



Community Facilities and Infrastructure
Richmond General Plan 2030



Community Vision

Richmond, California in 2030

Richmond is supported by a modern infrastructure that keeps the City functioning smoothly and efficiently. Well-maintained roads, dependable utilities, efficient waste removal and internet access are available for all neighborhoods, along with regular maintenance. Green energy provides an increasing portion of the City's power. Residents and businesses have reduced their garbage output and recycling and composting programs have increased dramatically.

Lush, green streets create an attractive and ecologically-sensitive stormwater system and provide multimodal connections between open spaces, community facilities and key destinations throughout the City. Daylighted creeks, vegetation and porous paving are incorporated into the public right-of-way to manage stormwater and improve drainage and recharge. Water quality has improved and stormwater runoff flowing to creeks and surrounding bays has been significantly reduced. In addition, green streets have reduced demand on the City's stormwater drainage system and have created park-like conditions in neighborhoods throughout the City.

Residents gather at well maintained community facilities constructed with sustainable materials and powered by clean energy sources. These facilities not only provide residents with quality community gathering spaces, but also raise the bar for neighboring jurisdictions. New and improved facilities help revitalize neighborhoods by increasing street activity and attracting other community-serving development.



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Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Community facilities and infrastructure play a critical role in health, community-building and quality of life. With growing concern over adequate water supplies, global warming and stability of energy sources, infrastructure is an instrumental part of the City's larger goal to enhance sustainability citywide.

The Community Facilities and Infrastructure Element:

- Describes Richmond's community facilities and infrastructure;
- Highlights key findings and recommendations based on an analysis of existing conditions;
- Defines goals for supporting and expanding Richmond's community facility and infrastructure resources;
- Identifies policies and implementing actions to enhance community facilities and infrastructure;
- Provides a summary table identifying lead responsibilities for each implementing action; and
- Reviews the existing regulatory framework that guides community facilities and infrastructure planning efforts.

Purpose of the Element

The Community Facilities and Infrastructure Element presents a framework for the City to provide services, amenities and infrastructure for today's residents as well as future generations. The Element addresses: educational and human service facilities such as schools, libraries and community centers as well as infrastructure and public utilities—streets, water, sewer, waste, communications and electricity. Goals and policies seek to improve these facilities and services to meet community needs as the City grows.

Legal Requirement

Richmond is committed to providing high-quality services, amenities and infrastructure for current and future residents. Although this element is not required by state law, its inclusion in the General Plan reflects the City's belief that community facilities and infrastructure are essential to the City's progress and overall quality of life. The Community Facilities and Infrastructure Element is consistent with Section 65303 of the State of California Government Code which authorizes local jurisdictions to adopt additional elements to those man-



Streetscape improvements can transform automobile-dominated thoroughfares into complete streets that support all modes of travel and improve safety.

dated by state law when they relate to the physical development of the jurisdiction.¹



Richmond Today

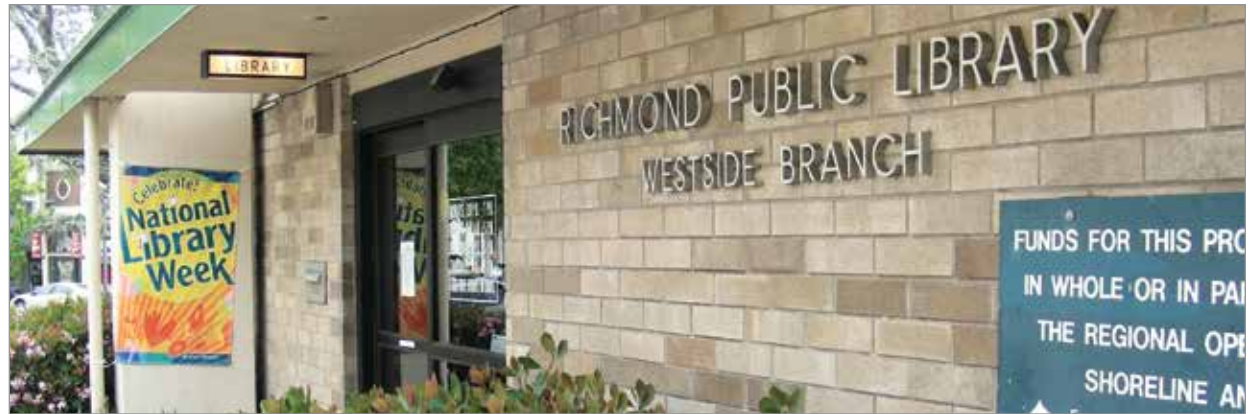
Richmond’s neighborhoods are served by a variety of community facilities that are managed by public, private and nonprofit entities. This Element focuses on city, county, regional and state facilities that are dispersed throughout the City and provide an assortment of services, from traditional K-12 education to fitness programs and family counseling (see Map 6.1: Community Facilities). The City owns and operates its civic buildings and community centers. The West Contra Costa Unified School District operates the majority of education facilities. The City of Richmond works closely with regional, county, state and private infrastructure service providers to deliver utilities, process solid waste and manage sewer systems. However, the City of Richmond independently manages streets, street lighting, libraries, and several community and recreation centers. The following discussion describes existing conditions related to City buildings and facilities and regional, state and federal facilities and infrastructure.

