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INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth edition of *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County, a Yearly Report Card on our County's Quality of Life*. It's the only comprehensive survey in the county conducted with a sustainability spotlight on what's happening that impacts how and where we live and work. It's the first edition to be released at the same time as a major sustainability crisis is becoming the paramount issue of national concern: energy. We're hearing a loud wake-up call to sustainability, and now! No longer can anyone feel that sustainability is an issue someone else will tend to. We are all in this together. Our first priority is to get the straight facts necessary for even beginning to see the whole picture. Providing reliable facts, the first need of an informed citizenry for wise long-range decision making, is the abiding goal of the *Indicators*.

Humans have taken huge projects to completion before this: world wars, dams on enormous rivers to avert floods and make electrical energy, trips to the moon and out into space. But no generation before has had to face the frightening job of solving grand overarching problems

about the fundamental health of the whole planet. We don't yet really know what we must do or how to go about doing it, and so we have to educate ourselves, thoroughly and quickly. We are the generation obligated to keep the beneficial old ways, while simultaneously inventing new ideas, attitudes, and habits of caring for one another and the earth in this bewildering world of burgeoning population, globalization and technology. It is time to be aware that we are actually pioneering ways of interacting with the earth and with each other. Indeed, in some aspects, we must be about inventing a basic culture founded upon the values, customs, actions and new vocabulary needed to talk to one another about putting human thriving foremost, knowing we are totally dependent upon the complex ecology in which we are embedded.

The ideal sustainable community

There isn't one yet, but having an ideal model in your mind's eye to build toward helps in making the ideal into the real. Keep in mind that good communities everywhere

already are exemplifying parts of what is described here. Gathering those pieces, current best practices, and thoughts from sustainability scholars, here is a broad brush picture of what a community can be and do.

A sustainable community uses its social, environmental, and economic resources to meet current needs, create a healthy planet, and maintain sufficient resources for future generations.

1. To maintain economic vitality, a sustainable community encourages local and regional enterprises and provides employment opportunities with adequate wages to meet basic needs. It has economic equity in which the gap between rich and poor is not too great; a balance of jobs to housing; adequate infrastructure; efficient, affordable and accessible mass transit systems; enough capital or financial resources; and uses long-range planning, locally and regionally.

2. To achieve environmental soundness, a sustainable community arranges to live within its regional carrying capacity, maintains biodiversity, protecting and managing its natural resources. The inhabitants consume responsibly, reducing energy use and source materials by reuse, recycling, and preventing and controlling pollution. They provide open spaces within urban boundaries, protect green belts, forest, agriculture and waterways; and they support vibrant, high-density residential and mixed-use neighborhoods near transit routes.

3. To secure social equity, a sustainable community provides satisfactory health care, education, civil safety, access to information, and recreational opportunities. The people and the government encourage democracy, diversity, inter-generational equity, community involvement and accountability, and connection to place. Individuals living there are able to fulfill their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Why are the indicators important?

To face the exciting and challenging work involved, the *Indicators*, along with the activities described on the opening page are only the first steps in establishing essential community dialogue and ensuing action. Without these, there can be no progress.

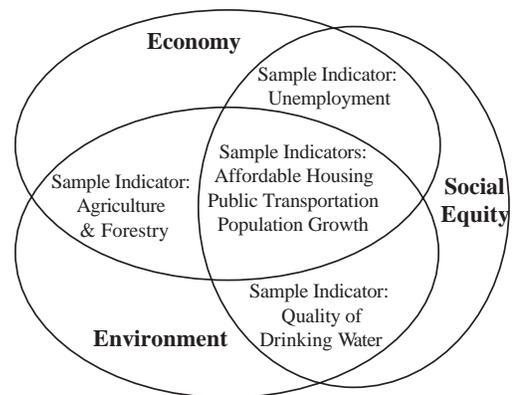
This report is itself a community activity. SSMC could not produce it without the support of the San Mateo county community. Generous grants have been given by San Mateo County and many of the cities and are acknowledged in the back pages. The researchers, writers, and editors involved in this edition realize their indebtedness to those who worked on earlier editions. We are also indebted to the hundreds of individuals who have supported SSMC through their membership dues, attendance at forums, participation in sustainability awards, and other events. We invite you to join SSMC and continue this work. Please see the membership form in the end pages. We owe our thanks to the dedicated volunteers who have put many hours into

researching and writing the entries. The information has come from many people in governmental offices, community agencies and interested community-minded individuals.

The “Big Three” of sustainability

Sustainability is a term now in use around the globe, often hijacked by advertisers when the actions or products behind them are highly suspect. Authentic sustainability thinking and acting has three characteristics always present: it takes into full account the Economy, the Environment, and social Equity. Sustainability requires a systems attitude. Traditional measures often look at only one problem or issue at a time. While that can be useful in understanding a single aspect, it doesn't recognize how one area affects the others, how they are all interrelated.

Sustainability indicators are concerned with the connections among the “E's”. For example, a sustainability indicator on housing, looks at the economic costs and benefits of housing, the environmental impacts on its location, the effects on transportation, the affordability, etc.



Sustainability Indicators show the relationships among the economy, the environment, and social equity, and demonstrate that a change in one area usually affects others.

SUMMARY

Despite high housing costs and serious traffic congestion, San Mateo County remains a remarkably fine place to live in and conduct business. The question is: can we sustain that quality of life for the generations to follow?

The indicator summaries that follow provide a panorama of the current quality of life for us as a community. There is good news, and there are challenges we must meet if we want to answer yes. We have a lot to be proud of now, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Here is what we have found:

Agriculture and Forestry

Agriculture and forestry continue to be a vital economic base for the county. 1999 showed a decrease in total gross production of one percent from 1998 (a 16 percent decrease from 1997) due to the effects of weather. Floral and nursery crops are still dominant providing 76 percent of the total agricultural income.

Air Quality

Ozone concentrations and particulate matter are the largest contributors to poor air quality in the Bay Area. The national standards for ozone were not met on 3 days in 1999 and the stricter state standards were not met on 20 days. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is implementing new programs to bring the area into compliance.

Arts Participation

A survey of arts organizations includes museums, galleries, music, dance, theater companies and street festivals. Their cultural contributions add to the community by offering free attendance, art work or performances and working with the schools. A high percentage of volunteer community help is involved.

Biodiversity

Communities need to protect and restore ecosystems in order to maintain biodiversity of animal and plant species. Specific species are identified on Federal or State lists to help in preventing their disappearance. They are categorized as endangered, threatened or as species of concern. The first two categories have not changed much in the county, but the species of concern has increased substantially. More public attention needs to be directed to the protection of certain habitats.

Child Abuse

Reported child abuse (physical, mental and sexual) has been on a downward trend since 1992 but increased in 1999. Child Protective Services stepped up its efforts this past year to

show a decrease over the prior year. Reducing child abuse remains important in improving the lives of children in San Mateo County.

Child Care

Child care is vital to working parents and the companies for which they work. Because of the high cost of living in the county, many families depend on two incomes. In San Mateo County, 66 percent of the children live with two parents in the workforce or with a single working parent compared with the statewide rate of 55 percent. Only 25 percent of children who need child care have it available to them in licensed facilities. The county is one of the most expensive counties in California for infant care. Average cost is \$888 per month in a licensed center and \$696 in a licensed home; preschool care is \$623 per month in a licensed center and \$654 in a licensed home.

Christmas Bird Count

Number and diversity of birds are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem. Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo are the two sites of the count taken every year in December. The California Quail is declining in population possibly due to habitat disturbance, and the common raven is increasing largely due to its ability to adapt to human environmental changes.

Commercial Fish Catches

The environmental health of the ocean in a particular location is linked to many factors: large climate changes, local weather conditions, encroachment of unusual species, pesticide use, agriculture run off, and how much fish can be harvested. Commercial fish catches are recorded at Princeton Harbor. After a sharp decline in the total pounds caught in 1993 and 1995, the catches have been relatively stable.

Communicable Diseases

Educational and preventive programs appear to have helped in the decreasing number of most communicable diseases. However, sexually transmitted diseases, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia, have increased in 2000 over 1999. Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C have been increasing in recent years although no current data was available in time for this report.

Employment Trends

Diversity in number and kind of business in the local economy is an important element of sustainability. United Airlines and Oracle continue to be the largest employers, but small and medium-sized businesses are still predominant in the county with 98 percent employing less than 100 people and 63 percent less than 5 people. There has been a 33 percent increase in the number of jobs since 1995, higher than that of any prior recorded 5-year period.

Energy Consumption

The volatility of the current situation has precluded us from collecting useful information for this year's report. However, a public forum on the energy crisis is being planned for early summer.

High School Dropouts

The county has a lower high school dropout rate than that of the state—1.6 percent in 97/98 and 98/99. Dropout rates for American Indians, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders and African Americans are higher than that for Asians, Caucasians and Filipinos.

Homelessness

The total number of homeless in the county has remained fairly steady from 1994 to 1998 (information for 2000 will not be available until fall of 2001). However, the number of doubled-up households has increased significantly—from 613 in 1996 to 18,769 in 1998. The latter situation probably reflects the difficulties in finding affordable housing in the county.

Housing Affordability

The high cost of housing in the county contributes to a number of ills that affect sustainability such as traffic congestion, air pollution and a limited housing option for low-income and elderly residents. Median income for a family of four increased by 4.4 percent in 2000 over 1999, while a median priced house or condo went up 31 percent. Rents increased between 34 – 35 percent. Rate of increase for single family homes from 1996-2000 was 83 percent while income rose 5 percent per year.

Parks and Open Space

Quality of life is enhanced with nearby areas for recreation and a feeling of closeness to nature. A survey of the cities in the county showed that all cities are adjacent to county park lands, state park lands, or watershed lands except Portola Valley. The mean numerical acreage of developed park lands is 2.72 acres per 1,000 residents in the county. During the time of the surveys (1999-2000) parkland has increased somewhat.

Per Pupil Funding

Schools provide students with skills to become good citizens and productive members of society. The funds allocated to schools in the county in 1998/99 totaled \$535,117,560. Each of the last three years has shown an increase over the prior year. Pupil/teacher ratio has also decreased in the county to an average of 20.9 for grades K-8. Total enrollment for K-12 declined by 4 percent from 97/98 to 98/99.

Population

Total county population grew by 11 percent between 1990–1999, but the growth of most cities has slowed or

declined. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) attributes this to three principal factors: lack of affordable housing, outflow of the work force to San Francisco and loss of housing units in Millbrae due to BART expansion.

Poverty

Monitoring poverty trends allows the county to evaluate current economic policies and programs. In 2000, the poverty level for a family of four was considered to be \$1,421 per month. The county's CalWORKS program (funded by federal block grants) gave assistance to 1,732 families. There is a 5-year lifetime limit on the length of time adults in a family are eligible for CalWORKS. Poverty information from the 2000 census is not yet available.

Prenatal Health Care

Adequate prenatal care to mothers in the county is relatively high, ranking 14th out of the 58 counties in California. This indicates that the county's health care services are accessible to a vulnerable segment of its population. However, adequate prenatal health care is highest among Caucasians and Asians, above 85 percent, while Black, Hispanic and Filipino mothers' care ranges from 65–85 percent.

Public Library Use

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, and education among other things. In 1998/99, the total combined annual expenditure for all library systems in the county rose 11.8 percent to an all-time high of \$39.65 per capita. Redwood City had the highest expenditure per capita (\$66.43) while Daly City had the lowest (\$16.82). Community support for public libraries is high in the county.

Solid Waste

The two landfill sites in San Mateo County, Hillside and Ox Mountain, are in operation. Hillside has one parcel still open, scheduled to close in 2-4 years. The Ox Mountain site has an approximate life expectancy to the year 2027. San Mateo County sent 1.3 percent less waste to landfills in 1999 than in 1998. Assembly Bill 939 requires cities and counties to decrease the amount of solid waste sent to landfills by 50 percent. Four cities remain on compliance, i.e., they need to show efforts in meeting the 50 percent required reduction. The county recycling program, RecycleWorks, is making progress in helping the cities meet their goals.

Substance Abuse • Arrests for Driving Under the Influence

There has been a decrease of DUI arrests of 42.1 percent from 1990 to 1999, but this trend is slowing in recent years.

Also, the juvenile arrest rate has not exhibited this gradual decrease.

Substance Abuse • Treatment Provided

Treatment services are a crucial part in alleviating the immediate consequences of substance abuse and reducing the long term costs of health care. Persons who sought substance abuse treatment increased 11 percent from 98/99 to 99/00; there was a 1 percent increase between the previous two fiscal years. Of the 15 largest counties in California, San Mateo County has had the lowest number of alcohol and drug treatment slots per 100,000 population for the past 5 years. Some increase in drug use was recorded for all major forms of drugs.

Transportation

Automobiles generate pollution that affects the environment locally and globally. They also cause traffic jams and gridlock. Cars stuck in gridlock use more gasoline per mile than cars travelling at higher speeds. Automobile travel comprised 97 percent of all trips in 2000, and hours of delay on major corridors increased 19 percent from 1990 to 1999. On weekday commutes, the number of trips to and from other counties now exceeds the number within the county.

Voter Participation

High voter participation indicates that citizens believe that their vote is important and relevant to their lives. 32 percent of the total adult population voted in the 2000 primary and 46 percent in the general election. In the 2000 primary, 55 percent of the adult population registered and 57 percent of those registered actually voted. In the 2000 general election, 59 percent of the adult population registered to vote and 77 percent of those registered actually voted.

Water Consumption

90 percent of the county water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park and the other 10 percent from wells tapped into an aquifer. Water conservation is important because current use is both overdrawing local sources and relying heavily on far away sources. Per capita consumption of water increased from 125 gallons per day 97/98 to 131.7 gallons per day in 98/99, about 5.4 percent. The Bay Area average is 155.2 gallons per capita per day.

Water Quality • Tap Water

Drinking water of the county is essentially pollutant free. However, levels of trihalomethanes (THMs) appear to be approaching the standard maximum level. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will use new disinfectant chloramines in early 2003 to further lower THMs levels. MTBE has been problematic in Santa Clara County. It is virtually nonexistent in the drinking water of major suppliers to San Mateo County, but probably does exist in well water. Lead concentrations in the county water are very low.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Indicators Used

The total production value reported (1999) for the three largest income-producing crops and the acreage required were used for tracking floriculture and nursery crops, vegetables, and board feet of forest products. These are virtually the same indicators as last year. Total gross production value and overall acreage devoted to agriculture in the county for the past five years (1994-99) are illustrated 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. A multiplier of 3.5 is used on gross agricultural revenues by agricultural statisticians to estimate agriculture's monetary value to a county's economy—\$628,617,500 for San Mateo. As important, but not measurable, are other factors. Tilled acreage contributes substantially to a healthful microclimate, and perhaps to the macroclimate, and gives a feeling of open space. Fruits and vegetables grown out of the region lose freshness and probably nutrition, and require added energy to transport. Communities that buy locally-grown produce usually support retaining and protecting agricultural land from urban sprawl and industrial development.

Findings

San Mateo County's 1999 crop summary shows a total gross production value of \$179,605,000, a decrease of 1 percent from last year's downwardly revised figure of \$181,839,000. Floral and nursery crops account for 76 percent (\$142,842,000) of the total agricultural income. Twice as much of the crop was grown indoors than out, mostly clustered around Half Moon Bay, with a few large greenhouses and some fields inland from Pescadero.

Vegetable crops at 17 percent (\$31,007,000) of total revenue were a distant second in production value. Scattered the length and width of the coastal plane, vegetable and field acreage suffered considerably from the late spring rains and cool weather generated by La Niña. Some crops were destroyed, some kept from being planted, and those that were grown gave lower yields of decreased marketability.

Board feet and value of harvested timber increased by 56 percent from last year to \$2,440,000, accounting for only 1.2 percent of gross agricultural production however. No public lands were logged.

36,097 acres of land were devoted to agriculture and floriculture in 1999. The decrease in total acreage this year is some 1,300. Acreage loss was mainly due to the weather as mentioned above. Acreage for vegetable crops was down

again, by about 160 acres. Field crops lost 1,700 acres. Eight organic farms reported in, two more than last year for a total of 114 acres, 30 more than last year.

Direction

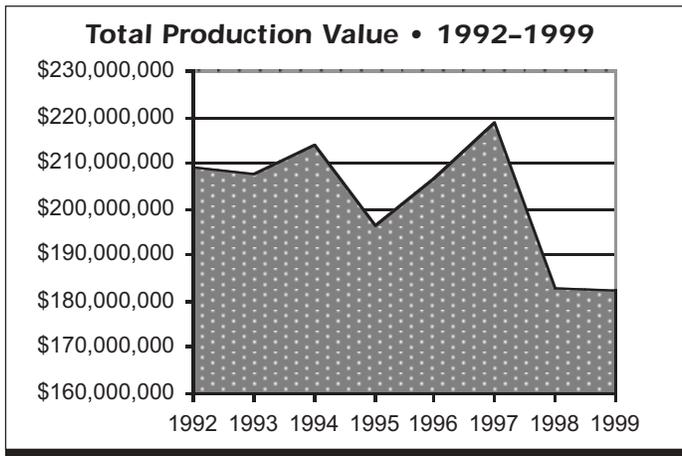
1999 saw another drop in acreage devoted to agriculture and the income it generated in San Mateo County. This appears to be a two-year aberration, but only longer term records will reveal the trend. Clearly weather conditions are the chief determinant in the agriculture economy, but not the only one. The wide spread influence of the increasing income from indoor over outdoor floriculture, about twice as much, should be noted. How escalating energy costs will impact the net income of floral and nursery crops grown under glass and plastic is yet to be seen. Pests cause losses, and the marketplace also counts. For instance government subsidized Brussels sprouts grown and processed in Belgium compete in the market with San Mateo's and flowers from all over South America are competitors. If this information leads to increasing local market demand for San Mateo grown brussels sprouts and flowers, it could have a significant effect on agricultural sustainability.

