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INTRODUCTION

Since Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) released its first annual Indicators report in 1997, the word “sustainable” has entered the common vocabulary. When we began only a handful of communities nationwide were producing indicators of sustainability. Now there are several indicators projects in California alone, including San Diego, Santa Monica, San Luis Obispo, and the Sierra Foothills.

The President’s Council on Sustainable Development has helped to encourage this movement, as well as various international efforts, but primarily this has been a locally driven phenomenon. Citizens who are concerned about influencing the direction of their community’s future, preserving the best and restoring what has been lost for their children and grandchildren, have been the leaders in sustainability.

By now many have heard the terms sustainability, quality of life, indicators, smart growth, and sustainable development. However, there is still some confusion over what these words mean, and debate over how they apply

to everyday decision making. We’ve come a long way in a very few years, but there is much work left to do.

Current Projects

As part of this educational effort SSMC is co-hosting a Town Hall for a Sustainable San Mateo County with the College of Notre Dame in conjunction with the release of this report, in May of 1999. That Town Hall is one of more than 50 events held nationwide as part of the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America.

Since last year’s report there have been many other efforts at improving and sustaining the quality of life in San Mateo County. The City of Menlo Park initiated its Smart Growth Program, the City of San Mateo held a series of Community Compass forums, the County of San Mateo held a series of housing forums, and the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development provided a crucial link between the many organizations in the region working on sustainability issues. In addition, SAMCEDA and Joint Venture Silicon Valley are publishing indicators

continued

INTRODUCTION, continued

reports mainly to stimulate the business community to become involved.

Representatives of SSMC's Steering Committee and Advisory Council took part in many of these activities, and will continue to play a leadership role in sustainability for San Mateo County.

The Three E's of Sustainability

Sustainable thinking is built upon the "three E's" of economy, environment, and social equity. For a community to be sustainable, it must keep all three "E's" in mind. Traditional measures often look at only one "E" at a time. While it is useful in understanding a single issue, it doesn't recognize how one area affects the others. A traditional economic measurement, such as Gross National Product, doesn't reflect how certain types of business activity can affect the environment. A traditional environmental indicator, such as the Endangered Species List, doesn't educate about the economic benefits of healthy ecosystems.

Sustainability indicators reinforce the connections among the "E's." A sustainability indicator on housing, for example, looks at the economic costs and benefits of housing, as well as the social equity issues of who can afford housing, the environmental impacts of building more, as well as housing's impact on other sectors, such as transportation.

The measures contained in this report try to point out how any change in one area will affect the others.

How the Report is Organized

The 1999 Indicators report is SSMC's third annual report card on our county's quality of life. The Indicators report presents a snapshot of the quality of life in San Mateo County in 1999, and compares it with previous snapshots from 1997 and 1998. It does not document efforts to address current or future problems.

Each entry is presented in four sections, "Indicators Used," "Importance," "Findings," and "Direction." This year we have moved to a strictly alphabetical listing to make a point about the inter-relationships among the "three E's," and also to emphasize that no one area is more important than any other. We must take the entire picture into consideration when discussing policy decisions. Only then will we be "thinking sustainably." A topical index is also included for the reader's convenience.

What is New?

Some of the indicators have been expanded and provide more information than in previous years. We have added two new ones, Arts Participation and Energy Consumption.

One of the lessons learned in preparing our third Indicators report is that some of our information sources are updated only every other year. This meant that we were not able to update several of the indicators. We have included summaries of the previous reports on these indicators in a separate section at the end.

Why is this Report Important?

It is most important to get a comprehensive picture of our county's sustainability and quality of life by taking all three "E's" into account. While there are excellent reports on our county's economy and other individual sectors, and reports that take an overall view of portions of the county, this is the only report that presents a full and balanced view and assessment of the whole.

The 1999 Indicators report is intended to identify and highlight significant trends taking place in the county. It is a tool for city and county decision-makers, businesses, and citizens.

A Work in Progress

The researchers, writers, and editors involved in this edition of the Indicators recognize their indebtedness to those who worked on the first two editions. We also realize that our work this year is a marker in an ongoing project.

Even as we complete this edition of the Indicators, we are already beginning preparations for the next edition. SSMC is committed to issuing further report cards on our county's quality of life, and to helping educate the community about sustainability and the relationships among the three "E's."

This Report is a Community Activity

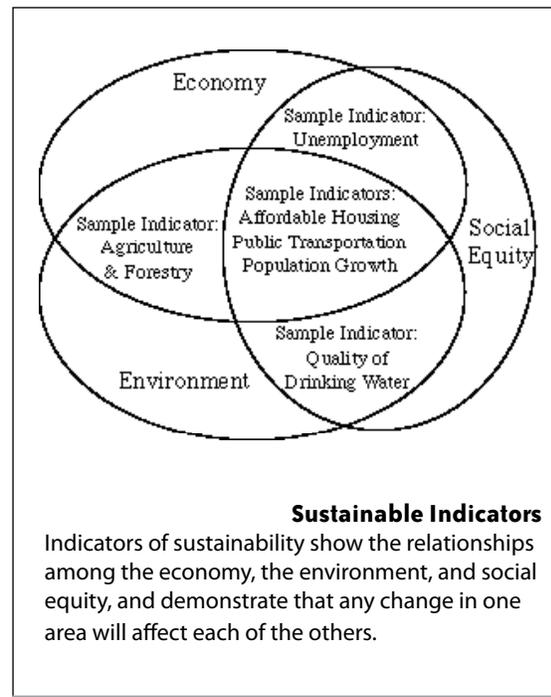
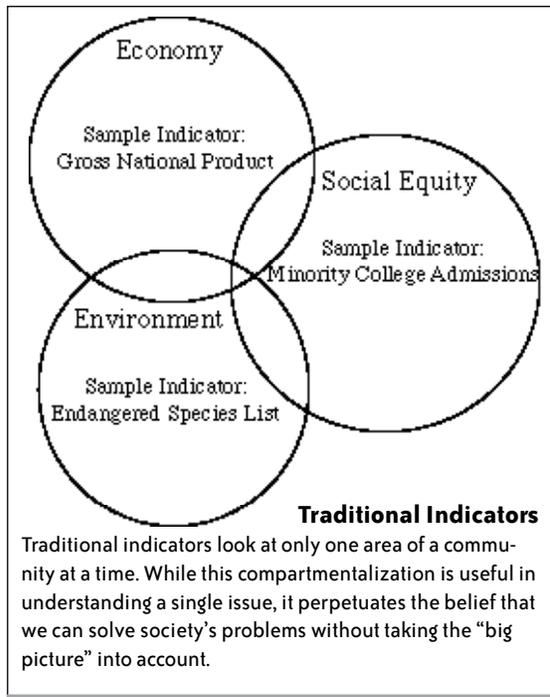
SSMC could not produce this report without the support of the San Mateo County community. We have received generous grants from the County of San Mateo and from the Cities of San Mateo, Colma, Pacifica, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, and San Bruno. Additional funding has come from the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce, the Peninsula Community Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, PG&E, and PacBell.

We are also indebted to the hundreds of individuals who have supported SSMC through their membership dues. If you are interested in joining SSMC and helping to continue this work, please see the membership form in the end pages of this report.

SSMC also could not produce this report without the many hours that dedicated volunteers have put into researching and writing the entries included, or the hundreds of people who have participated in our community forums in years past, and in the future. Thank you for caring about improving our region.

continued

INTRODUCTION, continued



SUMMARY

Despite high housing costs and serious commute congestion, the quality of life in San Mateo County remains high. Can we sustain that quality of life for the next generation?

We are conserving our land base effectively through designated open space, but the environment may still have trouble spots considering the Christmas Bird Count. As part of Silicon Valley we enjoy near full employment and high wages, yet the high cost of living forces many to commute to their San Mateo County jobs from other counties and across the Bay, causing major transportation problems and pollution.

The indicators that follow contain a mix of good news and challenges for us as a society. Taken together they form a current panorama of the quality of life in San Mateo County, and of our chances of sustaining it for future generations. We have a lot to be proud of, but have much more work to do.

Here is what we have found:

Agriculture and Forestry

Agricultural gross production value in the county grew 5.5 percent since the last report – the second straight year of growth. While field crops took up the most acreage, floral and nursery crops accounted for the largest share of the production value at 77 percent.

Air Quality

Air Quality, as measured by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) improved over the previous two years. Of five pollutants tracked, two were above the State or National standards. Ozone decreased from 32 Days Over Standard (DOS) to 8 DOS. Particulate Matter did not increase significantly.

Arts Participation

San Mateo County residents have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of arts activities, including plays, galleries, concerts, dance performances, and museums. Local arts providers depend on volunteers to produce their programs, and give back to the community in the form of free performances, donated artworks, and working with schools.

Biodiversity

Despite a few shifts in classifications, the number of local plant and animal species on the Federal and State Endangered Species lists has remained relatively stable.

Child Abuse

The number of child abuse cases reported in the county is on the decrease. The worst cases of abuse occur at the youngest ages. Ninety percent of abuse-related fatalities are at age five or younger. The official number of child abuse cases underestimates the actual problem because many cases go unreported to authorities.

Child Care

There is a severe shortage of child care slots available in the county, particularly in subsidized programs.

SUMMARY, continued

The high cost of living in the county, which often requires both parents to work, has increased both the demand for, and the cost of, quality child care.

Christmas Bird Count

Of the two San Mateo County sites monitored each December, Crystal Springs has had consistently higher counts than Año Nuevo, but with several unexplained highs and lows that may indicate a less stable ecosystem. The number of species at each site has consistently been around 200.

Communicable Diseases

While the county is making progress on several important fronts, such as the decrease in new AIDS cases and other sexually transmitted diseases, other diseases are on the rise, especially Hepatitis C. Causes for concern include the high rate of AIDS in the African-American community, and the high rate of tuberculosis among foreign-born residents.

Energy Consumption

After a modest decline in 1994 and 1995, residential energy consumption is again on the rise. Approximately 33 percent of that energy comes from fossil fuel, 31 percent from nuclear, and 26 percent from hydroelectric sources. As competition among energy providers grows, due to recent de-regulation, more sustainable generation sources may come to dominate the mix.

General Plans and Sustainability

Nearly every city in the county reportedly includes the concept of sustainability in its General Plan, although only one actually uses the word. The question, however, is very subjective as long as there is no one accepted definition of what sustainability is.

Homelessness

While the number of homeless in San Mateo County has increased since 1994, the percentage of the population that is homeless has remained stable at a little under one percent. The number of homeless children, however, has actually decreased by 38 percent.

Housing Affordability

Average rents and housing prices in the county continue to rise as the jobs-housing imbalance grows. With little housing available for rent or sale, and a grow-

ing demand, many people are forced to look elsewhere for housing, commuting into San Mateo County for jobs. The median-priced house, at \$418,444, is more than three times the national average, and more than double the statewide average.

Land Use

The estimated annual land use growth rate for the next 20+ years is a modest 1.4 percent, most of which will derive from infill development. Land use patterns in San Mateo County have remained fairly stable and have changed less than in the rest of the Bay Area.

Maternal Health

Of particular concern are the number of teenage births to Blacks and the drop in the number of pregnant teens seeking adequate prenatal care. All other maternal health indicators are either showing modest improvements or are holding steady.

Mortality

The leading causes of death for San Mateo County residents are heart disease (ages 75 and older), cancer (ages 35-74), accidental or unintentional injury (ages 5-34), and congenital abnormality (infants under the age of 1). Blacks have the highest mortality rate, nearly five times the rate of death from AIDS, and ten times the homicide rate of Whites.

Parks and Open Space

Countywide, the average acres of developed park lands per 1,000 residents per city are 2.26. The average acres of undeveloped open space are 5.28 per 1,000 residents. Menlo Park reported the most developed park lands, with 7.4 acres per 1,000 residents.

Per Pupil Spending

Although the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) at county schools is growing at 2.5 percent each year, population growth is being outpaced by increases in school district revenues. As a result, districts have been able to increase their spending per ADA, and lower their pupil-teacher ratios. Districts with the highest spending per ADA and the lowest pupil-teacher ratios have also shown the best performance on standardized tests.

Population

Growth in net migration (those moving into the county minus those moving out) will more than make up for a decline in natural increase (births minus deaths), leading to a growing population. Whites and Blacks are

“In the face of overwhelming change, sustainability is an idea that absorbs our genuine hope to create cultures and places with enough integrity to persist for our grandchildren and beyond.”

Sim Van der Ryn & Stuart Cowan, Ecological Design

SUMMARY, continued

each projected to make up smaller percentages in a much more racially diverse San Mateo County in the future.

Poverty

Between a strong economy and the effects of welfare reform legislation, including job-training opportunities, many San Mateo County residents have been able to leave the welfare rolls during the last year. CalWORKs, General Relief, and Food Stamps caseloads are all down. MediCal cases, however, have risen slightly after an initial decline.

Public Library Use

Circulation in the eight public library systems of San Mateo County is on the rise, as are per capita expenditures and the number of hours open. "Reference questions asked" is the only indicator going down, possibly due to increased use of computers and the internet as reference tools.

Solid Waste

The amount of solid waste sent to landfills by county residents in 1997 was 5.4 percent less than the amount landfilled in 1996. Diversion rates (the amount of waste reused, recycled or composted) have also been rising. Even with these improvements, however, the county may not meet the 50 percent reduction in solid waste that is required by AB 939 by the year 2000.

Substance Abuse—DUI Arrests

Arrests for Driving Under the Influence in San Mateo County have continued to decline in recent years. Stronger laws and enforcement, coupled with public education and peer pressure, have led to safer roads for everyone.

Transportation

A chronic jobs-housing imbalance leads more and more people to commute to their San Mateo County jobs from other counties. Despite efforts at public education on alternative modes of transportation, and options such as work-at-home, the percentage of people driving alone to and from work each day has continued to rise.

Unemployment

San Mateo County's unemployment rate of 2.7 per-

cent is the lowest of any county in the state of California, and lower than the national average. Individual communities within the county, however, still suffer from higher rates. East Palo Alto had the highest unemployment in the county, with a rate of 6.9 percent.

Voter Participation

Voter turn-out in the 1998 primary and general elections continued to be low in San Mateo County, as in the nation as a whole. Despite increases in population, the number of eligible citizens actually registered to vote dropped in 1998 between the June primary and the November general election.

Water Consumption

San Mateo County's per capita water consumption rose 4.9 percent during Fiscal Year 1996-97, while the Bay Area average dropped three percent. Still, San Mateo County remained below the Bay Area average.

Water Quality—Tap Water

The quality of drinking water supplied to San Mateo County residents remains high and essentially pollutant-free. Of the 21 organic chemicals monitored, only trihalomethanes (THMs) appeared at levels approaching the standard maximum allowable levels.

Unless the ideal of sustainability displaces the goal of growth, we face a grim future of exhausted resources, growing poverty, increased conflict, and spreading violence. If humans are to have a future worthy of the intelligent, ingenious, and playful species that we are, we must reorient our priorities from the economic to the ecological.

Ernest Callenbach, *Ecology: A Pocket Guide*

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Indicators Used

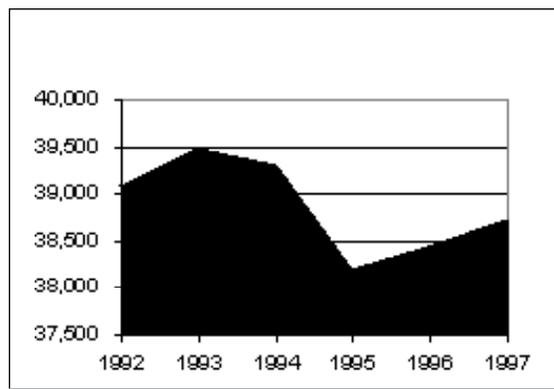
The three biggest agricultural income products and their acreage were selected for tracking: floriculture and nursery crops; vegetables; and forestry, including Christmas trees. Total gross production value and overall acreage devoted to agriculture in the county for the past five years (1992-97) are shown in the charts.

Importance

Agriculture is a vital part of San Mateo County's diverse economic base and generates additional jobs for ancillary businesses and vendors. Tilled acreage also contributes substantially to a healthful microclimate and a perception of open space. Vegetables and fruits grown in other regions require more energy for transport and lose freshness and nutritional value. Then too, communities that value locally-grown products support retaining and protecting agricultural land from residential and industrial development.

Findings

San Mateo County's 1997 crop summary shows a



total gross production value of \$218,644,000, an increase of 5.5 percent over the previous year. Floral and nursery crops accounted for the largest share, 77 percent (\$171,854,000) of the total. More than half the crop was grown indoors, mostly clustered around Half Moon Bay, with the exception of large greenhouses and some fields inland from Pescadero.

Vegetable crops came a distant second in production value, and were scattered the length and width of the coastal plain, bringing in \$39,361,000.

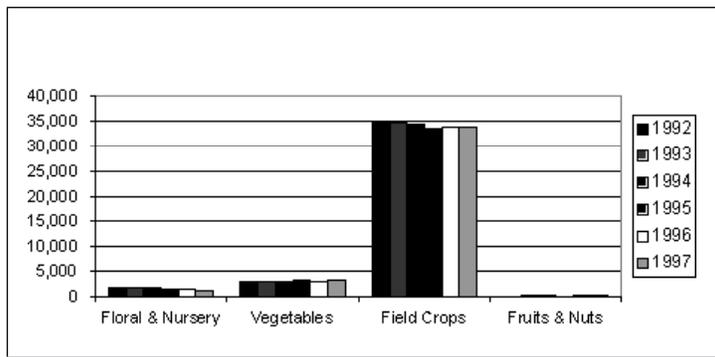
Logging of private lands and nursery-grown Christmas trees produced \$3,575,000. No public lands were logged.

In 1997, 38,713 acres of land were devoted to agriculture and floriculture. 386 acres more than in 1996 went to indoor floriculture, while

outdoor lost 110 acres. Vegetable crops went up 300 acres; field crops gained 100. Organic farms, three more than last year for a total of 14, used 98 acres.