City Buildings and Facilities

The City of Richmond owns or operates buildings and facilities including civic buildings, libraries and community and senior centers. These facilities provide space for City and nonprofit services and programs, and offer places for community members to gather for neighborhood meetings or special events.

Civic Center

The City of Richmond’s Civic Center spans five blocks and is composed of several three and four-



Community facilities such as libraries, community centers and schools provide essential programs to Richmond residents.

story buildings. The Civic Center is bounded by Barrett Avenue to the north, Macdonald Avenue to the south, 24th Street to the west and 27th Street to the east.

There are numerous facilities within the Civic Center that serve a broad range of community needs. The City-owned Memorial Auditorium and Convention Center accommodate large public and private events. The facility hosts graduation ceremonies, civic balls and other civic events. The Civic Center City Hall houses City offices, police Emergency Operations Center and the City Council chambers. The main branch of the Richmond Library is located here in addition to the Macdonald Senior Center and the Richmond Art Center.

Libraries

The City of Richmond maintains a main library at the Downtown Civic Center and two branches, the Bayview Branch Library in the Park View neighbor-

hood and the West Side Branch Library in the Point Richmond neighborhood.

Other City Facilities

The City of Richmond owns a 750-boatslip marina in the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor that is one of several marinas in Richmond, providing a total of more than 1,000 pleasure boat slips. Richmond is also home to a broad range of parks and open spaces.

Cultural facilities in the City include the Richmond Art Center, Richmond Museum of History, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, National Institute of Art and Disabilities and Masquers Playhouse.

The City owns and operates two public swimming pools, the Richmond Municipal Natatorium also known as “The Plunge” in Point Richmond and the William Randolph Pool at John F. Kennedy High School on Cutting Boulevard. The City also operates the recreation complex adjacent to Nichol Park as well as numerous community centers.



The Plunge (before renovation)

Regional, State and Federal Facilities

There are several regional, state and federal facilities located in the City. Contra Costa County facilities include the Richmond Superior Court, two detention facilities, a Veterans Service Office, Animal Services and the Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services.

The Contra Costa County Department of Education oversees the West Contra Costa Unified School District, which manages a number of educational facilities within Richmond and neighboring jurisdictions. Additionally, Contra Costa Health Services provides county-operated health services in the community.

On the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency maintains a laboratory in Richmond as part of the University of California Berkeley Field Station. Also, the Department of Justice maintains a crime lab in the Point Richmond neighborhood.



The Plunge (after renovation)

Infrastructure

Infrastructure described in this section includes streets, sanitary sewer facilities, flood control and storm drainage facilities, solid waste disposal facilities and management, public utility facilities and telecommunications facilities. These critical systems support City residents, businesses and industries.

Streets

Routes of Regional Significance as defined by the West Contra Costa County Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) include Interstate 80, Interstate 580 and the Richmond Parkway. These routes provide regional connections while local streets provide access to residential, commercial, industrial, recreational and open space areas of the City (see also Circulation Element).

Sanitary Sewer Facilities

Four separate districts collect and treat wastewater in Richmond. They include the Richmond



Inside the Plunge (after renovation)

Municipal Sewer District, West County Wastewater District, East Bay Municipal Utility District and Stege Sanitary Sewer District (see Map 6.2: Sewer Districts, Treatment Plants and Landfills).

Richmond Municipal Sewer District

Richmond Municipal Sewer District provides service to an area that encompasses 13.5 square miles, generally described as being bounded by Tulare Street to the north, the City of El Cerrito to the east, Richmond Inner Harbor to the south and Castro Street to the west.

The wastewater treatment plant located in Point Richmond at 601 Canal Boulevard treats the wastewater collected by the District. The City of Richmond has entered into a long-term contract with Veolia Water North America to operate and maintain Richmond Municipal Sewer District's sewer treatment and collection facilities.



West County Wastewater District

West County Wastewater District (WCWD) performs primary and secondary treatment at a facility located at 2377 Garden Tract Road in North Richmond. WCWD services an area of roughly eight square miles that includes all of North Richmond and all the Richmond subdivisions located east of Interstate 80. Up to six million gallons of effluent per day are provided to East Bay Municipal Utility District for its North Richmond Water Reclamation Facility. Remaining wastewater is combined with Richmond Municipal Sewer District's treated wastewater, dechlorinated and disposed of via a deep-water outfall in San Francisco Bay.

East Bay Municipal Utility District

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) maintains and operates the Wet Weather Treatment Plant, an overflow collection plant at Point Isabel in the southeastern corner of Richmond. The Wet Weather Treatment Plant is part of EBMUD's North Interceptor Wet Weather Facilities project. The purpose of the treatment plant is to divert excess wet weather sewer flows from community sewers in El Cerrito, Albany and Berkeley. This plant is only in operation during extreme winter storm events. Wastewater is treated and then discharged into the Bay along the shoreline.

Stege Sanitary District

The Stege Sanitary District provides service for an area approximately one square mile in the Richmond Annex. The Stege Sanitary District serves as a collection center, but does not provide treatment. All wastewater is pumped to the East Bay

Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) treatment plant in Oakland adjacent to the Bay Bridge. Wet weather overflows are directed to the EBMUD facility located at Point Isabel.