Sources: 1999 *Agricultural Crop Report*, San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures; conversations with Gail Raabe, Agricultural Commissioner and Ronald Pummer, Biologist/Standards Specialist; San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures; Ann I. King, Ph.D., University of California, Cooperative Extension

Researcher: Eleanor W. Anderson

continued

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, *continued*



AIR QUALITY

Indicators Used

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) measures air pollution in the Bay Area and compares pollution levels to standards set by both the federal and state governments. Violations of standards are determined by exceedances, or days in which the pollution levels are higher than the set standard. Standards have been set regarding the following pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride, and visibility reducing particles. The California standards are much more stringent than the federal government's standards.

Importance

Air quality standards are set to protect health. Air pollution poses a threat to every resident in a community, particularly the very young, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments. Air pollution can also negatively affect

plant and animal life. Air quality is an indicator of the overall health and the desirability of a community. Clean air is an attractive attribute for businesses and residents.

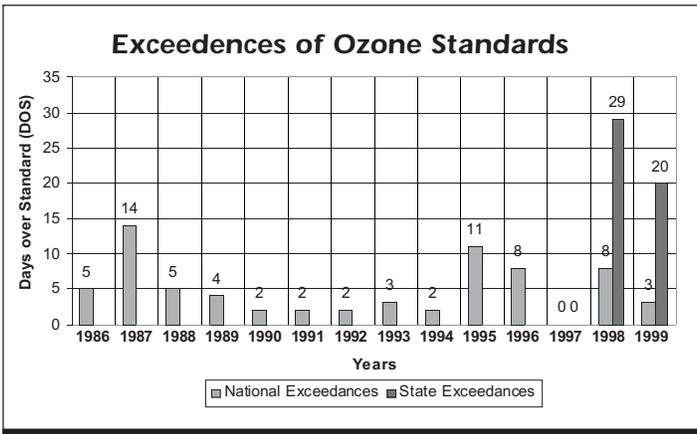
Findings

Even though the Bay Area has attained clean air status with respect to federal standards for all pollutants but ozone, it has yet to reach attainment of clean air as set forth by California standards for ozone and particulate matter.

In 1997, the Bay Area enjoyed the lowest ozone readings in the 43-year history of BAAQMD, having no exceedances of the ozone standard. But in 1998 the region experienced eight exceedances of the national standard. This means that the region cannot claim clean air status by 2000 because three exceedance-free years are needed to attain this status. But ozone concentrations have been declining on an average of 1.4 percent per year since the passage of the California Clean Air Act in the mid-1980s.

Reduction in pollutants is difficult to determine since weather has a huge effect on pollutant concentrations.

In 1998, the Bay Area exceeded the national standard for ozone levels on eight days and exceeded the stricter state standard on twenty-nine days. In 1999, the region exceeded the national standard on three days and the state standard on twenty days. As of September 21, 2000, there had already been three days of excess of the national standard and eleven days for the state standard. In general, the South Bay region appears to have shown the greatest improvement while the far eastern and northern parts of the bay have shown the least.



AIR QUALITY, *continued*

As for particulate matter, the Bay Area has met the national standard since 1991. It does not meet the more stringent California standards, but the California Clean Air Act does not require a plan for attainment of this standard as it does for the ozone standard.

Direction

The Bay Area and California have been working hard toward attaining clean air status with regard to state and national standards in recent years. Having failed to achieve the national ozone standard, the BAAQMD has implemented the "Ozone Attainment Plan for the 1-Hour National Ozone Standard" to bring the Bay Area into compliance. The "2000 Clean Air Plan" (CAP) is another way that the BAAQMD is trying to improve air quality around the Bay Area. The "2000 CAP" is going to review ozone trends, analyze the effectiveness of past control measures, and identify new measures for reducing smog. The "2000 CAP" is a three-year update required by the California Clean Air Act. The situation looks promising with a 62.5 percent reduction in exceedances of the national standard for ozone and a 45 percent reduction in exceedances of the state standard from 1998 to 1999 and

encouraging data for the current year. All of these measures, as well as voluntary measures such as "Spare the Air" which asks citizens to avoid polluting on high pollution risk days, will help achieve cleaner air.

Sources: *Ozone Attainment Plan for the 1-Hour National Standard*, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 1999; *2000 Clean Air Plan*, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 2000; *Comments Sought on Clean Air Blueprint*, Teresa Lee, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 2000, San Francisco.

Researcher: Tracy Williams

ARTS PARTICIPATION

Indicators Used

This indicator is currently being developed. We are continuing to build an arts organizations database. For each of the last two years we have surveyed representative arts organizations in San Mateo County including museums, galleries, music, dance and theater companies. This year a survey was sent to twenty-six organizations that sponsor arts festivals throughout the county. These are events which occur once each year. The number of festivals returning the survey was slightly less than 50 percent, so it is possible that more complete data would yield different results.

The questions included: type of organization sponsoring the event; was a professional production company used; what were the event activities provided; were those performing, presenting, or selling mostly local artists, or were they also from the county or state; number of volunteers used in putting on the event; number of paid staff; number of attendees; budget; purpose of event; did sponsoring organization work with schools, did the sponsoring organization provide any free public art or performances; and was the audience or "market" mainly

locals, or locals and visitors.

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 spirit 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

There are festivals held throughout the year and throughout the county providing many opportunities for the public to participate or attend. Even with a small number of festivals responding, the estimated number of attendees at these festivals totaled 195,000 people.

Sponsoring organizations included non-profits, public agencies, business organizations and service clubs. Only 27 percent of festivals are put on by professional production companies.

continued

ARTS PARTICIPATION, *continued*

Some of the event activities provided are art and/or crafts for sale, music, wine tasting and displays. Eighty-one percent reported art work for sale, 91 percent craftwork, 55 percent provided music, 18 percent offered wine tasting, 36 percent included displays, and almost half reported some additional activities such as a carnival, crafts workshops for children, and food booths.

Participants providing the activities were chiefly local residents. When asked if participants were mainly local, from the county, or from throughout the state, respondents checked as many categories as they felt applied. Seventy-three percent reported participants as being primarily local, 27 percent checked county-wide, and 45 percent responded that participants were also state-wide.

The number of volunteers per event varied from 15-250; the number of paid staff ranged from none to 20. The number of attendees ranged from 1000 to 70,000; the budgets for putting on the festival were as little as \$500 to a high of \$135,000.

Seventy-three percent of organizations checked as the purpose of the event the statement, "to allow artists, craftsmen, musicians, vendors (etc.) a venue for sales or

performances." Eighty-one percent checked, "to provide an activity to which people can come to enjoy themselves." Other purposes were to raise funds and involve people in local history.

More than half the festivals (64 percent) reported working with schools, and 100 percent offer some type of free art or performances. Eighty percent of reporting organizations believe their audience to be local and 20 percent felt their audience was composed of both locals and tourists.

Direction

Since this year's survey used some different questions, it is not possible to add the results from those questions to the results of the previous two years. However, some questions were identical and show a similar response. Volunteerism is very important. Most festivals involve working with schools, and audiences or "markets" that are primarily local.

Festivals provide a means to participate in the arts for both presenters and attendees and add a richness to the arts scene. Because they are free, opportunity exists for any and all to participate.



Sources: Fun Book, San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Center; SSMC survey of San Mateo County festival sponsors.
Researcher: Marcia Pagels

A sustainable world can never come into being if it cannot be envisioned. More than that, vision, when widely shared and firmly kept in sight, brings into being new systems. The vision must be built up from the contributions of many people before it is complete and compelling.

Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, *Beyond the Limits*, 1992

BIODIVERSITY

Indicators Used

Shown here are the number of endangered, threatened, rare, and species of concern in San Mateo County, as designated by federal and state governments. The list is further divided into animal and plant species.

Importance

Protecting biodiversity by keeping ecosystems intact is important. It gives us the best chance of keeping the species listed as threatened or endangered. Protecting them is important because these species may provide scientific information, and because they play an important role in the local ecosystem. Further, the decline and subsequent listings of a species could cause cultural and economic hardships on a community.

While it is generally accepted that communities should be protecting and restoring native ecosystems in order to protect the region's biodiversity, under current law, an ecosystem in trouble is not directly protected. A specific species must be listed under either State or Federal law before plans are enacted to protect that species from extinction. While regulatory bodies and communities are moving towards ecosystem protection through habitat conservation plans, the use of these tools is still dependent upon the listing of an animal or plant species.

Findings

The lists of endangered, threatened and species of concern include both plants and animals from a variety of different ecosystems. It is the coastal habitats and serpentine soils that are primarily the habitats for most of the listed species.

For the year of 1999 San Mateo County served as the home for nine federally listed endangered plants, one threatened species, and 20 species of concern. Federally the San Francisco *Lessingia* now is under the status of endangered, while in 1998 it still had the proposed endangered status. Also during the year of 1999 the list of species of concern was expanded substantially, and it now includes the Montara Manzanita, the Monterey Pine, and many more. San Mateo County sheltered eleven endangered plant species on the state list, one threatened, and one rare. The Dudley's Lousewort was the only species to change designation from a species of concern to a rare classification.

San Mateo County has nine federally listed endangered animal species, three threatened, and seven species of concern. The seven federally listed added the Southern Steelhead to the endangered classification and the Bank-Marsh Wandering Shrew to the species of concern during 1999. The list of animal species of concern also broadened extensively to include many more species such

as the Edgewood Blind Harvestman and the Tomales Isopod. The state's listing for San Mateo County has not changed at all from last year and it still includes four endangered species and two threatened.

The introduction of exotic plants and animals (non-native and invasive) is a major threat to habitats. Keeping habitats or ecosystems intact helps preserve biodiversity.

Direction

While the number of endangered and threatened species has not greatly changed in the last year, the list identifying the species of concern has increased substantially. This may suggest the need for the protection of certain habitats from urban development, as well as more public awareness programs.

Sources: California Department of Fish and

continued

Listed Animal Species in San Mateo County • 1999

Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Edgewood Blind Harvestman	Species of Concern	
Tomales Isopod	Species of Concern	
Ricksecker's Water Scavenger Beetle	Species of Concern	
Bumblebee Scarab Beetle	Species of Concern	
Day Checkerspot Butterfly	Threatened	
Mission Bay Butterfly	Endangered	
San Bruno Elfin Butterfly	Endangered	
Calippe Silverspot Butterfly	Endangered	
Tidewater Goby	Endangered	
Southern Steelhead	Endangered	
California Red Legged Frog	Threatened	
San Francisco Garter Snake	Endangered	Endangered
Western Snowy Plover	Threatened	
Saltmarsh Common Yellowthroat	Species of Concern	
California Black Rail	Species of Concern	Threatened
California Clapper Rail	Endangered	Endangered
Bank Swallow		Threatened
California Least Tern	Endangered	Endangered
Salt-Marsh Harvest Mouse	Endangered	
Bank-Marsh Wandering Shrew	Species of Concern	Endangered

BIODIVERSITY, continued

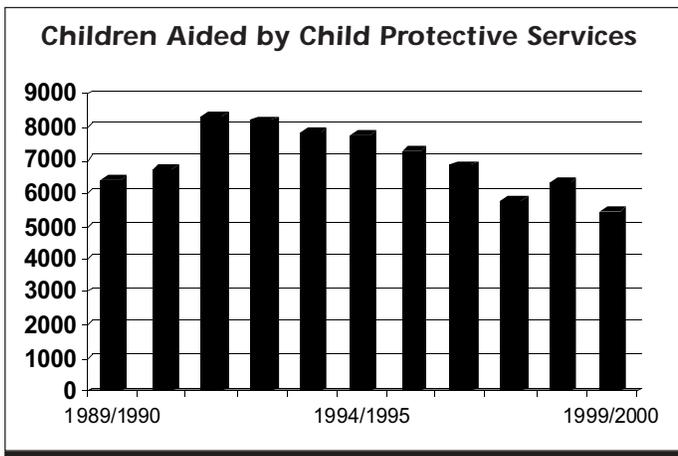
Game- www.dfg.ca.gov
Researcher: Tai Hawkins

CHILD ABUSE

Indicator Used

The number of service referrals for families in which child abuse is present, which includes physical, mental, and sexual abuse, are tracked from Fiscal Years (FY) 1989–2000. The types of abuse vary: head trauma and broken bones in infants, serious physical and sexual abuse in teens, and other forms of abuse. It should be noted that the real number of abuse cases cannot be determined because many are not reported for official notice.

Importance



Normal childhood development requires a safe, nurturing environment free of physical or verbal abuse. While it is primarily a parent's responsibility to raise a child, it is the community's too. Responding to any form of abuse is important to ensure that we are addressing public safety and community health for all. Tracking cases of child abuse is especially important since children are unable to protect themselves. Prior to the recognition of child abuse in the mid-fifties as a social problem rather than just a private matter, non-accidental injuries to children were not referred to law enforcement or other services for intervention and treatment. These cases were left in the hands of family members, who often were the perpetrators. Interven-

ing early leads to fewer physical, psychological, and emotional problems in the lives of children affected, and should help reduce abuse of future generations.

Findings

During the Fiscal Year of '99/2000 5,451 children were aided by Child Protective Services (CPS). This is a decline from the previous year. The majority of child abuse cases that received referrals from the CPS were physical and sexual abuse cases. This year's total is consistent with the overall decline of child abuse service referrals that began in 1992, with the exception of 98/99. The decrease may be partially due to the prosperous economy over most of these years. In times of recession or low economic prosperity, child abuse often increases because feelings of anger and frustration are misdirected towards defenseless children.

Direction

Since 1992 the number of service referrals for child abuse cases has been reduced from 8,318 to 5,451 cases. The resumption in the decrease of cases this year most probably results from the effectiveness of the Child Protective Services, which stepped up their efforts after last year's increase. Reducing child abuse remains important in improving the lives of children in San Mateo County.

Sources: David Goncharoff, Business Systems Group, Human Services Agency, San Mateo County

Researcher: Leticia Ramirez

CHILD CARE

Indicators Used

The total number of children estimated to be in need of child care, the total number of child care spaces available, and the child care industry's contribution to the local economy in terms of gross receipts, local jobs and federal and state subsidy was issued in the 2000 *Indicators* report, and is used again this year. That data was drawn from two key reports: *the County Needs Assessment* and the *Economic Impact Report*. Updated figures won't be available until late 2001 and 2002 respectively. The cost of child care in San Mateo County was measured and updated for this report.

Importance

Child care has become integral to San Mateo County's expanding economic and social infrastructure. Because of the high cost of living many families can't function above the poverty level without two incomes or their equivalent. At the same time, San Mateo County companies are growing in size and number, requiring an increasingly large workforce. Child care, therefore, is vital both to working parents and the companies for which they work.

Another reason quality child care is needed is for the long-term effect it has on our children. Researchers have linked school readiness and later school success to the quality of early learning experiences. Recent brain research confirms that care-giving during the early years affects the structure and functioning of a child's brain and how a child will behave, learn, feel, and perform.

Findings

Sixty-six percent of San Mateo County children live with two parents in the workforce or with a single working parent, compared with the statewide rate of 55 percent.

Based on child population and the number of working parents in San Mateo County, there are 102,575 children up to age 13 needing care, but only 25,911 total available child care spaces. There are 18,355 spaces in child care centers and 7,556 spaces in child care homes. Put simply, only 25 percent of children who need child care have formal care available to them in centers or licensed family child care homes. 75 percent are being cared for in informal or unlicensed settings.

The greatest shortages are in infant and school-age care. There are currently 19,406 infants who need care and

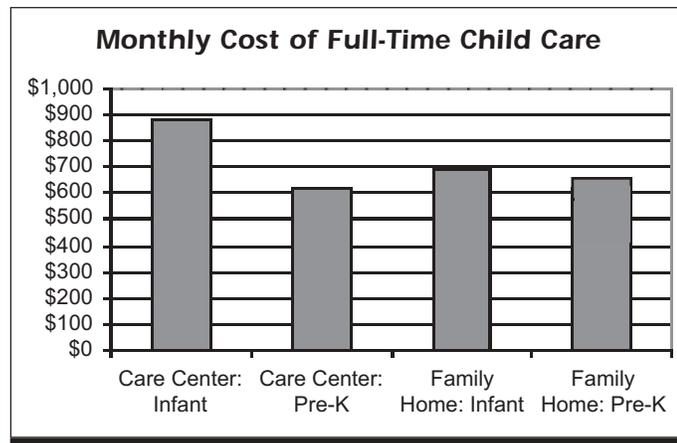
only 793 spaces available for infants in centers. There are 11,511 center spaces available in San Mateo County for the 20,006 preschool children needing care. Of the 63,163 school-age children who need care, only 6,051 spaces in child care centers are available.

San Mateo County has a supply of only 4,940 subsidized child care spaces for 40,076 children in low-income families. The result is that only about 12 percent of this segment of the population is currently receiving subsidized child care. The need for child care in the county, in particular subsidized care, far exceeds child care spaces available.

