to study the legal and programmatic feasibility of amending the Zoning Code to limit the redevelopment of existing affordable housing projects to other uses, along with requiring that adequate replacement housing is provided when projects would result in substantive losses of low &amp; moderate-income housing units, the County should add a quantified objective of bringing back the results and bringing forward an ordinance before the Board of Supervisors shortly after the study is completed.</u></p> <p><u>Program 3.D: SB 35 Processing &amp; Permit Streamlining</u>  <u>We support active encouragement and facilitation of the use of SB 35 to provide by-right approval for 100% affordable housing, including training and direction to Planning staff that this should be affirmatively pursued.</u></p> <p><u>Policy 4.4: Permanent Supportive Housing Development &amp; Programs 4.A, 4.B, 4.C: Emergency Shelters, Low Barrier Navigation Centers (LBNCs) and Supportive Housing</u>  <u>We strongly support the County amending its Zoning Code to allow for emergency shelters, LBNCs, and permanent supportive housing, which support "Housing First"</u></p>	
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	<p><u>principles, a proven highly effective approach to supporting those experiencing homelessness.</u></p> <p><u>Program 4.G: Assist Seniors and Disabled Persons to Maintain and Rehabilitate their Homes</u>  <u>We support the creation of an ongoing list of resources to help seniors maintain and/or rehabilitate their homes, and the County's intention to create Universal Design standards to be usable by all. We urge that the time frame of January 2026 be more detailed, and indicate quantified outcomes through the development of the Universal Design standards, including gathering robust community input throughout the entirety of the process.</u></p> <p><u>Program 5.C: Code Enforcement</u>  <u>It is important for the County to continue to enforce Code Enforcement to promote safe housing conditions, and we hope to see details in quantified outcomes as to how many households have been served in recent years. We strongly suggest that anti-retaliation protections for tenants who call Code Enforcement are considered, as well as the right to return after repairs protections, as proposed in the Just Cause Ordinance first presented to the Board of Supervisors on December 20th, 2022.</u></p> <p><u>Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot</u>  <u>We support the collection of data through a complaint-based rental inspection pilot, and look forward to seeing the yearly reports submitted to the Transportation &amp; Planning Committee regarding the pilot's efficacy. While tenants can currently call the County's Code Enforcement program, many tenants opt to not report violations to the County for fear of landlord reprisal. Thus, EBHO supports the study, development, and adoption of a proactive rental inspection program.</u></p> <p><u>Program 6.K: Inclusionary Housing</u>  <u>We support the adoption of an inclusionary housing ordinance to support new housing choices and affordability. Rather than the County "should also consider alternatives, such as land dedication and/or payment of an in-lieu fee", we strongly recommend the County commit to considering these alternatives, as part of the research into the development of the inclusionary housing ordinance. Therefore, the time frame and quantified outcomes for this program should be supported with more substance as to how the County plans to explore this strategy.</u></p>	
	<p><u>To date, the Eden Area, the communities of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward Acres, and San Lorenzo, have no local tenant protection policies.</u></p>	<p><u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to</u></p>