Flood Control and Storm Drainage Facilities

The City of Richmond contracts with Veolia Water North America to operate and maintain its storm drainage facilities. Storm drainage facilities include curbside catch basins and underground pipes that direct rain water into the Bay.

Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Management

Richmond Sanitary Service, an affiliate of Republic Services, Inc., provides residential and commercial municipal solid waste, recycling and green waste collection services in the City of Richmond. Republic Services owns and operates through separate subsidiary corporations, a 21-acre site at the foot of Parr Boulevard in Richmond that includes the Golden Bear Transfer Facility and former West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL). The West County Integrated Resource Recovery Facility (IRRF) that includes a household hazardous waste (HHW) facility is located at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond and is operated by another affiliate, West County Resource Recovery, Inc.

The West County Sanitary Landfill was established in 1952 and a methane gas recovery system was installed in the mid-1980s. Methane gas drawn from the landfill is used to generate electricity at a one megawatt power plant located on a portion of the premises. Due to capacity constraints, the landfill

was closed to waste disposal in 2006 and was capped for final closure in 2009. Additional material sorting and recovery operations will be conducted on the site, including recyclables, construction and demolition debris and organics composting. The remainder of the site will be converted to recreation uses and open space lands.

The Golden Bear Transfer Facility is a transfer point for the City's garbage solid wastes before being disposed of at the Keller Canyon Landfill in the City of Pittsburg. The landfill is operated by Republic Services, Inc. and has eight to ten years of permitted capacity. Permit applications are pending that would expand the original capacity and add about 30 years of potential landfill life.

The West County IRRF described above, processes all of the City's recyclables prior to sale and shipment to remanufacturing processors. The HHW facility accepts a variety of hazardous and universal wastes from West County residents and small businesses for appropriate recycling or disposal.

Regional Solid Waste Management Facility

A Contra Costa landfill facility was constructed in 1991 at Keller Canyon in the City of Pittsburg. The landfill is expected to provide capacity for the area served in Contra Costa County for 25 years or more. The City of Richmond has access to the Keller Canyon Landfill for residual wastes transferred through the Golden Bear Transfer Facility.

Solid Waste Diversion

Solid waste diversion is the process of diverting waste from landfills through reuse, recycling and compost-



ing. The State of California requires that all jurisdictions meet a 50% waste reduction mandate as established by Assembly Bill 939. Richmond is a member agency of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA), a local Joint Powers Authority responsible for helping its member agencies meet the State waste diversion mandate. West County had a diversion rate of 51% in 2006. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) estimates an average per capita solid waste disposal rate for the City of Richmond to be 0.36 tons per resident per year.² Business waste disposal rates estimated by the CIWMB range from 0.3 tons per year for general merchandise stores to 3.1 tons per year for restaurants. To meet and maintain the 50% diversion rate, Richmond Sanitary Service offers residential and commercial co-mingled recycling collection and green waste collection services throughout out its service area.

Public Utility Facilities

Water

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is the drinking water service provider within the City of Richmond. Potable water is supplied via the San Pablo Dam from the Mokelumne River in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and from local rain-fed reservoirs. Groundwater is only utilized for some irrigation purposes.

The North Richmond Water Reclamation Plant is EBMUD's first major project to recycle water for industrial application. Today, with a design capacity of 5.4 million gallons per day (mgd), it is one of the largest industrial cooling water reuse proj-

ects in the nation. Completed in 1995, the facility receives water from nearby West County Wastewater District, and provides tertiary treatment and sends the recycled water to three cooling towers located at Chevron's Richmond refinery.

EBMUD began supplying recycled water from West County Wastewater District for irrigation at the Richmond Country Club in 1984. One hundred and fifty acres are irrigated, resulting in an estimated average consumption of 0.19 mgd. A future EBMUD project for irrigation and industrial uses will save between 1.0 - 3.0 mgd.

Gas & Electricity

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) provides natural gas and electricity in the Richmond area. It is anticipated that service provision will continue to meet current and projected new demand.

Telecommunications Facilities

As of 2010, American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) provides local telephone service to the Richmond area. In the case of new development in the area, telephone wires are laid concurrently with Pacific Gas & Electric lines.

Three cable television companies operate in Richmond under contract: Bay Cablevision and Western Audio-Video. Bay Cablevision provides cable television service to all Richmond subscribers living outside of the Marina Bay area. Western Audio-Video provides service to Marina Bay. Comcast Cable provides service in the Carriage Hills/El Sobrante Valley Area. The companies pay

the City of Richmond five percent of their gross revenues for their contracts.

The City began to operate its own cable television channels in 1989 under the management of a division of the City Manager's Office. There are five City channels including: one municipal channel (Channel 27) that broadcasts City Council meetings, regional programming of interest to residents of western Contra Costa County and an electronic bulletin board; two channels at Contra Costa College to be used for educational programming; a School District channel at Lovonya DeJean Middle School; and one channel at the Emergency Preparedness Center to be used to train fire and police personnel. All of the channels will receive transmissions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for public safety information in the event of an emergency.



Key Findings and Recommendations

A dependable infrastructure system and high-quality, accessible community facilities are the foundation for a healthy and thriving city. A variety of private, public and nonprofit entities own and manage community facilities in the City. Coordination among these entities is vital for ensuring high levels of service and efficient use of resources. Facilities and services should meet current and projected needs, withstand natural disasters and equally serve the entire community. The City will allocate adequate resources to maintain and invest in systems and practices that provide long-term economic and environmental benefits.

