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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, FIGURES IN THE CHARTS REFER TO SAN MATEO COUNTY.

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INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth edition of *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County; A Yearly Report Card on our County's Quality of Life*. It highlights the relevant facts about our county, those necessary for establishing the essential community dialogue and consensus, which lead to bettering our county.

This 2002 report is being written as we are working hard to respond productively to two crises within the year: energy and terrorism. Both crises vividly revealed the interrelationships among the Economy, social Equity, and the Environment—the 3 Es of sustainability.

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE 3 ES

The Bay Area economy was already suffering from the high-tech industry decline. Then came the California energy crisis, followed by the terrorist attack on our nation. These events quickly reverberated through our economy and our individual and collective psyche. During the energy crisis we learned that conserving works, and that there are high long-term economic costs of being completely dependent on natural gas supplies outside our control. With a 12 billion (or more) state deficit, we are facing the fact that much-needed funds will not be as readily available for county needs. Issues of equity are coming up—were profits excessive and were consumers overcharged?

The terrorist attack brought more lessons. The most

obvious is that we—you, me, each of us—are connected to people and events all over the world. Decisions at home and our actions here and abroad can and do affect people far outside our county.

With a need for improved homeland security and the implementation of the “war on terrorism,” reprioritizing of budgets is taking place on national, state, and local levels. There will be less money available for other very important things. Locally, funding for additional emergency services—police, fire, and medical preparedness—must come from city, county, or state budgets. Our economy is affected in other ways too. Tourism (and jobs) declined as people feared flying and decided to seek safety and comfort by staying close to home.

The second World Summit on Sustainable Development (the first was held in 1992 and inspired the formation of Sustainable San Mateo County) will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa in August-September 2002. Never before has the call for sustainability been more timely. While fear of terrorism may affect attendance and detract from the agenda, the summit still promises to enlighten and inspire people everywhere, bringing critical issues such as poverty alleviation, sustainable consumption and production, and financing of sustainable development to the forefront. These big-picture issues that affect us all will be debated, and some productive agreements will be reached.

Hopefully, the forum will result in new approaches, guiding us towards solving some of the world's most pressing problems and also fostering a broader perspective on ways to fight terrorism. Making sure that we live up to the agreements will be up to all of us.

THE IDEAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

No generation before has had to face the difficult and frightening job of solving grand overarching problems about the fundamental health of the whole planet. We must educate ourselves, thoroughly and quickly. We are pioneering ways of interacting with the earth and with each other, forging a culture of sustainability. This culture needs to be founded upon the values, customs, and actions of putting human thriving foremost, knowing we are totally dependent upon the complex ecology in which we are embedded.

There is no ideal sustainable community. It has been said that having a model in your mind's eye helps to make that ideal real. It can also be that to know what we believe we must look to what we are doing. Some communities already are exemplifying parts of what is described below. Gathering those current best practices, and thoughts from sustainability scholars, here is a broad-brush picture of what a community can do:

1. Maintain economic vitality; a sustainable community encourages local and regional enterprises and provides diverse employment opportunities with adequate wages to meet basic needs. It has economic equity: the gap between rich and poor is minimized; there is access to jobs and quality education, a balance of jobs to housing, adequate infrastructure, efficient, affordable and accessible mass transit systems, enough capital or financial resources, and emphasis on long-range planning, locally and regionally.

2. Establish environmental soundness; a sustainable community arranges to live within its regional carrying capacity, maintains biodiversity, protects, manages, and restores 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. Promote social equity; a sustainable community provides optimal 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 all their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

CHOICES WE MAKE

The choices we make day-by-day as individuals,

governmental leaders, institutions, and businesses, add up to a collective consciousness of the community, alerting us to where we are on the pathway to sustainability and where we need to go.

Big choices individuals make include where we choose to live (close to work, small house or big?); what kind of transportation to use (walk, bike, mass transit, buy an SUV or a hybrid car?); what kind of work to do (is it meaningful and enjoyable as well as adequately remunerative?) and who we vote for (do they understand the imperative of sustainability?).

The small choices are many and varied—choosing locally-grown in-season foods, choosing high quality products that will last, conserving energy, recycling, and consuming only what we need.

Governments too make choices that will lead to sustainability or not. The individual's role is to notice and encourage our government leaders in that direction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS, LIMITS

This report continues to be a community activity. SSMC could not produce it without the support of the San Mateo County community. Generous grants from San Mateo County and many of the cities 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. SSMC is also indebted to the researchers and writers of this edition, and to hundreds of individuals who volunteer and contribute to SSMC in support of our work.