Direction

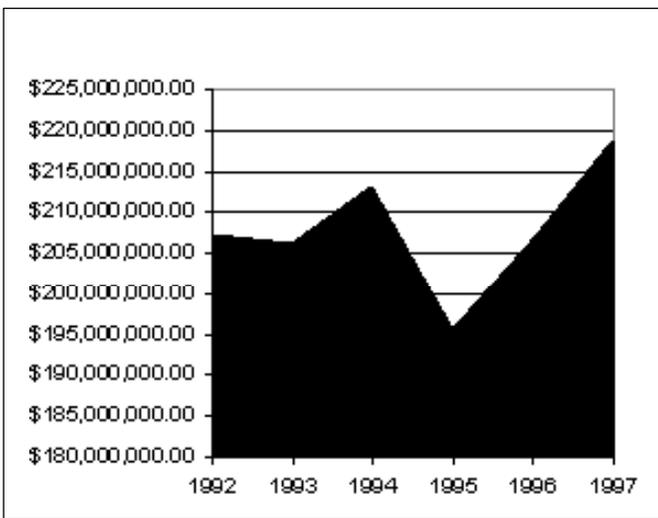
After hitting a low point in 1995, acreage devoted to agriculture and the income it generated in San Mateo County continued to grow in 1997 for the second year



in a row. This is an all-time high for agricultural industry income.

Sources: 1992-97 Agricultural Crop Reports, San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures; California State Board of Equalization.

Researcher: Eleanor W. Anderson



AIR QUALITY

Indicators Used

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) measures and regulates air pollution in the Bay Area. The BAAQMD measures five air pollutants to see if the Bay Area is compliant with State and National Air Quality Standards: ozone, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, and particulate matter.

Importance

Clean air is an important aspect of an ecologically sustainable environment. Respiratory illnesses such as asthma have risen exponentially in the last decade, especially for children. Many experts attribute this rise to the increase in air pollution. Besides adversely affecting people's health, air pollution affects the environment. Plants rely on sunlight and carbon dioxide to grow. If the air isn't pure enough, a plant can't produce enough energy, and its oxygen production decreases. Air quality is a significant indicator of the overall health of a community. Clean air adds to quality of life, and is desirable for prospective residents and businesses.

Ozone is this region's greatest problem. It is the result of a chemical reaction with NO_2 and other organic gases caused by ultraviolet light. Ozone in the upper atmosphere is beneficial to block cancer-causing ultra-violet radiation. At ground level, ozone causes respiratory disease, eye irritation, and vegetation damage.

Nitrogen oxides are another air pollutant measured by the BAAQMD. Nitrogen oxides form when a material burns at a high temperature. Car engines are the main source of this air pollution that can be seen as a thick brown haze high in the air.

Approximately seventy percent of the Bay Area's carbon monoxide (CO) comes from motor vehicles. CO is formed whenever something burns with inadequate oxygen. CO is an invisible, odorless gas which when inhaled impedes the absorption of vital oxygen in the blood stream.

Sulfur oxides are formed from the burning of fossil fuels such as oil and gas. They are a byproduct of the impurities in the fuel. These sulfur oxides can react with the water in the air to form acid rain.

Particulate matter is the last of five pollutants the BAAQMD measures. Smoke is the most obvious form of particulate matter and is created by open fires, incinerators, petroleum refining, and fuel-burning engines.

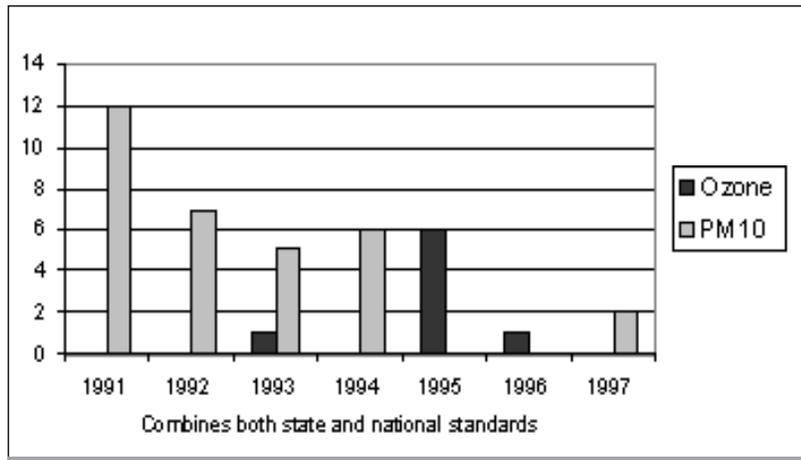
Findings

Air pollution is measured by the number of days a pollutant is found to be above the State or National

standard. Ozone and particulate matter were the only pollutants to go over the standard. Compared to 1996, the 1997 air quality became more sustainable. In 1997 California ozone Days over Standard (DOS) decreased from thirty-two DOS to eight DOS. The particulate matter count did not increase significantly.

Direction

The 1997 ozone DOS has decreased greatly compared to 1996, indicating improved air quality. Despite these improvements, the Environmental Protection Agency recently revoked the Bay Area's clean air status because of 17 violations of the smog standard in 1995 and 1996. This action will result in stricter enforcement



Air Quality Measured in Days
1991-97

for the specific industries involved. Tougher regulations should allow a stable increase in air quality.

Sources: BAAQMD; "EPA Revokes Bay Area's Clean Air Designation," San Francisco Chronicle, June 26, 1998.

Researcher: Francis Hahn

"sus-tain v. 1. To keep in existence; maintain; prolong."

The American Heritage Dictionary

ARTS PARTICIPATION

Indicators Used

Surveys were mailed to several dozen representative arts organizations that serve the San Mateo County community, including museums, galleries, dance and theatre companies, and youth orchestras. Questions asked included the number of volunteers and employees and how the organizations give back to the community. Several of the surveys were followed up with phone interviews.

Importance

To sustain a high quality of life, a community must go beyond the basic survival issues of food and shelter. A truly sustainable community nurtures the mind and the soul of the citizenry as well as the physical body. A vital arts scene not only offers opportunities to participate, but is actively involved in bringing the arts to the general public, regardless of their ability to pay.

Findings

While often overshadowed by San Francisco, San Mateo County nevertheless has an active and vital arts life of its own. Not only are there ample opportunities for the public to attend galleries, plays, readings, and musical events, but the vast majority of arts organizations that responded provide some form of free public art.

When asked, "Has your organization provided any public art or free performances to your city or the county?" 86 percent of respondents said "yes." To the question, "Has your organization worked with local schools to provide educational programming, field trips, etc.?" 71 percent said "yes." A majority of 57 percent answered "yes" to both questions.

Some of the free art and events provided to citizens of San Mateo County include concerts and play performances, art exhibitions at schools, prints and paintings donated to buildings and public broadcasting auctions, and awards to students and senior citizens.

Arts organizations not only give to the community, but also depend on the community to support them through volunteer work. Volunteers outnumber employees at local arts organizations by a ratio of 8.2 to 1. Even so, at least one local theatre has had to cancel shows in the last year due to a lack of volunteers.

San Mateo County residents are also generous arts patrons. Much of that money, however, leaves the county and goes to high profile arts providers in San Francisco. Very few National Endowment for the Arts grants have gone to San Mateo County artists compared with the rest of the Bay Area.

San Mateo County residents still benefit from plenty of local art activity. When asked whether their customers were primarily local residents or tourists, 93 percent said

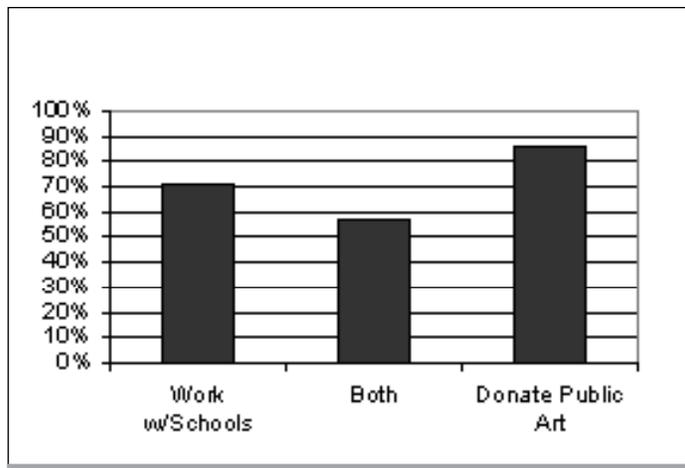
"local" and 7 percent said "both." No respondents relied on visitors from outside the county to support their work.

Direction

This is the first year that we surveyed arts organizations, so it is premature to state any trends. It is obvious, however, that the arts are a strong and growing element of life in the county. Another positive sign includes the movement to create a San Mateo County Art Museum in downtown Redwood City.

Sources: SSMC mail-in survey of San Mateo County arts organizations and phone interviews.

Researcher: Ken Goldstein



"The only trouble with our time is that the future is not what it used to be."

Paul Valery

BIODIVERSITY

Indicators Used

Shown are the endangered and threatened species of San Mateo County, as designated by the federal and state government. The list is further divided into plant and animal species.

Importance

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of plants, animals, and other living things in a specific region. This definition can also be extended to suggest the sustainability of diverse species in a particular ecosystem, where there is human interaction with the land and its natural resources.

An ecosystem comprises a complex web of life, one that spans everything living. Each and every species of vegetation and creature, including human, plays a vital role in the circle of life. Plant, animal, and insect species interact with and depend upon one another in a symbiotic manner for their needs, such as food, shelter, oxygen, and soil enrichment. Maintaining a wide diversity of species in an ecosystem is necessary to preserve the web of life and sustain its living things.

Findings

The list of endangered or threatened species included both plants and animals ranging from Thistle to Cypress and from Butterflies to Snakes. Coastal ecosystems—aquatic and terrestrial—contain the highest number of listed species.

For the year 1998, San Mateo County sheltered eight of 71 federally designated endangered animal species. Three of 35 federally designated threatened animal species also reside in the county. The federal government has changed the status of the San Bruno Mountain Manzanita from “proposed for listing as threatened” to “a species of concern.”

Seven of 112 federally designated endangered plant species grow in San Mateo County. Of 26 federally designated threatened plant species, the Marin Western Flax is the only one that lives in San Mateo County. The San Mateo Woolly Sunflower and Hickman’s Cinquefoil, both under proposal for listing as endangered the year before, have been officially classified as endangered by the federal government for 1998. Dudley’s Lousewort, unrecognized under state status in 1997, is now state-

recommended for listing as threatened.

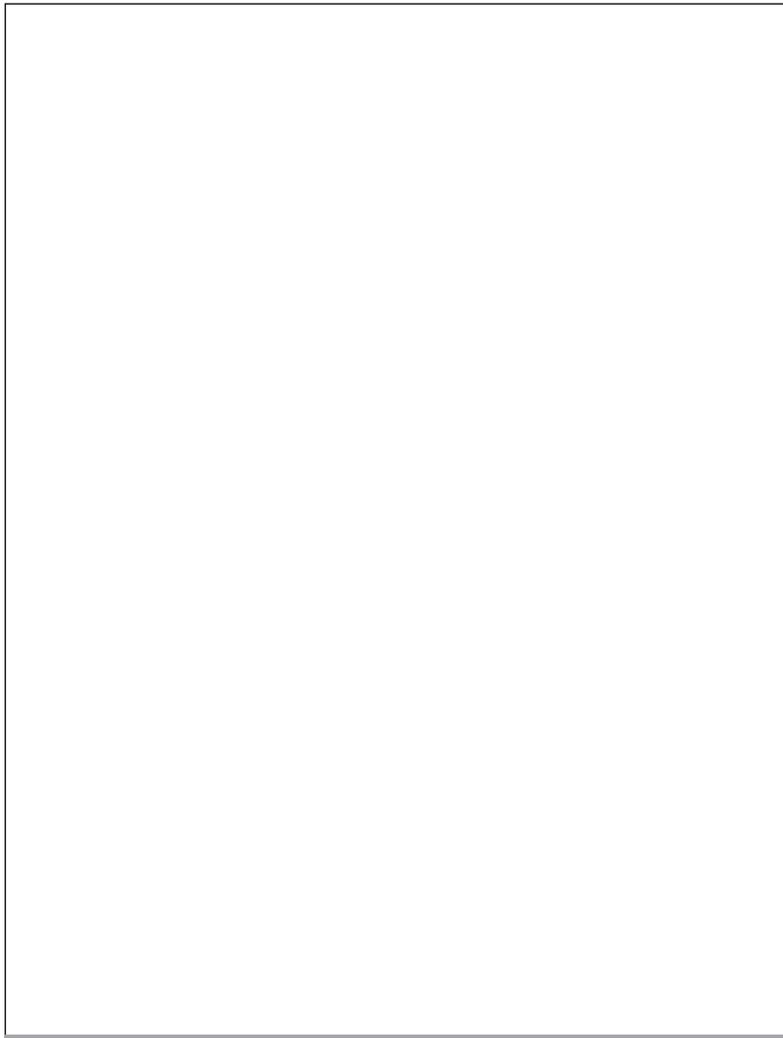
Many environmentalists now believe that the introduction of “exotics” (non-native plants and animals), by accident or intention, is a greater threat to biodiversity than extinction through habitat reduction from over-development.

Direction

The number of threatened and endangered species has not fluctuated much since 1997, save for a few shifts in classification of already listed species. This fact may be indicative of a relatively stable condition for biodiversity.

Sources: California Department of Fish and Game; California Biodiversity Council.

Researcher: Jenny Wu



Indicators Used

The number of reported cases of child abuse, including physical, mental, and sexual, are tracked from 1988 to 1998. It should be noted that for a variety of reasons many child abuse cases go unreported to the police and to Child Protective Services of San Mateo County. For this reason, there is no exact knowledge of the total number of child abuse cases.

Importance

It is not only a parents' responsibility to raise a child, but a community's as well. An increase in reported cases is a wake-up call to society that abuse is happening to young people within our midst. If protective agencies can intervene and place battered children in safe homes, then their psychological and emotional problems may be lessened significantly. Child Protective Services is extremely important in teaching parents about raising a child in a loving, caring, and understanding environment.

Findings

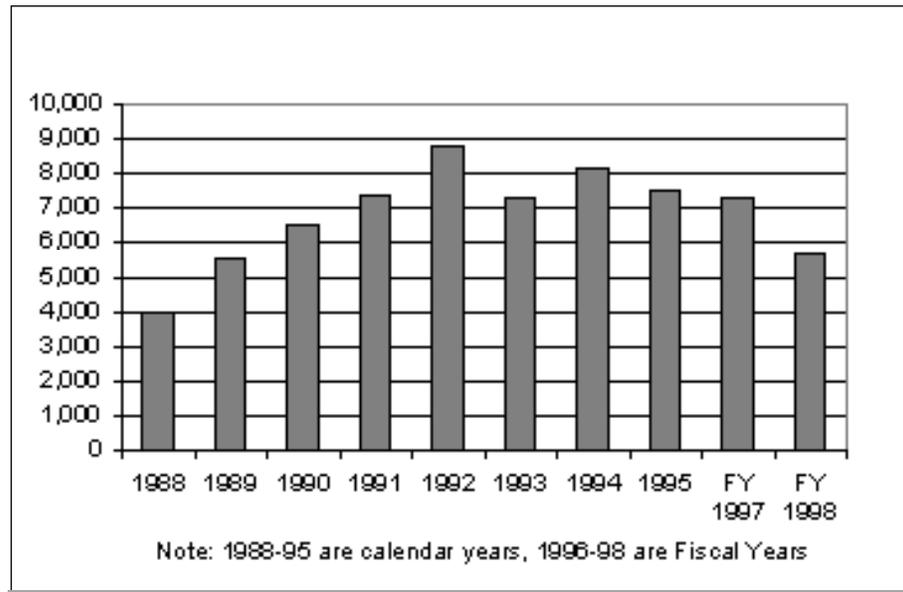
In Fiscal Year (FY) ending in 1998, Child Protection Services aided 5,660 children – a 22 percent reduction from the previous year. Preliminary figures for the first quarter of FY 1998-99 show 990 cases reported to the County. From 1984 through 1994 child abuse reports soared 50 percent. There are two possible causes for that increase. A 1988 change in state laws resulted in more cases being reported, but not necessarily more abuse. The 1992 recession may also have been a causative factor, as economic stress has been found to lead to family problems. Since the economic recovery began, the number of child abuse cases reported has been decreasing every year.

The worst cases of abuse fall on the youngest chil-

dren. About 90 percent of abuse-related fatalities are at age five or younger. The catalyst for abuse is different for every parent, but drugs, alcohol, and social frustration play leading roles in the problem.

Direction

From 1989 to 1992, there was an increase in the number of child abuse cases reported. The number of cases went from 5,534 cases to 8,796 cases. From 1993 to 1996 it fluctuated up and down each year. In 1997 and part of 1998 the number of reported cases has declined over 2,000. This decline seems to show that parenting in



San Mateo County is taking a step in the right direction.

Sources: The Child Advocacy Center of San Mateo County, Child Welfare Services of San Mateo County.

Researcher: Kendra Tawzer

“Our human destiny is inextricably linked to the actions of all other living things.”

Paul Hawken, The Ecology of Commerce

CHILD CARE

Indicators Used

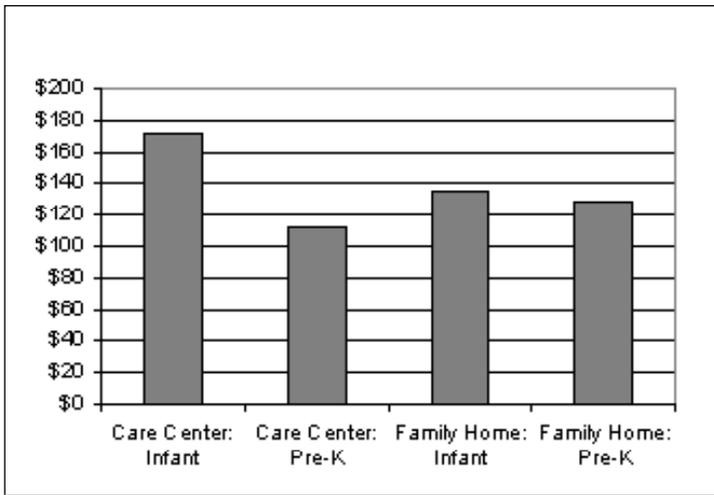
Measured are the total number of children in need of child care, the total number of children receiving care outside of their homes from non-family members, the total number of child care slots available, and the cost of child care in San Mateo County. Additional assessments include the number of subsidized child development programs in the county.

Importance

Affordable child care allows single parents and families with dual working parents to earn a living while feeling secure that their children have good care. Quality child care is essential in maintaining healthy, safe, and well-adjusted children.