Investment in infrastructure and community facilities present opportunities for revitalization and renewal. Attractive streets, sidewalks and landscaping can build an area's identity and encourage pedestrian activity. Well-designed and conveniently located community facilities provide space for a range of community activities and social interaction. Infrastructure and facilities improvements can be integrated with community objectives to address Richmond's quality-of-life priorities.

The following key findings and recommendations are derived from the existing conditions analysis as well as the community's vision for the future.



Attractive streets, sidewalks and landscaping can build an area's identity and encourage pedestrian activity.

Finding 1: City facilities and infrastructure must serve a diverse community with a range of needs.

Richmond seeks to ensure that facilities and infrastructure meet the community's current and projected needs. New streets, sidewalks, utilities, schools and parks are needed in order to accommodate growth, however the cost of these amenities cannot fall disproportionately on existing development. Strategies to improve the range of public facilities and infrastructure include:

- Providing a range of community facilities and infrastructure and ensuring that resources are distributed equitably;
- Minimizing impacts due to construction and expansion of infrastructure such as streets, freeways and utility lines on residents and businesses;
- Maintaining high levels of service and reducing impacts on existing facilities and infrastructure as the City accommodates new growth; and

- Expanding access to services and amenities to all members of the community regardless of age, income, ethnicity or level of physical ability.

Finding 2: Collaboration across jurisdictions and agencies can maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of available resources.

Richmond will continue to coordinate with service providers, regional and state entities that operate facilities in the City. Overall, Richmond can improve the efficient use and maintenance of community facilities and infrastructure by:

- Encouraging greater collaboration among agencies and service providers in the City to maximize benefits to the community;
- Designing facilities to serve multiple needs and keeping facilities in public use over the long term; and



The use of pervious pavers, larger planter areas, and bioswales allows stormwater to filter into the soil below where pollutants can be removed naturally. In contrast, typical impervious pavement such as asphalt direct polluted stormwater into nearby storm drains and then into streams and lakes.

- Providing adequate resources for maintenance and enhancements of facilities and infrastructure.

Finding 3: The City is well positioned to adopt and benefit from green and sustainable practices while reducing costs and impacts on the community.

Richmond is committed to setting high standards for improvements that support environmental sustainability and protection. Improving sustainability of the City's infrastructure includes:

- Promoting green buildings, infrastructure and management practices that reduce environmental impacts; and
- Providing information to residents and businesses about the financial and environmental benefits of green standards and practices.

Finding 4: Investment in public facilities and infrastructure can serve as a catalyst for broader neighborhood revitalization.

Both infrastructure and community facilities improvements can serve to foster revitalization and renewal. Attractive streets, sidewalks and landscaping can strengthen an area's identity and encourage pedestrian activity. Well-designed and conveniently located community facilities can create new activity centers that unite neighbors. Key steps towards maximizing this catalytic potential entail:

- Exploring ways to connect neighborhoods with the shoreline and other significant local resources and amenities;
- Investing in local-serving facilities and infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods; and
- Creating neighborhood centers to support community life and provide safe and accessible spaces for activities throughout the day.



Goals

GOAL CF1

Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Richmond seeks to provide a broad range of high-quality facilities and infrastructure to serve a diverse range of community needs. Facilities should be universally accessible and appropriately programmed to meet community needs. Infrastructure should be maintained and expanded to meet current and future needs and to provide effective, equitable and consistent levels of service to all neighborhoods.

GOAL CF2

Efficient Use and Adequate Maintenance of Facilities and Infrastructure

As a developed urban area, the City seeks to use creative and innovative approaches to meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses. Richmond can maximize the use of existing facilities and infrastructure by sharing limited resources with other public and private entities that serve the community, while dedicating resources for ongoing maintenance and upgrade of streets, sidewalks, parks, libraries, community centers, fire stations and sewers.

GOAL CF3

Green and Sustainable Standards and Practices

Regularly upgrade existing community facilities and infrastructure and set standards for new improvements that support long-term sustainability and environmental protection.

GOAL CF4

Neighborhood Revitalization

Richmond's Civic Center and other community gathering places will become catalysts for revitalizing and re-energizing the City. Improving and developing community facilities as safe, accessible places will enrich the quality of life for residents, activate neighborhood centers and encourage growth and positive change in adjacent areas.



Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below in relation to each of the goals. These policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

Each policy may either be correlated with a number of actions, or simply a single key implementing action. Conversely, some actions may support a range of policies. The policies and implementing actions are organized in two parts. First, all goal-related policies are described and each policy description is followed by a list of its associated implementing actions. Then, implementing actions are described in greater detail in the following section.



GOAL CF1

Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Policy CF1.1

A Range of High-Quality Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Maintain high-quality facilities and infrastructure to serve diverse community needs. Upgrade, maintain and expand infrastructure to meet current and future needs and provide an effective and consistent level of services and utilities in all neighborhoods. Retain existing public facilities and uses in the Downtown, and actively work to attract new public facilities, especially within walking distance of the Richmond BART/Amtrak Station. Facilities and infrastructure may include community and recreation centers, parks and playgrounds, libraries and senior centers, schools, multi-use trails, pedestrian-scale lighting, and police and fire stations.