	<p><u>It is estimated that at least 39% of Eden renters are not covered by any tenant protections, considering the limitations of the statewide Tenant Protection Act, also known as AB 1482 (2019).<sup>4</sup> Namely, AB 1482 exempts single-family homes, and with the existing housing stock in the County, nearly one-third of renters live in single-family homes. This results in renters being especially vulnerable to housing insecurity when faced with rent increases, widespread and severe habitability issues, and unlawful evictions. As accounted in the County Wide Trends, evictions are a major concern throughout the County, and this is only magnifying the greater risk that lower-income communities face of losing housing and being displaced.</u></p> <p><u>Over half of the renters in Unincorporated Alameda County are cost-burdened, and nearly 5% and 10% of renters experience severe and moderate overcrowding, respectively, compared to 3.7% for those who own.<sup>6</sup> As described on page 51 in the Housing Needs Assessment, more households in Ashland and Cherryland, with 75% and 64% households, respectively, rent their home compared to other communities in Unincorporated Alameda County. These renters are often more cost-burdened, and more likely to live in overcrowded conditions and substandard housing than owner-occupied households. The Eden communities of Ashland, Cherryland, and Hayward Acres each have high poverty rates of 18%, some of the highest in all of Alameda County.<sup>7</sup> Over 61% of people in the urban unincorporated areas are Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), compared to just 53% of the total population of the County.</u></p> <p><u>In 2020, Alameda County became one of the first-ever recipients of a Partnership for the Bay Area's Future Challenge Grant, intended to be used for the study and development of tenant protection policies for the unincorporated areas, including proactive code enforcement inspections of rental housing, rent stabilization, and a local Just Cause for eviction ordinance.<sup>9</sup> This, along with years of community input and advocacy from organizations and individuals for tenant protections for the unincorporated areas emphasizes the urgency and overdue need for basic tenant protections in the County, policies that many of the incorporated cities of the County have passed.</u></p> <p><u>To earnestly affirmatively further fair housing in Alameda County, the County must accept the regional consensus that tenant protections are a critical part of providing safe, stable, and affordable housing, mitigating displacement risk. As HCD notes in the AFFH Guidance Memo, the lack of tenant protections is a common investment barrier to AFFH and a contributing factor to fair housing issues of supporting patterns of segregation and racial concentrations of poverty.</u></p>	<p><u>renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and any future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units, Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program 6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></p>
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		<p><u>With all of this in mind, the Housing Element should commit to passing a package of tenant protections early in the planning period.</u></p>	
		<p><u>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)</u>  <u>There is a need to strengthen the connection between the AFFH assessment and the housing element itself. The new statutory requirement to affirmatively further fair housing requires more than the analysis of fair housing issues, it must fully inform the site inventory and Housing Plan. While the analysis identifies key factors contributing to segregation and disparities in housing conditions and opportunity throughout the County, the policies programs, and site inventory must be developed in response to address these factors, with clear metrics to determine whether these actions result in improvements. The requirement to affirmatively further fair housing must fully inform the site inventory and action plan, and HCD’s guidance on affirmatively furthering fair housing is clear that the Housing Plan must be clearly related back to the priority factors previously identified that support and maintain inequitable opportunities and outcomes, and segregation and displacement risk.</u></p> <p><u>We encourage the County to review HCD’s April 2021 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Guidance, which includes detailed explanations of specific requirements for housing elements, to ensure it is fully meeting these requirements.</u></p>	<p><u>Please see the section titled “Integration of Comments into the Housing Element” for information about how comments were integrated into the element.</u></p>
		<p><u>Site Inventory</u>  <u>The requirements of AFFH extend to the Site Inventory, which insufficiently distributes housing throughout the community in a manner that addresses, let alone mitigates racial and socioeconomic segregation. The current Site Inventory concentrates the majority of planned lower-income housing in the areas of Ashland and Cherryland, without identifying adequate affordable sites in the higher-income and higher-resource areas of Castro Valley and Fairview.</u>  <u>In order to support public participation and engagement in analyzing the site inventory, a critical cornerstone of the housing element process, we recommend:</u>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>The site maps should be overlaid on maps of key demographic indicators, particularly racial concentrations and concentrations of high- and low-income households. This includes layers for areas of opportunity and areas at risk, including both Racially and Economically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP) and Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence (RCAA)</u></li> </ul> <p><u>This would enable an overlay of the site inventory by affordability level and provide a better way to visualize the extent to which the County’s site inventory does or does not significantly alter existing patterns of segregation. This would bolster accessibility and ease of analysis for the community.</u></p> </p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p> <p><u>Maps of the sites inventory with different demographics can be found in the later half of appendix F. This includes a map with the RCAAs and the circa-2013 R/ECAP in Cherryland.</u></p>