In our first *Indicators* we listed many indicators we were unable to include, because they don't lend themselves to measurement, data were not readily available, or we lacked sufficient researchers to develop the indicator. Since then, from that list, we have added "Energy Consumption," "Solid Waste," "Arts Participation," and, new to this edition, "Green Building Policies." High on the list for which data are not yet available are "level of charitable giving" and "percent of people adequately covered by health insurance."

We have responded to the request that information be presented by city where appropriate and possible. A comparison of whether one city is moving faster than another toward sustainability is beyond the scope of this report. For the most part, the report continues to apply to the county in general.

Timetables of reporting agencies for compiling data differ widely. Thus, for us, it is impossible to present up-to-date information for every indicator. We will continue to make sure our data is clear, accurate, and timely.

We hope you will support this comprehensive report by contributing to and/or joining SSMC's efforts in promoting sustainability in our county. (See form on page 50.)

SUMMARIES

Agriculture

Agriculture and forestry are vital parts of San Mateo County's economic base. In 2000, the gross production value increased by 10% over 1999 to a total of \$695,324,000. Floral and nursery crops accounted for 78% of that with vegetables a distant second at 18%, \$36,160,000. New developments in the agricultural community are the implementation of the Agricultural Water Quality Program, and the emphasis that is now being placed statewide on planning and initiating programs to handle the threat of terrorist activities through food and agriculture.

Air Quality

California air quality standards are more stringent than national ones. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) reported that San Mateo County attained California standards for air pollutants carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone in 2000. California standards for suspended particulate matter were met except for one day. Continuing stringent steps are needed to keep our air within the prescribed standards for human and environmental health.

Arts Participation

Surveys were sent to San Mateo County city arts commissions or cultural arts administrators of city recreation departments in cooperation with ARTshare, a countywide cultural organization fostering the arts. The focus was on cultural venues where arts activities are taking place, facilities being planned, and future needs. Results of the survey showed a strong need for a centrally located, accessible regional performing arts center with a large theater and ancillary facilities, along with adequate museum space and attendant provisions for meetings, rehearsals, instruction, and required support equipment and rooms.

Biodiversity

It is accepted that communities need to protect and restore native ecosystems to enjoy the benefits of the region's biodiversity. Species must be listed according to mandated state or federal requirements before protective actions can legally be set in motion to protect them. Threats from non-native animals and plants also impact an area's biodiversity. Recently feral pigs are more numerous in the Santa Cruz Mountains and rototill the soil causing erosion, which hurts certain fish and the red-legged frog, and gives access to non-native plants like pampas grass. Funds are being allotted to map current conditions and reduce the risks. The programs need to be monitored and assessed in future *Indicators* reports. As of October 2001, no species whose habitat is found in the county has been added or removed from endangered/threatened lists since 1999.

Child Abuse

Reported child abuse cases continued to decrease in 2000 in San Mateo County. The county's rate of child abuse reports and of children in foster care is among the lowest in the state. The FY 2000/01 data show a rate of 27.1 children abused per 1,000 compared with a statewide rate of 68. The report covers a prosperous period. In times of recession or a low economy child abuse often increases as feelings of anger and frustration are misdirected towards defenseless children. A high level of well-being among its children is a sign of a vital sustainable county.

Child Care

Child care is vital to working parents and their employers. Because of the high cost of living in the county many families depend on two incomes. Sixty-six percent of children live with two parents in the workforce or with a single working parent compared with a statewide rate of 55%. Less than 23% of children who need care have it available to them in a licensed facility. Average cost for full-time infant care in a licensed center is \$995 per month and \$804 in a licensed family child care home. Preschool care is \$649 per month in a licensed child care center and \$698 in a licensed family child care home. Providing adequate child care is an ongoing community problem.

Christmas Bird Count

The number and diversity of birds are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem. Crystal Springs and Ano Nuevo are the two sites of the count taken annually in December. The Common Raven is increasing rapidly because it can adapt quickly to human environmental changes. This year's rebound in the number of California Quail after several years of decline is positive, but future data are needed to determine population stability.

City Parks & Open Space

Between 1999 and 2001 the amount of park land acreage in the 20 surveyed cities increased by an average of 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents despite an estimated increase in population of 6,490. The figures reported for open space in certain cities have varied widely from year to year, suggesting that further study is required for clear and reliable results.

Community Safety

A community is safe if it adequately protects people's right to live in confidence and without fear for their own or other people's safety. This encompasses crime prevention, domestic abuse, drug abuse, road and fire safety, accident prevention, etc. This report covers criminal justice statistics only. Felony arrests in San Mateo County decreased marginally and misdemeanor arrests declined 8.9% in 2000. Arrests for violent crimes increased 4%. Domestic violence related calls for assistance were up 10%. The county showed an exemplary decrease in juvenile arrests by 14%, while juvenile crime declined by only 5.5% in California.