See also: LU1.3; GM2.1

Policy CF1.2

Equitable Distribution and Access

Continue to promote equitable distribution of community facilities and infrastructure. Community facilities should continue to be located near residents in order to serve as neighborhood centers and maximize use. As Richmond grows, facilities will be sited to accommodate current and future residents. Prioritize the development of new, upgraded or revitalized parks; community facilities such as libraries, medical centers and schools; circulation and safety improvements; and infrastructure in neighborhoods that are currently underserved, have a high proportion of low-income households, and are impacted due to high crime and physical blight. Tailor improvements to the specific needs of residents in these neighborhoods.

See also: LU2.4

Policy CF1.3

Impacts on Neighborhoods

Protect the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. Consider health, safety and aesthetic impacts of siting new or existing infrastructure and utilities and ensure that impacts and benefits are not disproportionately distributed to any parts of the City.

Policy CF1.4

Concurrent Infrastructure Development

Require new development to provide proportionate facilities and infrastructure improvements as it occurs. New developments must mitigate impacts or contribute adequate infrastructure to meet additional demand for roads, parks, schools and utilities.



GOAL CF1

Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Policy CF1.5

Universal Access

Develop and support strategies and programs that will provide universal access to facilities, amenities and infrastructure.

Encourage and incorporate new technologies in all City-owned and operated facilities and infrastructure projects. New technologies include: fiber optic lines and wireless networks; physically accessible facilities for users of all ages and abilities; safe and well-lighted streets; seismically sound structures; and non-toxic materials that comply with green building codes and sustainable practices.



GOAL CF1

Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Action CF1.A

Community Facilities Evaluation

Continue to regularly track and evaluate community facilities including schools, libraries, community centers, human service facilities and associated programs and services. Recommend improvements and identify funding mechanisms and partners in implementation to restore the public library system to its full capacity.

Promote best practices in joint-use, universal access, sustainability, green design and safety. Standardize the use of design guidelines at all public facilities and incentivize their application at nonprofit and private facilities.

Create, maintain, and make available to the public a property and facilities database that identifies the size, location, physical quality and other attributes of all public facilities, as well as nonprofit and private facilities. Utilize the database, in conjunction with other studies, to prioritize facility maintenance and improvement projects.

See also: LU1.G; ED1.D

Action CF1.B

Capital Improvement Program

Coordinate development with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure completion of high-priority facility and infrastructure projects. Ensure that CIP projects are prioritized in economically depressed neighborhoods with the highest need.

See also: PR1.I; CR1.G; GM2.A

Action CF1.C

Cogeneration and Reuse of Waste

Identify strategies to recover methane to cogenerate electricity and reuse of wastewater and biosolids generated at local wastewater treatment plants.

See also: CN3.A; EC3.H

Action CF1.D

Storm Water Drainage

Provide storm drainage in accordance with best management practices and guidelines. Assess the system's ability to accommodate current and future users, sea level rises, and include all necessary improvements in development plans. Reduce runoff into creeks and the Bay, and address groundwater recharge through the use of pervious materials, retention basins, bio-swales and other methods.

See also: EC6.D



GOAL CF1

Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Action CF1.E

Waste Management Master Plan

Regularly review and update the Waste Management Master Plan to enhance existing waste management services, systems and associated programs. Assess the system's capacity to serve current and future residents, recommend improvements and identify funding mechanisms and implementation partners. Update the plan regularly to address changing needs and priorities. Ensure compliance with the relevant components of the California Waste Management Act of 1989 by continuing to work with the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority and Republic Services to enhance West County's integrated solid waste management services and programs. Work with relevant agencies to address impending shortage of landfill space and ensure that proposals adequately address health, safety and environmental concerns.

Action CF1.F

Public Utilities Revitalization

Maintain and upgrade existing water, gas, electricity, telecommunications and cable infrastructure and associated programs and services. Assess the system's ability to serve current and future residents, recommend improvements and identify funding mechanisms and partners for implementation.

Work with Pacific Gas & Electric and the pipeline franchise holders to update gas and fuel line maps and require them to maintain and upgrade gas and fuel lines at their own expense to preserve the public health and safety. Follow guidelines for safety to ensure that future improvements do not compromise services and those services do not conflict with future development. Continue coordination efforts with Pacific Gas & Electric to update and support compliance with the Electric Undergrounding Program.

Continue to work with the East Bay Municipal Utility District to update and support compliance with the Water Supply Management Program, the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and the Dam Safety Program for San Pablo Dam. Continue to work with railroad companies on locating utilities along railroad rights-of-way.

Action CF1.G

Information Technology

Provide affordable broadband data communications, fiber optics, wireless networks and associated services. Assess the information technology infrastructure's ability to serve current and future residents, recommend improvements, target priority areas or community facilities for expansion and identify funding mechanisms and partners for implementation. Establish guidelines for above-ground telecommunication facilities including towers, switching centers and system maintenance facilities to mitigate potential negative impacts.



GOAL CF1

Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Action CF1.H

Streetscape Improvements

Continue to implement streetscape improvements to enhance access, lighting, safety and experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists. Focus improvements in areas with the highest need such as the Downtown, mixed-use corridors, key intersections, designated pedestrian priority districts and multi-use trails that connect high-density areas of the City to parks and open space.