		<p><u>HCD has consistently required that site inventories spread affordable housing into areas with higher resources, so while we appreciate the locating of some affordable projects in the areas where lower-income households will need housing to avoid displacement, the Site Inventory should also add locations in the higher resource and income areas identified in the AFFH section of the Housing Element, particularly the eight tracts in Castro Valley considered high and highest resourced - 4 of which are Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence (RCAA).</u></p> <p><u>In Fairview, we call attention that only 26 out of 323 (8%) of units identified in Fairview are low and very low-income units. The County's rationale is that "development is more constrained due to being in Very High or High Fire Severity Zone", which we acknowledge is true for some areas of Fairview, but not most, therefore the draft fails to explain why areas with no fire risk in the western and central parts of Fairview fail to have more lower income identified sites.11</u></p> <p><u>Finally, we note that the Sites Inventory does not appear to consider potential tax credit scoring when assessing whether or not a site is realistic from the perspective of affordable housing development. <b>We, therefore, request that the County perform an analysis of potential tax-credit scoring towards very-low and low-income sites identified in Table B-23 of Appendix B.</b> Considering the lack of local investment and appropriately zoned high-resource areas—both factors vital to the competitiveness of affordable housing projects for other funding, particularly tax credits—it is not realistic to assume that all of the sites identified for 100% affordable development will actually be built.</u></p> <p><u>We thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment on Alameda County's Draft Housing Element and we look forward to working with the County as it continues to revise and strengthen the document following HCD's review and further public participation.</u></p>	
30	<u>Alameda First 5</u>	<p><u>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Alameda County General Plan Housing Element. Our mission at First 5 Alameda County is to build an early childhood system of care that cultivates the community and family conditions needed to support children's kindergarten readiness; as a funder, partner, administrator, and advocate, we prioritize policies, programs, and investments that narrow disparities and improve the lives of children from birth to age five, their families, and their caregivers. As the County has recognized in previous General Plans, in the prior Housing Element, and through periodic use of community development funds to support early care and education programs;</u></p>	<p><u>In response to this comment, staff added Policy 4.10: Childcare Centers</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Early care and education is an essential part of our community infrastructure, just like housing, transportation and jobs. When child care is not included in community development, there are negative impacts on the community, such as congestion from additional vehicle miles traveled by parents who need to leave to find care in other communities.</u></li> <li>- <u>In a high cost area like Alameda County, early care and education program administrators and family child care home providers find numerous obstacles to being sited and operating, and are in a site affordability and siting crisis that parallels the affordable housing crisis. The Fall, 2022 Alameda County Early Care and Education Licensed Facilities Assessment found that 85% of infants and toddlers in working families did not have access to a licensed child care space. Unincorporated Alameda County as well as Fremont and Oakland saw the most site closures during the pandemic, with family child care sites closing at a dramatically higher rate than centers.</u></li> <li>- <u>Affordable housing is of paramount importance to families with young children. Our biennial Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) consistently finds that kindergarten readiness is strongly linked to family access to basic needs, with housing at the center. In 2022, after surveying over 3,000 people in the county – parents, early childhood educators, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten teachers, and with the guidance of our community-led Research Advisory Group, housing and basic needs emerged as a top priority.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <u>According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the first year of life is when people are most likely to enter shelter and transitional housing programs, followed by ages one to five. Pregnant women and families with young children are particularly at risk when they face housing instability. Currently in our county, families with newborns cannot leave the hospital without a car seat, but they can leave without a home.</u></li> <li>o <u>In 2018, the homeless management information system showed 969 families with 2,917 members as homeless in Alameda County, including 433 children ages 0-5. We know these numbers do not reflect the true extent of the issue as many families do not come forward to ask for assistance out of fear and live in their vehicles or with friends instead.</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Early childhood educators who are predominantly low-income women of color also need affordable housing options to continue to do their vital work in our County. Eighty-seven (87%) of ECE professionals, 79% of whom identify as Black, Indigenous, or other women of color, are considered very low-income for the county.</u></li> </ul>	
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	<p><u>We recognize the legal and human urgency of complying with state mandates for affordable housing development and your efforts to reduce development barriers which are reflected in the Draft Housing Element. Since the early childhood field's dire and persistent lack of resources intensifies the need for coordinated land use and planning to facilitate development, below we recommend several basic, supportive policy revisions that elevate child care considerations when developing family housing, and maintain fidelity to prior Unincorporated County land use plans. We welcome your alternative or additional recommendations.</u></p> <p><u>Background on Child Care in Existing County General Plan Elements: Alameda County Housing Element (2015-2022)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>"Goal 4: To ensure a supply of sound housing units in safe and attractive residential neighborhoods. Policy 4.4: Provide adequate funding for maintenance and improvement of public facilities ...such as child care..." <i>The staff update to the plan recommended carrying provisions of Goal 4 into the next Housing Element.