The need for child care is ever-growing. The number of child care programs should increase to accommodate both those who can pay, and those who qualify for assistance with child care payments.

Findings



The California Child Care Resource and Referral Network reports that in 1997, 66 percent of San Mateo County's children lived in households in which either both parents or the single parent head-of-household worked. This percent represents 81,655 children in need of child care in the county. Of the children needing child care, 27,483 received it outside of the family. Within San Mateo County, there are 769 licensed family child care homes with 5,934 slots and 255 licensed child care cen-

ters with 14,035 slots. Hence, the need for child care in the county, particularly subsidized care, far exceeds the number of child care slots available.

The average cost for full-time infant care in a licensed child care center in San Mateo County is 27 percent higher than the state average, while the average cost for full-time preschool care is 19 percent higher than the state average. There are currently 228 programs available in San Mateo County which accept preschool children. For a child under 2 years of age, the average cost of child care is \$172 per week in a licensed child care center and \$135 per week in a licensed family child care home. The average cost of full-time child care for a child 2-5 years old is \$112 per week in a licensed child care center and \$128 per week in a licensed family child care home.

Direction

The total number of children in need of child care in San Mateo County is 20 percent higher than the state average. The local high cost of living, the number of families with both parents working, and long commutes all contribute to this need. The increase in demand for child care has been accompanied by a 7 percent decrease in the number of available slots and a 15 percent average increase in the cost of child care. With continued population growth predicted, the demand for, and cost of, child care can be expected to increase.

Sources: San Mateo County Times; Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County; California Child Care Resource and Referral Network.
Researcher: Jenny Wu

“The earth is not left to us by our parents; it is lent to us by our children.”

African proverb

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Indicators Used

The total number of birds found at Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo were counted during the last two weeks of 1998. This number includes all the birds recorded at each site, and is the best indicator of the status of birds in the area. Also measured is the number of species found at each site. Lastly, five different species were tracked, including the Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Acorn Woodpecker, and American Crow. These five species represent a wide variety of birds with different feeding habits, nesting sites and mating behavior. These numbers cannot easily be compared to national standards because of the deviations in natural environments and habitats.

Importance

The number and diversity of birds is a good indicator of the health of an ecosystem. Strong and consistent numbers indicate an ecosystem in balance. Birds are vital to nature, acting both as predators and as prey, filling many levels of the food chain. Because birds are not at the bottom of the food chain, a decrease in the number of birds can reflect a problem with vegetation or a lower group of animals. It should be noted, however, that with migratory birds, the rise and fall in numbers might be related to problems elsewhere in their migratory range.

Findings

Recent counts have fluctuated greatly. At Crystal Springs, the total number of birds counted in 1998 was nearly 5,000 less than in 1997. 1997's count, however, was over 20,000 greater than the record low in 1996. This rapid change may signal a problem within the local ecosystem. Results were just as varied at Año Nuevo, where the 1998 bird count was approximately 10,000 less than in 1996.

While the overall number of birds counted at Crystal Springs has been consistently two to five times greater than at Año Nuevo, the number of species counted has remained at or just below 200 at both locations.

Of the five species tracked, the California Quail made a dramatic comeback in 1998 at both locations, with 476 at Crystal Springs and 421 at Año Nuevo – nearly double the numbers for each site in 1997, and their best showing since 1995. Wood Ducks disappeared from Crystal Springs in 1998, after a count of 13 in 1997, but doubled at Año Nuevo, from 16 in 1997 to 31 in 1998.

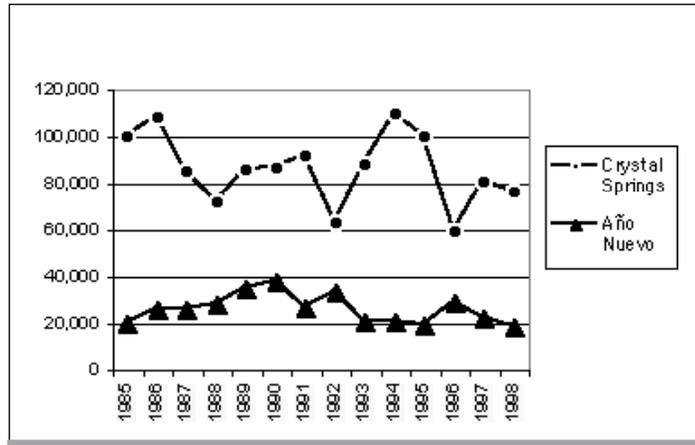
At Crystal Springs, the Red-Tailed Hawk increased from 106 in 1997 to 140 in 1998, while the Acorn

Woodpecker lost almost half its population, from 38 in 1997 to 20 in 1998. Each of these species remained stable at Año Nuevo.

The American Crow population at Crystal Springs grew from 82 in 1997 to 106 in 1998. This may actually be a bad ecological sign, as the American Crow is known to increase in numbers as the surrounding habitat is degraded. No American Crows were spotted at Año Nuevo.

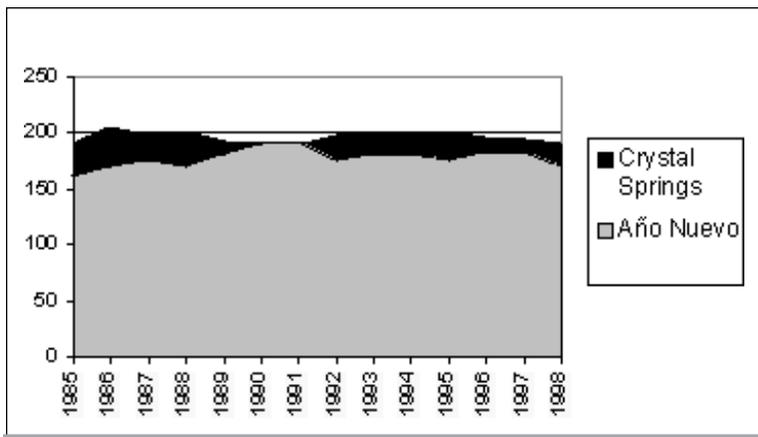
Direction

Reasons for variations in bird counts are not known. In the past 14 years, the bird count at Crystal Springs has



experienced several dramatic peaks and valleys. The bird count at Año Nuevo, however, has remained fairly steady. Although the overall count is consistently higher at Crystal Springs, it may have the more volatile environment, as evidenced by the greater fluctuations in the count, and the growing number of American Crows. Continuing observation of both sites may help to understand the health of the ecosystem.

Source: Sequoia Audubon Society, 1996-98 Christmas Bird Counts. Researcher: Ken Goldstein



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Indicators Used

The incidence of communicable diseases for the years 1982–97 in San Mateo County is measured. The data shows AIDS cases from 1982–97; tuberculosis cases from 1985–97; enteric diseases from 1990–97 (intestinal diseases such as salmonella, hepatitis A, shigellosis, and campylobacter); sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) from 1990–97; vaccine-preventable diseases from 1991–97 (i.e., measles, pertussis, rubella, and mumps); and the occurrences of hepatitis C cases from 1992–97.

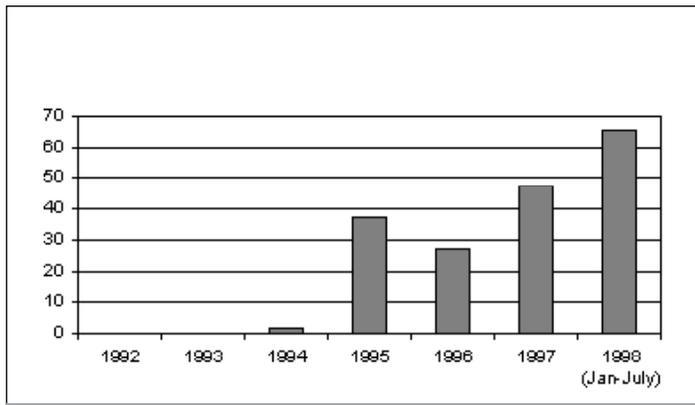
Importance

Measuring a community's incidences of communicable diseases is a way to monitor its progress in reducing preventable disease and death. It can also help a community evaluate the effectiveness of educational and preventive programs and reduce disparities in health care for vulnerable segments of the population.

Rising numbers indicate higher health care costs as well as increased suffering and lower quality of life for both those who are ill and for their family members. The increased load on our health care system also ultimately affects every member of the community in regard to availability of health care resources and high rates of absenteeism in schools and places of employment.

Findings

Between 1993 and 1997 the numbers of newly diagnosed AIDS cases per year in San Mateo County has dropped from 221 to 44, an 80 percent decrease. The



projection for cases in 1998 is that the number will be even lower. After the number of diagnosed cases peaked in 1993, the number of new AIDS cases reported each year dropped to 167 in 1994, 130 cases in 1995, and 81 cases in 1996. However, probably due to better treatment options now available, the number of people living with AIDS continues to increase. In 1993 there were 471 people in San Mateo living with AIDS; in 1997 the number was 581. Projections to the year 2000 indicate a gradual increase. The annual AIDS case rates in San Mateo County are comparable to national AIDS rates.

Males make up almost 90 percent of AIDS cases in

San Mateo County; of these cases, 30 percent of the men represented are in the 25–34-year age group and 39 percent are in the 35–44-year age group. Females represent a little over 10 percent of the county's AIDS cases; 40.5 percent of these cases are in the 25–34-year age group.

Since 1988, the African-American population of San Mateo County has had substantially higher AIDS rates per capita than other races. Since 1991, the AIDS case rate for African-Americans has consistently been over four times that of the White population, the next highest group of affected people. Whites represent 65.5 percent of the total number of AIDS cases in San Mateo County, African-Americans represent 17 percent, Hispanics constitute 12.5 percent, and Asians five percent.

Tuberculosis cases and rates continue to increase in San Mateo County. Between 1985 and 1997, the number of tuberculosis cases rose 165 percent, from 32 to 82 cases per year. In 1997, with an incidence rate of 12 tuberculosis cases per 100,000 people, San Mateo County's rate was comparable to the state rate of tuberculosis cases; it was also above the national rate of approximately 8 cases per 100,000 individuals (1996 rate, data for 1997 not available). San Mateo County's incidence case rate is well above the Year 2000 objective of 3.5 cases per 100,000. Asians account for 54.9 percent of tuberculosis cases in the county for the reported years of 1985–97. This rate is disproportionate to the Asian population of San Mateo County. Foreign-born people account for 82.4

percent of tuberculosis cases in 1997; the number of cases for U.S. born people has dropped since 1995, from 25 cases to 15. The increase in cases may be due to several factors, including a reduction in funding for tuberculosis control and the rising numbers of people living with the HIV infection.

The number of salmonella cases has increased; the average number of reported cases between 1990 and 1996 was 150 per year. There were 208 cases in 1997. The incidence rate per 100,000, at 29.8, is far above the Year 2000 objective of 16 cases.

The number of shigellosis cases in 1997 has declined slightly from 1996; however, the rate is still slightly higher than national incidence rates. Lower than the state and national rates, the number of hepatitis A cases is stable. The incidence rate of 10.6 cases per 100,000 is well below the year 2000 objective of 23 cases. The number of campylobacter cases fluctuated between 1990 and 1995, though there has been a steady decline for the years 1995–1997.

The number of syphilis cases was at a high of 107 in 1990 and has since decreased to 38 cases in 1997. The incidence rate for San Mateo County is lower than corresponding rates for California and the nation

continued

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, continued

below the Year 2000 objective. Gonorrhea dropped from 814 cases in 1990 to 130 cases in 1997. Incidence rates are below the California and U.S. averages and are far below the Year 2000 objective. Chlamydia also dropped from the 1990 level of 1,629 cases to 845 cases in 1997. Here again, the County is in compliance with the Year 2000 objective, and is below rates in California and the U.S. in general. It is noteworthy that the incidence of chlamydial infection is 5 times greater in the 15–24-year age group than in other age groups in San Mateo County. However, these numbers are also decreasing. Considering the increase in chlamydia cases throughout the state and nation, San Mateo County’s decrease may be the result of a reduction in screening and reporting of cases as opposed to an actual decline in the rate.

The incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases in San Mateo County has been restricted to sporadic cases, affecting individuals in less affluent or under-served populations. There have been 3 or fewer cases of measles in each of the last three years. Pertussis cases average 5 per year from 1991–1997. Rubella is up slightly, from 0–1 from 1992–96, to 3 cases in 1997. Mumps cases have steadily declined since 1991; there was 1 case in 1997.

From 1994 to July of 1998, the incidence case rate per 100,000 people of hepatitis C has increased from 1.5 to 65.7, a rapid increase over a period of less than five years.

Direction

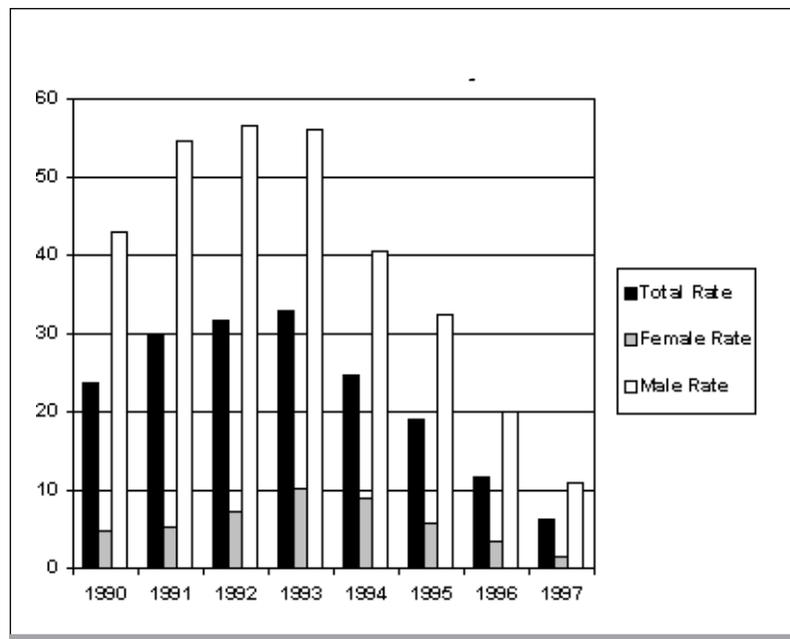
There are encouraging and discouraging conclusions in regards to communicable diseases in San Mateo County. The significant decreases in newly diagnosed cases of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are indicative of an increase in preventive behaviors by the public. Furthermore, the life span of people with AIDS has increased dramatically. African-Americans have a much higher rate of AIDS than does any other group of people. Tuberculosis continues to increase for both foreign-born and U.S.-born individuals. Hepatitis C infections may present a significant increase in health care costs in the very near future.

San Mateo has met several Year 2000 objectives. It is noteworthy that the figures in this report reflect reported, diagnosed cases. The unfortunate reality is that, due to socio-economic, political, or idiosyncratic reasons, or perhaps fear or ignorance, some individuals do not seek medical help. Therefore, increased surveillance, public education, and health care programs will be necessary to

continue our progress in fighting some diseases and dramatically improve our efforts towards the overall health of our community as we approach year 2000.

Sources: San Mateo County Health Services Agency, Public Health and Environmental Protection Division, *Healthy San Mateo 2000: Health Status Indicators, 1998*.

Researcher: L. Madeleine Greiner



“The future is not a gift. It is an achievement.”

Harry Lauder

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Indicators Used

Shown are the methods of electricity generation used by PG&E for the years 1993-97. Also measured was the average annual usage per residential customer for the same period. These figures are for the PG&E service area that includes San Mateo County, but are not limited to this county.

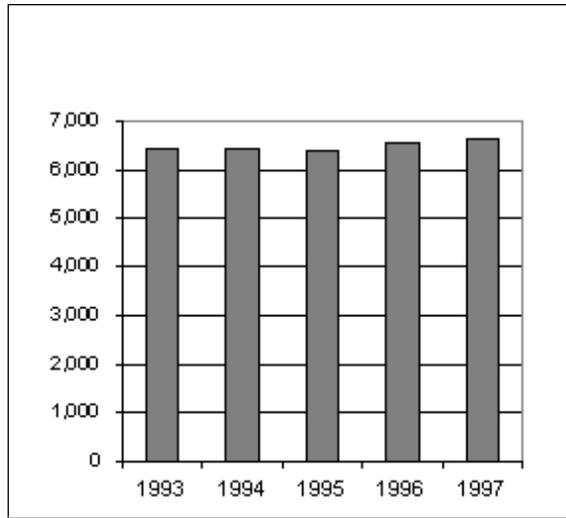
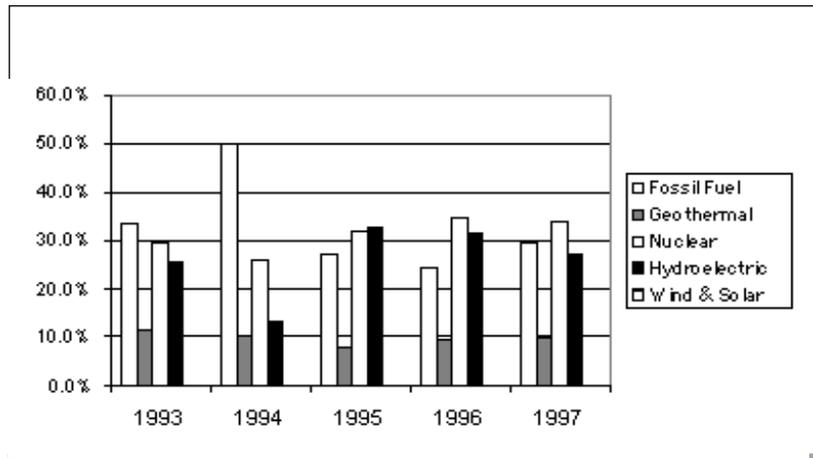
Importance

Different methods of electricity generation use our natural resources in very different ways, and have varied impacts on the environment. Fossil fuel generation burns non-renewable resources and creates pollution. Nuclear energy uses fewer resources, but produces highly toxic waste that is a potential danger to the community. Solar and wind power have the least environmental impact, but have hardly been used. A sustainable energy source should be entirely renewable, and should not add to environmental pollu-

tion or habitat degradation. A sustainable community puts its efforts into energy efficiency and conservation to meet growing needs, not additional non-renewable sources of generation.

varied greatly from that average was 1994, with fossil fuels accounting for over 50 percent of electric generation, and hydroelectric down to 13 percent.