Employment Trends

Diversity in numbers and kinds 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 account for more jobs in the aggregate, 97% employing fewer than 100 people and 60% having fewer than 5 employees. The services sector accounts for 34% of all jobs and grew by 12%, making it the largest and fastest growing industry for several years in a row. Business services jobs increased 25% and accounted for 43% of all services positions.

Energy Consumption

As one of the richest counties in one of the world's richest fossil fuel-based economies, San Mateo County contributes disproportionately to the negative sustainability balance. There are almost as many registered vehicles in the county (657,263) as there are people (716,500). Californians used over 6 billion cubic feet of natural gas, 21% for residential use, 8% commercially, 36% for industrial use, and 35% for electrical generation. Electrical energy was generated from the following sources in descending order: natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric, coal, and in much smaller amounts by geothermal, organic waste, wind, solar, and oil. Users did cut electrical energy consumption for a few months by 10 to 15% after the "energy crisis," but conservation and using renewable energy sources must be pursued more rigorously.

Fish Populations & Commercial Fish Catches

Since 1994 commercial fish catches have decreased to a relatively low 3 million pounds in 2000. These harvests have been the lowest in this past decade, and the direction appears to be downward. Various forms of intervention may turn the negative trend around. Volunteer efforts to improve conditions and pollution in coastal streams, closure of rockfish fisheries, and growing public awareness of the dangers of off-shore oil drilling may all have a positive effect.

Green Building Policies

The new construction, demolition, renovation, and long-term use of buildings cause harm to the environment. To reduce adverse impacts, architects are beginning to design "green buildings" which save energy and reduce air pollution, use recycled and resource-efficient materials, save water, create a healthy indoor environment, reduce maintenance and operating costs, and minimize construction waste. Municipalities that adopt "green building" policies indicate support of more sustainable construction. As of February 1, 2002 the county had adopted a "green building" policy but none of the 20 cities has such a policy in place yet.

High School Dropouts

The dropout rate in San Mateo County was on the decline in the early part of the 1990s, reaching a low of 1.6% in the 1996/97 school year. It is now 2.4%, higher in South San Francisco Unified and Sequoia Union School districts. The La Honda-Pescadero Unified District has consistently had the lowest dropouts in the county. Dropout rates by ethnicity have remained fairly consistent, with Pacific Islanders, Blacks, and Hispanics having the highest, while Asians, Caucasians, and Filipino the lowest.

Housing Affordability

The median price of a single-family home countywide decreased in 2001 by 1.7% from \$600,000 to \$590,000. The price for a condominium increased 6.9% to \$384,700 compared with \$360,000 last year. The annual gross income required to buy a median-priced house in the county dropped 11% in 2001 to \$130,312. This is the first improvement in affordability since 1993. The annual gross income required to buy a condominium dropped by 3%. The median-income family could still not afford the median-priced home or condominium, but median and low-income families could afford rental housing because apartment rents and occupancy rates moved down.

Land Use

Land uses in the county remain fairly evenly divided among urban, rural, and greenbelt uses. Almost 35% is protected from development; 39.1% is devoted to rural activities, including agriculture, forest, and range land, and 26.2% is allocated to urban use. The county ranks third in the Bay Area, behind San Francisco and Alameda counties, in estimated urban density. The Greenbelt Alliance estimates 6.7% of the county's undeveloped land is at high to medium risk for urbanization.

Per Pupil Funding

Per pupil funding, based on total revenues per average daily attendance (ADA), shows the financial resources available for each school district to educate students. Districts with higher per pupil funding enjoy benefits that directly impact student performance. For instance, county elementary districts vary from a low of \$5,934 per ADA in San Bruno to a high of \$9,505 in Woodside.

Population

San Mateo County's population in 2001 is estimated to be 714,500. The county is densely populated with close to 1600 persons per square mile. While our overall growth rate is slow, we are experiencing a significant domestic out migration which is countered by a large foreign immigration equal to our natural increase. Over a quarter of our population consists of children and youth, and senior population is comparatively high.

Poverty

The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) provides and monitors welfare programs for the county. Between 1996 and 2000 San Mateo County's public assistance recipients declined dramatically. The number of children served increased, however. In the Welfare to Work Program, which links families on public assistance with housing and self-sufficiency skills, participants nearly tripled. The HSA's 2001 estimate of the amount of money needed per month for a family of three was \$5,112.