Provide universal accessibility improvements, pedestrian-scale lighting and landscaping in streetscape improvements. Explore the potential for establishing assessment districts for implementing improvements in existing neighborhoods. Explore the potential for incorporating green street elements into streetscape design such as bioswales, rain gardens, planter strips and permeable pavement.

See also: CR2.C; LU2.B; HW4.K

Action CF1.I

Street Capacity and Infrastructure Improvements

Maintain adequate street capacity and reduce congestion for all modes of transportation on the street and freeway system. Address congestion along corridors by enhancing the public transportation system, promoting mixed-use development patterns to reduce vehicle miles traveled and by implementing transportation demand management strategies to increase mobility options.

See also: CR1.H

Action CF1.J

Local Development Mitigation Fees

Regularly review and update the impact fee schedule to offset costs of new development.

See also: GM2.C

Action CF1.K

Community-Based Self-evaluation and Transition Plan

Develop a community-based self-evaluation and transition plan to work toward access for all and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. With involvement from the community and specifically people with disabilities, the plan should assess the City's ability to serve the needs of all Richmond residents and visitors. Specifically, the plan should assess policies, programs, services and facilities that are available to the public and provide recommendations for adapting service delivery methods and making physical improvements to ensure access for all. The plan should also include a timeline, priorities, implementation and financing strategies.

See also: CR1.F; PR2.B; HW4.I



GOAL CF2

Efficient Use and Adequate Maintenance of Facilities and Infrastructure

Policy CF2.1

Joint-Use and Co-Location

Encourage joint use or co-location of public and private facilities to maximize educational, cultural and recreational opportunities.

Policy CF2.2

Flexibility in Design

Promote flexibility in the design and programming of public facilities to accommodate changing needs. Facilities that serve multiple functions and a range of purposes allow the City to cost effectively meet the diverse needs of the community.

Policy CF2.3

Continued Public Use of School Sites

Encourage the continued public use of property owned and operated by the West Contra Costa School District, other educational institutions, and private facilities to maximize multiple functions. Sites that are no longer needed for educational purposes due to current demographic shifts may be utilized for other community needs such as health clinics or community centers. As community needs change over time, these sites may be used again as schools.

Policy CF2.4

Adequate Maintenance

Maintain infrastructure and facilities. Ongoing maintenance and upgrades protect the City's long-term investment in these facilities.



GOAL CF2

Efficient Use and Adequate Maintenance of Facilities and Infrastructure

Action CF2.A

Joint-Use Agreements

Pursue joint-use agreements with West Contra Costa Unified School District, East Bay Regional Parks District, neighboring cities, public agencies, private entities and nonprofit organizations that own and operate facilities within the City. In addition to providing more space for recreational and enrichment programming, strategic partnerships can provide the benefit of shared renovation, development, maintenance and operational costs.

See also: ED1.E; EH1.D; PR1.F; AC1.D; HW1.G

Action CF2.B

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Support collaboration between the City and local, regional and national public, nonprofit and private service providers for the delivery and provision of high-quality services, utilities and facilities to meet current and future resident needs.

Action CF2.C

Community Facilities Standards

Regularly review standards to ensure flexibility in design and construction of community facilities. Incorporate best practices and sustainability principles to guide new construction as well as renovations of existing facilities.

Action CF2.D

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan

Require that all development and redevelopment projects comply with the City's Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan. Regularly review and update the plan and expand public training and information.

See also: HW3.D; EC6.E; SN3.A

Action CF2.E

Streetlight Master Plan

Work with the community to develop a streetlight master plan that improves street and sidewalk lighting in areas that have been impacted by crime. The type, scale and illumination of streetlights specified for use throughout the City should be appropriate for the accessway type identified in the Place-Based Circulation Classification System outlined in the Circulation Element of this General Plan.



GOAL CF3

Green and Sustainable Standards and Practices

Policy CF3.1

Green Facilities

Promote green and sustainable practices and approaches in planning, design, construction, renovation and maintenance of public facilities.

Policy CF3.2

Green Infrastructure and Landscape

Promote ecologically-sensitive approaches in landscaping, stormwater drainage, groundwater recharge and flood control. Work with EBMUD and local nurseries to promote “waterwise” landscaping. Continue to gather and distribute new information that will assist residents and businesses to establish planted areas that require fewer chemicals or pesticides and help to filter stormwater and recharge groundwater aquifers.



GOAL CF3

Green and Sustainable Standards and Practices

Action CF3.A

Green Building Ordinances

Require that newly constructed or renovated City-owned and private buildings and structures comply with the City's adopted Green Building Ordinances. Periodically upgrade requirements as mainline construction practices develop and new materials and building products become available with the intent of meeting or exceeding the State's zero net energy goals by the year 2020.

See also: CN5.C; HW10.B; EC4.H

Action CF3.B

Green Streets Program

Expand the green streets program to support a sustainable approach to stormwater drainage, groundwater recharge and landscaping. Incorporate green streets standards and guidelines in all streetscape improvement projects in the City.