The cost of child care has been increasing at an alarming rate throughout the county. San Mateo County is one of the most expensive counties in the State of California for infant care. Average cost for full-time infant care in a licensed child care center is \$888.52 per month and \$696 per month in a licensed family child care home. Full-time preschool care is \$623 per month in a licensed child care center and \$654 per month in a licensed family child care home.

San Mateo County's child care industry provides a

social infrastructure that is critical to the county's overall economic vitality and its quality of life. Licensed child care is a \$109 million industry in San Mateo County. Child care centers generate \$80 million in gross receipts while family child care homes gross \$29 million. The industry supports over 5,000 local jobs. The licensed child care industry brings over \$22



million to the San Mateo County economy in federal and state child care subsidy dollars. Child care is a critical component of sustained economic development.

Direction

The gap between the demand for all forms of child care and the supply of formal child care has grown over the last six years. In 1993, formal child care spaces were available to meet the needs of 29 percent of children who required care. Today, the supply of formal child care meets the needs of only 25 percent.

continued

CHILD CARE, *continued*

The demand for child care in San Mateo County has been growing steadily along with the growth in population, the rapid growth in jobs, and the increasing cost of living.

A lack of facilities, difficulties in recruiting and retaining child care staff, and class size reductions in California public schools contribute to the shortage in child care.

Sources: The San Mateo County Child Care Needs Assessment 1999-2000, The San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council; The Economic Impact of Child Care in San Mateo County, 1997, The National Economic Development and Law Center; The Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County.
Researcher: Julie Baldocchi and Sally Cadigan, Child Care Coordinating Council

Providing effective child care is an issue of critical importance, not only to the families, but also to our society, to business, and to our economy. And I believe all of us have important roles to play—families, businesses and government—at all levels—federal, state and local.

Child Care and the Economy:
Remarks by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin
White House Conference on Child Care, 1997

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Indicators Used

The Christmas Bird Count in Crystal Springs was conducted on December 16, 2000, with the participation of 53 observers totaling 198 hours in the field, and in Año Nuevo on December 30, 2000 with 31 observers totaling 153 hours. This indicator reports on five species found at both sites: Wood Duck, American Kestrel, California Quail, Acorn Woodpecker and Common Raven. Each of these five species nests in San Mateo County, but count totals may also include migrants. Each species represents different dietary needs, nesting requirements and mating behavior. Caution needs to be applied when comparing local results to national trends because of the variables in natural environments and habitats.

Importance

The number and diversity of birds are good indicators 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, important at many levels of the food chain. A sustained increase or decrease in the numbers of a specific species can result from

habitat changes or a problem in the food chain. It should be noted, however, that with migratory birds, the rise and fall in numbers may be related to problems elsewhere in their migratory range.

Findings

The total number of birds counted in Crystal Springs was 72,482 compared with 64,871 in the 1999 Christmas Bird Count. In Año Nuevo, 18,321 were counted, compared with 20,161 in the previous count. In Crystal Springs, 186 species were identified compared with 184 in 1999; 172 species were identified in Año Nuevo for both the 2000 and 1999 counts. The graphs present data for the last 25 counts to better understand possible trends.

The recent decrease in California Quail at Crystal Springs continued with only 78 birds counted in comparison with 167 in 1999 and 476 in 1998. Año Nuevo also saw a decline from 425 in 1999 to 299 birds in 2000.

Population trends for the Common Raven in both count areas continue to show a strong increase largely due

continued

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, *continued*

to the ability of this species to adapt quickly to human changes to the environment. The American Kestrel population appears to be slowly decreasing. The Acorn Woodpecker population appears steady but the trend is less clear.

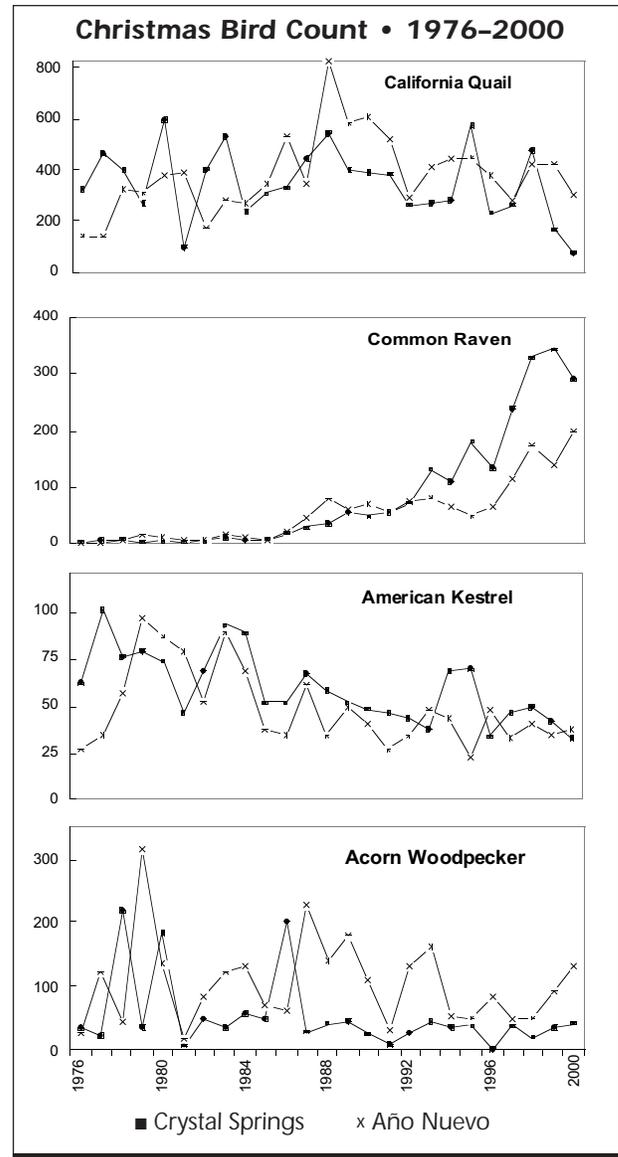
The secretive nature of the Wood Duck creates a problem when trying to count this species accurately. Because of the lack of data, this species has been omitted from the graphs included here.

Direction

Year to year counts vary due to weather conditions on the count days, the number of observers in the field, familiarity with the count areas, and the total number of hours in the field. Other variables are not fully known or understood. For example, habitat disturbance appears to be one reason for the declining population of the California Quail. The removal of brush and cover along fence rows makes this species vulnerable to predators such as feral and domestic cats. Continuing observation of both sites will further our understanding of the ecosystem's health.

Note: Two indicator species were replaced in 2000 from those used in previous years. The American Kestrel replaced the Red-tailed Hawk because the Red-tailed Hawk can be easily overcounted due to its habit of soaring over wide ranges in good weather. The American Kestrel does not cover such large areas. The Common Raven replaced the American Crow since the Crow is rarely found at Año Nuevo. Both the Crow and the Common Raven respond similarly in adapting quickly to human activity.

Source: Sequoia Audubon Society, 2000 *Christmas Bird Counts*
Researcher: Susan James



As the remnants of the unspoiled and natural world are progressively eroded, every such loss is a little death in me. In us.

Wallace Stegner, *Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters*, 1997

COMMERCIAL FISH CATCHES & POPULATION

Indicator Used

Shown are the California Department of Fish and Game records of commercial fish catches at Princeton Harbor, the only commercial fishing port in San Mateo County. Catches are recorded by total pounds. Sport catches are not recorded.

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. However, a steady fish catch would indicate some stability of fish populations.

Importance

The Pacific Ocean is a biological habitat for a vast array of animal species. Salmon, halibut, cod, mollusks, shellfish and others are important sources of food. In addition, the fishing industry provides jobs and contributes to the economy. The environmental health of the ocean is linked to how much of that wealth can be harvested. Conservation of wildlife populations and habitat are necessary to maintain a sustainable equilibrium between current harvests and those of the future. Wide fluctuations of wildlife populations can upset the balance among species and lead to dramatic changes in wildlife living patterns and habitat.

Findings

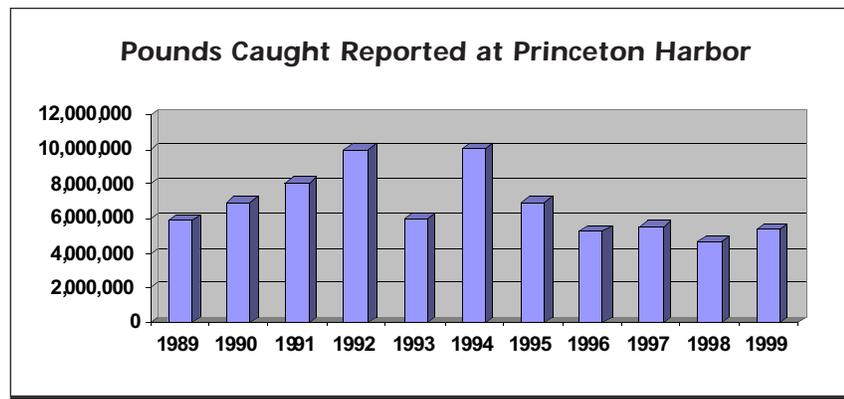
Total commercial fish catches rose each year from 1989 to 1992, an average of roughly 20 percent per year. In 1993 the commercial harvest dropped by nearly 33 percent from the previous year. The following year, the commercial harvest went up by 56 percent. The harvest decreased by 31 percent in 1995 and continued to decrease in 1996. Changes in the annual commercial harvest from 1996 through 1999 were within 17

percent each year. Harvest fell in 1996, rose in 1997, fell again in 1998, and rose to roughly 1997 levels in 1999.

Direction

In the early 1990's commercial fish catches had increased to their highest point in the 1994 fishing season. There was a sharp drop in 1993 due to dramatic changes in the number of spawning salmon, hence the salmon season was shortened. Since 1994, commercial fish catches have decreased to a relatively stable number from 1996 through 1999. There have been no major changes in harvest during these years. These harvests have also been the lowest in this past decade, but the direction still appears to be holding steady.

Source: California Dept. of Fish and Game Annual Reports
Researcher: Allen Yang



The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land . . . A land ethic changes the role of homo sapiens from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow members, and also respect for the community as such.

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Indicators Used

The incidence of various communicable diseases for 2000 in San Mateo County are reported. Diseases included are: enteric diseases (Campylobacter, Salmonella, Shigella, and Hepatitis A); sexually transmitted diseases or STDs (Syphilis, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea); and AIDs. No 2000 data was available in time for publication for Hepatitis C or Tuberculosis.

Importance

Measuring a community's incidences of communicable diseases is one way to monitor its progress in reducing preventable disease and deaths. It can also help a community to evaluate the effectiveness of educational and preventive programs. It can 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 those who are ill and for their family members. An increased load on our health care system ultimately affects every member of the community. It cuts down on the availability of health care resources and increases the likelihood of absenteeism in schools and places of employment.

Findings

Campylobacter has generally decreased in incidence from a high of 457 cases in 1994 to 203 in 2000. Salmonella cases dropped slightly from 112 cases in 1999 to 103 in 2000. Shigella, on the other hand, increased from 203 cases in 1999 to 258 in 2000. Seventy-two of these cases occurred in one incident. In October of 2000, a restaurant-based outbreak of Shigella in San Mateo County produced over 200 cases of illness. Seventy-two were laboratory-confirmed as Shigella sonnei. Hepatitis A decreased from a high of 106 cases in 1996 to 27 cases in 2000.

Only one case of Syphilis was reported in 2000. There were 1,125 cases of Chlamydia in 2000 compared to 936 in 1999; the 15-24 year-old age group is the most heavily affected. Gonorrhea has decreased significantly from 1990 levels to a low of 130 cases in 1997, but has increased since then to 229 cases in 2000.

Eighteen new cases of AIDs were

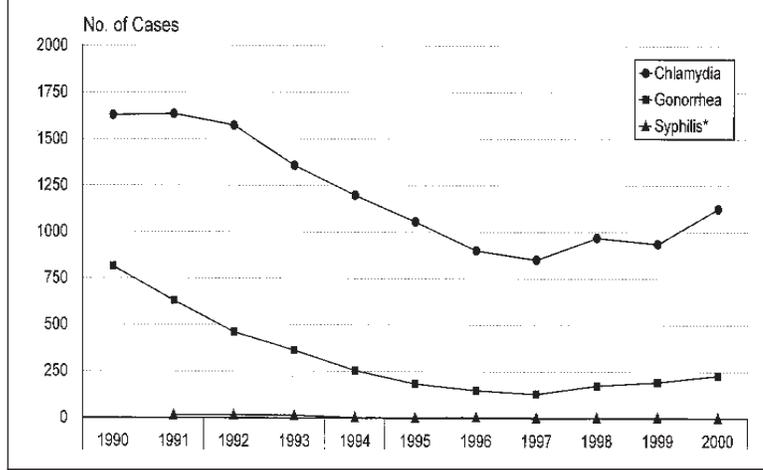
diagnosed in 2000, continuing a decline that started in 1993. The number of people living with AIDs continues to grow (627 in 2000). AIDs patients are living longer due to the availability of better medical treatment.

While there are no figures available yet for 2000, in 1999 there had been a 48 percent increase in Tuberculosis since 1985, with peaks in 1991 and 1996. Approximately 82 percent of those with Tuberculosis were foreign-born, with Asians accounting for 54.9 percent, while making up only 16.6 percent of the county's population. Many immigrants are not immunized in their home countries.

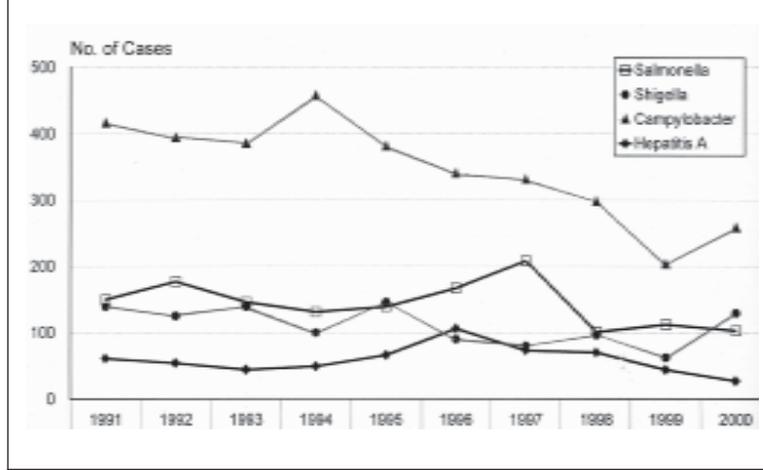
Direction

Most communicable diseases have been decreasing in number, probably due to better access to medical resources *continued*

Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases • 1990–2000



Reported Cases of Enteric Disease 1991--2000



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, *continued*

and greater/more effective prevention measures including education and contraception. San Mateo County has met some of its Year 2000 objectives, however, there are mixed results. Enteric diseases have generally declined. STDs, while down significantly since 1990 levels, have been going up since 1997. The San Mateo County rates for STDs are lower than state and national levels, and are lower than the Year 2000 objectives for each disease.

Both Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C have been increasing in recent years.

Sources: Epidemiology Section, Disease Control and Prevention Unit, San Mateo County Health Services Agency, Francis Wisner, MSPH, Epidemiologist.

Researcher: Tong Zhao, Marcia Pagels

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Indicators Used

The data for 2000 includes the growth rate by industry for the past five years, the number of jobs by industry, the number of jobs by city, and the number of businesses operating with less than one hundred employees.

Importance

Economic sustainability is largely dependent upon the diversity of the local economy. When a few large industries dominate the majority of jobs, abrupt changes in the market can adversely impact a vast portion of the workforce. The community is more prone to mass unemployment and economic subsidence. High growth rates in industries consisting mainly of high-venture businesses, such as Internet companies, also constitute risk factors. Thus, projections of job growths by industry are key measures of sustainability. To maintain economic stability, there must be substantial distribution of jobs in the main industries, with allocation throughout many small and medium-sized companies.

Findings

Currently, businesses in San Mateo County employ 407,200 workers. 46 percent work at

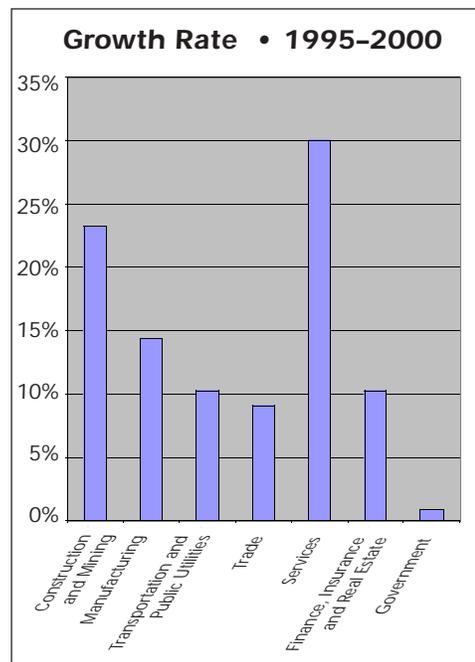
businesses located in Daly City, San Mateo, Redwood City, and South San Francisco. The two largest employers, United Airlines in South San Francisco and Oracle Corporation in Redwood City, employ 17,400 and 14,000 people, respectively. The county economy is still comprised predominantly of small and medium-sized businesses; of the 24,254 businesses, 98 percent had less than one hundred employees and 63 percent had less than five employees.