</i></u></li> </ul> <p><u>East County Area Plan (Revised by the Board of Supervisors 5/5/1994)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>The East County Plan has almost 30 references to specific strategies on how child care should be included in land use, public facilities, commercial, infill and transit oriented development of all densities. It proposes that Infill developers contribute to costs of local infrastructure such as child care.</u></li> <li>- <u>One example relevant to housing is Policy 189: "The County shall require major projects...to include features that promote the use of transit, bicycle and pedestrian systems. These features could include....pedestrian accessible features such as convenient local-serving retail and services uses (e.g. child care, neighborhood grocery stores, etc.) (p.51).</u></li> </ul> <p><u>Castro Valley General Plan (March, 2012)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>This plan includes child care references in Section 8 Community Facilities, Parks and Schools. Section 8.5 Child Care directs the County to revise the zoning code to include child care centers in residential areas, consider no cost leases of public buildings, impact fees, and siting child care in convenient locations for families (p.8-27).</u></li> </ul> <p><u>Ashland and Cherryland Community Health and Wellness Element (2015)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Action F.11. "Encourage co-location of child care centers and family child care homes with affordable housing, employment centers, and in Transit Oriented Development (p.21)."</u></li> </ul>	
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	<p><u>Proposed Basic and Supportive Housing Element Modifications:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Recommend how to carry Goal 4 provisions from prior Housing Element into this one as an overarching concept. For instance, for policy reasons and based on effective practice, the need for child care should be considered in Program 1.C (p.19) when developing affordable housing at Castro Valley and Bayfair BART stations and in the upcoming Community Benefits Agreement plan. Successful child care centers are operating at Ashby, Fruitvale, and Colma BART stations among other transit linked centers. Child care has been incorporated in Community Benefits Agreements in Los Angeles and Nashville as well as several Development Agreements in Alameda County.</u></li> <li>2. <u>Revise Section IV: Housing Plan, Goal 1 Policy 1.6 (p.17): “Support Mixed-Use Residential and Commercial Development” to detail child care inclusive examples of mixed-use residential/commercial development so that it reads: “Review and, as appropriate revise or create zoning districts and regulations, and site development and planned development district standards and guidelines to support appropriate mixed-use residential/commercial development which could include community amenities such as child care for residents and the community.”</u></li> <li>3. <u>Revise Section IV, Housing Plan, Goal 7 Policy 7.4 (p.45): “Minimize the adverse environmental impacts of housing and encourage sustainability measures” to read: Policy 7.4 Development of Infill Housing and Related Community Amenities Such as Child Care.</u></li> </ol> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Work with cities, community organizations and neighborhood groups to facilitate infill housing development in conjunction with neighborhood revitalization which could include adding or improving community amenities such as child care.</u></p> <p><u>Finally, there are proactive policies that could accelerate support for child care integration in the County. You could include policy to incentivize developers to build space for child care for families of all incomes and children of all ages through strategies such as increased height allowances, increases in floor area ratios, parking reduction, community benefits credit, traffic impact fee exemptions, expedited entitlements or modifications to zoning regulations and support inclusion of specially designed and located family child care housing units in multi-family projects. San Francisco has seen multiple affordable housing developers respond to a code change to exempt them from maximum density restrictions for family child care inclusion, for example.</u></p>	
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		<u>In closing, we urge the County to consider the needs of families with young children, the child care workforce, and child care programs in the 2023-2031 Housing Element and ongoing planning. We look forward to continued collaboration.</u>	
31	<u>CVUSD</u>	<u>(See attached)</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
32	<u>East Bay for Everyone</u>	<p><u>East Bay for Everyone is a network of people fighting for the future of housing, transit, tenant rights, and long-term planning in the East Bay. The proposed updates to the Housing Element are encouraging in seeing Alameda County finally moving to compliance with state law. We appreciate the work put into it and the significant information provided to the public, as well as the chance to comment. However, we are concerned that most large opportunity sites are less feasible than shown, the overall placement of housing does not affirmatively further fair housing, and the updates do not do enough to relax constraints to development in the unincorporated areas, as needed to meet HCD criteria for a compliant Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>Parking</u>  <u>Streamlining and simplification of off-street parking requirements is long overdue, considering that at least six different sets of standards currently exist in the unincorporated county. Off-street parking adds around \$50,000 of costs per space (structured), while centering development on cars and increasing total vehicle miles traveled. While the element makes a commitment to reduce off-street parking requirements by moving to the Residential Design Standards Guidelines, even these guidelines set parking minimums too high and constrain development. All per-unit guest parking requirements should be removed, and the requirements for units in multi-family developments should be removed within one mile of BART or other high-quality transit. They should also be reduced to one space per two units within one half-mile of any bus stop.</u></p> <p><u>Fair Housing</u>  <u>There is a major disparity of income and socioeconomic status versus Castro Valley and the other CDPs of Eden Area, with San Lorenzo in the middle: Ashland median household income \$71,000, Cherryland \$75,500, San Lorenzo \$95,900, Castro Valley \$124,200 (American Community Survey 2017-2021). The obligation to affirmatively further fair housing should imply more low-income housing planned for Castro Valley and San Lorenzo than elsewhere.</u></p>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>