Public Library Use

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business and computer research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading, videos, and CDs. In 1999/2000, the total combined annual expenditure for all library systems in the county rose 2.9% to \$40.82 per capita, compared with \$21.96 statewide. Materials circulation per capita was down 4.3% and reference questions asked were down 7.3%. Community support for libraries remains high in the county.

Solid Waste

While the diversion rates for 1999 and 2000 have not yet been verified by the state as accurate, almost all cities diverted more than in 1999. Daly City, Portola Valley, and Woodside were the only cities in non-compliance with the state mandate of 1990, which requires that cities and counties decrease the amount of solid waste they send to landfills by 50%.

Substance Abuse • Arrests for Driving under the Influence

During the period from 1991 to 2000, there has been a general decrease in driving under the influence (DUI) arrests, although the trend has slowed in recent years. The majority of the arrests occurred in the 30-39 year old age group. A total of 3,580 DUI arrests was recorded for 2000.

Substance Abuse • Treatment Provided

In fiscal year 2000/2001, 6,610 clients enrolled in an alcohol/drug treatment program, an increase of 13% over 1999/2000. More than half of the people seeking treatment were using two or more drugs. New treatment programs have been instituted, but statistics are not yet available.

Transportation

Automobile travel remains an ongoing serious problem causing pollution and traffic congestion. Automobiles remain the predominant mode of transportation, comprising 94% of all trips in 2001. Most trips are errand or activity related. Vehicle miles traveled per capita increased 8%. Hours of delay on major corridors increased 8% since 1999.

Unemployment

Compared with state and national rates, San Mateo County's unemployment rate was low at 3.1% (through December 2001). San Carlos, Half Moon Bay, and Burlingame have the lowest unemployment. East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks in Redwood City, and Daly City have the most.

Volunteerism

Volunteers in our community profoundly enrich the quality of our lives. Approximately 275,000 residents in San Mateo County volunteered in 2000. The total value of work by volunteers is estimated to be worth \$770 million. Volunteers most often request short-term projects or community events, such as tree planting or house painting, which produce immediate results.

Voter Participation

2001 was an off-year consolidated municipal, school and special district election. Fifty-nine percent of the population was registered to vote. Of those registered, 28% actually voted, giving an adult population participation of 16%. More registered voters (36%) used absentee ballots.

Water Consumption

Annual water consumption in San Mateo County for fiscal year 1999/2000 was 35.3 billion gallons, nearly 100 million gallons per day, or 134.9 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd). Although less than the Bay Area average of 161.2 gpcpd, it is the highest consumption reported to date in these *Indicators*. Consumption roughly correlates with affluence: consumption in Menlo Park (the highest in the county at 365.6 gpcpd) is nearly five times as high as in East Palo Alto (74.8 gpcpd).

Water Quality • Tap Water

The drinking water in San Mateo County continues to be essentially pollutant free. Trihalomethanes, lead, and copper levels remain below levels required by state and federal standards. Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) is turning up in well water, however.



*If you don't have a life plan, you
never know where you will end up.*

Rev. Billy Kyles,
Civil Rights leader and associate of
Martin Luther King, Jr.



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

IMPORTANCE

Agriculture is a vital part of San Mateo County's diverse economic base and generates additional jobs for ancillary businesses such as packaging and trucking and vendors of farm materials, supplies, and services. A multiplier of 3.5 is used on gross agricultural revenues by statisticians to estimate the monetary value of agriculture to a county's economy, \$695,324,000 for San Mateo in 2000. Important, but not measurable, are other factors. Tilled acreage contributes substantially to a healthful microclimate, and proportionally to the macroclimate, and gives a feeling of open space. Fruits and vegetables grown out of the region lose freshness and most 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.

INDICATORS USED

Total production value reported for the three largest income-producing crops and their acreage was used for tracking: floriculture and nursery crops, vegetables, and board feet of forest products. Production value, acreage by category, and overall acreage devoted to agriculture in the county for the past eight years (1993-2000) are illustrated in the charts.