Direction



Despite public education efforts aimed at energy efficiency, the overall trend for the five-year period was a three percent increase in individual residential usage.

This is the first year that we have included an energy consumption indicator. It is also the first year that competition has entered the energy industry. Consumers in California now have a choice of which energy provider to sign with, and several new companies offer "green energy" packages. This year's report will serve as a benchmark to track the effects of de-regulation on the methods of energy generation.

Sources: PG&E, Form 10-K Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1997.

Researcher: Ken Goldstein

tion or habitat degradation. A sustainable community puts its efforts into energy efficiency and conservation to meet growing needs, not additional non-renewable sources of generation.

Findings

In the five-year period reviewed, approximately 33 percent of the electricity generated by PG&E was from fossil fuel, 31 percent from nuclear, 26 percent from hydroelectric, and 10 percent from geothermal. The amount of wind and solar power generated by PG&E was less than one-hundredth of one percent. The only year which

"Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell."

Edward Abbey

GENERAL PLANS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Indicators Used

Each city in San Mateo County was sent a survey regarding sustainability and its General Plan. Respondents were asked to mark the most appropriate of the following: City's General Plan specifically mentions 'Sustainability,' General Plan includes the concept of sustainability only, or General Plan does not include sustainability in any way. Sustainability was defined as "meeting the needs of this generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The survey also asked when the General Plan was last revised, and the date of the next planned revision. Because there are no agreed upon criteria for what constitutes sustainability, responses to the survey are necessarily subjective.

Importance

General plans are public documents that reflect the priorities and concerns of a community. They are guidelines for achieving each city's vision for the future. All zoning decisions must, by state law, be consistent with

the General Plan. If a city incorporates the concept of sustainability into its general plan, then it is more likely to make land use decisions in a manner consistent with sustainability.

Findings

Of the cities that responded to the survey, only the City of San Mateo said that its General Plan specifically mentions "Sustainability." Four cities, Belmont, Hillsborough, San Bruno, and Woodside, said that their General Plan does not even include the concept of sustainability. The others said that they include the concept of sustainability, if not the actual word.

Direction

There are contradictions among this year's survey and each of the previous surveys. General Plans are large documents, often spread over several volumes, so it is not surprising that there are discrepancies over whether or not the actual word "sustainability" is used. As for whether or not the concept of sustainability is present, the contradictions show that without agreed upon and generally accepted criteria, the question of "sustainability" will remain subjective and changeable.

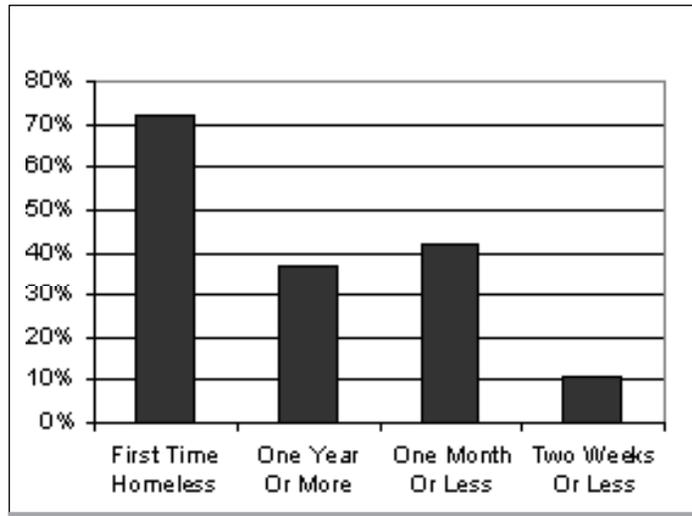
Still, the concept of sustainability as used here is definitely taking hold in the county. For example, in the last year the City of Menlo Park initiated a Smart Growth program that could be said to include the concept.

Source: Respondents from each city, usually someone from the manager's office or the planning department.
Researcher: Ken Goldstein

HOMELESSNESS

Indicators Used

Fifteen agencies in San Mateo County that provide services to the homeless collect data on the number of unduplicated individuals whom they serve. Because the homeless are served by more than one agency, an accurate count requires there be no duplication of individuals. The measurement takes place only every two years, limiting the information to 1996. The most recent count was in 1998, but final data was not available at press time. Shown here is the percentage of the total population in 1996 that was served and counted by these agencies. Also measured are the total number of homeless, the number of homeless children, and the number of homeless families. Lastly, the gender, age, ethnicity, duration of homelessness, and frequency of homelessness are shown.



percent of the homeless were experiencing homelessness for the first time. Eleven percent had been homeless for two weeks or less, while 42 percent had been homeless for one year or more.

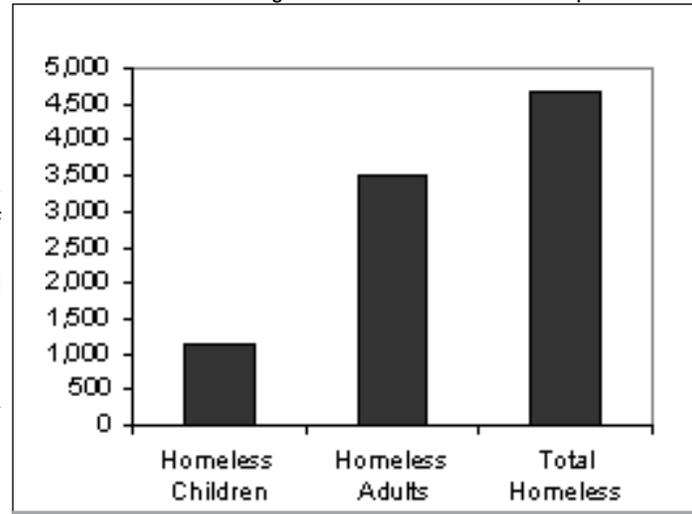
This count does not include all of the homeless because there are additional agencies serving the homeless that do not keep records or release information about their clients. Furthermore, this count does not include homeless persons who received no services at all or are living in situations usually considered to be uninhabitable.

Direction

Although the number of homeless persons has

Importance

Homelessness is an indicator of community stress. Individuals or families become homeless for many reasons, including lack of affordable housing, lack of job opportunities, insufficient wages, substance abuse, mental or physical illness or a combination of these and other factors. The actual percentages are: 30 percent of the homeless were found to be mentally ill, 40 percent were abusing drugs or alcohol, and 10 percent were proved to be HIV positive. Individuals were often found or included in more than one group.



Findings

There were 4,663 documented homeless persons in San Mateo County in 1996. This number can be compared to an estimated 25,000 homeless in the Bay Area. This number accounted for 0.7 percent of the county's population. Included were 539 families. Among the homeless population counted, 61 percent were men, 39 percent were women, and 32 percent were children. Whites comprised 39 percent, African-Americans 29 percent, and Hispanics 26 percent. Asian/Pacific Islanders, Mixed Ethnicity/Other, and Native Americans comprised 6 percent. Of the adult homeless, 37 percent were 31-40 years old, 26 percent were 18-30 years old, 25 percent were 41-50 years old, and 12 percent were 51 years old or older. In 1996, 72

increased since 1994, the percentage of the county population that was homeless remained steady. There has been a major concentration on providing stability and long-term support for the homeless. Many centers are attempting to reduce the factors causing homelessness by providing more training, counseling, and job placement. It takes time, money, and skills development to help get the homeless adults off the streets. The outlook on children has become more optimistic. Children have been placed and nurtured in families or homes, with better chances of experiencing a more stable environment. Possibly due to these factors, the number of homeless children has declined by 38 percent since 1994.

continued

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Indicators Used

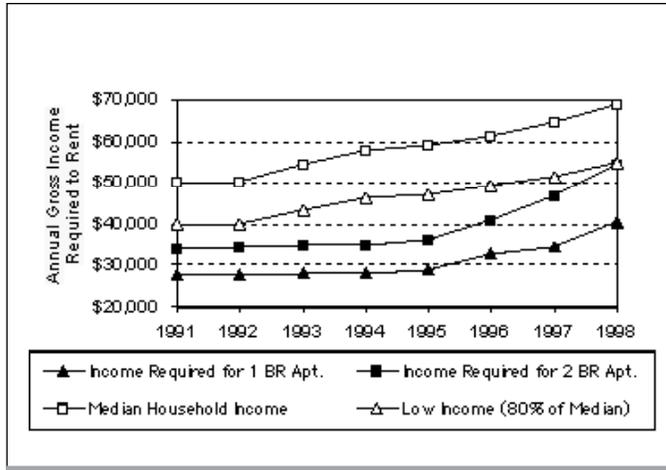
The relationship between the countywide median price of a single-family home and condominium; the countywide average rent for vacant 1-bedroom and 2-bed-

are not enough high-paying jobs in the county to support the high cost of housing, county residents commute out to adjacent counties to work. This jobs-housing imbalance contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution.

Lack of affordable housing also leads to overcrowding of housing units. It can drive low-income people below the poverty line, and limit housing options for elderly people on fixed incomes. In some cases, this can lead to homelessness.

Findings

The HUD countywide median income for a family of four rose 37 percent from 1991 to 1998 to \$68,600. The countywide median purchase price for a single-family home increased 35 percent to \$418,444, and the countywide median price for a condominium rose 21 percent to \$240,000. This increase means that, in 1998, the median-income family of four could afford to purchase the countywide median-priced condominium,

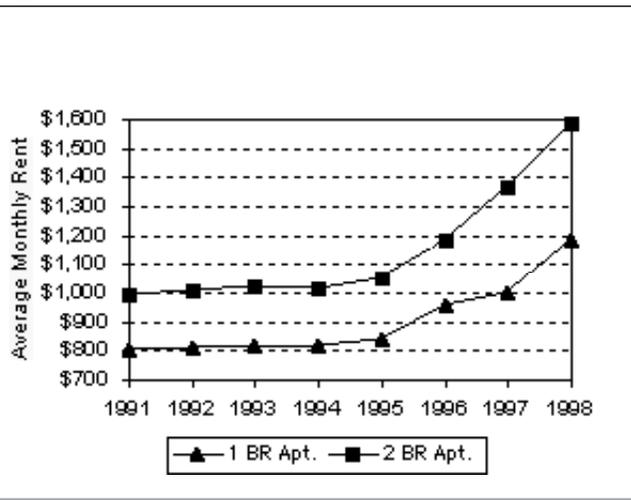


room apartments; and the ability to pay annual housing costs are measured. Lending institutions generally assume housing should cost no more than 35 percent of gross household income per year. The data used to establish countywide median prices and rents excludes the affluent cities of Atherton, Hillsborough, Portola Valley, and Woodside since they represent a small percentage of the total county population and, if included, would skew the data toward the high end.

Importance

A lack of affordable housing limits the ability of young people to remain in the county after they enter the work force and makes it difficult for employers to recruit qualified workers. If housing is too expensive, people employed in the county obtain housing in neighboring counties and commute in. If there

are not enough high-paying jobs in the county to support the high cost of housing, county residents commute out to adjacent counties to work. This jobs-housing imbalance contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution.



HOMELESSNESS, continued

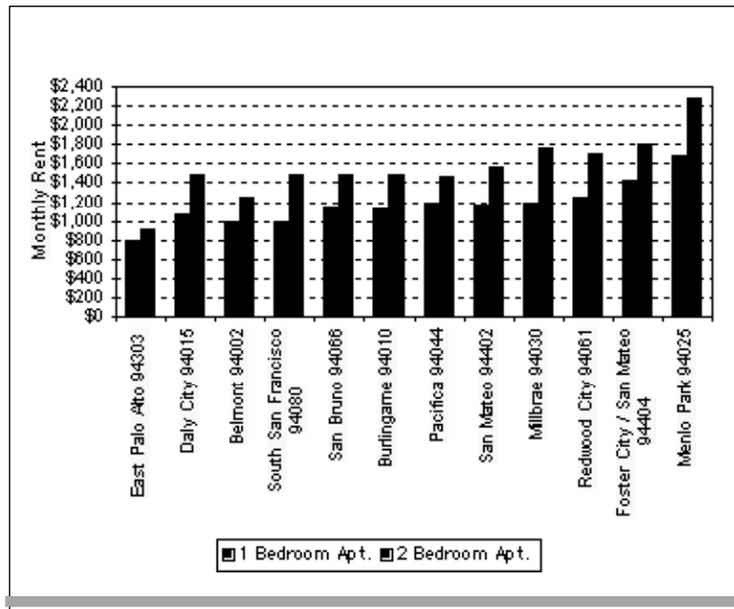
Sources: Tom Roberts, Homeless Coordinator, Housing Division, San Mateo County Human Services Department; CA State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.
 Researcher: Heather Littlefield

but they could not afford to buy the median-priced single-family house. For the first time since 1991, low-income families (80 percent of median income) were just barely able to qualify to purchase the median-priced condominium in 1997 and 1998.

Between 1991 and 1998, the countywide average monthly rent for a vacant apartment increased 48 percent for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,181, and 60 percent for a two-bedroom apartment to \$1,587. Despite these increases, countywide median-income and low-income families (80 percent of median) were able to pay the average rents in the county; however, demand for rental housing greatly exceeded supply, and vacant apartments were almost impossible to find.

continued

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, continued



the nation; \$201,410 in California; and \$321,740 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Similarly, the countywide median cost of a condominium exceeded the state median (\$240,000 in the County, compared to \$153,850 statewide).

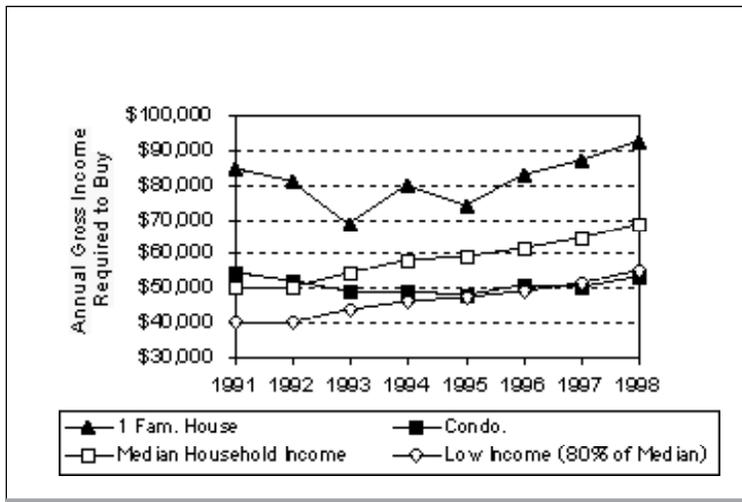
Apartments in the county are generally affordable to the majority of households, but the supply of available apartments is extremely limited, forcing many individuals and families to look elsewhere for shelter.

The trendline indicates that the county will continue to have a deficit in available residential units in the foreseeable future. This shortage can be expected to push housing prices up even higher. Vacant apartments will remain in short supply, and rents continued

Of the families making less than countywide median income, some are paying low mortgage payments on homes they have owned for a long time, or are paying less than average rents. Families earning very-low income (50 percent of median) may pay more than 35 percent of income for housing, live in subsidized housing, share housing with others, live in substandard housing, or be homeless.

Direction

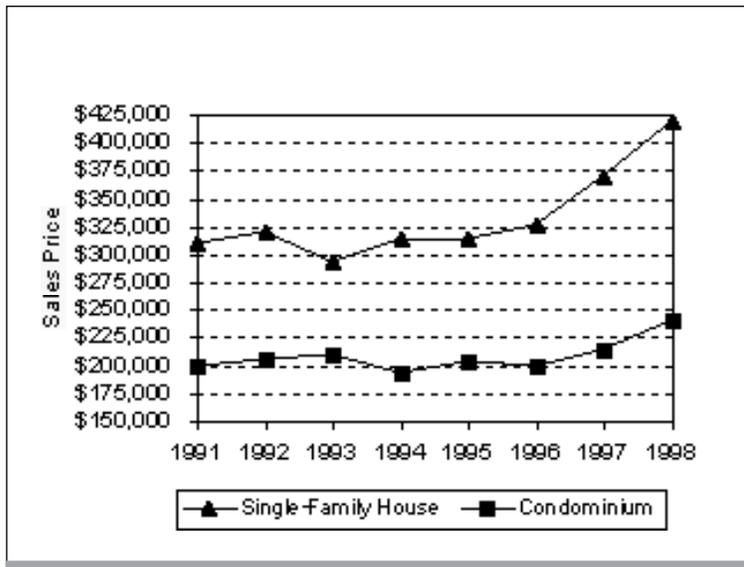
San Mateo County continues to lag behind the nation, the state, and the Bay Area in affordable single-family housing. In December 1998, the median-priced home in the county cost \$418,444, compared to \$131,000 in



“National security means more than a strong military. It also requires meeting basic human needs—and ensuring that population growth and consumption do not destroy the lands and waters that provide our livelihood.”

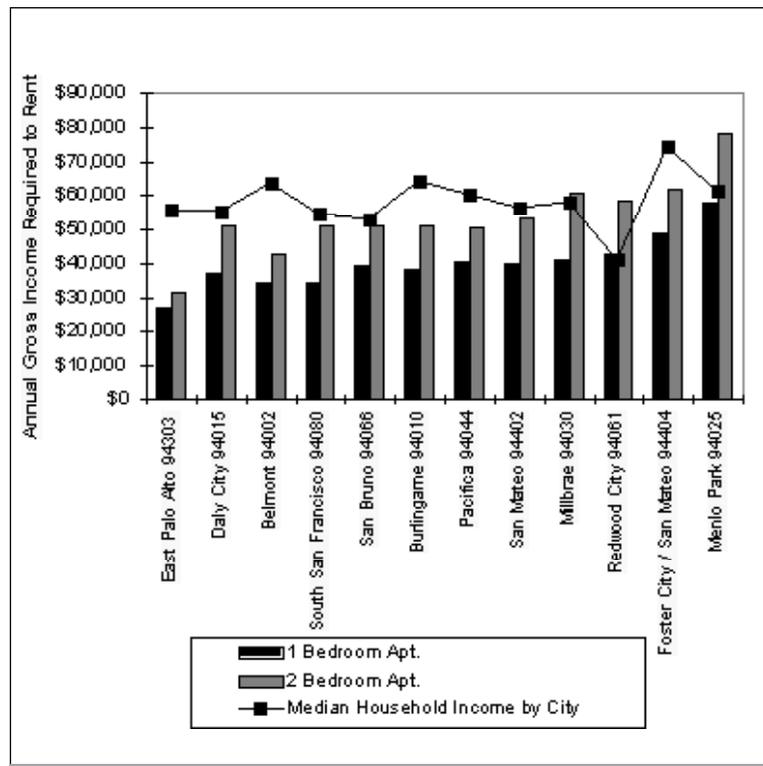
Timothy E. Wirth, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs
 “The Human Factor,” article in Sierra, September/October, 1995

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, continued



will continue to rise. Pressure will increase to construct more housing of all types within the county.