		<p><u>It is helpful that the AFFH chapter goes further and divides Castro Valley into one "Main" area, the most exclusionary, and one "EJ Priority", although even the latter area is significantly higher-income and -opportunity than Ashland and Cherryland. However, the one low-income opportunity site in "Castro Valley (Main)", the sheriff's station, is only so grouped by an accident of mapping: the Census Bureau's decision to draw the boundary between CDPs at I-580. The sheriff's station is at the very corner of the whole CDP, separated from the main body of Castro Valley by hills and an extensive campus of county facilities including the county psychiatric hospital and juvenile detention center. It is far more like Ashland than like Castro Valley; no one striving for an exclusionary Castro Valley would feel threatened by it.</u></p> <p><u>The true percent of affordable housing projected in the exclusive portion of Castro Valley is 0%, and also 0% in San Lorenzo, versus 68% in Ashland, 29% in Cherryland, and 49% in the less exclusive portion of Castro Valley. This distribution does not affirmatively further fair housing and significant new affordable sites in Castro Valley proper will be needed to achieve this. The basic approach appears to start from a perspective of adhering closely to existing zoning designations; this has the result of concentrating affordable sites in areas that are already denser (and generally more affordable and lower-resourced).</u></p> <p><u>Although Castro Valley lots are smaller, the high land value makes missing middle (up to sixplexes) a viable AFFH strategy. The county should take as a model the rezoning of Rockridge in Oakland, which allowed 1 unit per 1,000 square feet of lot area, along with 35' height, 60% lot coverage, narrower setbacks, and 0.5 parking spaces/unit. Issues with Major Opportunity Sites The following barriers exist with the sites making up the vast majority of units in opportunity sites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>BART parking lots are proposed for development, both Castro Valley and Bay Fair. However, in the BART TOD Workplan, both of these stations are listed in the later portion of the planning period, for development between 2025 and 2030, and most of the projects slated for 2020-2025 in that workplan are not near completion. The early 2030s is a more optimistic idea of when the latter group can be developed. HCD has rejected inclusion of Orinda BART by the city of Orinda which is in the same 2025-2030 category. BART's input should be sought and included on how likely these developments are during the planning period—and what assistance the county would have to provide to make development likely. Finally, Bay Fair BART parking occupies both sides of the tracks, and the other side is in the city of San Leandro, which has included that parking area in its own element; the county should show why</u></li> </ul>	
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		<p><u>development at that station would necessarily use the majority of land on the unincorporated side, rather than the other, or a mix of both.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>The element discloses that the Sheriff Radio station will not be vacated by the sheriff's office until 2030. The county should explain how it is feasible to project that this site will be developed and occupied within the planning period— with all construction taking place in one year. Also, this site is immediately next to I-580—not to mention at a higher elevation than the roadway—and will cause health problems among those low-income households brought to live by it. Environmental health/justice concerns are likely to prove a barrier to development on this site.</u></li> <li>- <u>The Castro Valley Lucky's parking lot is supposed to yield 96 units, of which 54 would be low- or very-low-income. This is the main Castro Valley affordable housing suggested other than the BART lot. However, while parking is not required under AB 2097 due to BART proximity, there is no evidence that Lucky's wishes to relinquish its parking lot to build housing on. (There is no evidence the owners or business proprietors are even theoretically interested in developing, even as "initial conversations".) Also, the parking lot is awkwardly wedged between many buildings, making housing development complicated. Some of the parking lot is owned as separate parcels (not included in acreage). Finally, the county should specify how much parking would be needed to replace the grocery store's if the business demanded that for business reasons, and what this would cost on top of development.</u></li> <li>- <u>The Crunch Fitness site, the only San Lorenzo site with significant low-income housing, is on two parcels which add up to 4.22 acres. This would allow the slated 254 total units—if zoned HDR with maximum 86 units/acre, as stated on table B-12. However, the larger of the two parcels, 177 Lewelling which is 3.17 of those acres, is listed on table B-22 as to be zoned MDR, which only allows 22 units/acre and would not allow nearly that many units. This is probably a typo for HDR (which the other parcel is listed at) and should be fixed. Also, the evidence for its redevelopment should be more substantial than "initial conversations"—or if not, the site's potential should be significantly marked down. The separate ownership of the two parcels is also a barrier to development—per county rolls, one is owned by an entity at an address in South San Francisco, the other in Beverly Hills. It is unclear if both expressed interest in redevelopment, but 177 Lewelling is listed as meeting criterion 3 (30+ years old) and no others; 85 Lewelling, the smaller, criterion 1, low improvement-to-land-value ratio;</u></li> <li>- <u>2490 Grove Way, Hayward (fairview) is slated for 260 units. It is 4.19 acres and proposed to be zoned RMU30-60. However, that multiplies out to only 250 units, not 260.</u></li> </ul>	
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	<p>- <u>2889 Kelly St, Hayward (Fairview) is slated for 26 units, all low- or very-low-income. However, it is 0.65 acres and proposed to be zoned for MDR which maxes 22 units/acre. It should be no more than 14 units, or be zoned RMU30-60 to match the projection.</u></p> <p><u>For nonvacant sites among opportunity sites, while the standards laid out for site suitability on Page B-23 are specific and relatively objective, they may not tell the full story with regard to site suitability. As noted in specific sites in the bullets above, while the characteristics may point to development potential, they do not demonstrate there is a practical likelihood of development during the Housing Element planning period. A site with a low improvement-to-land-value ratio may have an owner utterly uninterested in development; a site with an owner interested in redevelopment may have a tenant with a long-term lease who has no interest in giving it up; and so forth. We ask for expansion of the evaluation of specific nonvacant opportunity sites, including discussion/explanation of factors such as recent capital improvements, lease terms, local demand for specific business categories, current barriers to development if known, and the success or failure of previous redevelopment proposals.</u></p> <p><u>Zoning clarity and other issues</u>  <u>The element proposes making several new zoning designations for opportunity sites, all named for the housing element: HE-RSL, HE-MDR, HE-RMU40, etc. However, all that is specified for each zone is the upper limit of density. The county should guarantee in the housing element that it will institute setbacks, height, FAR, and other development standards on those sites that will not preclude the official density maximums on the actual sites being used. 60 units/acre is infeasible if combined with an 0.6 FAR or 35-foot height.</u></p> <p><u>We also note that the rezoning of sites is focused on downtown specific plan areas and individual large sites. This is a common strategy, but more will be necessary to achieve the goals. Experience shows in reality, most opportunity sites are not built on, and most sites built on are not opportunity sites. A broader approach, more likely to succeed, would apply higher densities of 20-30 units/acre in significantly larger areas of the unincorporated county, focusing on areas near high-quality transit and in high-resource areas, as well as densities of 100 units/acre within a half mile radius of BART, similar to San Leandro's Downtown strategy.</u></p> <p><u>We look forward to continuing to engage with Alameda County in the housing element process, and welcome the chance to speak with staff to discuss our concerns. Thank you for your consideration of our suggestions above.</u></p>	
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<p><u>From commissioners during the September 5, 2023 Planning Commission</u></p>	<p><u>Inquired how SB 9 was considered in the sites inventory</u></p>	<p><u>Per guidance from MTC/ABAG, staff did not consider SB 9 in county housing unit number projections.</u></p>
	<p><u>The item should be continued because the community did not have adequate opportunity to review the sites inventory during the public comment period.</u></p>	<p><u>The Housing Element sites inventory was available for review and comment during the 50 day comment period.</u></p>
	<p><u>The consultant's report regarding permit streamlining is not adequately addressed in the draft element.</u></p>	<p><u>In response to this comment, staff added additional reference to the Baker Tilly report in section C.2.4 of Appendix C.</u></p>
<p><u>From members of the public during the September 5, 2023 Planning Commission</u></p>	<p><u>Objected to loss of commercial uses in San Lorenzo if developed with housing. Supported keeping San Lorenzo suburban.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
	<p><u>Expressed concern that Ashland is already overburdened and the sites inventory would continue to concentrate populations of poverty in the area.</u></p>	<p><u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u></p>
	<p><u>Affordable housing developers should be required to pay park dedication fees since people living in their housing will use parks.</u></p>	<p><u>In 2004, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed the Park Dedication Ordinance. To limit the impact of increased fees on</u></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