The services sector accounts for 31 percent of all jobs and grew by 13 percent in the past year, making it the largest and fastest growing industry. Nearly 60 percent of that gain occurred in business services, which includes software development and related computer services. Construction recorded the fastest growth rate at 11 percent due to increased work on the San Francisco Airport (SFO) expansion and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) extension project but accounts for only 4.4 percent of all jobs. The second largest industry is trade, which had 20.3 percent of all jobs, yet it showed only a 4 percent growth.

Direction

Since 1995, the number of jobs has risen by 101,400, which is a 33 percent increase. The growth rate is

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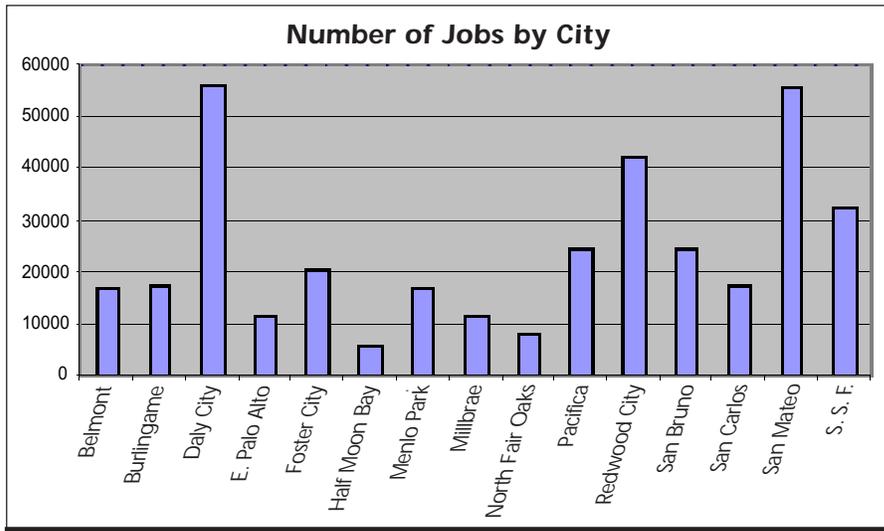
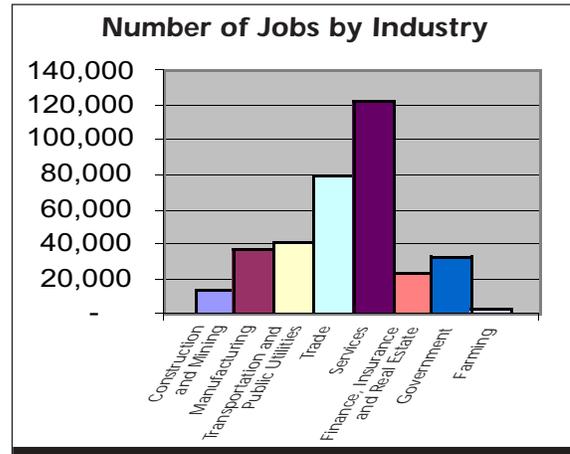


EMPLOYMENT TRENDS, *continued*

higher than that of previously recorded 5-year periods.

The 5-year growth rate for services was 30.1 percent, the highest ever recorded, which includes 9,300 new computer programming jobs. The continuing expansion in the high tech sectors included rapid advancements in biotechnology, leading to 3,400 new positions in biotechnology and bioscience research. A steady gain of 1,100 jobs in hotel services and 400 jobs in amusement, private educational services, legal services, and social services point to continued growth in those areas.

As the multi-billion dollar expansion of SFO, BART extension project, and widening of the Dumbarton Bridge near completion, a decrease is expected in the number of jobs in the construction/mining industry. However,



increased activity at SFO will add more jobs in the air transportation and courier services.

A gain of 5,800 jobs in retailing may be the result of population growth and increased tourism. Grocery stores, apparel vendors, and restaurants are expected to add new jobs in the next few years. Meanwhile, wholesale trade employment has added 1,000 new jobs since 1995.

Two-thirds of the 4,700 new jobs in manufacturing come from greater production of computers, industrial machinery, medical and analytic instruments, and pharmaceutical and chemical equipment.

All human professions, institutions, and activities must be integral with the earth as the primary self-nourishing, self-governing and self-fulfilling community. To integrate our human activities within this context is our way into the future.

Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*

Source: California State Employment Development Department (EDD); San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)

Researcher: David Chen

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

As this edition of *The Indicators* was being put together, electrical energy production and consumption became a major sustainability issue nation-wide.

The overall dimensions of the problems presented by it are not easy to grasp as yet, and probably will never be. Nonetheless the problems must be solved.

Power generators, energy storage and delivery systems, distribution, design and deployment, from major applications to ordinary household appliances, purposes of usage, demands and ways of consumption, all play parts in a complex and constantly changing picture. The entire system seems jerry-built in some places while immensely technologically sophisticated in others. Justifiable and necessary profit making jostling side by side with greed, effective and efficient industrial management running up against lack of long-range energy policies, the roles of politics, elections, legislation, proper monitoring and enforcement, all are involved. The notions that all economic desires and growth are good for the community in themselves, and that careless consumption of energy

resources is "normal" behavior require examination.

Which factors and issues, especially focussing on local responsibilities and individual action, needed to be researched, measured and reported to the San Mateo County community for this edition of *The Indicators*, proved to be beyond our capacity to tackle. In a first response, a forum on the electrical energy crisis is being planned by SSMC as this is being written. The Sustainable Advocate and our website will report on our progress as we begin to educate ourselves. As they say, "Stay tuned".

Comments: Eleanor W. Anderson

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Indicators Used

The public high school drop out rate in San Mateo County is reported for grades 9 through 12 from the 1991/92-1998/99 academic years. Information for 1998/99 is presented by ethnicity.

Importance

Opportunities for obtaining high paying and high quality careers are very limited without the possession of a high school diploma, and increasingly, a college degree. The jobs of the future will require a highly skilled and educated work force. If the rate of high school dropouts increases, local business leaders will be forced to search outside of the county for the quality of workers needed which, in turn, will create more commuter traffic in and out of the county. Without a sufficiently qualified local work force, businesses will be discouraged from opening in the county, contributing to a decline in prosperity. Students and young adults who do not receive adequate education will be more susceptible to poverty, homelessness, crime, and/or substance abuse and will not grow up to become productive and beneficial members of the community.

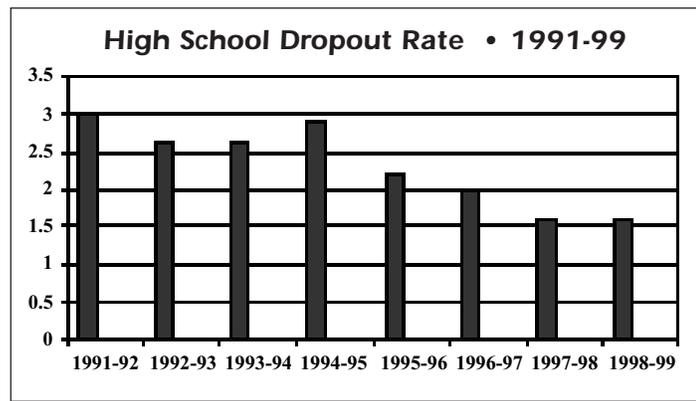
Findings

The high school dropout rate in San Mateo

County remained consistent from 1997/98 to 1998/99 at 1.6 percent. The most recent information available was taken from the 1998/99 school year: Indian/Alaskan Native students had no dropouts, Hispanics were at 3.0 percent, Pacific Islanders at 3.5 percent, African-Americans at 3.2 percent, Filipinos at 2.2 percent, Caucasians at .8 percent and Asians at .7 percent. South San Francisco Unified had the highest dropout rate at 3.3 percent. La Honda/Pescadero Unified remains without dropouts in 1998/99.

Direction

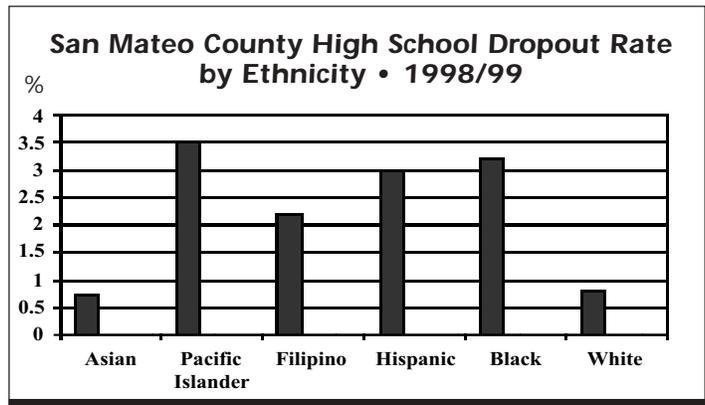
For San Mateo County as a whole, the high school dropout rate has improved by a noticeable margin. San



HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS, *continued*

Mateo County continues to have a high school dropout rate lower than that of the state. The dropout rates for American Indians, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders and African Americans remain considerably higher than those of Caucasians, Filipinos and Asians.

Source: California Basic Education Data provided by Jeannie Goodwine, San Mateo County Office of Education, Instructional Services Division; <http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics>
 Researcher : Marcus Hung, Kim Gelfand



HOMELESSNESS

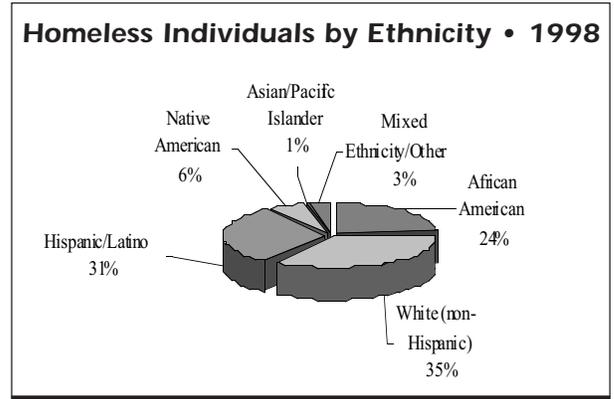
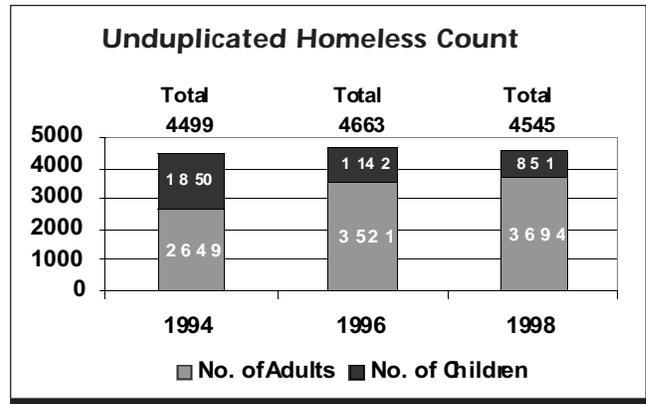
Indicators Used

There are fifteen agencies in San Mateo County that collect data on the homeless people they serve and provide that information as part of a biennial homeless population count. Because homeless people are often served by more than one reporting agency, measures are taken by the county staff to avoid counting one person twice. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency reviews the data turned in for this purpose.

The most recent information is for 1998. Figures for the year 2000 will not be available until the fall of 2001. The 1998 count may not include all of the homeless because there are additional agencies that do not collect data or release information about their clients. Also, the number of homeless children in 1998 may be faulty because the reporting agencies were not asked to count children. Some agencies provided this information while others did not. Not included in the count are families or individuals living with friends or relatives in doubled-up situations who are potentially at risk of becoming homeless or moving out of the county. Considering these facts, this count is a conservative indication of the homeless population.

Importance

Homelessness indicates that the community is not able to serve all of its members' basic needs. Lack of affordable housing, insufficient wages, drug or alcohol abuse, ~~mutual~~

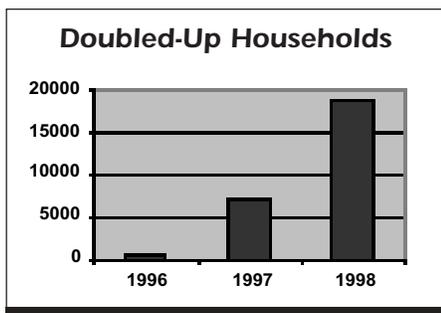


HOMELESSNESS, *continued*

physical illness, or a combination of these factors, are all reasons for individuals and families to become homeless.

Findings

The data documents 3,694 homeless adults living with 851 children for a total of 4,545 homeless individuals in San Mateo County in 1998. Compared to 1994 and 1996, the number of homeless adults had increased while the number of homeless children had significantly decreased. Children as a group may have been undercounted. More males than females were reported as homeless and approximately 50 percent of the homeless population were in the 18-40 year old age range. There were 1059 participants who provided information on how long they had been homeless, with 12.6 percent being homeless for less than a month, 2.3 percent being homeless for more than a year, and the majority, 85.2 percent, being homeless between one month and one year. Furthermore, the doubled-up household situations increased significantly, numbering 18,769 based on client self-reporting in 1998. This compares with 7,221 in 1997 and 613 in 1996.



community. The County Human Services agency has indicated that the data collection sheet was not altered to include the number of children for the 2000 census and therefore may reflect similar data to the 1998 count. It will be interesting to review the 2000 figures when they are available. Given the housing situation in the county, the homeless numbers will probably increase as well as the doubled-up situations.

Sources: San Mateo County Human Services Agency, 1998 Unduplicated Homeless Count, October 2000; conversation with Michelle Jackson, Executive Director, Shelter Network
Researchers: Meredith Peterson and Ruth Peterson

Direction

The total number of homeless has remained fairly steady from 1994 to 1998 even though there are many agencies that provide services and support to the homeless

Must we invent wholly new values and faiths? The answer is 'no.'
Must we return to the old faiths? Again, the answer is 'no.' *Out of its heritage of old values and faiths, a vital society is always fashioning something new that speaks to the conditions of the day. If not, then society dies at the core.*

John Gardner

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Indicators Used

The relationship between the countywide median price of a single-family home and condominium; the countywide average rent for a vacant 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartment; and the ability to pay annual housing costs are measured. Affordability calculations are based on lender's guidelines that homeowners not pay more than 35 percent of gross household income per year for housing. Annual housing cost for ownership housing assumes a 20 percent down payment and a 30-year, fully-amortized loan.

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. 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

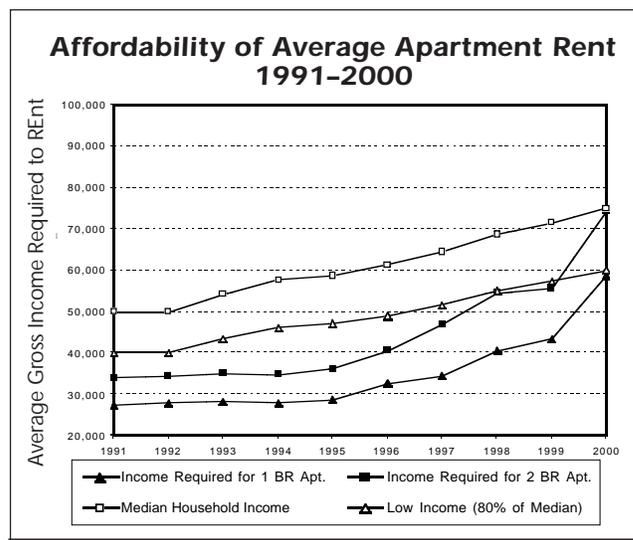
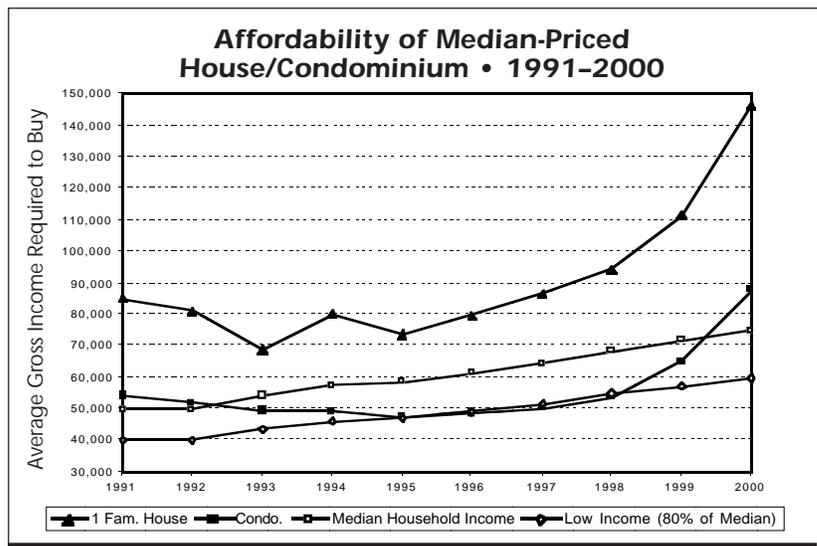
In 2000, according to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) figures, countywide median income for a family of four increased 4.4 percent over the previous year to \$74,900. This compares to a median income of \$50,200 nationwide and \$55,400 in California.

During the previous year, the median sales price of a single family home increased 26 percent to \$600,000 compared to \$167,000 nationwide and \$248,000 in California. The price for a condominium increased 29 percent to \$360,000 compared to \$182,481 in California. Due to this rapid price inflation, the annual gross income required to buy either a median-priced house or a condominium increased over 31 percent from December 1999 to December 2000. A breakdown by city indicates a wide range of prices, from a low of \$341,500 in East Palo Alto to a high of \$3,847,500 in Atherton; however, the overall pattern is consistent in all cities. Median-income families can no longer afford to be homeowners. This is a change from 1999 when at least the median-priced condominium

remained affordable.