Sources: County of San Mateo; ABAG; California Association of Realtors; San Mateo County Association of Realtors; HUD; SAMCEDA.
 Researcher: David Crabbe



“[We live in] a world addicted to growth, but in deep denial about the consequences.”

William Rees, Canadian ecologist

LAND USE

Indicators Used

The current and projected future uses of the land in San Mateo County were considered. The most recent measurement on record is for 1995. Future land use is an estimation for the year 2020. The recent and future figures are used to estimate the rate of probable future development.

A survey was sent to each city planning office within San Mateo County. The survey asked the respondents to rank, in their best judgement, the importance of five general land use issues for their respective city. The results of the survey were separated into three regions; coastal, northern, and southern. The results of the rankings were averaged. The average ranking was used to estimate the priorities for the region.

Importance

A healthy and sustainable community provides for all of the community's needs – housing, business, services, industry, agriculture, and open space for recreation and habitat preservation. To accomplish these goals, a county must provide for a balance of land uses. Closely related to the indicators for Parks and Open Space and General Plans and Sustainability, the Land Use indicator looks at the priorities a community has set for using its limited space and resources.

Findings

In comparison to other regions in the Bay Area, San Mateo County shows less change in recent land use patterns. Changes in land use are limited by the existing dense population in the eastern corridor (Highway 101 and CalTrain corridor) and policies that control growth near the coast.

As of 1995, 56,800 acres or 19.9 percent of San Mateo County's 285,000 acres have been developed. Of the developed acres, 40,300 acres are developed for residential use and 16,500 acres are developed for commercial/industrial use. Total acres potentially available for development (according to each city's General Plan) from 1995 to 2020 is 24,100, which would be an average growth rate of 1.4 percent per year for the 25-year period. The majority of the land use issues will involve infill development. Infill

development occurs on sites that have been bypassed by previous development. Alternatively, these sites may have been developed at one time, but the current use is no longer optimal or desirable.

In March 1994, the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) developed a guide for land use planners in the Bay Area. The guide uses five approaches to land use coordination. These were compiled by reviewing the general plans of many jurisdictions both within and outside the Bay Area to identify how communities are addressing important land use issues. Below is an overview of the five land use issues with a brief description of the strategies to address the issue.

1) **Location and Intensity of Urban Development:** First, determine the overall location and intensity of urban development. Then, build a foundation on which to base more specific policies.

2) **Mobility:** Create a transportation system by focusing investment and development in designated transportation corridors.

3) **Natural Resource Protection and Management:** Preserve environmental resources in order to maintain and enhance ecological health and diversity of plant and animal communities.

4) **Housing Supply and Affordability:** Improve the supply and affordability of needed housing.

5) **Economic Vitality:** Support existing businesses, promote expansion and attract new business.

A designated planner from each city was asked to rank the above five issues in order of importance. A ranking of "1" indicates the issue has the highest priority to the city and a ranking of "5" indicates the issue is of the least priority of the five issues.

The coastal region is comprised of Pacifica and Half Moon Bay. Natural Resource Protection and Management was ranked #1 by Pacifica and #2 by Half Moon Bay, which makes it the most important issue in land use for the region (on average). The lowest priority for the coastal region is Mobility.

The northern region is comprised of cities north of highway 92 and the city of San Mateo. The majority of the



LAND USE, continued

cities in the northern region reported similar rankings. Of the five issues, Economic Vitality was reported as the highest priority, with 4 of the 6 cities ranking it #1. Contrary to the coastal region, Natural Resource Protection and Management was reported as the lowest priority with 5 of the 6 northern cities ranking it #5.

The Southern region is comprised of cities south of highway 92. The individual rankings for each city were widely different from one another. No specific land use issue was found to be the most common for the region. The average rankings for four of the five issues were close. Mobility was a distant last.

Combining the three regions together, the highest priority in all of San Mateo County is Economic Vitality, which involves supporting ex-

isting businesses, promoting expansion and attracting new business, with an average overall ranking of 2.21. The lowest priority is Natural Resource Protection and Management with an overall ranking of 3.64.

Direction

The estimated annual growth rate for the next 20+ years is a modest 1.4 percent. The majority of the changes in land use will derive from infill development. The most common issues for the city planners in terms of future development are the five issues presented by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Sources: The Regional Planning Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments; Bay Area Futures: Where will we live and work? (Nov. 1997)- A study commissioned by the San Francisco District Council of the Urban Land Institute and performed by the Association of Bay Area Governments with the cooperation of the Bay Area Council; Blueprint for Bay Area Housing, ABAG 1989 (Definition of Infill Development); City Planning Departments of San Mateo County.

Researcher: Dante Tosetti

MATERNAL HEALTH

Indicators Used

Prenatal care, low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs.), births to teenage girls, and infant mortality were recorded from 1989 to 1996. Adequate prenatal care was measured by the Kessner Index, which uses gestational age, number of prenatal visits to a health care professional, and time of prenatal care to determine adequacy of care.

Importance

Early prenatal care is essential for preventing infant mortality, low birthweights, and illness. Low birthweight is

one of the primary causes of death for an infant in the first year of life. A sustainable community makes certain that adequate prenatal care and access to health care is available

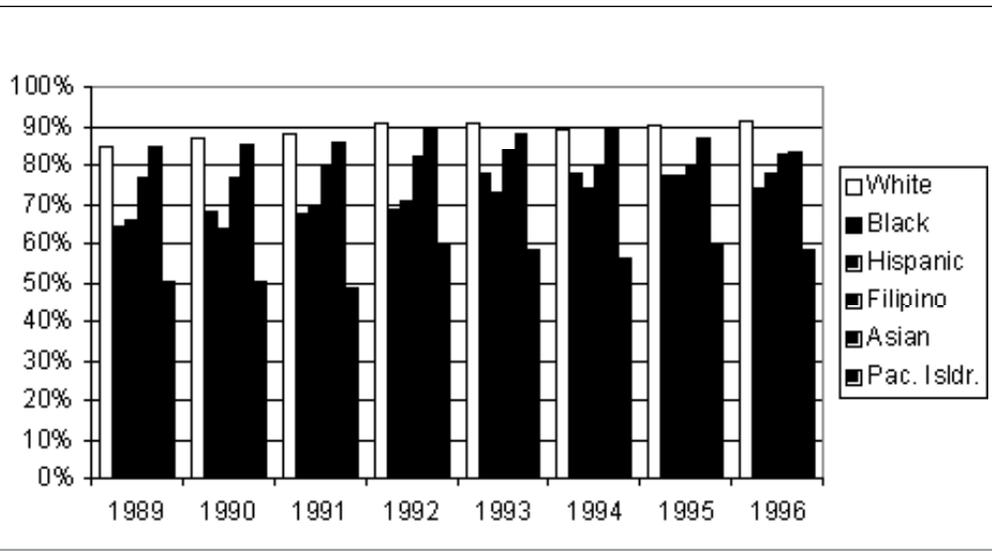
to all women, thus providing every newborn with the opportunity to thrive and become a healthy, productive adult. In addition, this preventive care will reduce the long-term social and medical burdens placed on a community.

Findings

The overall rate of women receiving adequate prenatal care continues to improve from 78.5 percent in 1989 to 84.6 percent in 1996. Adequate prenatal care has increased by 11.7 percent for Hispanic women, the most for any racial/ethnic group, from 66 percent of births in 1989 to 77.7 percent of births in 1996. This rise put Hispanic women above Black women, at 74.2 percent. Pacific Islanders have the lowest rate of adequate prenatal care at 58.4 percent in 1996. Over 90 percent of White women have received adequate prenatal care.

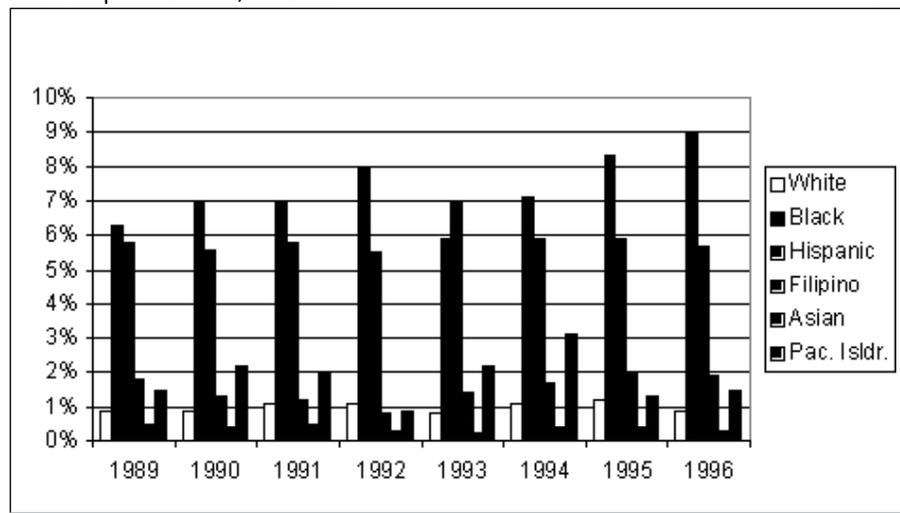
After several years of steady improvement, the rate of prenatal care among pregnant teenage girls has dropped from a high of 66 percent in 1995 to only 60 percent in 1996. The number of women who seek prenatal care in the first trimester has seen a slow, but steady, climb from 80.7 percent in 1989 to 85.2 percent in 1996.

Overall, the rate of low birthweight deliveries has remained fairly steady, with 5.5 percent in 1989 and 5.7 percent in 1996. Women receiving adequate prenatal care



have a lower rate of low birthweight deliveries than do women receiving inadequate prenatal care. Those without adequate prenatal care were nearly twice as likely in 1996 to have a low birthweight delivery. Though declining from 13.6 percent in 1989 to 11.9 percent in 1996, Black women still have the highest rate of low birthweight infants.

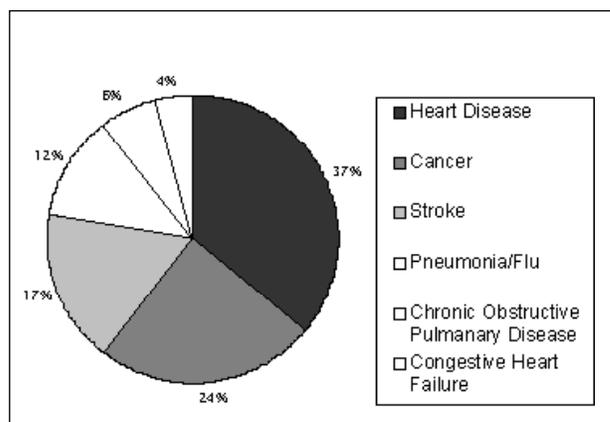
The infant mortality rate is fairly low at 4 deaths per 1,000 births in 1996. Asians currently have the lowest rate of infant mortality with only 2.1 deaths per 1,000 births in 1996, while Whites recorded 4.6 deaths and Hispanic



MORTALITY

Indicators Used

The mortality rate and causes of death per 100,000 residents in San Mateo County were measured. The information is based on a three-year average for age and gender so that unusual circumstances are less likely to distort the given data. For race, 1996 is the most recent information available.



MATERNAL HEALTH, continued

ics and Pacific Islanders had 3.2 deaths per 1,000 each. Blacks still have the highest rates of infant mortality with 7.9 deaths per 1,000 in 1996, followed by Filipinos with 6.3 deaths per 1,000.

The percentage of births to teenagers has held steady at approximately 2.8 percent, while the absolute number of births has fallen each year since 1993, from 296 to 281. The teenage birth rate among Blacks continued to increase to a record high of 9.0 percent in 1996, Hispanics were next with 5.7 percent. Whites and Asians had less than one percent each of births to teenagers. Teenagers are defined as being 17 years old and under.

Direction

Most indicators are either holding steady or heading in a positive direction with the notable exception of teenage births to Blacks and the drop in pregnant teens receiving adequate prenatal care.

Source: Healthy San Mateo 2000: Health Status Indicators, Fall 1996 and 1998.

Researcher: Ken Goldstein

Importance

A sustainable community constantly seeks to improve public health and decrease its preventable deaths. Mortality rates provide an in-depth look at the health status of the community as a whole. This knowledge is indispensable to many people; especially those involved in health promotion, preventive services, and long-term planning. Aberrations in the mortality rate can indicate a need for closer examination of a specific concern. For example, a rise in infant mortality could signal inadequate prenatal care and the need for more health education programs.

Findings

Between 1994 and 1996, the leading cause of death of infants under the age of one was congenital abnormality. For people between the ages of 5 and 34, the leading cause of death was accidental or unintentional injury. Overall, however, accidental or unintentional injury accounted for less than one percent of deaths. For adults aged 35 to 74 years, the leading cause of death was cancer, and for seniors 75 years of age and older, the leading cause of death was heart disease. Women developed cancer earlier than men, while men developed heart disease earlier than did women.

Although there were fifteen times as many White deaths as there were Black deaths in terms of absolute numbers, the actual rate of mortality for Blacks is alarmingly high. In the period from 1994-96 Blacks had nearly five times the rate of death from AIDS and ten times the homicide rate of Whites. Blacks are roughly twice as likely to die from a stroke than any other ethnic group. This, coupled with a declining Black birth rate and the highest rate of those receiving late or no prenatal care, could decimate the county's Black community within 30 years, according to County Health Officer, Dr. Scott Morrow.

Direction

As is shown in such related indicators as Communicable Diseases and Maternal Health, San Mateo County is improving in most health-related categories and close to meeting many Year 2000 objectives. For many county residents, however, the trend is entirely reversed. The mortality rate for Blacks is a sign that the current economic and physical health of the County is not reaching into every community.

Sources: San Mateo County Health Services Agency, Public Health Division, Disease Control and Prevention Unit; Healthy San Mateo County 2000: Health Status Indicators, Fall 1996; "Black Population Drops," San Jose Mercury News On-line, October 7, 1998.

Researchers: Thomas Su & Jane Yi

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Indicators Used

All 20 cities in San Mateo County were sent a survey regarding city parks and open space. Three questions were asked: 1) How many acres of developed park lands are within your city's boundaries? [Does not include school playgrounds, undeveloped lands, open space, watershed lands, or adjacent county or state parks.]. 2) How many acres of open space are within your city's boundaries? [Does include school playgrounds, undeveloped lands, developed parks, watershed lands, or adjacent county or state parks.]. 3) Is your city adjacent to county park lands, state park lands, or watershed lands? The objective was to gain an overall sense of the amount of outdoor recreation and wilderness space existing in each city.

Importance

The availability of nearby areas for recreation and enjoying nature adds to quality of life. Recreation helps build strong bodies with benefits to various measures of community health, while closeness to nature gives us grounding in who and what we are. In a sustainable community, park areas and open space need to be accessible by biking, walking, or using public transit.

Findings

Until 1996, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommended 6 to 10.5 acres of developed park lands per 1,000 residents per city. According to NRPA, the deletion of the standard "reflects a conviction that each community must shape basic facility standards and park classifications or definitions to fit individual circumstances."

Among the 15 cities that responded to the survey, Woodside reported the least, with no developed park lands, while Menlo Park reported 231.4 acres, or 7.4 acres per 1,000 residents. East Palo Alto reported no open space outside of its city parks, while Colma reported 940 acres of undeveloped open space, for a staggering 734.38 acres per 1,000 residents. All cities responding to the survey reported that they are adjacent to county park lands, state park lands, or watershed lands, except Hillsborough

and Menlo Park.

Countywide, the average acreage of developed park lands is 2.26 acres per 1,000 residents. The average amount of undeveloped open space countywide is 5.28 acres per 1,000 residents.

Direction

As discussed in the 1998 Indicators report, the definition of what constitutes "a park" is not as clear as one

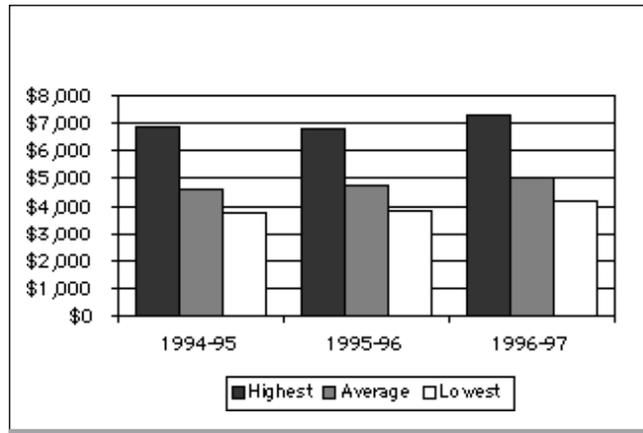
might assume. That fact, combined with the self-reporting of this information in an informal survey, may explain discrepancies in the answers from year-to-year more than actual development of new parks.

Sources: Acreage figures came from each city; National Recreation and Park Association, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1996.

Researcher: Ken Goldstein

Indicators Used

Average expenditures in San Mateo County public schools per annual Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) for the years 1993-97 were compiled. Also shown are the changes in ADA and total revenue. The pupil-teacher ratio for 1994-96



is computed using data reported on the California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS).

Importance

We rely on schools to produce good citizens with the basic skills necessary to participate and succeed in our society. The amount of resources allocated for education shows our commitment to future generations. Adequate funding allows the school districts to provide updated curricula and maintain competitive salaries for teachers, creating a high quality education system and a positive learning environment. There may also be a strong correlation between per pupil spending and scoring on standardized tests.

Findings

Average expenditures per annual ADA for grades K-12 continued to increase in the 1996-97 school year by 7.2 percent countywide, to \$5,060. Bayshore Elementary School District showed the largest percentage gain, increasing per pupil spending by 17 percent, to \$4,773 per ADA. San Mateo and Sequoia High School Districts showed the only decreases in per pupil spending, cutting 1.3 and 0.2 percent respectively. Even with these cuts, however, their expenditures per ADA remained above the county average, with San Mateo High School District spending \$6,049 and Sequoia High School District spending \$6,739 per pupil. Woodside Elementary School District continued to have the highest per pupil spending at \$7,298, with Laguna Salada spending the least at \$4,154. Last year's lowest spender, San Carlos Elementary School District, increased spending by 14.2 percent, to \$4,160. Nationally, California moved from number 41 to number 28 in per-pupil spending.