			development in the unincorporated areas, the following kinds of projects were exempted, among others: affordable housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, housing in Sunol, and group housing, as described in chapter 12.20 of the county municipal code.
		<u>Expressed support for the housing element but noted concern about concentration of low-income housing along East 14<sup>th</sup> Street.</u>	In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14 <sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.
		<u>The County should prioritize resources in the unincorporated areas, including a new Office of Unincorporated Services, expanding funding for housing by supporting the regional housing bond, and providing permanent supportive housing for the homeless.</u>	Thank you for your comments. They have been received.
		<u>The housing element should include more specific timeframes for implementation of the programs and should state explicitly how programs relate to AFFH findings.</u>	In response to this comment and preliminary feedback from HCD, county staff added section IV.C Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Action Matrix
	<u>From Supervisors</u>	<u>Stressed the need to encourage housing by keeping the cost of construction per unit low.</u>	Staff are pursuing streamlined permitting for

	<u>during July 26, 2023 Unincorporated Services Committee</u>	<u>Stressed the need to make the public aware of the consequences of not fulfilling the County's RHNA</u>	<u>development in the sites inventory, which will help minimize costs if adopted.</u>  <u>Staff continued to explain the importance of fulfilling RHNA throughout the public comment period.</u>
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<p><u>From members of the public during the July 26, 2023 Unincorporated Services Committee</u></p>	<p><u>Expressed concern about fear of displacement among renters and the lack of a safety net.</u></p>	<p><u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units, Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program 6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></p>
	<p><u>Expressed the need to address equity and fair housing issues in the Eden Area.</u></p>	<p><u>Staff are committed to enacting the policies and programs described in the draft Environmental Justice Element.</u></p> <p><u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u></p> <p><u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units,</u></p>



			<p><u>Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program 6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></p>
		<p><u>Opposed the potential loss of commercial sites in San Lorenzo to housing.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
	<p><u>From council members during August 8, 2023 Eden Area MAC</u></p>	<p><u>Voiced concern about proposed increased density in Eden Area, specifically Ashland and San Lorenzo Village</u></p>	<p><u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u></p> <p><u>Staff are committed to enacting the policies and programs described in the draft Environmental Justice Element.</u></p>
		<p><u>Voiced concern about assignment of additional low-income housing in Eden Area, especially Ashland</u></p>	<p><u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u></p>
		<p><u>Voiced concern about net export of jobs and possible replacement of commercial areas with housing</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
		<p><u>Desire to have commercial first floors, specifically at former Cherryland Place</u></p>	<p><u>State Housing Element law requires jurisdictions to allow up to 100%</u></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

			<a href="#"><u>residential projects on sites labeled as low income, such as the Cherryland Place site.</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Voiced concern about affordable and senior housing projects being exempt from Park Fee (Program 2.D)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>In 2004, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed the Park Dedication Ordinance. To limit the impact of increased fees on development in the unincorporated areas, the following kinds of projects were exempted, among others: affordable housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, housing in Sunol, and group housing, as described in chapter 12.20 of the county municipal code.</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Noted that regional population is in decline</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Desire for additional tenant rights to be present in the Housing Element</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Staff are committed to accurately representing the County's commitment to renters in the Housing Element. This includes representing Code Enforcement's rental inspection pilot and future developments before the adoption of the 6th Housing Element.</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>The following programs pertain to tenants' rights: Program 2.K: Preserve At-Risk Housing, Program 2.L: Protect Existing Affordable Housing Units, Program 5.D: Rental Inspection Pilot, Program 5.E: Condominium Conversion, Program 6.B: Fair Housing Referrals (ECHO Housing), Program 6.C: Rent Review Program, Program 6.F: Displacement Protection, Program 6.G: Fair Housing Services, Program 6.I: Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance</u></a>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD Review Draft - October 2023

	<u><i>From members of the public during August 8, 2023 Eden Area MAC</i></u>	<u>Against the possibility of Crunch Fitness (APNs 413-15-33-5 and 413-15-34-3) being rezoned to enable housing</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>Against removal of housing cap in San Lorenzo Village area</u>	<u>The San Lorenzo Village Center Specific Plan has been in place for almost 20 years. In that time, there has not been adequate development to meet the previously adopted housing cap.</u>  <u>Zoning, by virtue of limiting the number of housing units that can fit on a given parcel of land, provides an implicit 'cap' for housing development.</u>
		<u>Against addition of high-density housing in Ashland; for the addition of high-density housing in Castro Valley</u>	<u>In response to community concerns, in the December 2023 mid-90 day review period update, staff removed 14 sites located in Ashland from the sites inventory. This corresponds to 125 low and very low income units and 143 units overall located on East 14<sup>th</sup> St, Mission Boulevard, and Lewelling Boulevard.</u>
		<u>Expressed desire to maintain the suburban nature of existing community, particularly San Lorenzo</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
	<u><i>From council members during Fairview Municipal Advisory Council, August 10, 2023</i></u>	<u>Voiced concern about additional housing in Fairview overall (323 proposed units of housing)</u>	<u>The number of units projected to be developed in Fairview is approximately 7% of all units projected over the course of the planning period in the unincorporated areas of the county.</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over constrained access to water and parking</u>	
		<u>Voiced concern over minimum public notice period for development projects</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

		<u>Voiced support for the development of the Castro Valley and Bay Fair BART sites</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>Disappointed in program to limit use of site development review to only noncompliant projects (see Program 3.B)</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>Expressed desire for Fairview to remain a rural place</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
	<u>From members of the public during Fairview Municipal Advisory Council, August 10, 2023</u>	<u>Voiced concern about additional housing in Fairview overall</u>	<u>The number of units projected to be developed in Fairview is approximately 7% of all units projected over the course of the planning period in the unincorporated areas of the county.</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over constrained access to water</u>	<u>PG&amp;E, Castro Valley Sanitation District, the Oro Loma Sanitation District, and EBMUD have been contacted for comments regarding the Housing Element. Additionally, EBMUD is in the process of updating its 2050 Demand Study, which will support the upcoming 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and infrastructure sizing. Staff have confirmed that they are aware of the expected number of new housing units and geographic spread of housing units based on the Housing Element sites inventory.</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over the impact on traffic in Fairview and access to surrounding communities</u>	
		<u>Voiced concern over possible development at the Bayhill Foods location (note: staff are currently reviewing an application for a development with 19 units and several commercial spaces for this site)</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over minimum public notice period for developments</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received</u>
	<u>From council members during Castro</u>	<u>Voiced concern about Unincorporated Alameda County's RHNA (4,711) and the percentage allocated in Castro Valley (42%)</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received</u>