See also: CR5.F; HW4.L; EC4.F



GOAL CF3

Green and Sustainable Standards and Practices

Action CF3.C

Urban Forestry Management Plan

Continue to implement the urban forest management plan to guide landscaping practices in urban areas of the City, reduce the heat-island effect and contribute to carbon mitigation. Continue the adopt-a-tree program. Coordinate the plan with the “City of Richmond urban Forest Management/Master Plan Reforestation supplement (1997)” and related documents for this purpose. Update the plan to establish the following measures:

- Create guidelines to establish minimum planting standards and require appropriate tree species and planting densities within newly landscaped areas;
- Update the list of trees to be used as a guideline for all tree planting and focus on local native species;
- Identify maintenance and planting standards for street trees, ensuring that the best practices in urban forestry are being utilized including best practices for pruning around above-ground utility lines to ensure the best health and form of street trees;
- Update zoning requirements for street trees in new developments and in parking lots;
- Outline coordination efforts with EBMUD to offer programs or other resources to provide property owners with information on proper tree selection, proper location to reduce heat transfer effects, planting and maintenance; and
- Establish guidelines that require all native tree habitats to be protected and when avoidance is not possible, require mitigation efforts as required by the Public and Private Tree Preservation Ordinance.

See also: CN6.E; PR4.B; EC6.E; HW9.M

Action CF3.D

Public Awareness and Education Program

Promote awareness of [the benefits of green standards and practices among Richmond residents and businesses](#). Utilize existing resources such as the City’s website and neighborhood council newsletters to distribute information.



GOAL CF4

Neighborhood Revitalization

Policy CF4.1

Neighborhood-Serving Facilities

Invest in local-serving facilities to support revitalization of neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for residents. High-quality community facilities such as parks, community centers and streets are essential to building a healthy community. Safe, convenient and accessible public facilities in neighborhoods support a sense of community by increasing opportunities for active use.

Policy CF4.2

Neighborhood Centers

Promote the use of community facilities as neighborhood centers. A number of public and private entities provide a range of programs and services in Richmond's neighborhoods. Through joint use the City can transform parks, schools, libraries and community centers into safe and convenient gathering places that foster social interaction and community cohesion.



GOAL CF4

Neighborhood Revitalization

Action CF4.A

Neighborhood Revitalization Plans

Develop revitalization plans for all neighborhoods. Collaborate with community leaders and organizations, neighborhood councils and neighboring jurisdictions to develop the plans. Identify needed improvements, funding mechanisms and a phasing plan. Actively work to reduce blight throughout the City and promote the upkeep of vacant lots.

See also: LU2.A; HW7.B; EC4.C



Summary of Implementing Actions

The table presented on the following pages is a tool for guiding implementation of the City’s Community Facilities and Infrastructure Element. Organized by the community’s broad goals, the table provides an overview of policies and implementing actions detailed in the previous section. Each action is linked to a designated lead responsible party. Related policies are identified in the final column.

Goal CF1: Facilities that Serve a Diverse Range of Community Needs

Action		Lead Responsibility	Supporting Policies
CF1.A	Community Facilities Evaluation	Engineering	CF1.1, CF1.2
CF1.B	Capital Improvements Program	Public Works	CF1.1
CF1.C	Cogeneration and Reuse of Waste	Engineering	CF1.1
CF1.D	Storm Water Drainage	Engineering	CF1.1
CF1.E	Waster Management Master Plan	Public Works	CF1.1
CF1.F	Pubic Utilities Revitalization	Public Works	CF1.1
CF1.G	Information Technology	Information Technology	CF1.1
CF1.H	Streetscape Improvements	Planning and Building Services	CF1.1
CF1.I	Street Capacity and Infrastructure Improvements	Engineering	CF1.1
CF1.J	Local Development Mitigation Fees	Planning and Building Services	CF1.3, CF1.4
CF1.K	Community-Based Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan	Public Works	CF1.5

Goal CF2: Efficient Use and Adequate Maintenance of Facilities and Infrastructure

Action		Lead Responsibility	Supporting Policies
CF2.A	Joint-Use Agreements	City Manager’s Office	CF2.1, CF2.2
CF2.B	Inter-Agency Collaboration	City Manager’s Office	CF2.1, CF2.3
CF2.C	Community Facility Standards	Public Works	CF2.2
CF2.D	Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan	Public Works	CF2.4
CF2.E	Streetlight Master Plan	Engineering	CF2.4



Goal CF3: Green and Sustainable Standards and Practices

Action		Lead Responsibility	Supporting Policies
CF3.A	Green Building Ordinances	Planning and Building Services	CF3.1
CF3.B	Green Streets Program	Planning and Building Services	CF3.2
CF3.C	Urban Forestry Management Plan	Planning and Building Services	CF3.2
CF3.D	Public Awareness and Education Program	City Manger's Office	CF3,1, CF3.2

Goal CF4: Neighborhood Revitalization

Action		Lead Responsibility	Supporting Policies
CF4.A	Neighborhood Revitalization Plans	Planning and Building Services	CF4.1, CF4.2



Regulatory Framework

A broad range of organizational bodies, plans and ordinances support Richmond in delivering high-quality community facilities and infrastructure.

Organizations

Community facilities are built and maintained by public, private and nonprofit organizations including the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County and the state of California. Infrastructure is constructed, maintained and expanded by the public and private entities described below.

East Bay Municipal Utility District

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is a publicly owned utility that supplies water and provides wastewater treatment for parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties on the eastern side of San Francisco Bay in northern California. EBMUD has jurisdiction over the water service lines in Richmond (www.ebmud.com).