Related to per pupil funding is the pupil-teacher ratio, which counts all certificated teachers in a district and divides it by the number of students. (The student-teacher ratio is not the same as average class size. The average class size is always larger because some teachers have special assignments). California has the highest pupil-teacher ratio in the nation. For the 1994-95 school year, San Mateo County's average ratio of 22-1 fell between the California ratio of 24-1 and the national average pupil-teacher ratio of 17-1. Districts with the best pupil-teacher ratios were Portola Valley (16-1), Woodside (18-1), Las Lomas (19-1), and Hillsborough (19-1). The worst were Bayshore, Laguna Salada, and Ravenswood, all of which had ratios of 25-1.

Revenues climbed by 9.2 percent in the county, to a total of \$458,693,730. Ravenswood Elementary School District had the largest percentage gain, with 22.1 percent higher revenues. Average Daily Attendance also continued to rise at a modest 2.5 percent.

The effects of high per pupil spending and low pupil-teacher ratios may have been demonstrated in the results of the Stanford Achievement Tests of nine basic skills (SAT

9). Each elementary school district was ranked based on the percentage of students to test above the national average on the SAT 9. The highest-ranking district on test scores was Portola Valley, which had the lowest pupil-teacher ratio and the second highest per pupil spending. continued

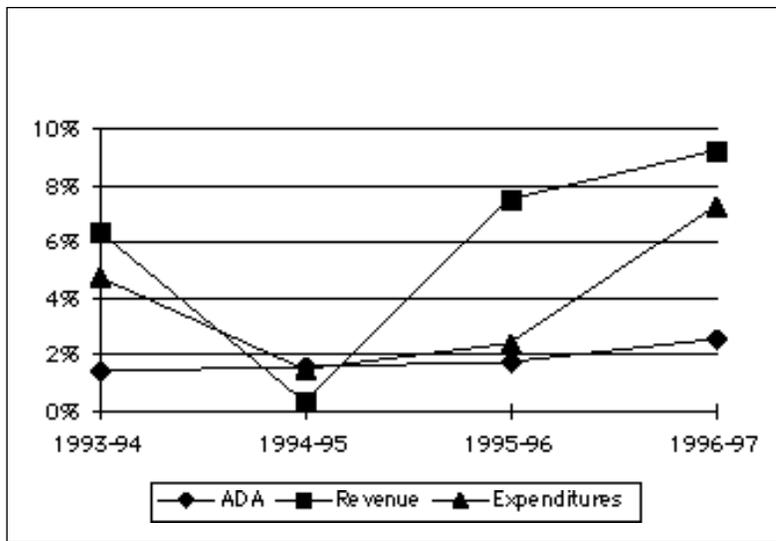
PER PUPIL FUNDING, continued

Many factors other than per pupil spending and the pupil-teacher ratio affect the test scores. For example, Redwood City and Ravenswood districts each ranked higher in spending than they did on testing. That may be accounted for by the percentage of students who have limited English language proficiency – 68 percent in Ravenswood and over 50 percent in Redwood City. There is still a lack of sound statistical data to show direct causation between per pupil spending and student achievement, but the data does show a strong correlation.

Direction

Population in the county continues to grow, as is shown by the continued rise in ADA. School district revenues, however, continue to outpace population growth enough to produce sizable increases in per pupil spending. Statewide efforts to reduce class sizes should also begin showing positive results over the next few years. Parity between districts, however, is an area that still needs improvement. After gains in parity in the last Indicators report, in the 1996-97 school year the gap between the highest and lowest spending districts in the county increased by \$123 to \$3,138 per pupil. Both the highest and lowest spending districts were elementary school districts.

Sources: Fiscal and Operational Services Division, San Mateo County Office of Education, 1993-94, 1995-96, and 1996-97 Financial Statistical Report, San Mateo School Districts and Community College; "Nothing Uniform about Scores," San Mateo County Times, July 2, 1998, pp. NEWS-1& 5; Educational Data Partnership - www.ed-data.k12.ca.us.
 Researcher: Ken Goldstein



Indicators Used

The July population of San Mateo County in each of the last 12 years, the rates of growth (natural increase and migration) of the County and the State of California, estimated population to the year 2020, the racial/ethnic composition since 1990, and the age structure of the County population.

Importance

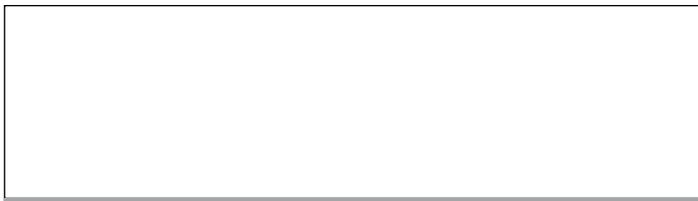
Population statistics represent individuals who reside in San Mateo County. Each seeks a quality life here where one can work, learn, play, create, and grow. Each individual seeks to meet basic human needs for physical well being: shelter, safety, and security; family and friends; and opportunities to fulfill one’s potential.

The ability of the political, economic, and social institutions in the county to provide a cultural environment that supports individual needs and goals while maintaining a healthy physical environment is challenged as the population grows. Anticipating our future needs is an essential first step in planning effectively for the quality environments we seek to achieve.

Findings

The total county population grew over 15 percent in the past 12 years. Natural increase (births minus deaths) has declined in all ethnic groups, but does result in an average increase of 5,300 people each year. Net migration has been a variable factor, causing the yearly rate of growth to fluctuate. Movement, both domestic and foreign, into and out of the county is probably the result of local economic conditions. These factors make future projections difficult.

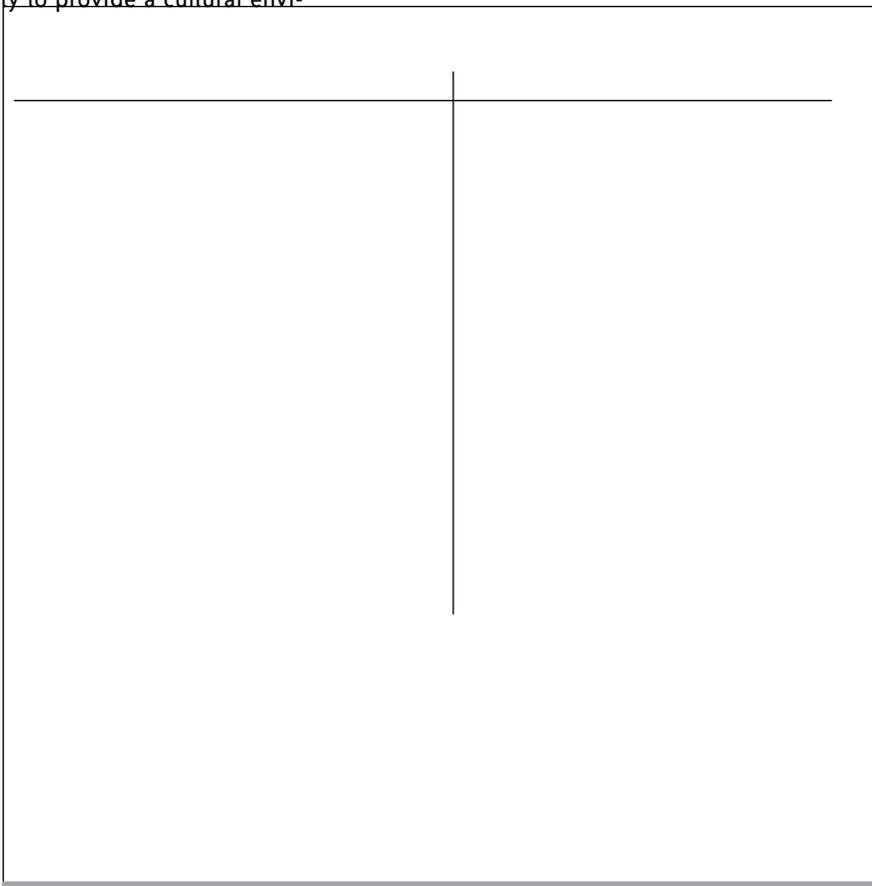
Between July 1997 and July 1998, the county had a



net increase of 9,700 people – a 1.4 percent growth rate. A natural increase of 4,932 (9,815 births, less 4,883 deaths), combined with a net migration of 4,768 led to this increase.

The racial/ethnic makeup of the county in July 1998 was 53 percent White, 22 percent Hispanic, 20 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 5 percent Black. Less than 1 percent is Native American. Since 1990, each year there has been a decline in the number of White and Black people – the result of more leaving the county than are moving in.

Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander populations are increasing as a percent of the county total. Their data show a high rate of natural increase of a young population, as well as a significant migration into the county. County statistics reflect similar trends in the State of California.



The median age in San Mateo County is 36 years.

Direction

The county will continue to grow in the short term; however, the rates and types of growth will remain dependent on economic factors. Statistics show a slight declining trend in the natural increase: birth rates show a slight decrease; death rates are slightly increasing. As most studies predict a

continued

POVERTY

Indicators Used

The number of people enrolled in welfare programs in San Mateo County for January through October of 1998. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency provides and monitors welfare programs. These programs include: CalWORKs, General Relief, Food Stamps, and MediCal. Since the last Indicators report, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the main federal welfare program for the past sixty years, has been changed to Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF). TANF block grants are now given to the states to administer their own welfare programs. In California the new TANF program is called CalWORKs.

Importance

Trends in poverty help to demonstrate the performance of San Mateo County's economy. By monitoring the recipients of the welfare programs, San Mateo County can discern possible weaknesses in the economic base, which may require attention to solve. These problems include infant mortality rates, potential homelessness, and unemployment. Monitoring recipients of the different welfare programs allows San Mateo County to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current economic policies and programs. With too many people living in poverty, potential investors might be discouraged and turn elsewhere to invest.

POPULATION, continued

continuing healthy economy, with job growth in the state and the Bay Area, net migration will remain an important growth factor. Minority populations will continue to represent larger percentages of the total. State projections estimate a decline in the county rate of growth over the next 20 years.

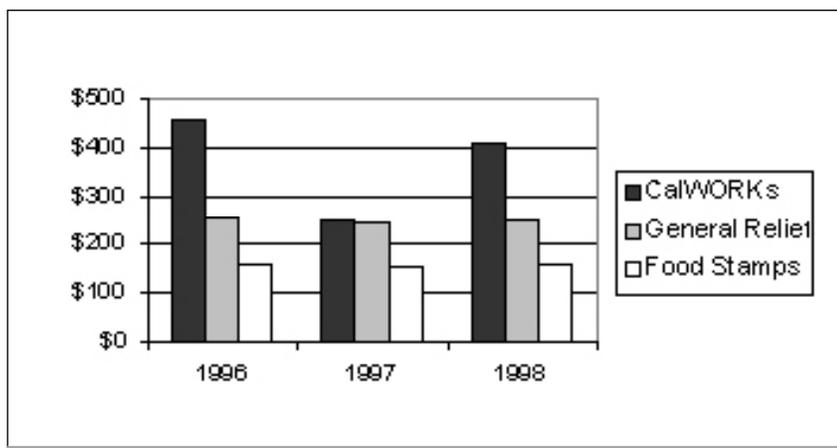
Sources: State of California, Demographic Unit, Department of Finance, Sacramento, Reports E1, E2, E6, P1, "County Population Projections with Race/Ethnic Detail."

Researcher: Carol C. Mink

A sustainable society is one in which each individual has the opportunity to develop and make the best use of his or her unique gifts. Those living in poverty are often unable to fulfill their potential because their nutritional, health care, and educational needs are inadequately met. Children are especially vulnerable, as deprivation can stunt growth and cognitive development lasting into adulthood.

Findings

In 1998, the yearly income at which a family of four



was considered to be at poverty level in San Mateo County was \$16,452 or less. This figure is about 30 percent of the median income for the county.

Throughout 1998, the number of families receiving CalWORKs benefits has shown a general decline with numbers ranging as high as 4,984 in January to a low of 2,725 in October. Furthermore, the number of individuals receiving General Relief benefits is also steadily declining. From a high of 551 General Relief recipients in January, the number went down to 423 in October. Likewise, the number of cases in which Food Stamps were granted has also shown a decrease. Food Stamp cases were at a high of 1,658 in January to a low of 1,206 in October. Since Food Stamps supplied could indicate benefits going to either individuals or families, there is no accurate way to ascertain the actual number of individual people benefiting from Food Stamps. Furthermore, the data collected represents cases for people who are only getting Food Stamp benefits. Unlike other welfare programs, MediCal has been fluctuating. The number of recipients using MediCal services in January was 21,050 individuals while in April the number of beneficiaries declined to 18,066 individuals. After April, the total number of recipients increased.

Direction

The trend is clearly a decline in the number of

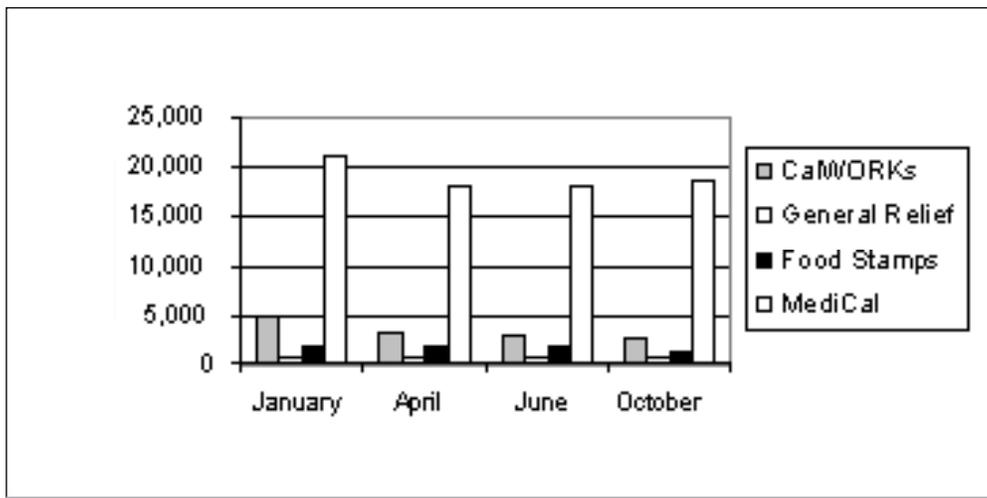
continued

POVERTY, continued

recipients of most welfare programs: CalWORKs, Food Stamps, and General Relief. There are many explanations for this general trend. First of all, the effects of the 1996 welfare reform legislation (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act) are beginning to be felt. The federal welfare reform law includes a lifetime maximum of sixty months of welfare service to beneficiaries. As the year passed, more people who were on welfare have seen their maximum number of months of welfare service evaporating. With this in mind, many people are out looking for jobs. In California, welfare reform legislation included money for the counties to provide job training services. With the booming economy and strong efforts of the San Mateo County Human Services Agency to provide jobs, beneficiaries have had the opportunity to get off the welfare programs. However, there are no adequate explanations for the erratic trend of MediCal recipients.

According to CalWORKs program specialist John Baarts, the county is providing stimuli to “light the fire” for program beneficiaries to search for employment. With the economic boom and aid from the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, they have had the opportunity to do just that.

Source: John Baarts, CalWORKs program specialist for the San Mateo County Human Services Agency.
Researchers: Jonathan Muliang and Hetty Hui



“A human being is part of the whole called by us ‘Universe,’ a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”

Albert Einstein

PUBLIC LIBRARY USE

Indicators Used

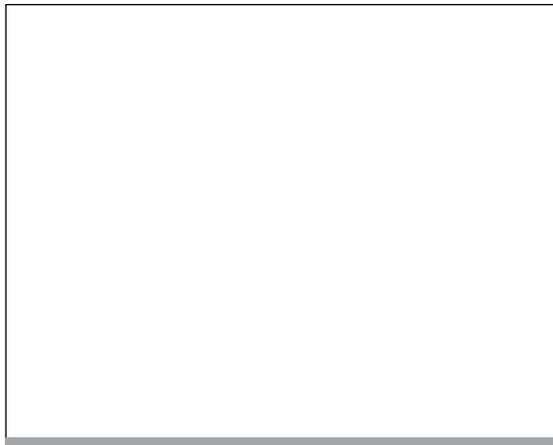
Measurements include: annual expenditures per capita; annual number of hours open to the public; annual materials circulated per capita; and annual number of reference questions asked per capita. Figures represent data for the San Mateo County library system, and also for city libraries that are not part of the county library system in Daly City, San Mateo, Redwood City, South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Bruno, and Menlo Park.

Importance

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading. Libraries are gateways to information for large numbers of people through shared access. They are also an access point to the internet. Library programs aimed at children and adults are cultural assets to our community. Libraries with community rooms provide needed meeting space for county residents. The level of library expenditure is an indicator of community support for libraries. The circulation per capita and reference questions asked per capita are indicative of library use. The number of hours open indicates library accessibility to the community.

Findings

The indicators vary by library system within the



county. For the first time in the past eight years, the total combined annual expenditure for all the library systems in the county rose above the 1991-92 high of \$36.46 per capita to \$38.05. Statistics for all the library systems countywide indicate that materials circulation per capita increased 2.4 percent from 1995-96 to 1996-97 while reference questions asked dropped 9.1 percent. Circulation per capita in 1996-97 was 8.23 in the county compared to 4.9 in the State. Annual expenditure in 1996-97 was also higher per capita in the county (\$38.05) than in the state as a whole (\$18.94). All libraries countywide in 1996-97 were open to the public a total of 63,126 hours, which is 5.2 percent above the 1991-92 low of 60,009 hours, but this is still fewer hours than in 1989-90 when libraries were open 65,684 hours. In general, the library systems with a higher expenditure per capita are open more hours and support higher usage.

Direction

Countywide expenditures since 1993-94 are steadily increasing. Library use based on materials circulated per capita is also moving up. Hours open to the public are increasing, but still remain below their 1989-90 level. Reference questions asked per capita have been dropping steadily since 1993-94. This may be due to the increased use of the internet as a resource tool.