<p><u>Valley Municipal Advisory Council, August 14, 2023</u></p>	<p><u>Voiced desire for RHNA process to be redone with more recent data</u></p>	<p><u>The RHNA process is completed once per planning cycle at the state and regional level. The ability to comment on or appeal RHNA allocations ended in 2021.</u></p>
	<p><u>Expressed desire to move the Urban Growth Boundary in order to allocate new units to East County</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received</u></p>
	<p><u>Expressed desire to hear from school districts, the Sheriff's office, and various utility providers in relation to the Housing Element</u></p>	<p><u>Staff had previously notified the Sheriff's office of the Housing Element update. Staff have contacted all school districts and utility providers. Staff communicated with all school districts, EBMUD, and CVSan. Their comments, when received, are included in these comments.</u></p>
	<p><u>Voiced concern about how the existing infrastructure in Castro Valley could support additional housing</u></p>	<p><u>The draft environmental analysis (Mitigated Negative Declaration) was made public on November 3, 2023. Comments were accepted through December 4, 2023.</u></p> <p><u>When a project for a parcel in the Housing Element Sites Inventory is proposed, depending on the size and location, there may or may not be additional environmental analysis required, and generally the State has provided exemptions for many types of projects, especially those that serve lower income households. Generally there would be site-specific traffic and parking analysis required in addition to overall site planning and design review. In compliance with SB 743 (2013), CEQA analysis (when required) is required to consider minimizing the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) not the ease of traffic movement (known as level of service, or LOS).</u></p>

			<p><u>Additionally, Alameda County Public Works has been asked for comments regarding the Housing Element update. Policy EJ3.1 of the draft Environmental Justice Element, Prioritize Equitable Distribution of Public Facilities, states that “The County will accommodate areas of the Priority Communities that are underserved by public facilities through equitable investment in public facilities, public amenities, and public infrastructure.” Corresponding actions, if adopted, would direct county staff to be more transparent in infrastructure planning and to explore strategies to equitably fund public facilities in the Priority Communities.</u></p>
		<p><u>Expressed concern about higher crime levels and lower property values in relation to new housing</u></p>	<p><u>Many studies about many different communities have shown that affordable housing has a neutral-to-positive impact on neighboring home values. Similarly, studies have shown that affordable housing can have no impact on the crime rate; in some instances, affordable housing has decreased the crime rate. Other factors, like the quality of property management, have been shown to impact neighboring properties more than the affordability level of the development.</u></p> <p><u>Albright, Len, Elizabeth S. Derickson, and Douglas S. Massey. “Do Affordable Housing Projects Harm Suburban Communities? Crime, Property Values, and Taxes in Mount Laurel, NJ.” <i>City &amp; Community</i> 12, no. 2 (June 2013): 89–112. link.</u></p> <p><u>Diamond, Rebecca, and Tim McQuade. “Who Wants Affordable Housing in Their</u></p>

			<p><a href="#">Backyard? An Equilibrium Analysis of Low Income Property Development.</a> <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 127, no. 3 (December 2017). <a href="#">link</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hipp, John, Clarissa Iloff, Emily Owens, George Tita, and Seth Williams. "THE IMPACT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON HOUSING &amp; CRIME IN ORANGE COUNTY."</a> University of California – Irvine: Livable Cities Lab, 2022. <a href="#">link</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Nguyen, Mai Thi. "Does Affordable Housing Detrimentally Affect Property Values? A Review of the Literature."</a> <i>Journal of Planning Literature</i> 20, no. 1 (August 1, 2005): 15–26. <a href="#">link</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Woo, Ayoung, Kenneth Joh, and Shannon Van Zandt. "Unpacking the Impacts of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program on Nearby Property Values." <i>Urban Studies</i> 53, no. 12 (September 1, 2016): 2488–2510. <a href="#">link</a>.</a></p>
		<p><a href="#">Multiple county departments should be considered constraints for Appendix C</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received</a></p>
		<p><a href="#">Voiced concern about affordable and senior housing projects being exempt from Park Fee (Program 2.D)</a></p>	<p><a href="#">In 2004, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed the Park Dedication Ordinance. To limit the impact of increased fees on development in the unincorporated areas, the following kinds of projects were exempted, among others: affordable housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, housing in Sunol, and group housing, as described in chapter 12.20 of the county municipal code.</a></p>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