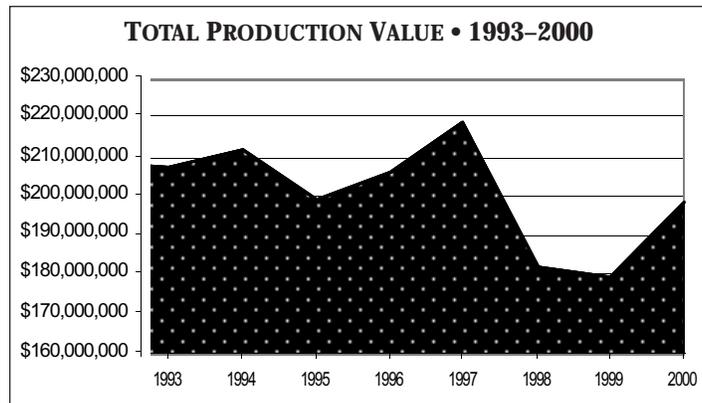
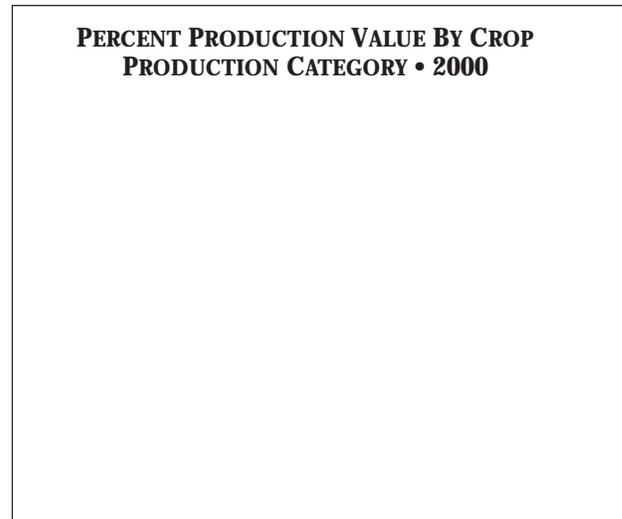
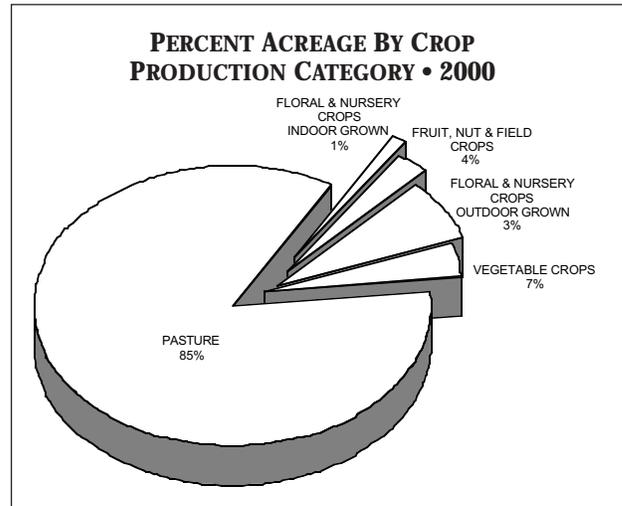
FINDINGS

San Mateo County's 2000 crop summary shows a total gross production value of \$198,664,000, a 10% increase over the previous year's figure of \$179,605,000. Floral and nursery crops account for 78% (\$154,756,000) of the total agricultural income. Twice as much of the crop was grown indoors as out, mostly around Half Moon Bay, with a few large greenhouses and some fields inland from Pescadero.

Vegetable crops at 18% (\$36,160,000) of total revenue were a distant second in production value. Scattered the length and width of the coastal plane, vegetable growing acreage has fully recovered from the unusual weather patterns generated by El Nino and La Nina in 1998 and 1999.

Although the board feet of timber harvested went down, the value of the harvest increased. Some 4,505,000 board feet of lumber yielded a gross income of \$4,533,000 in 2000 in contrast to 1990's income of \$2,440,000 from 4,675,000 board feet.

A total of 35,203 acres of land was devoted to agriculture and floriculture in 2000. The decrease in



total acreage this year is about 900. Acreage loss is smaller this year than last. Acreage for vegetable crops was down again, by about 366 acres. Field crops lost only 300. The agricultural commissioner regards preservation of high quality soil in production with adequate water as having the highest value in her work. The experts consulted thought the acreage losses this

AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY, *continued*

year were within normal fluctuations. Nine organic farms reported, one more than last year for a total of 148 acres, 34 more than last year.

A new development affecting agriculture in San Mateo County and land nearby has been in the planning since 1999. During 2001, the San Mateo County Farm Bureau, in partnership with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Coalition of Central Coast Farm Bureaus, developed an Agricultural Water Quality Program. The program uses the technical advice and support of the County Agriculture Commissioner, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UC Cooperative Extension, and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. Working groups of farmers and governmental regulatory and non-regulatory agencies are working towards reduction of agricultural non-point source pollution, and cleaner water in our San Mateo County coastal streams and ocean.