In general, all eight library systems in the county are exceeding the state average in funding and usage, but some jurisdictions are doing better than others are. Expenditure per capita for Burlingame, Redwood City, and Menlo Park libraries is considerably higher than for San Mateo County, the City of San Mateo, South San Francisco, and San Bruno, while Daly City receives the least funding.

Sources: California Library Statistics 1990 - 1998 by Library Development Services Bureau, California State Library, Sacramento.
Researcher: David Crabbe

“At the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves, too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issue from the decision.”

W. H. Murray

Indicators Used

Shown is the tonnage of solid waste that is disposed into landfills in San Mateo County for 1996 through the first quarter of 1998. Also shown are the countywide diversion rates (the amount of waste reused, recycled, or composted) for 1995 and 1996, and the destinations of the county's solid waste.

Importance

Landfill sites around the state are nearing capacity. In fact, the two largest landfill sites in San Mateo County, Ox Mountain and Hillside, will be filled within the next 18 years. As landfill sites reach capacity, new land will be needed to store San Mateo County's refuse. Landfills threaten water quality, limit the amount of open space available to the public, and may impact the value of nearby homes and businesses.

A sustainable community looks to reduce the amount of waste it generates and recycle or reuse as much as possible, rather than increase the number of sites for solid waste disposal. In 1990, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 939, which aims to reduce by 50 percent the amount of solid waste that cities and counties send to landfills by the year 2000. The goal can best be achieved through reduction of waste generated and increased recycling, composting, and reuse of goods and materials.

Findings

In 1997 San Mateo County residents decreased the amount of solid waste sent to landfills by 5.4 percent,

from 878,347 tons in 1996 to 830,722 tons in 1997. The first quarter of 1998 had a reduction of 1.5 percent from the last quarter of 1997. The last year for which San Mateo County's diversion rate was available was 1996, with 34 percent. That was a marked improvement over 1995's 30 percent. San Mateo County is slightly ahead of the 32 percent statewide average diversion rate.

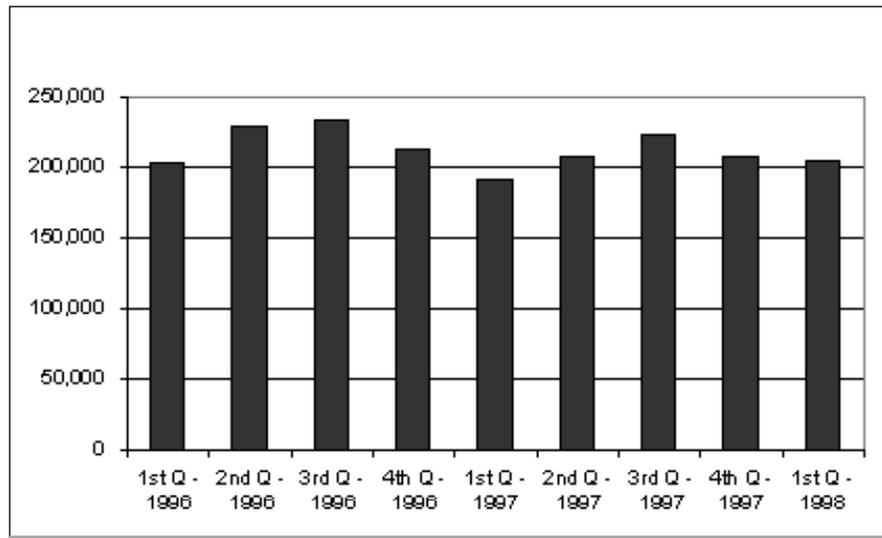
In 1996 all solid waste landfilled by San Mateo County residents was sent to either Ox Mountain or Hillside landfills, each of which is in San Mateo County. Beginning in 1997, San Mateo County's solid waste has also been going to Contra Costa County (West Contra Costa Landfill and Keller Canyon), Alameda County (Altamont and Vasco Road), Santa Clara County (Newby Island, Zanker Road, and Guadeloupe), Solano County (B & J Dropbox and Potrero Hills), Marin County (Redwood Sanitary), San Joaquin County (Foothill Sanitary), and as far as Stanislaus County (Ogden Martin Systems and Fink Road).

Direction

While reductions in landfill and increases in diversion are to be applauded, they may not be enough to meet the requirements of AB 939. Though San Mateo County is slightly ahead of the state in meeting these goals, it lags behind several other Bay Area communities, such as the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara and Alameda Counties, that have already met the AB 939 goals.

Sources: California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board, Waste Characterization and Analysis

Branch, CIWMB Database Project; California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; "Heaps Less Trash Sent to Dumps," San Francisco Chronicle, June 25, 1998. Researcher: Ken Goldstein



SUBSTANCE ABUSE: ARRESTS FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Indicators Used

The California Department of Justice measures the number of arrests in San Mateo County for driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs. Figures from 1987 to 1996 are shown.

Importance

Persons driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs pose a serious threat to the safety and well-being of everyone, including themselves. Although an increase in the number of DUI cases can reflect enforcement efforts, it may also represent an increase in the number of persons driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, which equates to an increased probability that an accident will occur and that a serious injury or fatality will ensue.

Findings

There were 3,832 DUI arrests in the county during calendar year 1996. Most of these were misdemeanors; 104 were felony DUIs. The majority of those arrested were in the 30-39 age group, accounting for 32 felonies and 1,216 misdemeanors.

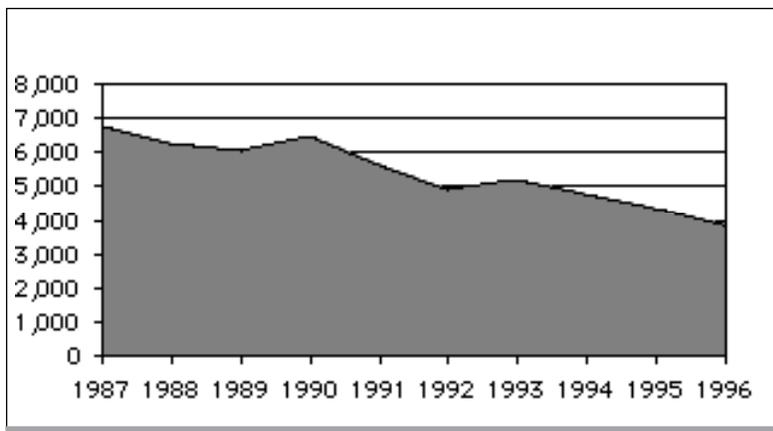
Juveniles accounted for 38 of 1996's DUIs, or one percent of the total. This figure includes one 15 year-old, eleven 16 year-olds, and

27 17 year-olds. One of the 17 year-olds was charged with a felony; the others were all misdemeanors.

Direction

Between 1995 and 1996 DUI arrests decreased by 11.2 percent, from 4,317 to 3,832. DUI arrests have decreased in eight of the last ten years. Increases in arrests in 1990 and 1993 may have been due to changes in the law, and do not necessarily imply an increase in alcohol abuse. Since 1987, DUI arrests have decreased a total of 43.2 percent.

Over the past decade, increased public awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving has led to stricter



laws and increased enforcement. DUI arrests in San Mateo County have steadily decreased. Due to stronger laws and enforcement our roads and highways are becoming safer.

Source: State of California, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Services Division, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Criminal Justice Profile, 1995, and 1996 San Mateo County. Researcher: Ken Goldstein

“The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend.”

Benjamin Disraeli, speech, July 24, 1877

Indicators Used

Measurements include: estimated highway vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year within the county; estimated number of commute trips per day into, out of, and within the county; estimated number of commute trips per day by travel mode; estimated congestion delay on county freeways; annual gasoline consumption; annual bus and train ridership; and level of service (LOS), a rating of congestion, on selected roadway segments.

Importance

Motor vehicles generate emissions and toxic wastes, such as oil and grease, asbestos from brake linings, and rubber particles from tires, creating air, water, and noise pollution. Fossil fuels are non-renewable resources. Roads take

up valuable land and reduce habitat for wildlife. An increase in the vehicle miles traveled reflects increased use of resources; decreased ability to

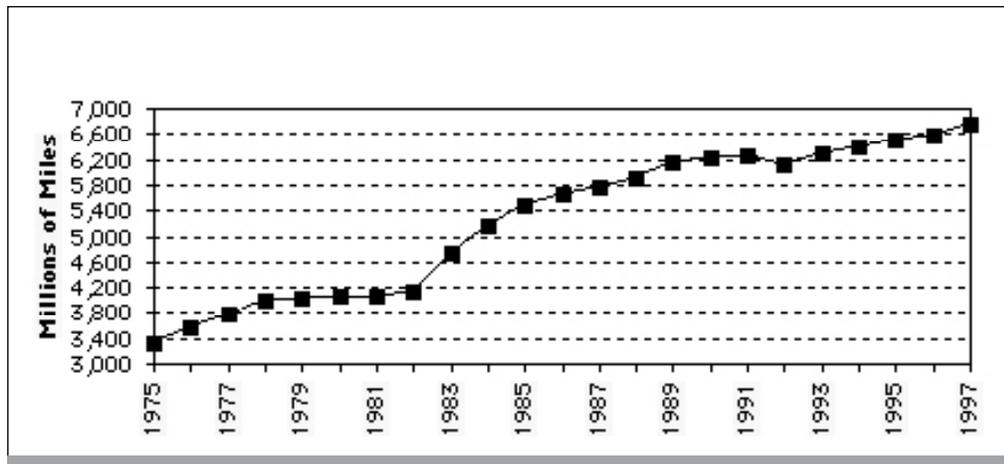
work, live and participate in the neighborhood or local community; more time spent driving from place to place; and less time spent with family and friends. Increased VMT, combined with a reduced level of service, contributes to traffic congestion. This puts pressure on government to widen existing roadways and reconstruct interchanges. Roadway construction increases the cost

of community infrastructure. A decrease in VMT would reflect reduced travel distances and increased use of less polluting alternatives to driving (walking, biking, work-at-home, transit).

Findings

Estimated VMT increased 104 percent from 1975 to 1997. Estimated daily hours of congestion delay on county freeways increased 700 percent from 1993 to 1998. Although numerous road improvements have occurred over the years, increase in freeway congestion remains a continuing problem.

The number of commuters driving alone to and from work has increased from 69 percent in 1981 to 73 percent



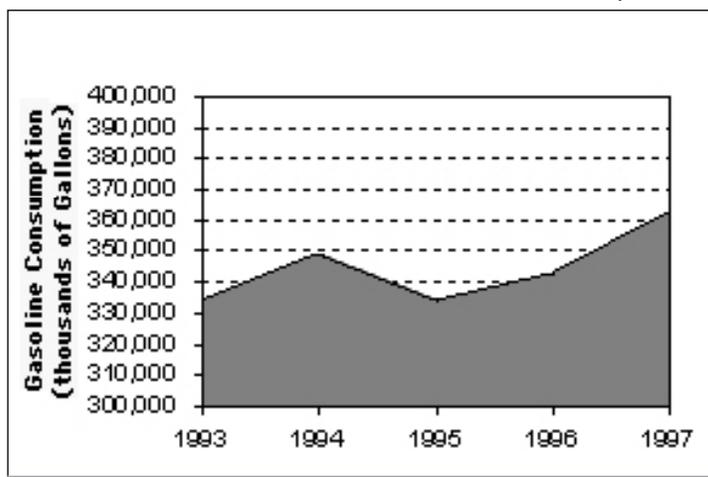
in 1994 while total use of alternative modes of travel has dropped from 31 percent to 27 percent. The number of people working at home has more than doubled from 1980 to 1990, but work-at-home represents only 2 percent of workers in the county.

Of the total commute trips on county streets and highways in 1990, only 45 percent were within the county; 55 percent were trips to or from adjacent counties. This

is a symptom of a serious jobs-housing imbalance in the county where employees are unable to, or choose not to, live in the communities in which they work.

In 1997, SAMTRANS carried 18,939,000 passengers and CalTrain carried 8,367,683 passengers in the county. BART (Colma and Daly City stations only) carried 6,920,000 passengers in 1996. There are 29 employee shuttles traveling between BART and Cal-Train stations and employment centers. Yet, all forms of transit comprised a small percentage of overall trips.

The level of service (LOS) on county roadways from 1990 to 1996 has deteriorated



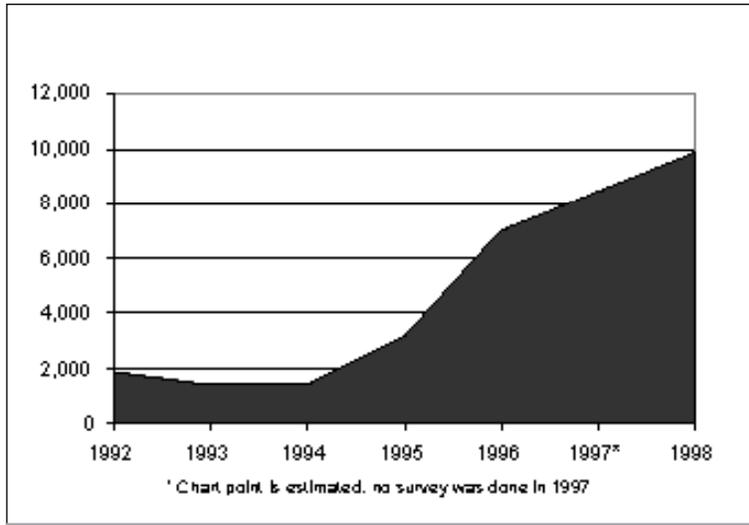
TRANSPORTATION

rated on almost all the measured county roadway segments. The letters "A" through "F" with "A" representing free-flowing traffic and "F" virtual gridlock measures level of service. Measured roadways include portions of Routes 1, 35, 82, 84, 92, 101, 109, 114, 280, 380, Mission Street, Geneva Avenue, and Bayshore Boulevard. LOS on most of these roadways was classified either "D" or "E" indicating a strong trend toward gridlock.

Gasoline consumption has risen 9 percent from 1993 to 1997.

Direction

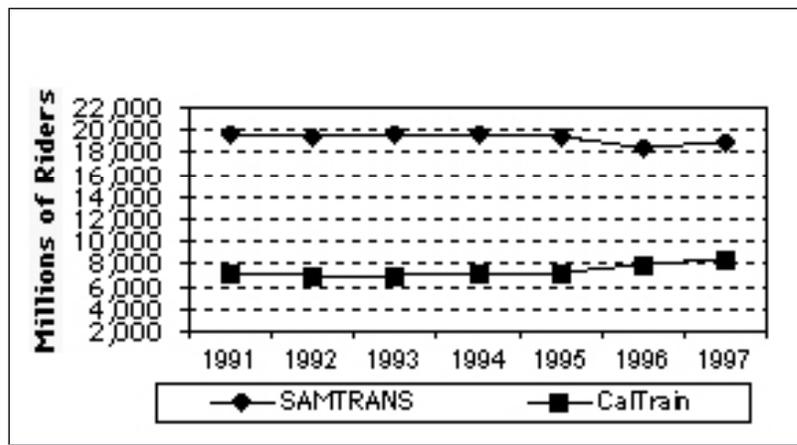
The number of motor vehicles on county roads is continuing to increase, and freeway congestion remains a problem, with continuing roadway improvements being offset by a chronic jobs-housing imbalance and greater reliance on the single-occupancy vehicle for commuting. Alternative



fordability, and vehicle use, transportation will continue to be a problem in the county, absorbing large financial resources for little real mobility gain.

Sources: April 1994 draft of the San Mateo County "Countywide Transportation Plan"; CalTrans; draft 1997 San Mateo County Congestion Management Program; phone interviews; "Travel and Related Factors in California - Annual Summary 1997," Department of Transportation - Transportation System Information Program - Office of Travel Forecasting and Analysis.

Researcher: David Crabbe



modes of travel are unable to serve the region efficiently because housing, employment centers, shopping areas, and community buildings are located some distance apart and in scattered geographic locations; thus the use of alternative, less polluting, modes of travel is gradually decreasing as a percentage of overall trips. Without changes in land use, employment patterns, housing af-

"The goal of the cold war was to get others to change their values and behavior. Winning the battle to save the planet depends on something far more difficult—changing our own values."

Lester Brown, Worldwatch Institute

UNEMPLOYMENT

Indicators Used

The average annual unemployment rates over the past decade for San Mateo County, the state of California, and the United States. The statistics count as unemployed all people sixteen years or older who don't have a job, who have made efforts to find employment during the previous four weeks, and who are available for employment. In addition it includes those waiting to return to employment and those starting work within the next 30 days. The number of unemployed is then divided by the number of people in the labor force to yield the unemployment rate. These statistics were analyzed to locate trends in unemployment in the community and to compare the county's economy to those of other counties in the state, to that of the state itself, and to the entire nation.

Importance

The data is a fundamental indicator of the overall economic wellbeing of an area, as employment is a basic need for the survival of most individuals and families. Low unemployment rates indicate a booming economy with opportunities open for most citizens to earn a comfortable living, while high rates usually describe an economy lacking enough opportunities.

Findings

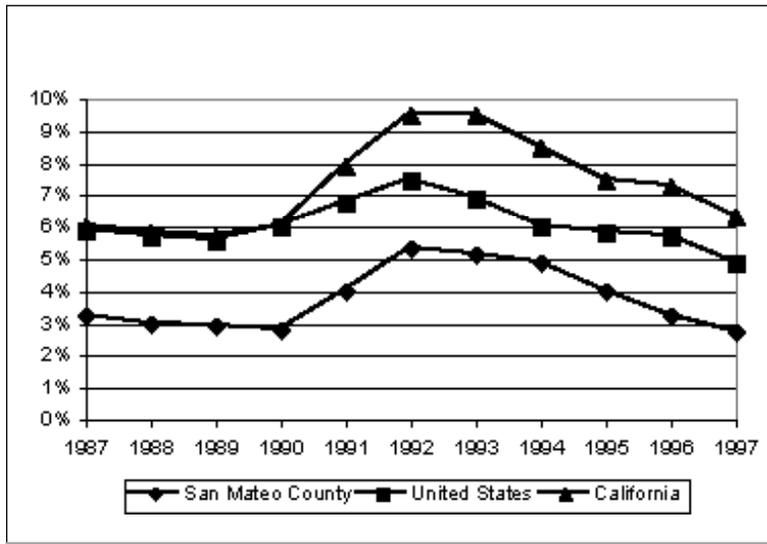
San Mateo County's unemployment rate has been consistently lower than that of the state and the nation, and was the lowest of any county in the state of California in 1997.