Veolia Water North America

Veolia Water North America operates and maintains Richmond Municipal Sewer District's sewer treatment and collection facilities as well as storm drainage facilities (www.veoliawaterna.com).

Republic Services, Inc.

Republic Services, Inc., along with a variety of affiliates, provides the following services in Richmond: residential and commercial refuse, recycling and green waste collection; garbage transfer and dis-

posal; and green waste and recycling processing. Republic Services owns and operates a 21-acre site in Richmond, which includes the closed West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill, the Golden Bear Transfer Station, a household hazardous waste facility and the Integrated Resource Recovery Facility (www.republic-services.com).

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

A significant percentage of street lights and utility poles in Richmond are owned and operated by PG&E. City neighborhoods that have been experiencing increases in crime have repeatedly expressed their desire to see illumination improved (www.pge.com).

Plans, Programs and Ordinances

The following plans, programs and ordinances are related to community facilities and infrastructure.

Civic Center Master Plan and Facilities Assessment

The Civic Center Master Plan and Facilities Assessment was adopted in 2003 as a part of an overall assessment of the condition of Downtown Richmond. The Plan addressed the City's long-term office space needs for administrative functions, consolidation of services currently dispersed throughout the City, feasibility of renovating and rehabilitating existing buildings, historic preservation, quality and character of open spaces and plaza areas and use of City-owned properties for public/private development (www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentView.asp?DID=3638).

Development Impact Fees

Richmond requires developers to mitigate the impacts of new development on infrastructure and services including parks, sewers, libraries, and police stations.

Sewer System Master Plan

The Sewer System Master Plan was prepared in 2005 to provide a critical assessment of the City's sewer treatment and collection infrastructure and facilities. The planning area of approximately 13.5 square miles does not include areas served by West County Wastewater District or Stege Sanitary District. The Plan assesses the City's existing and future sewer flows, evaluates the capacity of the existing system for current and future conditions, recommends system improvements, identifies design criteria for future improvements and includes a Capital Improvement Program for improvements (www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=70).

Storm Drainage Master Plan

The City of Richmond is classified as a small, separate storm sewer system (MS4) regulated entity under the Phase II NPDES Program. Under the Phase II Small MS4 Program Requirements the City is required to: implement a program to eliminate, reduce or improve the conditions of direct discharges of stormwater to the maximum extent practicable; protect water quality of the San Francisco Bay; and fulfill the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The City prepared a Storm Drainage Master Plan in 2005 to assess the City's existing storm drainage system, determine system deficiencies, recommend improvements and identify facilities and



costs for expansion (www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=70).

Joint Solid Waste Management Program

West Contra Costa cities and unincorporated areas joined together to form the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA) to address solid waste management. The WCCIWMA supports its member cities in meeting the state waste reduction mandate established by AB939 (see below). WCCIWMA helps cities reduce the amount of solid waste generated (source reduction), recycle as much of the solid waste as possible (recycling), make use of the energy and nutrient value of the solid waste (biomass fuel generation and composting) and properly dispose of the remaining solid waste (www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=70).

City of Richmond Municipal Code

The City's Municipal Code includes provisions addressing tree planting and care; preserving the integrity of City streets; street lighting; infrastructure requirements for new development; and development impact mitigation fees (<http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=16579&sid=5>).

Urban Forest Management/Master Plan (Reforestation Supplement)

The Urban Forest Management Master Plan lists tree selections for several areas of the City as well as planting guidelines and related information. Proper selection, placement, planting and care of trees are also identified (www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=70).

Water Supply Management Program

In October 1993, EBMUD adopted a long-term Water Supply Management Program (WSMP) to guide provision of a reliable high-quality water supply to the East Bay through the year 2020 (www.ebmud.com/water_&_environment/water_supply/water_supply_management_program/).

Dam Safety Program for San Pablo Dam

The Dam Safety Program guides the City of Richmond and other jurisdictions in ensuring the long-term safety of the San Pablo Dam (www.ebmud.com/water_&_environment/water_supply/current_projects/san_pablo_dam/default.htm).

California Public Resources Code

The Public Resources Code (sections 41500-41510) of 1991 requires each city and county to prepare, adopt and submit to the Waste Management Board a program for the safe collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of hazardous household waste (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/regulations/title14/ch9a9.htm; www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=prc&codebody).

California Integrated Waste Management Act

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB939) requires every city and county in the state to include a Source Reduction and Recycling Element in its Solid Waste Management Plan. This document should identify how each jurisdiction will meet the mandatory state waste diversion goals (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BoardInfo/).

California Integrated Waste Management Board Model Ordinance

Subsequent to the California Integrated Waste Management Act, additional legislation was passed to assist local jurisdictions in accomplishing the goals of AB939. The California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act (Public Resources Code, sections 42900-42911) directs the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to draft a model ordinance (which Contra Costa County has adopted) relating to adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects.

The model ordinance is used by the County as the basis for imposing recycling conditions on new development projects and on existing projects that add 30 percent or more to their existing floor area (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Iglibrary/CandDModel/About.htm).



Notes

1. Official California Legislative Information Website. <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.
2. The California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2006.

Cover Artwork

1. Left: Photograph by John Wherle
2. Right: “Educacion Para Todos” by Andres Cisneros-Galindo, Richmond Resident