DIRECTION

A new direction for agriculture is the emphasis that must be placed on the threat of terrorist activities through food and agriculture. The State Strategic Committee on Terrorism mandated the State Agricultural Commission to set up a new food safety subcommittee to plan measures for greater security. The solutions to these problems will have an economic effect on everyone. Clearly, weather conditions are the

chief determinant in the agricultural economy, but not the only one. The widespread influence of the increasing portion of income from indoor floriculture over outdoor grown, about twice as much, should be noted. How unpredictably escalating energy costs will affect the income of floral and nursery crops under glass and plastic is yet to be seen. Pests cause losses, and changes in market conditions determine profit and what is grown. 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. Certified farmers' markets have been a great help to local growers, and San Mateo is now planning a campaign to stimulate sales of local produce in the home county. Buying local produce is a direct way to protect the county's beautiful landscape and agricultural community.

Sources: 2000 Agricultural Crop Report, San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures; conversations with Gail Raabe, Agricultural Commissioner, Ronald Pummer, Biologist/Standards Specialist, San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures; Water Quality Protection Program for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; Jack Olson, Executive Administrator, San Mateo County Farm Bureau; Tim Frahm, Conservation and Water Quality Program Director.
Researcher: Eleanor W. Anderson

AIR QUALITY

IMPORTANCE

Clean air is vital for health. Polluted air leads to respiratory problems, such as asthma, and poses a threat not only to human life, but also to plants and animals. Polluted air has the potential to affect human health, people's attitudes, productivity, and their ability to enjoy life. Clean air is an attractive attribute for businesses. Because air quality is an indicator of the overall health and desirability of a community, air quality monitoring and reporting is important.

Ozone results from a chemical reaction between nitrogen dioxide and other organic gases caused by ultraviolet light. Ozone at ground level contributes to smog and reduced visibility, respiratory problems (especially for the young and elderly), eye irritation, and vegetation damage. Upper level ozone is beneficial as it blocks ultraviolet radiation.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas that affects the health of people exposed to high concentrations.

Almost 70% of the Bay Area's carbon monoxide comes from motor vehicles.

Nitrogen dioxide forms when a material burns at high temperature. Car engines are the main source of this air pollutant. At higher concentrations, it damages sensitive crops.

Sulfur dioxide is formed by the burning of fossil fuels such as oil and gas. It is a byproduct of impurities in the fuel, and can damage vegetation, human beings, and animals.

Suspended particulate matter is the region's greatest problem apart from ozone. Dust, mist, ash, smoke, and fumes are some of the liquid or solid particles making up particulate matter. These constituents are created from open-fire smoke, petroleum refining, the burning of fuel in vehicles and airplanes, and by earth-moving operations in farming and construction which produce lots of dust.

INDICATORS USED

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) measures and regulates air quality standards in the Bay Area. It measures five air pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter. Violations of standards are measured by exceedences, or Days over Standard (DOS). The agency makes sure that the Bay Area, including San Mateo County, complies with the national and state air standards. Reported here are the DOS for these five pollutants.

FINDINGS

State standards are more stringent than national standards for pollutants such as ozone and suspended particulate matter. The California standard for ozone is 9 parts per hundred million (pphm) compared with the national standard of 12 pphm; the California standard for particulate matter is 30 micrograms per cubic meter (g/m3) while the national standard is 50 g/m3.

The DOS for ozone rose from 1 in 1993 to 5 in 1995, then came down to 0 in the year 2000. In the years 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, the ozone level was well within the required California standards as well as the national standards, showing improvement of air quality (measured in Redwood City) in the San Mateo County region.

The DOS for particulate matter rose from 5 in 1993 to 6 in 1994, then dropped to 2 in 1997. It again went up to 3 in 1999 and then again dropped to 1 in 2000.

In the years 1993 to 2000, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide have not exceeded state standards in San Mateo County.