Between December 1999 and December 2000, the countywide average monthly rent for a vacant apartment increased 35.4 percent for a 1-bedroom apartment to \$1,750, and 33.8 percent for a 2-bedroom apartment to \$2,162. Despite these increases, countywide median-income families could still afford to pay the average rents in the county, but low-income families (80% of median) could not. Although apartments remained affordable for median income families, high demand for quality rental housing resulted in a very low 3% vacancy rate which meant vacant apartments were hard to find.

continued



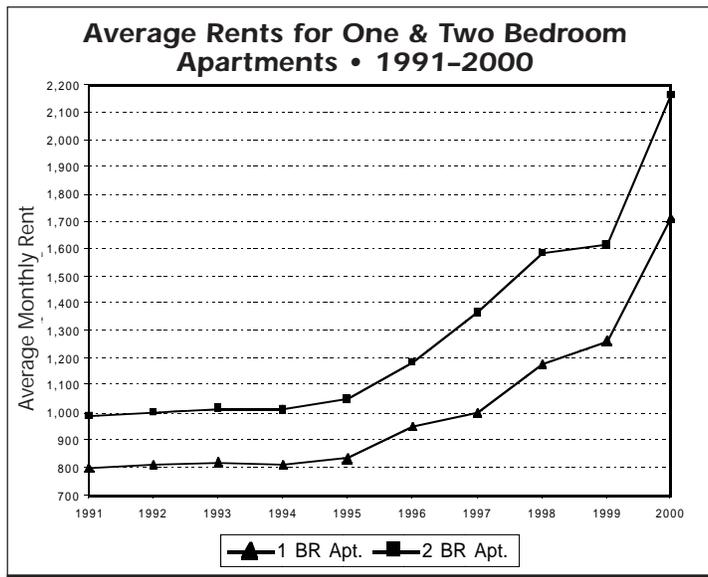
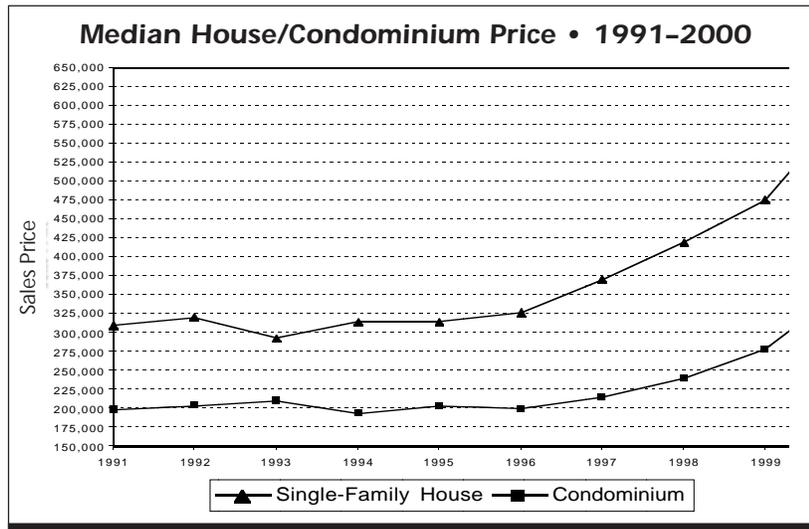
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, *continued*

A breakdown of rents by city ranges from a low of \$1,117 for a 1-bedroom and \$1,293 for a 2-bedroom apartment in East Palo Alto to a high of \$2,330 (1 BR) and \$2,684 (2 BR) in Menlo Park. Interestingly, when comparing each city's rents to each city's median household income, only the median income families in Belmont, East Palo Alto and South San Francisco could afford the average rent for a one or two bedroom apartment in their own city. In most other peninsula cities, the rent for a two bedroom unit exceeded median city income, and in Menlo Park, Redwood City and San Bruno, median city income families could not even afford the average 1-bedroom apartment. This means that the average vacant apartment is renting to families from outside the community in which it is located, and very few renters are moving up to more expensive rentals within their own cities.

Of 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. Due to the decreasing affordability of housing, families earning low and very-low income (80 percent of median and 50 percent of median respectively) may be paying more than 35 percent of income for housing, live in subsidized housing, share housing with others, live in substandard and overcrowded housing, or are homeless.

Direction

Comparing the two five-year periods between 1991-1995, and 1996-2000, reveals a clear trend in the growth rates in the cost of housing. The rate of increase for single-family homes from 1991-1995 was a mere 1.6 percent. The rate of increase from 1996-2000 was 83.7 percent. Meanwhile the median household income grew steadily at a moderate rate of five percent per year for all ten years. These trends are very troubling because the gap between housing costs and affordability is widening. This means that soon only the most affluent members of society are going to be able to live in San Mateo County. It will gradually force middle-income and lower-income families and individuals out of the area making it harder for local businesses to hire qualified workers. The lack of a local workforce will create pressure to increase wages to attract



employees from out of county. This in turn will increase the cost of products and services and make local businesses less competitive with business located elsewhere. Businesses may well be driven out of the county.

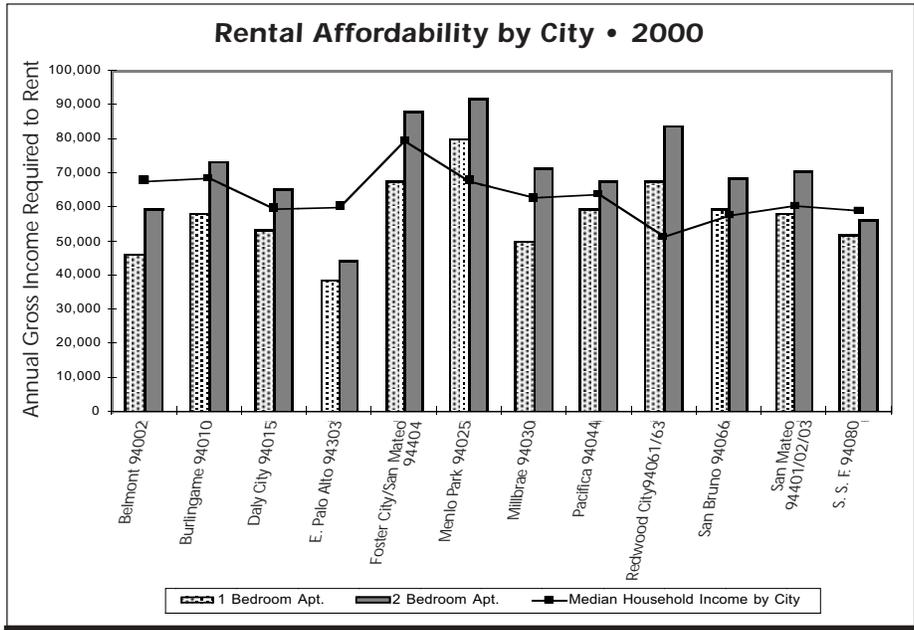
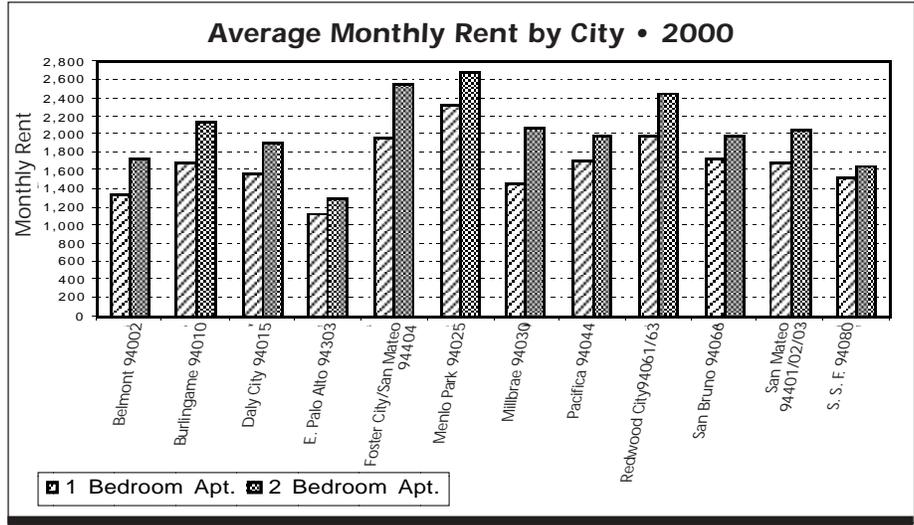
The trendline further indicates that the county continues to have a deficit in available rental units. This shortage can be expected to push rents upward; however, the increasing affordability gap between income and housing costs may temper the rate of increase. In any case, pressure will continue to construct more housing of all types within the county in the near future.

Sources: County of San Mateo; Association of Bay Area Governments; San Mateo County Association of

continued

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, *continued*

Realtors; Housing and Urban Development.
 Researcher: David Crabbe



Whether or not a comprehensive plan to put the economy on a sustainable footing takes shape before or after ecological disasters begin to befall us will depend upon the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Americans in all walks of life.

Steve Lerner, *Eco-Pioneers*

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Indicators Used

In both 1999 and 2000, twenty 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 (not including 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 (not including 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? There were two objectives of the surveys: 1) to gain an overall sense of the amount of outdoor recreation and wilderness space existing in each city and 2) to determine whether the amount of park and open space was increasing or diminishing in terms of acreage per thousand residents.

Importance

The availability of nearby areas for recreation and enjoying nature adds to the quality of life. Recreation helps build strong bodies with benefits to community health, while closeness to nature establishes an enriched involvement with the web of life.

Findings

Among the 20 cities surveyed in 2000, the amount of city park land ranged from 0.00 acres in Woodside to 84 acres in Portola Valley. East Palo Alto reported no open space outside of its city parks, while Portola Valley reported 1,591 acres of open space. All cities reported that they are adjacent to county park lands, state park lands, or watershed lands except Portola Valley.

Countywide, the mean numerical acreage of developed park lands is 2.72 acres per 1,000 residents. The average amount of undeveloped open space countywide is 108.6 acres per 1,000 residents—an average that drops to 16.36 if the two cities with the largest amount of open space—Colma and Portola

continued

Developed and Open Space Acreage per 1,000 Population

Jurisdiction	Dev. Park Lands per 1,000 (1999)	Dev. Park Lands per 1,000 (2000)	Change	Open Space per 1,000 (1999)	Open Space per 1,000 (2000)	Change	Adjacent to County or State Park Lands
Atherton	No Report	2.92		No Report	.66		yes
Belmont	1.64	1.95	+0.32	3.86	15.46	+11.59	yes
Brisbane	4.15	6.55	+2.40	43.90	41.00	-2.90	yes
Burlingame	2.34	1.59	-.75	1.68	1.17	-0.51	yes
Colma	.39	.59	+.20	734.38	1531.0	+796.87	yes
Daly City		.75			1.34		yes
East Palo Alto	0.55	.63	+0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	yes
Foster City	3.46	4.93	+1.47	4.13	6.91	+2.78	yes
Half Moon Bay		.63			1.6		yes
Hillsborough	.09	.09	0.00	22.34	21.9	-.44	yes
Menlo Park	7.40	2.40	-5.00	0.38	4.91	+4.53	yes
Millbrae	2.02	2.03	+.01	2.39	2.40	+.01	yes
Pacifica	2.64	2.45	-.19	1.13	.64	-.49	yes
Portola Valley		18.30			346.60		no
Redwood City	1.68	1.70	+.02	1.09	.61	-.48	yes
San Bruno	2.17	2.21	+.04	6.03	14.90	+8.87	yes
San Carlos	2.96	2.08	-.88	5.60	.84	-4.76	yes
San Mateo	1.30	1.30	0.00	2.41	4.16	+1.75	yes
S. San Francisco		1.36			2.06		yes
Woodside	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	174.00	+172.22	yes

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE, *continued*

Valley—are omitted from the calculation. During the time of the surveys (1999-2000) the amount of parkland has seemingly increased by .46/1000 countywide, and the acres of open space by 103/1000.

Direction

In considering the survey results, however, it is important to realize that what constitutes a “park” or “open space” is not as clear as one might assume. That ambiguity combined with the self-reporting of this information in an informal survey may account for discrepancies in the answers from year-to-year.

Sources: Acreage figures came from each city; Population figures came from *California Cities, Towns, and Counties—2000*.

Researcher: Ronald Trowse

Parkland Acres • 2000			
Jurisdiction	Developed Park Lands	Open Space	Adjacent to County or State Park Lands
Atherton	22.0	5.0	yes
Belmont	50.6	403.5	yes
Brisbane	22.1	138.9	yes
Burlingame	46.7	34.5	yes
Colma	.8	1960.0	yes
Daly City	78.6	140.0	yes
East Palo Alto	6.0	0.0	yes
Foster City	151.5	212.0	yes
Half Moon Bay	7.0	18.0	yes
Hillsborough	1.0	259.0	yes
Menlo Park	76.0	155.0	yes
Millbrae	44.0	52.0	yes
Pacifica	100.0	26.0	yes
Portola Valley	84.0+	1591.0	no
Redwood City	130.0	47.0	yes
San Bruno	92.1	620.8	yes
San Carlos	59.9	23.5	yes
San Mateo	121.9	391.3	yes
S. San Francisco	83.0	126.0	yes
Woodside	0.0	995.0	yes

All the evidence suggests that we have consistently exaggerated the contributions of technological genius and underestimated the contributions of natural resources . . . We need . . . something we lost in our haste to remake the world: a sense of limits, an awareness of the importance of earth's resources.

Steward Udall, Secretary of the Interior,
quoted in *Overshoot* by William R. Catton, Jr.

PER PUPIL FUNDING

Indicators Used

Average revenues and expenditures in San Mateo County public school districts per annual Average Daily Attendance (ADA for Kindergarten through the 12th grade (K-12) for 1998/99 are shown. Also reported are the total revenues and expenditures and the average pupil/teacher ratio for grades 1-3 for 1998/99.

Importance

We depend on schools to provide students with the basic skills necessary to be good citizens of our community and with the ability not only to participate but also to succeed in society. Committing resources and funds to our education system demonstrates our dedication to future generations. Without sufficient funding, our schools cannot provide updated curricula and maintain competitive salaries for teachers.

Findings

Average revenues per annual ADA for grades K-12 in 1998/99 in San Mateo County were \$6,225; average expenditures were \$6,065. Total revenues for 1998/99 were \$535,117,560; total expenditures were \$521,385,553. Average revenues per ADA by school districts are shown in the chart.

Beginning with the 1996/97 school year, state funding was provided to school districts for reducing class size to 20 pupils in grades 1, 2, then 3 or K (sequentially). The Class-Size Reduction Program is optional, not a mandate, for school districts. The number of pupils enrolled in each class is computed as the average of the active enrollment in that class on the last teaching day of each school month which ends prior to April 15 of each year. San Mateo County's pupil/teacher ratio for elementary schools K-8 averaged 20.9. Kindergarten's average was 19.8; grade 1-3 was 18.8; and grade 4-8 was 24. In grades 1-3 Belmont-Redwood Shores had the lowest ratio at 17.7 and Ravenswood the highest at 19.5.

Direction

The average revenues and expenditures for K-12 have increased each year for the last three school years. Average revenues and expenditures per annual K-12 ADA have also increased each year since 1996/97. Total enrollment in K-12 declined from 89,576 students in 1997/98 to 85,959 in 1998/99.

Researcher: Jonrobert Lang, Marcia Pagels

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES PER ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE (ADA) • 1998/1999

Districts	Annual K-12 ADA	Revenues Per ADA	Expend. Per ADA
ELEMENTARY			
Bayshore	439	\$5,970	\$5,450
Belmont-Redwood Shores	2,430	5,814	5,963
Brisbane	629	5,607	6,103
Burlingame	2,319	5,867	5,718
Hillsborough	1,301	8,384	8,110
Jefferson Elementary	7,383	5,322	5,227
Laguna Salada	3,589	5,574	5,248
Las Lomitas	944	8,413	7,839
Menlo Park	1,885	6,612	6,480
Millbrae	2,217	5,600	5,315
Portola Valley	679	7,583	7,386
Ravenswood	5,031	6,653	6,557
Redwood City	8,770	6,244	6,018
San Bruno	2,634	5,483	5,195
San Carlos	2,439	5,265	5,001
San Mateo-Foster City	10,150	5,680	5,692
Woodside	455	8,927	8,109
	53,294	5,991	5,845
HIGH			
Jefferson High	5,014	6,400	6,093
San Mateo High	7,692	7,315	7,120
Sequoia High	6,316	8,030	7,901
	19,022	7,311	7,109
UNIFIED			
Cabrillo Unified	3,609	5,902	5,671
La Honda-Pesc Unified	440	7,848	8,480
So San Francisco Unified	9,594	5,421	5,254
	13,643	5,626	5,468
TOTAL/AVERAGES	85,959	6,225	6,065

Sources: 1998-99 Financial Statistical Report, San Mateo County

POPULATION

Indicators Used

City population for 1999 and 2000 and components of population growth for 1990-1999 are reported. The 2000 Census preliminary data were not released in time for inclusion in this year's report. Next year's *Indicators* will incorporate the 2000 Census data including ethnic composition and age.