<p><u>From members of the public during Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council, August 14, 2023</u></p>	<p><u>Both support and protest of higher densities in the Castro Valley Business District, specifically near BART and the Lucky grocery store. Reasons for include: increased walkability, more foot traffic, lower greenhouse gases, increased efficiency, and supporting public transit. Reasons against include all other concerns listed in this section.</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
	<p><u>Both support and protest of future development at the Castro Valley BART site, particularly at the density set by AB 2923</u></p>	<p><u>Development guidelines for the Castro Valley BART station must conform with state law AB 2923, which includes allowing 4-6 story development and maximum 1 parking spot per unit. In accordance with program 1.C, further details regarding future development at this site, including the possible construction of replacement parking, will be a part of future engagement processes.</u></p>
	<p><u>Voiced concern about existing Castro Valley infrastructure being able to support new housing. Infrastructure included: parking capacity; road capacity for future traffic; Castro Valley and Hayward USDs' respective capacities; and the sidewalk network.</u></p>	<p><u>The draft environmental analysis (Mitigated Negative Declaration) was made public on November 3, 2023. Comments were accepted through December 4, 2023.</u></p> <p><u>When a project for a parcel in the Housing Element Sites Inventory is proposed, depending on the size and location, there may or may not be additional environmental analysis required, and generally the State has provided exemptions for many types of projects, especially those that serve lower income households. Generally there would be site-specific traffic and parking analysis required in addition to overall site planning and design review. In compliance with SB 743 (2013), CEQA analysis (when required) is required to consider minimizing the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) not the ease of traffic</u></p>



		<p><u>movement (known as level of service, or LOS).</u></p> <p><u>Additionally, Alameda County Public Works has been asked for comments regarding the Housing Element update. Policy EJ3.1 of the draft Environmental Justice Element, Prioritize Equitable Distribution of Public Facilities, states that "The County will accommodate areas of the Priority Communities that are underserved by public facilities through equitable investment in public facilities, public amenities, and public infrastructure." Corresponding actions, if adopted, would direct county staff to be more transparent in infrastructure planning and to explore strategies to equitably fund public facilities in the Priority Communities.</u></p> <p><u>The San Lorenzo, Hayward, and Castro Valley Unified School Districts have all been notified about the public Housing Element draft and have been asked for comments. Please find comments from SLZUSD and CVUSD included in this document.</u></p>
	<p><u>Voiced desire for RHNA process to be redone with more recent data</u></p>	<p><u>The RHNA process is completed once per planning cycle at the state and regional level. The ability to comment on or appeal RHNA allocations ended in 2021.</u></p>
	<p><u>Voiced desire for county staff to focus on job creation before housing creation</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>
	<p><u>Supported addition of housing so that existing and future residents can afford to stay in Castro Valley</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u></p>

		<p><u>Expressed concern about higher crime levels and lower property values in relation to new housing</u></p>	<p><u>Many studies about many different communities have shown that affordable housing has a neutral-to-positive impact on neighboring home values. Similarly, studies have shown that affordable housing can have no impact on the crime rate; in some instances, affordable housing has decreased the crime rate. Other factors, like the quality of property management, have been shown to impact neighboring properties more than the affordability level of the development.</u></p> <p><u>Albright, Len, Elizabeth S. Derickson, and Douglas S. Massey. "Do Affordable Housing Projects Harm Suburban Communities? Crime, Property Values, and Taxes in Mount Laurel, NJ." <i>City &amp; Community</i> 12, no. 2 (June 2013): 89–112. link.</u></p> <p><u>Diamond, Rebecca, and Tim McQuade. "Who Wants Affordable Housing in Their Backyard? An Equilibrium Analysis of Low Income Property Development." <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 127, no. 3 (December 2017). link</u></p> <p><u>Hipp, John, Clarissa Iliff, Emily Owens, George Tita, and Seth Williams. "THE IMPACT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON HOUSING &amp; CRIME IN ORANGE COUNTY." University of California – Irvine: Livable Cities Lab, 2022. link.</u></p> <p><u>Nguyen, Mai Thi. "Does Affordable Housing Detrimentially Affect Property Values? A Review of the Literature." <i>Journal of Planning Literature</i> 20, no. 1 (August 1, 2005): 15–26. link.</u></p>
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			<a href="#">Woo, Ayoung, Kenneth Joh, and Shannon Van Zandt. "Unpacking the Impacts of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program on Nearby Property Values." <i>Urban Studies</i> 53, no. 12 (September 1, 2016): 2488–2510. link.</a>
		<a href="#">Expressed concern about the future quality of life in Castro Valley with additional housing</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Expressed desire to maintain suburban quality of Castro Valley community</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Called for a financial study to determine impact on property values or impact on county tax revenues with addition of new housing</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
	<a href="#">From attendees of August 21, 2023 public workshop</a>	<a href="#">Voiced support for inclusionary zoning and universal design policies</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Voiced support for the Housing Element as part of the County's response to climate change</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Voiced support for more lower income housing to support families and workers</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Voiced desire for higher densities (fourplexes) to be allowed in single family zoning by right</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Voiced concern over disjointed planning processes of Hayward Unified School District and the county regarding community growth and school closures</a>	<a href="#">Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</a>
		<a href="#">Against the development of the Bay Fair BART station, especially in relation to parking</a>	<a href="#">Development guidelines for the Bay Fair BART station must conform with state law AB 2923, which includes a maximum of 1 vehicle parking spot per housing unit. In accordance with program 1.C, further details regarding future development at this site, including the possible</a>

Alameda County Housing Element HCD December 2023 Submittal

			<u>construction of replacement parking, will be a part of future engagement processes.</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over removal of commercial in downtown San Lorenzo and general lack of commercial to support new housing</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over the amount of above moderate-income level housing required and the large cost to build it</u>	<u>Alameda County is required to find sites for</u>
		<u>Voiced concern over insufficient commitment to change over AFFH findings</u>	<u>Thank you for your comments. They have been received.</u>

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