DIRECTION

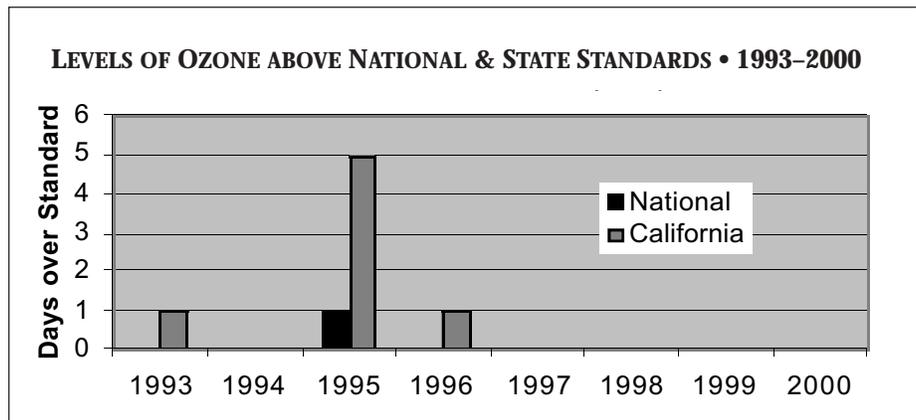
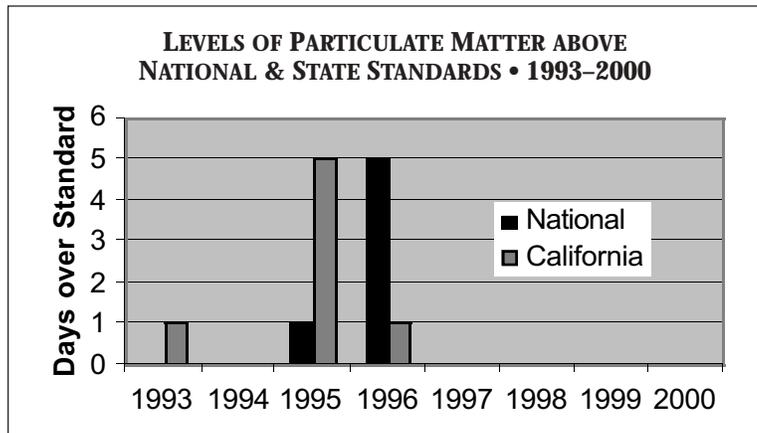
Air pollution in San Mateo County consists mainly of high levels of ozone, fine particulate matter (PM10), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Ozone and particulate matter are, however, its largest problems.

Thus the level of ozone in San Mateo County region has decreased, indicating improvement in local air quality. Suspended particulate matter DOS in this region has been reduced

since 1999, also showing some improvement in air quality. The PM10 DOS, however, has to decline to zero, it being a major air pollutant. The concentrations of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide have been sufficiently low from 1993 to 2000 to allow San Mateo County region to meet the California standards.

Results are not the same for the Bay Area as a whole. The Bay Area has attained California standards for air pollutants like carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. For ozone, however, the Bay Area was labeled as a “nonattainment area” in 1998, and again in 2000 for both California and national standards. The Bay Area has attained the national standards but has not attained the California standards for suspended particulate matter. Steps are needed to keep pollution, especially ozone and particulate matter, within the prescribed standards.

Sources: Bay Area Air Quality Management District, www.baaqmd.gov and www.baaqmd.gov/pie/apsums.htm
 Researcher: Rohini Balasubramanian



ARTS PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANCE

The arts improve the quality of life in any community. They are a means for reflection and a vehicle for bringing meaning into people's lives, for coping with tragedy, and for expressing joy. A vibrant arts environment can have a substantial positive effect on the economy through increased cultural tourism, with visitors spending on transportation, hotels, restaurants, and shopping. The arts, too, are an important criterion for corporate recruitment.

Education is another area where the arts exert a strong positive effect. Studies measuring test scores, grades, attendance, and retention demonstrate that the arts improve students' overall academic performance. They can be an important means to reach and help heal those at risk and, for all students, help develop thinking skills, imaging, collaboration, perseverance, and responsibility, and help promote cross-cultural understanding.

San Mateo County has an impressive array of arts organizations offering opportunities to participate and which give back generously to the community by volunteering time at community festivals, donating scholarships and tickets, or by providing special programs for low-income youth. These arts organizations rely on volunteers to help paint sets, mail brochures, answer phones, and perform countless other activities.

INDICATORS USED

This year's Arts Participation report was done in cooperation with ARTshare, a countywide organization composed of representatives of arts commissions and cultural organizations and individuals involved in the arts. Surveys were mailed to San Mateo County city arts commissions or to cultural arts administrators of city recreation departments in those cities without formal arts commissions. The focus was on cultural venues where arts activities are currently taking place, those facilities planned, and future needs.

FINDINGS

While major financial support of the arts goes to San Francisco and San Jose, San Mateo County has a rich variety of theater, music, dance, literature, visual arts, and arts education opportunities. There are numerous opportunities for the enjoyment of free public art as well.

The venues range from outdoor performance space and a designated fine arts building at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds to nonprofit art centers to schools,

recreation centers, parks, libraries, and civic centers. Though numerous, the county's venues are not sufficient for the fullest expression of the artistic talent and vision of its population.