Importance

The effectiveness of the political, economic, and social institutions that work to meet the needs of individuals who reside in the County depends on their response to changing demographics. Sustainable communities accommodate the challenges of reasonable growth, yet maintain the physical and cultural resources and environments that create lives of good quality for all ages of residents. The planning challenges are especially great for San Mateo County because of rapid changes in population trends and economic conditions. The impact of a large commuting population that does not live in the County further complicates planning efforts toward sustainability. The high cost of living and lack of affordable housing make it difficult to maintain both professional and blue collar work forces, and discourage retired people on fixed incomes from living in the County.

Findings

The E-1 Report from the Demographic Unit of the California Department of Finance is current and estimates the January 1, 2000 population of the cities in the County. Last year's data for the 10-year population growth with components of change have been included for reference.

The total County population grew more than 11 percent in the years between 1990 and 1999. While natural increase (births minus deaths) remained relatively stable and accounted for 89 percent of the 1999 growth, the annual growth fluctuated significantly due to

continued

City Populations

City	1999	'98-99 % Inc.	2000	'99-00 % Inc.
Atherton	7,525	0.3	7,525	0.0
Belmont	26,150	0.8	26,150	0.0
Brisbane	3,390	2.4	4,060	19.8
Burlingame	29,400	1.0	29,500	0.3
Colma	1,290	0.7	1,290	0.0
Daly City	104,400	0.9	104,600	0.2
East Palo Alto	25,650	0.8	25,100	-2.1
Foster City	30,750	1.2	30,900	0.5
Half Moon Bay	11,200	0.9	11,300	0.9
Hillsborough	11,650	1.3	11,700	0.4
Menlo Park	31,600	1.0	31,800	0.6
Millbrae	21,650	-0.7	21,400	-1.2
Pacifica	40,800	0.9	41,050	0.6
Portola Valley	4,600	1.1	4,620	0.4
Redwood City	76,700	1.7	78,000	1.7
San Bruno	41,700	0.5	41,750	0.1
San Carlos	28,800	0.7	28,950	0.5
San Mateo	94,300	0.5	95,400	1.2
So. San Francisco	61,100	3.0	62,600	2.5
Woodside	5,700	1.3	5,650	-0.9
Unincorporated	66,000	1.5	66,800	1.2
	724,400	0.9	730,000	0.8

E1 Report, 2000, California Dept. of Finance
Note: Population as of 1/1/99 (revised) & 1/1/00

San Mateo County Population With Components Of Growth

Year	Total Population (July 1)	% Growth	# Growth	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Immigration	Domestic Migration
1990	651,400								
1991	659,400	1.2	8,000	10,838	4,746	6,092	1,908	4,887	-2,979
1992	670,400	1.7	11,000	10,609	4,873	5,736	5,264	5,645	-381
1993	676,100	0.9	5,700	10,455	4,910	5,545	155	5,853	-5,698
1994	681,700	0.8	5,600	10,349	4,803	5,546	54	5,912	-5,858
1995	689,700	1.2	8,000	10,185	5,020	5,165	2,835	4,977	-2,142
1996	698,000	1.2	8,300	10,048	4,952	5,096	3,204	4,924	-1,720
1997	711,700	2.0	13,700	10,098	4,973	5,125	8,575	5,817	2,758
1998	721,400	1.4	9,700	9,918	4,841	5,077	4,623	5,556	-933
1999	727,300	0.8	5,900	10,138	4,890	5,248	652	5,649	-4,997
	Sum	11.2	75,900	92,638	44,008	48,630	27,270	49,220	-21,950
	Average	1.12	8,433	10,293	4,890	5,403	3,030	5,469	-2,439

E6 Report, February 2000, California Department of Finance

POPULATION, *continued*

migration factors.

The growth of most cities has slowed or declined in the past year. (see chart). January 1, 2000 data, for sixteen of the twenty cities, show a significant decline in the growth rate during the previous year. Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) demographers and county and city planners point to three causal factors: lack of affordable housing, an outflow of the work force choosing to live in San Francisco, and the loss of housing units in Millbrae due to BART expansion. Cities in surrounding counties are experiencing slightly higher rates of growth, yet slower growth than in the past.

The racial/ethnic makeup of the county in 1999 was 53 percent White, 22 percent Hispanic, 20 percent Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 5 percent Black. The Hispanic and Asian populations continued to increase. They are young populations; death rates are low; they have a high natural increase and continuing immigration. County statistics reflect a trend similar to the State of California where, since

1990, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders account for 89 percent of the growth in the State's population.

The median age in San Mateo County in 1999 was estimated to be 37 years.

Sources: California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit, E-1 Report 2000, E-2, E-6, & Race Ethnic Reports 2000
Researcher: Carol Mink

POVERTY

Indicators Used

There is no single yearly measurement that reflects the number of people living in poverty in San Mateo County. The California Department of Social Services, with information provided by local county agencies, tracks some of the programs that provide public assistance. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency provides and monitors welfare programs for the county. These programs include CalWorks (for families with dependent children), General Assistance (single adults), Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal. Shown here are the number of people enrolled in these welfare programs in San Mateo County at the close of 2000.

Not included are people living below the poverty level who receive no public assistance. Food stamp figures include both those persons receiving public assistance payments and those not receiving public assistance payments.

Importance

Poverty trends are significant indicators of the effectiveness of San Mateo's economy. Monitoring the number of 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 turn elsewhere to invest. In addition, county general funds spent on entitlements leaves less for discretionary programs, such as parks and libraries.

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

Federal poverty guidelines change each year. A family of four making \$1,421 per month was considered to be at poverty level in the year 2000. The federal Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) block grants provide funding for the county's CalWORKs, which helps welfare recipients to qualify for and find jobs that will enable families to be self-supporting. Counts of participants are taken once a year in December. In 2000 the number of CalWORKs families receiving assistance stood at 1,732. 1,641 individuals received General Relief with an average of \$279 per month. Food stamp recipients are measured by cases and can be individuals or families; there were 1,034 cases in December, 2000, and Medi-Cal assisted 18,265 individu-

POVERTY, continued

als. Most recipients of CalWORKs also receive Food Stamps, and all are eligible for Medi-Cal. These programs serve additional people who receive no assistance payments.

Direction

Poverty information from the 2000 census is not yet available. There is now a five-year lifetime limit on the length of time adults in a family are eligible for CalWORKs, and how this will affect poverty for the long-term is not yet known. The number of families/persons assisted by CalWORKs and General Relief has declined markedly over the past several years. If the economy slows down, there may be more layoffs. Helping people overcome multiple barriers to employment or acquire new skills through education or job training to upgrade the jobs they

currently have is the focus of welfare today.

Sources: John Baarts, Program Specialist, Human Services Agency of San Mateo County

Researcher: William Hung, Marcia Pagels

PRENATAL HEALTH CARE

Indicators Used

Data compiled for 1989-2000 by the San Mateo County Health and Environmental Protection Division, Disease Control and Prevention Unit on adequate prenatal care and proportion of births to adolescents were used. Criteria and standards for measuring prenatal maternal health care utilizes the Kessner Index which covers the gestational age, and number and time of prenatal visits to a health care professional for assessing adequacy of care. Overall statistics are reported by race. Data on percent of adolescent (17 and under) pregnancies brought to term are given.

mothers. Preventive prenatal care improves the quality of life for the mother, her family of origin and generation, and reduces the long-term social and medical burdens placed on a community. Prenatal maternal care is long-term cost effective. It is also an indicator of the county's health care services as accessible to a vulnerable segment of its population.

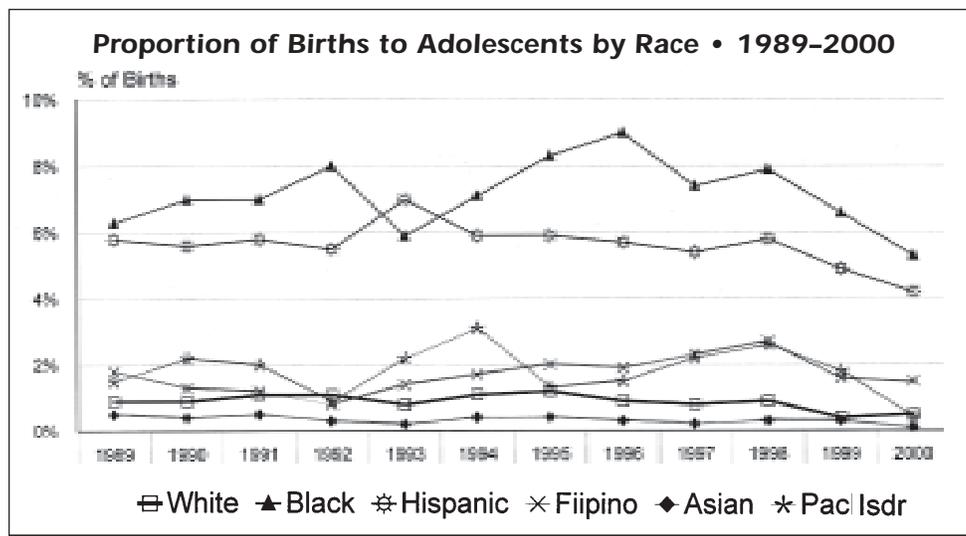
Findings

The adequacy of prenatal care to mothers in San

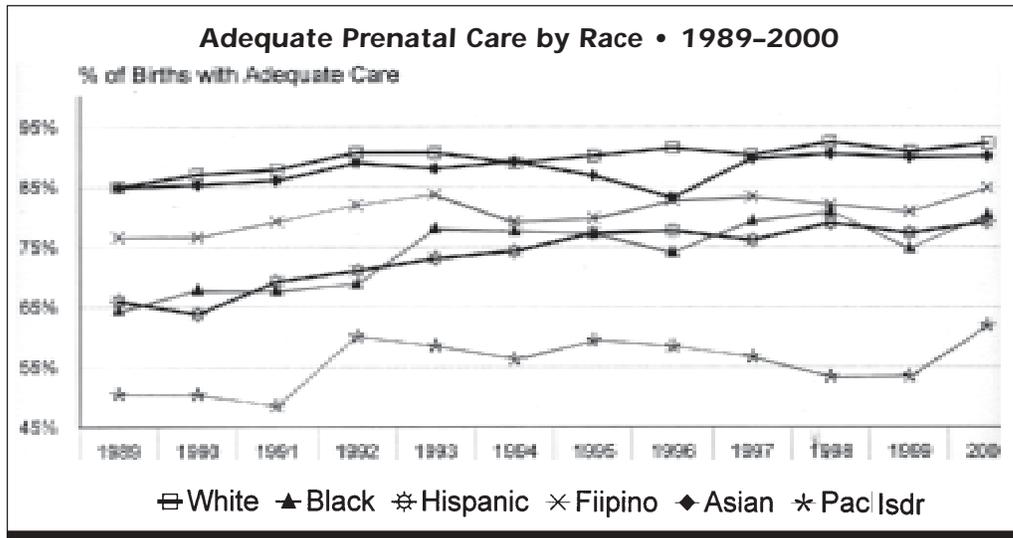
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Importance

Early and regular prenatal care is the best way to bring to term a normal birth weight infant with the opportunity to thrive and become a healthy productive adult. Such care inculcates good health habits, adequate diet, and the prevention and treatment of health problems. Inoculations and other measures are encouraged, especially important for adolescent



PRENATAL HEALTH CARE, *continued*



Mateo County is relatively high, ranking 14th out of the 58 counties in California. It is also shown to be unequally distributed among racial groups. Except for a small dip for Asian births in 1996, Whites and Asians have consistently occupied the higher part of the adequate care chart since 1989, above 85 percent. Black, Hispanic, and Filipino mothers' care ranges from 65 percent to 85 percent. Pacific Islanders are improving but occupy the lowest segment, fluctuating around 55 percent.

The percentage of births to teenage mothers is declining among Black and Hispanic young women since 1996, though it is several points above the White, Asian, Filipino, and Pacific Islander groups.

Direction

The data for adequate prenatal care and the proportion of births to adolescents show a slight movement in a

positive direction. Those changes in demographic statistics over an eleven year period, though very important to the people they represent, should not be overinterpreted as a trend. Prenatal health care services demonstrate county government services at their best and need to enjoy continued funding and support.

Source: California Department of Health Services Birth File, San Mateo County Public Health and Environmental Protection Division, Disease Control and Prevention Unit, Francis Wiser, MSPH, Epidemiologist
 Researcher: Julia Ronina, Eleanor W. Anderson

There are many ways to define sustainability. The simplest definition is: A sustainable society is one that can persist over generations, one that is far-seeing enough, flexible enough, and wise enough not to undermine either its physical or its social systems of support.

Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, *Beyond the Limits*, 1992.

PUBLIC LIBRARY USE

Indicators Used

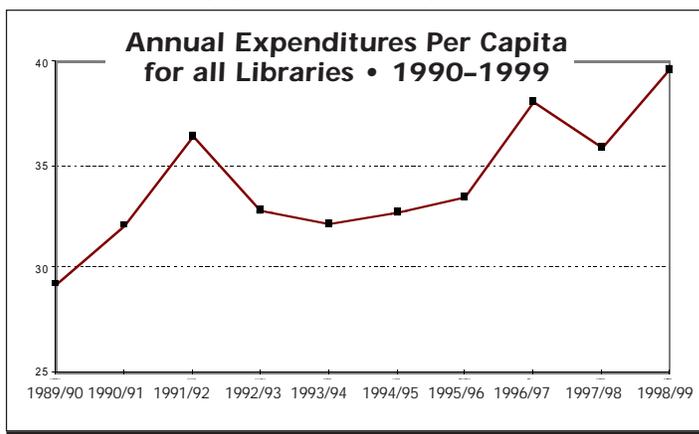
The California State Library collects statistics yearly from public libraries in California and issues an annual summary of the data collected. Four statistics from that summary are included in this report: annual expenditures per capita; annual number of hours open to the public; annual materials circulated per capita; and annual number of reference questions asked per capita. The figures represent data for the public libraries in Daly City, San Mateo, Redwood City, South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Bruno, and Menlo Park and the San Mateo County library system which includes branches in Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos and Woodside.

Importance

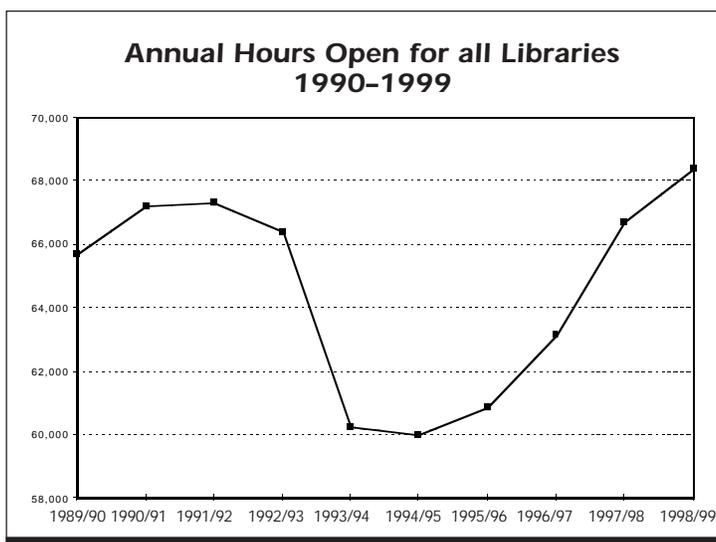
Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading, videos, and computers. Libraries are gateways to information for large numbers of people through shared access. They are also an access point to 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. In 1998/99, the total combined annual expenditure for all the library systems in the county rose 11.8



percent to an all-time high of \$39.65 per capita. Materials circulation per capita in 1998/99 was down slightly from 1997/98 while reference questions asked increased 18 percent, but still remained lower than in 1990. Circulation per capita in 1998/99 was 8.07 in the county compared to 4.84 in the State. Annual per capita expenditure was also higher (\$39.65) in the county than in the state (\$20.63). All libraries countywide in 1998/99 were open to the public 68,361 total hours which, for the first time in nine years,



exceeded the total for 1991/92 when libraries were open 67,291 hours.

In general, all eight library systems in the county are exceeding the state average in funding and usage which is a positive statistic, but some jurisdictions are doing better than others. Expenditure per capita for Burlingame (\$64.92), Redwood City (\$66.43), and Menlo Park (\$45.07) libraries is considerably higher than for San Mateo County (\$36.78), the City of San Mateo (\$33.53), South San Francisco (\$37.95), and San Bruno (\$30.36), while Daly City (\$16.82) receives the least funding. In general, the library systems with the higher expenditures per capita are open more hours and support higher usage.

Direction

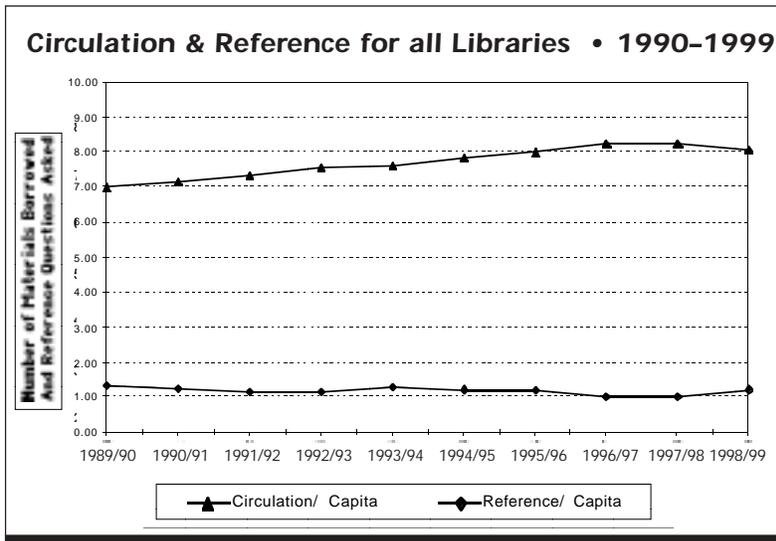
Countywide expenditures (except in 1997/98) have increased steadily since 1993/94. This is a positive indication of community support for public libraries. Library use based on materials circulated per capita in 1998/99 is down slightly from 1997-

continued

PUBLIC LIBRARY USE, *continued*

98, but has generally been increasing since 1990. Reference questions asked per capita have remained steady since 1990. Hours open to the public have been steadily increasing since 1994/95 and this positive trend is expected to continue.