The county's overall unemployment rate for the year was 2.7 percent, but there are dramatic differences among the various communities within the county. In September 1998, Half Moon Bay and San Carlos showed the lowest unemployment rates with 1.5 percent each, while East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks had the highest rates, 6.9 and 5.9 percent respectively. The county has benefited from full employment since 1985. The term "full employment" allows for some seasonal and frictional unemployment.

Direction

San Mateo County's 0.7 percent decrease between the 1996 and 1997 unemployment rate, although slightly less than the 0.8 percent change from 1995 to 1996, is still remarkable considering that the 1996 rate was already well below the generally accepted rate of full employment and that California's rate was 6.3 percent. Despite this year's decrease, the county rate is still slightly higher than the ten-year low of 2.6 in 1990.

Sources: Labor Market Information, State of California Employment Development Department (EDD); Census Bureau, Current Population Survey FAQ (http://stats.bls.gov/cps_faq.htm).
Researcher: Mat Beale



"The present moment is open as well as pivotal. The die is far from cast. The night has not yet come. There is still everything to play for."

Os Guinness

VOTER PARTICIPATION

Indicators Used

Three county-wide measurements of voter participation for the years 1990-98 are included: the percent of the adult population that is registered to vote; the percent of registered voters that actually voted; and the percent of the adult population that actually voted. "Adult population" includes all persons 18 and over whether they are eligible to vote or not.

Also shown are the percentages by city of registered voters who actually voted in the 1998 primary and general elections.

Importance

In a sustainable society, citizens participate in making decisions about their communities. A true democracy is not working if too few people are engaged in the process. High voter participation indicates that citizens believe in their political and social institutions and believe that their vote is important and relevant to their lives.

Findings

Twenty-seven percent of adults voted in the 1998 primary, and 38 percent voted in the general election. Forty-five percent of those registered actually voted in the primary and 65 percent of those registered voted in the general election.

The county-wide participation level in both elections is very similar to other non-presidential general election years (1990, 1994). The number of persons registered to vote dropped this year from 336,746 in June to 325,117 in November.

A breakdown by city shows a range of 28-68 percent participation of registered voters voting in the 1998 primary and a range of 48-76 percent in the general election.

Direction

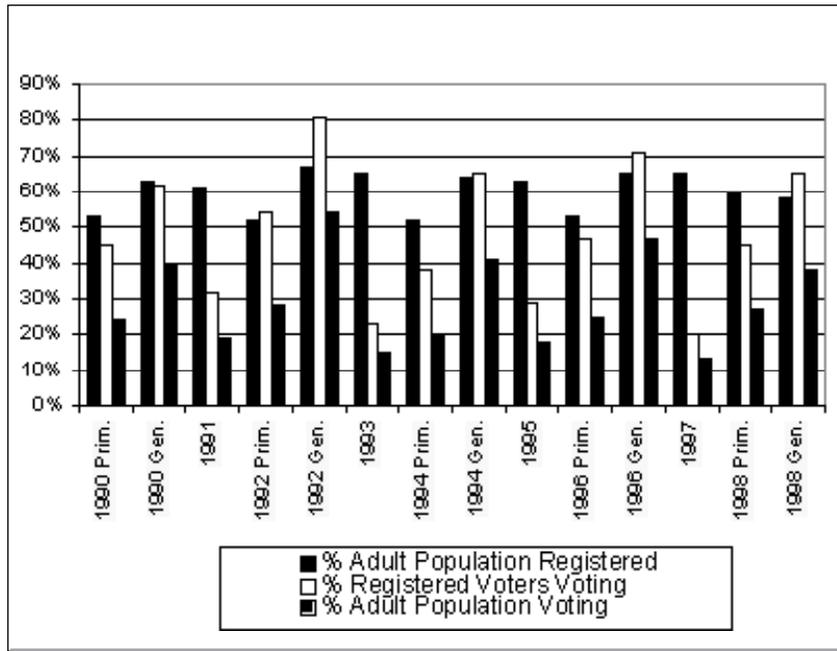
The most significant trend is the continuing low level of participation in all elections.

There is a general consistency of voter turnout in the years recorded for each type of election. Participation in general elections, in which the president, congressional and state government officials are elected, is higher than participation in primaries or off-year elections. These later elections are of local importance, as school board members, city council members, special district board members, and city and county measures are decided.

National participation in the 1998 general election was estimated at about 37 percent of the voting-age population, not significantly different from the 38 percent voting-age population voting in San Mateo County. Consequently, San Mateo County's low voting record is typical of the nation as a whole.

Sources: CA State Dept. of Finance, January 1, 1998 estimate, E 1; Supplement to Sales and Marketing Management: 1998 Survey of Buying Power; San Mateo County Statement of Vote (for each election); "60% voter turnout in County election," San Mateo County Times, November 5, 1998.

Researcher: Marcia Pagels



WATER CONSUMPTION

Indicators Used

The Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA), a nonprofit corporation representing 29 water retailers in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, annually compiles a survey of water consumption in the areas served by its members. San Mateo County's annual per capita water consumption for Fiscal Year (FY) 1985-86 through FY 1996-97 is compared with water consumption in BAWUA's total service area for the same period.

Importance

Approximately 90 percent of San Mateo County's water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which is fed by snowpack from the Sierra Nevada. The other 10 percent of the county's water is supplied by a fresh water aquifer, a natural water deposit that forms due to rain percolation through the soil. Water is constantly drawn from the underground supply but is not replaced at the same rate. Precipitation levels in both the Sierra Nevada and the county impact the amount of water available to county residents. Another factor that impacts fresh water renewal is surface pavement, which collects rain and directs it into the bay, breaking the chain of aquifer replenishment. With an expanding population and increased demands on our finite water supply, water conservation is necessary for a community to be sustainable.

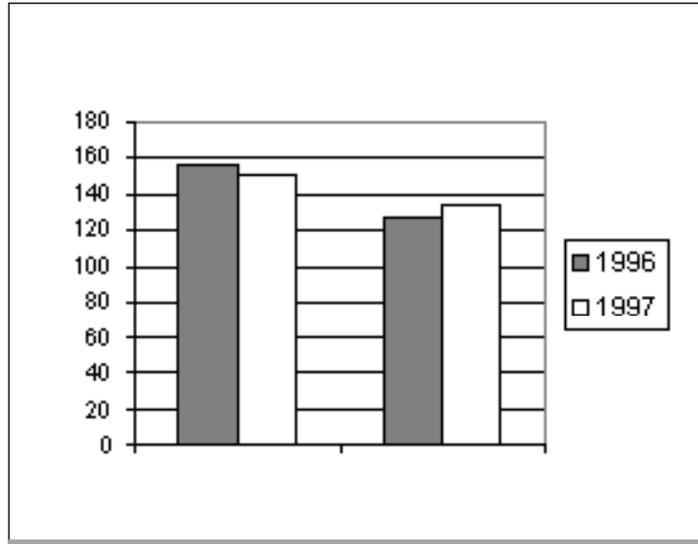
Findings

San Mateo County's per capita water consumption in FY 1996-97 was 65.7 CCF per year (1 CCF= 748 gallons) – or 134.6 gallons per day. This represents a 4.9 percent increase over the previous year, but remains below the Bay Area average of 151.5 gallons per day. The Bay Area,

however, dropped three percent in the same period, bringing San Mateo County closer to the regional average.

Direction

Water conservation tends to decrease in years with more rain. Despite education and incentives designed to



buck that trend, the current increase in water consumption is most likely tied to El Niño conditions in recent years. Still, water consumption levels have not returned to their pre-drought highs of 1985-87.

Sources: Bay Area Water Users Association, Annual Survey 1995-96, 1996-97.

Researchers: Mark Harris and Ken Goldstein

"Most accepted definitions of sustainability include the concept of living off nature's 'interest' rather than its 'capital.' Land productivity is an excellent indicator of the locally, regionally or globally available natural 'interest.'"

Craig Simmons, Director of Best Foot Forward Limited

WATER QUALITY—TAP WATER

Indicators Used

Levels of trihalomethanes (THMs), methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), copper, and lead, in water delivered by San Mateo County's two largest suppliers of water, the San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) and CalWater. Since ground well water supplies a small percentage of the county's water, only public waters were measured. The last eight years of water quality reports for the San Francisco Water Department and for CalWater were reviewed. The SFWD supplies most of San Mateo County's water, while CalWater supplies water for the communities of South San Francisco, San Mateo, San Carlos, Colma, Broadmoor, Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside, and portions of Redwood City. The state and federal governments assign a maximum contaminant level for many of the chemical and biological pollutants found in water, and these were used as standards for comparison.

Importance

THMs are chemicals that arise in the chlorination process of water and that are suspected to be carcinogenic and mutagenic, possibly causing damage to DNA. MTBE is an oxygenate that is used to help gasoline burn cleaner, but recent studies show that it is a neurotoxin and possibly a carcinogen. Lead, a metal, can cause severe learning disabilities in children, blood pressure and neurological ailments in adults, and complications in pregnancy. Copper is a metal that can cause nausea, vomiting, and even death when ingested in large quantities. Because of these risks associated with lead and copper ingestion, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) places special emphasis on the monitoring of lead and copper in drinking water.

The quality of drinking water is one of many factors contributing to the environmental and personal health of a community. Poor water can bring disease, birth defects,

increased infant mortality, and increased occurrence of cancer.

Findings

The data show that the drinking water of San Mateo County residents and businesses is essentially pollutant free.

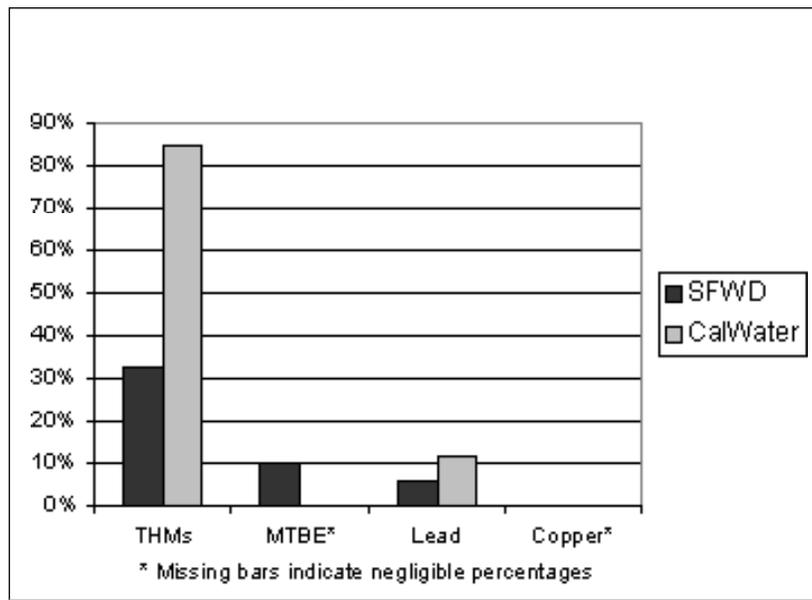
Of the 21 organic chemicals monitored, only THMs appeared at levels approaching the standard maximum level. The average level of THMs for the entire year was still only 32 percent of the maximum contaminant level in communities served by the SFWD, and 85 percent of the maximum contaminant level in communities served by CalWater.

MTBE, which has proven problematic in neighboring Santa Clara County, is virtually nonexistent in the drinking water of San Mateo County. The federal government has not yet set a standard for MTBE levels in the public drinking supply. State and federal officials have recently lowered the advisory level at which consumers can smell and taste MTBE in water to five parts per billion (ppb), but this advisory serves only as a warning level, not a standard maximum level, for water managers. The level of MTBE detected in the San Francisco Water System is below 0.5 ppb, and no MTBE was detected in water supplied by CalWater.

Copper didn't reach detectable quantities in either water system. Lead concentrations also were far below the standard levels. The measurements averaged less than 2 ppb, or less than 20 percent of the maximum contaminant level of 15 ppb.

Direction

Water quality over the last nine years has varied little and remains excellent.



Sources: California Water Service Group, 1997 Water Quality Report; Environmental Research Foundation, "Lead in Drinking Water;" Rebbeka Grossman, "Tap Water: The Last Taboo;" www.plumbing-supply.com; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission 1997 Water Quality Report.
Researcher: Mat Beale

STATUS OF OTHER INDICATORS

In addition to the indicators you have just read, Sustainable San Mateo County has been tracking several other indicators over the years. The following indicators appeared in last year's edition of the Indicators report, but were not updated for this edition. In most cases we were unable to find enough new information to warrant their inclusion as a 1999 indicator.

We will continue to track these, and hope to include them in the next edition of Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County. The following summaries are from the 1998 Indicators report.

Commercial Fish Catches and Population

Increased regulations and the deterioration of ocean and river habitats may be partly responsible for a decrease in the number of fish caught. However, the total fish catch is not an accurate method of measuring the fish population off San Mateo County's coast because oceanographic conditions and natural fluctuations and cycles also impact fish populations.

Community Safety

The overall number of crimes reported has decreased again. After peaking in 1993, juvenile felonies and misdemeanors fell for the second year in a row, while adult felonies and misdemeanors remained the same. Domestic violence calls are at a ten-year high.

Employment Trends

Job growth in the county continues at a healthy rate. The Service and Business Service industries experienced the greatest amount of growth with business services in the lead. 98 percent of the county's businesses continue to have less than 100 employees.

High School Dropouts

San Mateo County's high school dropout rate continues to be lower than that of the state. Although low, the high school dropout rates for Hispanics, African-Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans are much higher than the dropout rates for Whites, Filipinos, and Asians.

Substance Abuse—Treatment Provided

Possibly due to funding cutbacks and reallocation, the total number of people treated for drug and alcohol abuses has declined. The percentage of youth receiving treatment for substance abuse has remained steady.

Volunteerism

The actual rate of volunteerism is impossible to measure. Using estimates, it appears that the rate of volunteerism has remained steady.

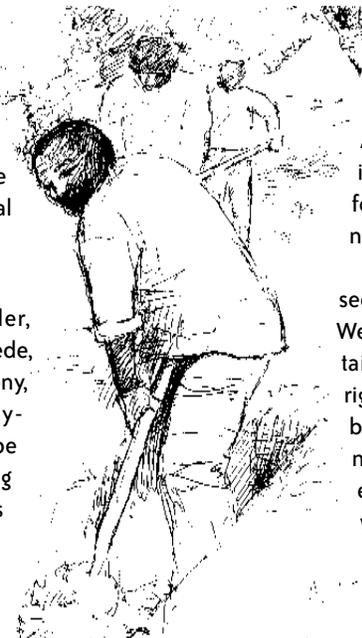
ON THE COVER

About the Artist

Trevor Burrowes created the cover illustration for this edition of the Indicators report. Mr. Burrowes serves on the Advisory Council of Sustainable San Mateo County and is the former Executive Director of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society.

About the Illustration

Charles Weeks, an early settler, envisioned his settlement of Runnymede, also known as the Weeks Poultry Colony, as a community of independently-owned farms whose owners could be economically self-sufficient by selling the poultry, eggs, and vegetables produced on their one-acre plots. With a motto of "One Acre and Independence in California," from 1916 to 1930 the area drew settlers from across the country to East Palo Alto.



Remnants of the original colony still exist in the neighborhood between University Avenue, Highway 101, the Baylands, and Ravenswood Industrial Area. Today there are still many functioning greenhouses, and over ten active for-profit agricultural businesses in the neighborhood.

The 1997 Weeks Neighborhood Plan seeks to preserve what is left of the original Weeks Poultry Colony, and some of the sustainable elements of life in East Palo Alto right now. The history of the Weeks Neighborhood demonstrates the vision, planning, and hard work necessary for building even a partially sustainable community in what seems to us simpler times, and how easily such a community can slip away. Our specific tasks are different today, but the necessities remain the same.

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“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment: we can start now, start slowly changing the world! How lovely that everyone great and small, can make a contribution toward introducing justice straightaway.”

Anne Frank

PARTICIPANTS AND UNDERWRITERS, continued

Sustainable San Mateo County gratefully wishes to acknowledge the support of the Indicators Project by the Peninsula Community Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, Pacific Gas & Electric, Pacific Bell Foundation, the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce, the County of San Mateo, and the Cities of San Mateo, Colma, Pacifica, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, and San Bruno. Also special thanks to Ruth Peterson and Bovet Professional Center for the generous donation of office space and equipment to facilitate the production of this report and to Colorprint Printing in Burlingame.



With great appreciation to the researchers, writers, proof-readers, and editors of the previous editions:

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Sheldon Kay	

. . . and the hundreds of individuals who have attended our community workshops and forums from 1993 to 1999!



FEEDBACK FORM

The members of Sustainable San Mateo County have made every effort to be inclusive in the process of choosing, writing, reviewing, and producing the indicators for this report. It is always our intent that this be a community project. In the spirit of continuing community participation, we invite you to fill out this page and send it to the address below. Your Comments will be read and taken into account. Your response could range from an additional source of information to volunteering your individual, company's, agency's, class's, or city's assistance in researching and writing an indicator (or more) for the next report.

1. Is this report useful to you? yes no
2. How can it be improved to be more useful?
3. I/we have particular expertise on the following indicator, and would be willing to provide assistance in its production for the next report:

4. I/we would be willing to contribute financially or with in-kind service to the production of the next report:

5. Additional comments:

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Sustainable San Mateo County

Dedicated to the long-term
health and vitality of our region

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Support these efforts
In san mateo county

- ✓ Measure indicators to show our progress with sustainability
- ✓ Work with business to achieve sustainability in their business plans and operations
- ✓ Promote sustainability as a key criterion in planning and decision-making
- ✓ Sponsor presentations by key advocates for sustainability

You will benefit

- ✓ Receive newsletters/announcements
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I want to support the efforts of Sustainable San Mateo County by becoming a member.

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- Benefactor \$1000
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All contributions are tax deductible

Yes!

I want to contribute time
as well as financial support.

- Help with presentations
- Help the Indicators Project measure S.M. County's progress toward sustainability
- Work with the Business Task Force
- Work with the Planning Task Force
- Help promote sustainability through other actions or projects

Yes!

I want a copy of the current Indicators Report

- \$6 plus \$2 postage and handling

Return this form with check made

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did
nothing because he could only do little."

Edmund Burke