Source: *California Library Statistics 1990–1999*
by Library Development Services Bureau,
California State Library, Sacramento
Researcher: David Crabbe



SOLID WASTE

Indicators Used

Reported are the tons of solid waste disposed into landfills of San Mateo County from 1990 through 1999 and the approved diversion rates (the amount of waste reused, recycled, or composted) for 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998. The tons of solid waste represent the total waste disposed of in San Mateo County landfills. Diversion rates for 1999 have not yet been approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), however, those figures have been included in the chart as possible indications.

Importance

Landfill sites statewide are approaching capacity. San Mateo County is no exception. The two largest landfill sites in San Mateo County are Ox Mountain and Hillside. Hillside has two parcels within Colma and a third parcel in the County of San Mateo. Parcel one, in Colma, is scheduled to close in two to four years. Parcel two is now closed to any additional landfill and is in the process of being completely decommissioned. The third parcel, on county property, is completely closed and is now being restored to match the natural terrain. The Ox Mountain site has an approximate life expectancy to the year 2027. More than 90 percent of our waste goes to the Ox Mountain site in Half Moon Bay. As landfills reach capacity, new land will be needed to store the waste generated by San Mateo County. It is extremely important that we continue

creating new diversion programs in order to extend the limited life of our landfills.

A sustainable community strives to reduce the amount of solid waste it generates by recycling and reusing as much waste as possible, as opposed to creating more sites for solid waste disposal. The California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 939 in 1990, which requires that cities and counties decrease the amount of solid waste they send to landfills by 50 percent. This goal can be achieved by reducing the amount of waste produced and by increasing recycling, composting, and reuse of goods and materials. Some counties and cities in Northern California have already achieved this goal.

Findings

In 1999, San Mateo County sent approximately 1.3 percent less waste to county landfills than in 1998. The 958,185 tons in 1998 has been reduced to 945,673 tons in 1999. Optimistically, this can be compared to the 9 percent increase in landfill waste between 1997 and 1998. Additionally, the number of San Mateo County cities on "Compliance Schedules" (cities that still need assistance) has been reduced from 7 cities in 1998 to only 4 cities in 1999. CIWMB is working to assist those cities that are on a Compliance Schedule. Cities with omitted figures between 1995 and 1999 have been pulled due to special circumstances and those with

SOLID WASTE, *continued*

omitted 1999 Diversion Rates are doing base year revisions. It should be noted that a variety of factors such as new construction, demolition, transportation projects and disaster waste (especially El Niño in 1998) will affect solid waste landfill and diversion rates for any given period.

In 1999, only 3 percent of San Mateo County solid waste was disposed of in landfills outside of San Mateo County, compared to approximately 10 percent in 1998. Despite this additional 7 percent of solid waste remaining within the county, we can boast that we reduced our total solid waste from the previous year. The export of solid waste is not caused by an overflow in San Mateo County, but is driven by either a cheaper market or special waste disposal requirements. Solid waste generated in San Mateo County has also been disposed of in Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Solano, Marin, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties. Some figures in the diversion rates chart have been omitted as special circumstance or new base figures have made it impractical to re-calculate the figures.

Direction

The specific criteria for calculating diversion rates has much improved over the past year. It will require continued efforts by all San Mateo County cities to achieve and maintain the goal of 50 percent. New solutions are constantly being developed which are increasing recycling and finding new solutions to existing problems associated with waste disposal programs. The San Mateo County recycling program, RecycleWorks, has made considerable progress in increasing public education throughout the county. Extensive recycling information is available at 1-888-442-2666 and online at www.RecycleWorks.org. Several cities have adopted new construction and demolition ordinances aimed at recycling materials from construction and demolition projects. On January 2, 2001, the San Carlos Transfer Station opened the first e-waste recycling program in the County. This drop-off site accepts discarded electronic components such as computers, cell phones, copiers, and fax machines. There is an urgent need to continue current efforts to establish greater capacity for

diverting our county's construction and demolition facilities. Additionally, new solutions, such as source reduction and finding or creating markets for recycled goods, must be found to increase recycling and to resolve existing problems associated with waste disposal programs.

Source: County of San Mateo, RecycleWorks
 Researcher: Don Eagleston

Jurisdiction	Solid Waste Diversion Rates					On Compliance Schedule by CIWMB
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Atherton	17%	43%	15%		31%	
Belmont	36%	33%	43%	48%	48%	
Brisbane	25%	34%	40%	32%		
Burlingame	37%	41%	42%	40%	46%	
Colma				47%	51%	
Daly City				14%	19%	X
East Palo Alto	10%	15%			46%	X
Foster City	27%	25%	54%	50%	37%	
Half Moon Bay				32%	44%	
Hillsborough	19%	25%			25%	
Menlo Park	36%	34%	39%	30%	40%	
Millbrae	30%	12%	31%	40%	52%	
Pacifica	36%	26%	30%	28%	31%	
Portola Valley	-2%	17%		32%	31%	X
Redwood City	39%	41%	43%	46%	44%	
San Bruno	29%	19%			46%	
San Carlos	34%	38%	39%	34%	39%	
San Mateo	40%	33%	42%	29%	34%	
S. San Francisco	26%	27%	36%	39%		
Unincorporated	30%	34%	33%	26%		
Woodside	21%	8%			44%	X

X: CIWMB is working to assist those cities which are on a Compliance Schedule. Omitted figures between 1995 & 1999 have been pulled due to special circumstances. Omitted 1999 Diversion Rates are doing base year revisions. Information provided by San Mateo County RecycleWorks

SUBSTANCE ABUSE • ARRESTS FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Indicators Used

The California Department of Justice registers the number of arrests in San Mateo County for driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs. Figures from 1990 to 1999 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

A total of 3,739 DUI arrests were recorded in 1999. Of these, 3,629 of the arrests were misdemeanors, and 110 were felony arrests. The majority of the DUI arrests occurred in the 30-39 year old age group, accounting for 1,104 misdemeanor and 29 felony arrests.

Juveniles had 44 DUI arrests in 1999, which is 1.2 percent of the total. This figure includes ten 16 year olds, and thirty-four 17 year olds. Two of these 17 year olds were charged with felonies, and the others were charged with misdemeanors.

Direction

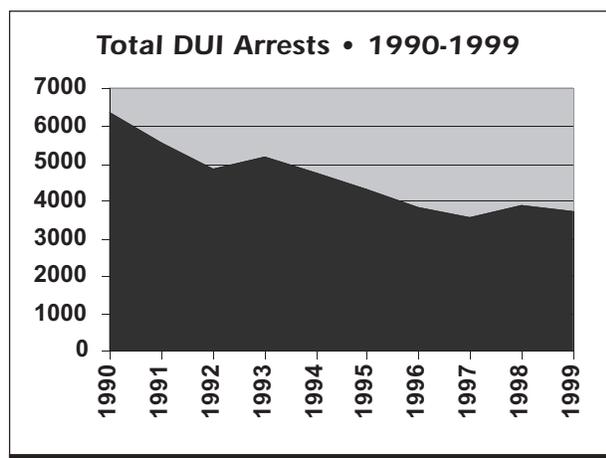
During the period from 1990 to 1999, there has been a general decrease in DUI arrests (from 6,453 in 1990 to 3,739 arrests in 1999). This is a decrease of 42.1 percent. The trend has slowed in recent years. From 1998 to 1999 DUI arrests decreased 3.9 percent, from 3,889 to 3,739 arrests. The juvenile arrest rate has not exhibited this gradual decrease.

The leveling off in recent years in DUI cases may be due to growing awareness concerning DUI among San

Mateo County drivers. Public education programs may have reached maximum efficiency in reaching people.

Increased public awareness of the hazards of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol has led to stricter laws and increased enforcement of those laws. Since 1990, the streets have become much safer due to DUI awareness in the community.

Source: State of California, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Services Division, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, *Criminal Justice Profile, 1999, San Mateo County*.
Researcher: Carolyn Cobey



Ultimately the security of the Nation is not found in its materialism. It is found in a spirit. It is found in a strength of heart and mind. It is found in its people—we, the people.

Mark Hatfield, former Senator, Oregon

SUBSTANCE ABUSE • TREATMENT PROVIDED

Indicators Used

The most recent data from the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Services division, are used to indicate trends in the numbers of people who seek substance abuse treatment in San Mateo County. Supplementary statistics are provided by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, which gathers statewide information. Data for fiscal year (FY) 1999/2000 has been compared with data for several previous years to determine trends in the treatment services.

Importance

Problems of alcohol and other drug use affect not only the lives of those who use these substances, but also members of the community who must face the repercussions from the abuser's behavior, such as drunk driving and domestic violence.

Treatment services are an integral part of alleviating the immediate consequences of substance abuse and ultimately help reduce the long term costs of health care. They are also instrumental in promoting independence and stability for the individual and safety for the community.

Findings

From FY 1998/99 to FY 1999/2000, the total number of unduplicated (counted once, regardless of the number of treatment visits) persons in the county who sought substance abuse treatment increased 11 percent, as opposed to a less than 1 percent increase between the previous two

fiscal years. Substantial increases, demographically reported are Native Americans (57 percent), Asian-Americans/Pacific Islanders (46 percent), Latinos (30 percent), and patients who sought help only for drug problems (22 percent). Despite the significant percentage increases for Asian-Americans and Native Americans, the actual number of people in those groups was considerably lower than the numbers for the other ethnic groups. Whites, the group that showed the smallest percentage gain of all ethnic groups recorded, still accounted for the largest number of people in the treatment programs.

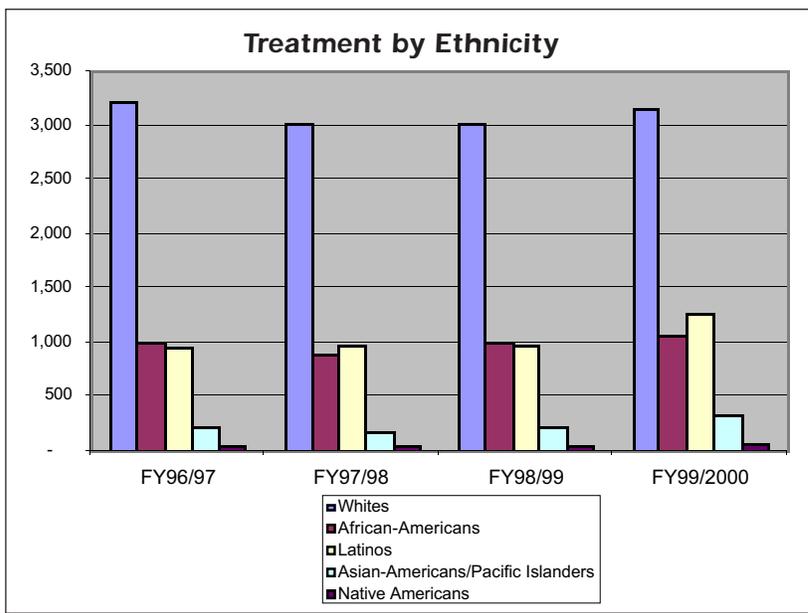
Of the 15 largest counties in California, San Mateo County has had the lowest number of alcohol and drug treatment slots per 100,000 population for the past 5 years. San Mateo has 11 slots per 10,000 residents, as opposed to a state average of 28. San Mateo recorded the longest waiting time for alcohol and drug treatment services; the county average waiting time was 50 days, more than twice the state average of 20 days. Declines were considerably greater in detoxification and outpatient day programs than in residential or outpatient treatment and recovery services.

For the drug of choice of clients who sought treatment, the county saw a 21 percent increase in marijuana users and a 14 percent increase in methamphetamine users during FY 1999/2000. Increases were also recorded for all other major forms of drugs.

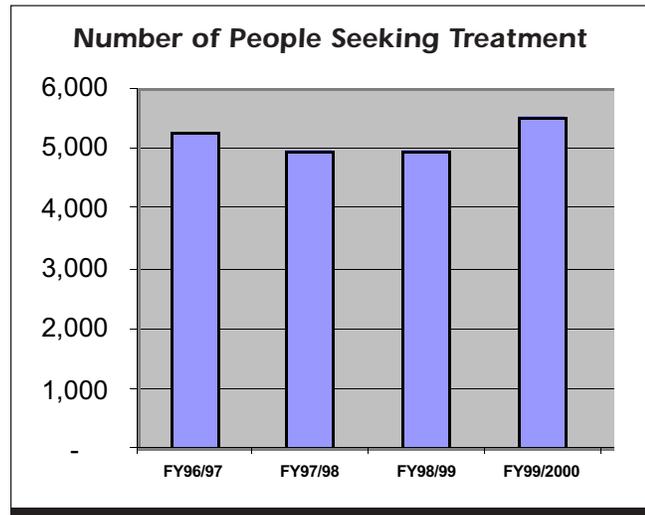
Direction

The total number of people treated during the last fiscal year showed an unexpected upturn, as the three previous fiscal years posted modest declines or negligible growth. Over the past five years, this number has been in fluctuation, so no apparent trend can be established. One reason for the recent increase may be the growing population of the county. Other factors may include continued drug use among adolescents on the streets. Additional countywide efforts are necessary to promote awareness of the risks of abusing drugs and alcohol.

Sources: Patricia Cutchin and Jerry Mucha, San Mateo County Human Services Agency; CA Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Programs
 Researcher: David Chen



continued



What kind of system would be ecologically sustainable? The answer is simple—a system whose structure respects the limits, the carrying capacity, of natural systems. A sustainable economy is one powered by renewable energy sources. It is also a reuse/recycle economy. In its structure, it emulates nature, where one organism’s waste is another’s sustenance . . . Just as an aircraft must satisfy the principles of aerodynamics if it is to fly, so must an economy satisfy the principles of ecology if it is to endure . . . Over the long term, carbon emissions cannot exceed carbon dioxide fixation; soil erosion cannot exceed new soil formed through natural processes; the harvest of forest products cannot exceed the sustainable yield of forests; the number of plant and animal species lost cannot exceed the new species formed through evolution; water pumping cannot exceed the sustainable yield of aquifers; the fish catch cannot exceed the sustainable yield of fisheries.

Recognizing the limits of natural systems is often seen as a call for no growth, but the issue is not growth versus no growth. The question is, what kind of growth? And where? Growth based on the use of renewable energy may be able to continue for some time, while that based on fossil fuels is ultimately limited by the remaining reserves, but more immediately, by potentially unacceptable climate disruption. Similarly, a reuse/recycle economy can grow much larger than a throwaway economy.

Worldwatch Institute 1998 *State of the World* report

TRANSPORTATION

Indicators Used

This report includes the estimated percentage of commuter and total trips taken in automobiles, the estimated percentage of trips beginning and/or ending in San Mateo County, transit ridership, the estimated daily peak p.m. hours of delay on thirteen automobile corridors of regional significance, estimated highway vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year, and gasoline consumption per year. The number of deaths and injuries from automobile accidents involving alcohol and the total number of deaths and injuries from automobile accidents are also given. All figures refer only to San Mateo County.

Importance

Automobiles generate pollution that affects the environment locally and globally. Hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and other automobile emissions pose immediate health risks. Nitrogen dioxide diminishes the aesthetic value of the surroundings by contributing to a light brownish discoloration of the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide contributes to long-term climate change. (See "Air Quality," page 8.) Other modes of transportation, including bicycles, buses, and trains, produce less pollution and generally are safer for passengers. Automobile accidents reduce mobility on roads, consume time and money, and frequently cause injuries and deaths.

Increased automobile travel can reduce mobility by causing traffic jams and even gridlock unless measures are taken to increase road capacity. Such measures could include widenings, improvements in intersection efficiency, freeway metering, or other measures to increase the efficiency of roads. Changes in available capacity also result in increased pollution, noise, and cost by simply allowing greater automobile traffic.

If gasoline consumption changes at a rate different from that at which vehicle travel changes, the difference can reflect a change in the energy efficiency of automobile travel. For example, cars stuck in gridlock use more gasoline per mile traveled than cars traveling at higher speeds would use.

Time spent commuting reduces time available for other more productive and valuable activities, including interaction with family and friends. Availability of mass transit is crucial for those who cannot travel by automobile. Different forms of transportation influence land use, concentration of housing, businesses, and other development along transportation corridors. Construction of new roads diminishes wildlife habitat and consumes large amounts of scarce monetary resources.

Findings

Automobile travel comprised 94 percent of commuter trips and 97 percent of all trips in 2000.^a The percentage of weekday commute trips into and out of San Mateo County rose from 54 percent in 1990 to 56 percent in 2000.^b The percentage of weekday commute trips within San Mateo County fell from 46 percent in 1990 to 44 percent in 2000.^b Highway gasoline consumption rose 11 percent from 1995 to 1998.^c VMT increased 7 percent from 1995 to 1998.^c Hours of delay on major corridors increased 19 percent from 1990 to 1999.^a

Ridership percentage was distributed among the transit systems as follows: SamTrans, 50 percent of total transit ridership; CalTrain, 27 percent; and BART, 23 percent.^a SamTrans bus ridership decreased 4 percent from 1995 to 1998. CalTrain ridership increased 30 percent from 1995 to 1998. BART ridership increased 17 percent from 1995 to 1998.

In 1998, 10 people were killed and 320 were injured in accidents involving alcohol. In all automobile accidents in 1998, 42 people were killed and 5,276 were injured.^d

Direction

Automobiles were the most common form of transportation. Increases in gas consumption outstripped increases in VMT. Automobile congestion became more prevalent, causing people to spend more time in vehicles. Among weekday commutes, the number of trips to and from other counties now exceeds the number within San Mateo County. CalTrain and BART experienced large increases in ridership. SamTrans bus ridership decreased slightly.

Sources: ^a *Peninsula Transportation Plan 2010*, San Mateo County; ^b California Metropolitan Transportation Commission; ^c *Travel and Related Factors in California: Annual Summary 1998*, California Department of Transportation; ^d *1998 Annual Report of Fatality and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions*, California Highway Patrol; Bay Area Regional Transit; SamTrans.
Researcher: Christopher Kost

VOTER PARTICIPATION

Indicators Used

Three countywide measurements of voter participation for the years 1990-2000 are included: the percent of the adult population registered to vote; the percent of registered voters who actually voted; and the percent of the adult population that voted. "Adult population" includes all persons 18 and over whether they are eligible to vote or not.

The percent by city of registered voters voting in the presidential election of November 11, 2000 is also shown.

Importance

In a sustainable society, citizens participate in making decisions about their communities. A 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

In the 2000 primary vote 55 percent of the adult population registered, 57 percent of those registered actually voted, and 32 percent of the total adult population voted. In the 2000 general election 59 percent of the adult population registered to vote, 77 percent of those registered actually voted, and the adult population participating was 46 percent.

Besides the U.S. Chief Executive Officer (President), the 2000 election included federal senate and congressional members, state senate and assembly members, state propositions, city council members in seven cities, county boards and measures, and district school boards and bonds.

A breakdown by city shows a range of 62-87 percent of registered voters voting in the 2000

presidential election.

Direction

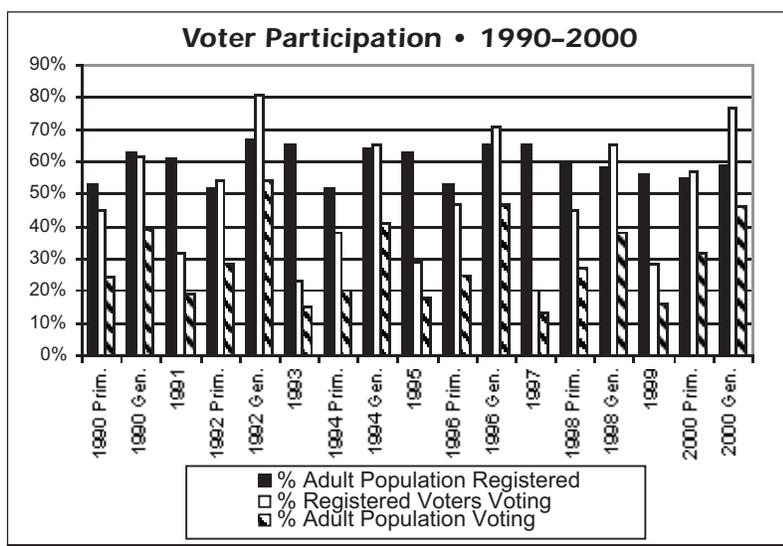
A lower percentage of adults registered for the presidential election of 2000 than for the comparable presidential election years of 1992 or 1996. There were 17 propositions in the primary, which could be the reason for the slightly higher turnout compared to the other presidential years. Twenty-five percent of voters voted by absentee ballot, a lower percentage than last year.

While there are minor variations, an evident pattern of voting participation can be seen over the last ten years. Participation in general elections in which the president, congressional and state government officials are elected (even-numbered years) is higher than participation in off-years (odd-numbered years). The low level of voter participation overall, however, continues to be the most notable trend.

Percent of Registered Voters Voting, by City November 2000

Atherton	84
Belmont	81
Brisbane	78
Burlingame	79
Colma	72
Daly City	67
East Palo Alto	62
Foster City	79
Half Moon Bay	80
Hillsborough	83
Menlo Park	81
Millbrae	80
Pacifica	79
Portola Valley	87
Redwood City	77
San Bruno	76
San Carlos	83
San Mateo	78
South San Francisco	74
Woodside	84
Unincorporated	79

Sources: California State Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; *Supplement to Sales and Marketing Management: 2000 Survey of Buying Power*; *San Mateo County Statement of Vote, Tuesday, November 7, 2000*.
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) 1998/99 is compared with water consumption in BAWUA's total service area, as well as with water consumption for the previous fiscal year. Only water provided by water retailers is included in these calculations; individuals and firms using recycled or reclaimed water sources or private wells are not included in this study.

Importance

Water is necessary for the survival of all life. It is also important to humans for everyday activities such as bathing, washing clothes or dishes, and basic living.

Approximately 90 percent of San Mateo County water comes from the Hetch Hetchy

Reservoir, which is located in Yosemite National Park. This reservoir is fed by snow pack from the Sierra Nevada mountains. The other 10 percent of San Mateo County water comes from a fresh water aquifer, a natural water deposit that forms due to rain percolation through the soil. Overdrawing water from the aquifer causes loss of capacity for storage. When water is removed, the space held by water may collapse, leaving less capacity for future storage. Increased urbanization, in the form of pavement, buildings, and other impermeable structures, results in less surface area for water to trickle down to the aquifer.

Water conservation is important because current use is both overdrawing local sources and relying heavily on far away sources. With an expanding population and increased demands on our finite water supply, water conservation is necessary for a community to be sustainable.

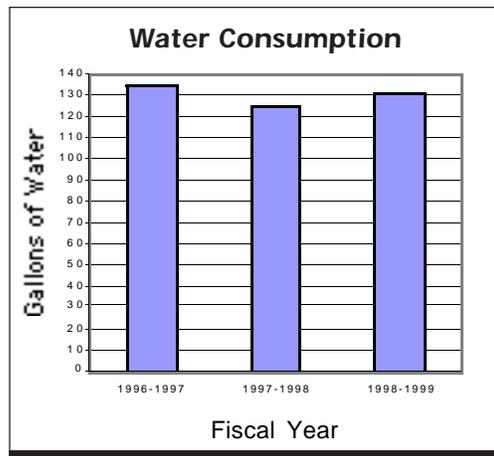
Findings

According to the BAWUA report, annual water

consumption in San Mateo County for FY 1998/99 was 45,504,776 ccf (1 ccf = 748 gallons) or about 34,000 million gallons. This is 93.1 million gallons per day. The population of the San Mateo County service area is 707,270, which makes per capita consumption per day 131.6 gallons. This is less than the Bay Area average of 155.2 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd). Notably, it represents an increase from FY 1997/98, when per capita consumption was 125 gallons per day.

Direction

Water Consumption in San Mateo County increased about 5.4 percent from the previous year (125.0 gpcpd in FY 1997/98 compared to 131.7 gpcpd in FY 1998/99). However, it is a 2.2 percent decrease when compared to FY 1996/97. The amount of water consumption depends on the amount of rainfall and the average maximum temperature. The higher the temperature and the less rainfall, the greater the water consumption.



Sources: Bay Area Water Users Association, *Annual Survey 1998-1999*.

Researcher: Emily Freed

We have identified several practices we think are critical in public life: naming problems, making collective decisions about how to act on these problems, acting together, and judging the results of action.

David Mathews, "Can Public Life be Regenerated?" paper presented at the Independent Sector Conference, Sept. 5, 1996

WATER QUALITY • TAP WATER

Indicators Used

The most potentially dangerous impurities likely to be found in drinking water were measured. 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 Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and the California Water Service Company (CalWater) are reported. Well water supplies a small percentage of the county's water and is not measured. The water quality reports for the SFPUC and for the California Water Service Company for 1998 and 1999 were reviewed. The SFPUC supplies most of San Mateo County's water, while the California Water Service Company supplies water for the communities of South San Francisco, Colma, Broadmoor, Atherton, and portions of Redwood City. The California Water Service Company and the SFPUC both supply water for Menlo Park, Portola Valley, and Woodside. The water in San Mateo and San Carlos is SFPUC water but is served by the California Water Service Company. The state and federal governments assign a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for many of the chemical and biological pollutants found in water, and these were used as standards for comparison.

Importance

THMs are chemicals which arise in the chlorination process of water and are suspected to be carcinogenic and mutagenic, possibly causing damage to DNA. MTBE, an oxygenate, 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 levels in drinking water.

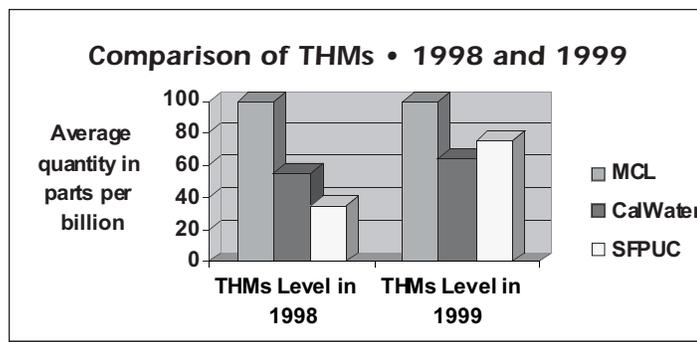
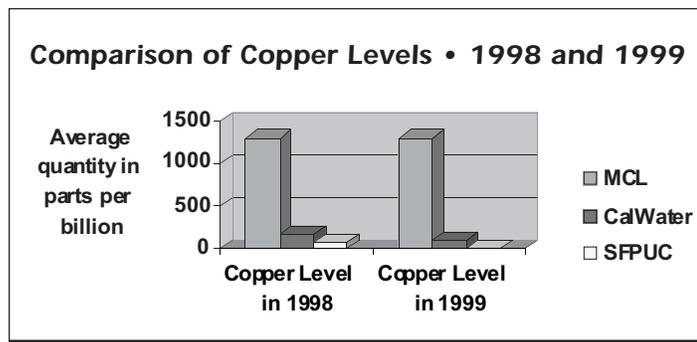
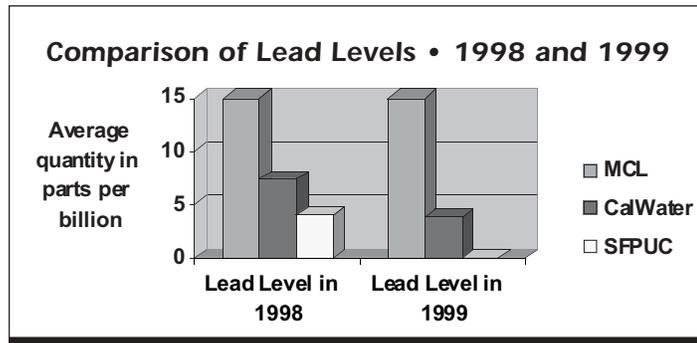
The quality of drinking water is one of many factors contributing to the environmental health of a community and to personal well-being. Contaminated water can bring disease, birth defects, increased infant mortality, and increased occurrence of cancer.

Findings

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

Of the 21 contaminants that were found to be present in the water supplied by the California Water Service Company, only THMs appeared at levels approaching the standard maximum level. The average level of THMs for 1999 was 64.3 parts per billion (ppb), which is 64.3 percent of the 100 ppb MCL. The level of THMs in the water supplied by the SFPUC varied from community to community. The San Francisco Water System contained 75 ppb of THMs, 75 percent of the MCL. Both water suppliers meet the federal standards

continued



WATER QUALITY • TAP WATER, *continued*

for THMs levels. To comply with stricter federal regulations, the SFPUC will use new disinfectant chloramines in early 2003 to further lower THMs levels.

MTBE, which has proven problematic in neighboring Santa Clara County, is virtually nonexistent in the drinking water of major suppliers to San Mateo County, but probably does exist in well water. For 1999, the level of MTBE detected in the San Francisco Water System was below 0.5 ppb, and no MTBE was detected in water supplied by the California Water Service Company. 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 MTBE can be detected in the water by its odor, taste and appearance to 4 ppb, but this advisory serves only as a warning level, not a standard maximum level, for water managers.

There is no MCL for lead and copper levels, but there are Action Levels, serving as advisories for water managers. The average amount of copper in the water supplied by the California Water Service Company, in 1999, was 97 ppb, less than 8 percent of the Action Level, which is 1,300 ppb. No copper was detected in the SFPUC water. Lead concentrations in San Mateo County's drinking water were also very low. California Water Service provided water that contained, on average, 3.8 ppb, less than 25 percent of the 15 ppb Action Level. Lead concentrations were undetectable in SFPUC water.

Direction

Although there was a notable increase in the THMs levels in both California Water Service and SFPUC water from 1998 to 1999, the quality of water supplied to San Mateo County remains excellent. MTBE, THMs, lead and copper levels all remain below their MCLs or Action Levels.

Sources: *1999 Water Quality Report*, California Water Service Group; *Lead in Drinking Water*, Environmental Research Foundation; Rebbeka Grossman, *Tap Water: The Last Taboo*, www.plumbingsupply.com; *1999 Water Quality Report*, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; <http://www.epa.gov/ow/>; David Quinones, Sanitary Engineer, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Quality Bureau
Researcher: Jenny Bernstein

*The world is too much with us;
late and soon,
Getting and spending,
we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in nature
that is ours.*

William Wordsworth, 1806



Sustainable San Mateo County wishes to gratefully acknowledge support for the *Indicators*: the County of San Mateo, and the cities of Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Colma, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, and San Mateo and the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce.



STATUS OF OTHER INDICATORS

In addition to the indicators you have just read, Sustainable San Mateo County has been reporting on some others over the years. With the exception of General Plans and Sustainability, the following indicators appeared in last year's edition but are missing this year for various reasons. Data may not have been available in a timely fashion, a decision was made to take a different approach, the information available warranted more investigation to be useful. For your reference, summaries are given here. We intend to include these indicators in the 6th edition.

Community Safety

The county has shown a decrease in overall reported crimes, adult and juvenile felonies and misdemeanors throughout the decade. Calls for assistance with domestic violence showed a small decrease but the trend in arrests for domestic violence is up.

Energy Consumption

Residential use of electricity is increasing with 4 cities in the county using more than twice that of other cities. Commercial and industrial demand has increased 20 percent since 1994, accounting for 66 percent of the county's electricity consumption. (See Energy Consumption indicator page).

General Plans and Sustainability

The results of a survey sent out to nearly every city reported that their General Plan included the concept of sustainability, although only four actually use the word. The survey needs to be repeated as the concept of sustainability is now in wider usage, even in advertising.

Land Use

Land use patterns remain fairly stable according to a

survey of city planners in the county. Ten of the cities reported economic vitality was either the first or second factor of importance in making land use decisions.

Mortality

Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of death in the county, African Americans continuing to have the highest mortality rate. This may mean that the county health services are not adequate for all our residents.

Unemployment

San Mateo County's unemployment rate dropped again in 1998 to 2.4 percent from 2.7 percent the year before. East Palo Alto and N. Fair Oaks remain above that rate with Half Moon Bay and San Carlos showing the lowest rates.

Volunteerism

42 percent of adults and 51 percent of teens did volunteer work, averaging 3.5 hours per week. African Americans had the highest rate of volunteerism. Education and health services were the areas most often chosen to serve in.

Founder: Marcia Pagels
Chairwoman: Ruth Peterson
Executive Director & Managing Editor: Kim Gelfand
Editors: Eleanor W. Anderson and Marcia Pagels
Graphics, Layout, & Design: Ricki McGlashan & Kim Gelfand

Researchers and Writers

Eleanor W. Anderson
David Crabbe
Don Eagleston
Kim Gelfand
Susan James
Carol Mink
Marcia Pagels
Meredith Peterson
Ruth Peterson
Ronald Trowse

Mills High School

David Chen
William Huang
Marcus Hung
Genevieve Leung
Julia Ronina
Katrina Salamides
Tong Zhao
Wayne Phillips, Teacher

Stanford University Community Services

Writing Program

Jenny Bernstein
Carolyn Cobey
Emily Freed
Tai Hawkins
Christopher Kost
Jonrobert Lang
Leticia Ramirez
Tracy Williams
Allen Yang

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Nothing is as profound as an individual acting out of his/her own conscience, thereby awakening the collective conscience.

Norman Cousins



Sustainable San Mateo County

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

JOIN NOW

Support these efforts
In San Mateo County

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

You will benefit

- ✓ Receive newsletters/announcements
- ✓ Know you are building a better future for our children, community and planet
- ✓ Enhance the likelihood that your county will maintain a high quality of life into the years ahead

Think globally, act locally!

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Yes!

I want to support the efforts of Sustainable San Mateo County by becoming a member.

Please print

Name _____
City State Zip

Address _____

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- Benefactor \$1000
- Sustainer \$500
- Sponsor \$100
- Regular \$35
- Senior/Student/Low income \$15

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 towards sustainability
- Work with the Business Task Force
- Work with the Education Task Force
- Help with the Annual Sustainability Award
- Help promote sustainability through other actions or projects

Yes!

I want a copy of the current Indicators Report

Donations welcome. Return this form to:

Tides Center/SSMC
177 Bovet Road, Sixth Floor
San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 638-2323