A majority of the facilities has been in use a long time and need updated sound and lighting systems, air conditioning, and adequate rest rooms. Scheduling is a difficulty, as many places are used by several groups with overlapping needs.

The largest indoor audience (1,603) can be accommodated at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center (SAMPAC). It is utilized by five organizations—Broadway by the Bay, Peninsula Ballet Theatre, the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, Tri-City Concerts, and the Peninsula Speakers Series—in addition to San Mateo High School and other community groups.

Three venues have been newly renovated: the 1,400-seat Fox Theatre in Redwood City and the 400-seat College of San Mateo (CSM) Theatre and 200-seat CSM Choral Room in San Mateo. Other facilities are Notre Dame de Namur University Theatre in Belmont (600 seats) and the Sanchez Concert Hall in Pacifica (200 seats). Colleges and high schools throughout the county have theaters/auditoriums, which can accommodate audiences from 200 to 850. Oceana High School is currently being remodeled with a theater planned.

Bayside Middle School in San Mateo has a new theater which will open in June of 2002. It is intended to serve the arts-centered school and function as a regional theater seating 600.

Several cities have arts facilities in the planning stage. South San Francisco plans a multi-purpose facility designed for theater and a gallery within the next three years. Ralston School in Belmont is currently building a new gymnasium. The former gym will be redone as a theater. The City of Menlo Park and Menlo Atherton High School are currently involved in theater planning. Portola Valley is considering a multi-use theater and history museum for preservation, display, and dance within three to five years.

San Mateo County nonprofit theaters include Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City (seating 180), the Mel Mello Center in Half Moon Bay (seating 168), and the Oddstad Center in Pacifica (seating 98). The Burgess Theatre in Menlo Park was declared structurally unsound and was closed.

Recreation and senior centers, too, are the site of numerous performances and are venues for arts

ARTS PARTICIPATION, *continued*

education for children and adults. Because of their age, some of the facilities are not ADA compliant. Many lack P/A or sound systems or gallery space.

On-site art instruction takes place at several nonprofit centers, including Redwood City, Belmont, Portola Valley, Pacifica, and San Mateo.

Artist studios are available at some of these centers, but the number available is not sufficient for all the artists who are seeking studio space.

Art galleries are popular destinations in San Mateo County. In addition to commercial ventures, exhibits are shown on a regular basis at nonprofit art centers, various city halls, recreation/community centers, libraries, bookstores, museums, and churches and synagogues throughout the Peninsula. Poetry readings, too, take place at many of these venues. The City of San Mateo also has a coffeehouse, Zappuccinos, for poetry readings and music performance, which is open solely to teenagers.

DIRECTION

The majority of respondents to the survey indi-

cated a strong need for a centrally located, accessible regional performing arts center that has a large theater, rehearsal rooms for music and dance, a sizable scene shop and offices, and a county fine art museum—a “proper” museum for exhibitions, local arts competitions, arts instruction, offices, a presentation space, and accommodations for meetings. Progress is being made toward an art museum. The Silicon Valley Art Museum is in its first phase, with online-only curated exhibits, at www.SVAM.org.

Approximately 74% of the respondents work directly with schools or have an educational component. Fully 100% give back to the community with either free products, services, donated expertise, or equipment.

Sources: Surveys to San Mateo County city arts commissions or cultural arts administrators of city recreation departments; ARTshare; phone and e-mail interviews
 Researcher: Bonny Zanardi; Survey designer: Ruth Waters;
 Compiler: Dorothy Greene

BIODIVERSITY

IMPORTANCE

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

Protecting biodiversity by keeping ecosystems intact is important. It gives us the best chance of protecting the species listed as threatened or endangered. Effective protection of these species has many benefits which include: providing scientific information and playing 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 protect-

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	
Central Steelhead	Threatened	
Central Coho Salmon	Threatened	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

ing 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, these plans do not occur until we are responding to the impact of development on a listed species. In addition, such conservation plans need adequate funding and peer involvement to successfully protect habitat and species.

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 for 2001. The list is divided into animal and plant species.

FINDINGS

Our research in October 2001 showed that no species whose habitat is found in San Mateo County was added or removed from the state or federal lists since 1999.

Measuring biodiversity—the health of our natural communities—is not easy. The listing of a plant or animal on the threatened and endangered species list indicates that the ecosystem providing the habitat for that species is already severely compromised. The listing of a species is dependent upon a scientific process that quantifies the decline in species. This process has been affected by reduced budgets and staffing levels of the resource agencies charged with this activity. The listing of a species officially highlights a problem long after many of us, experts or not, recognize that the landscape is changing or disappearing.

Since development in San Mateo County is relatively stable, very little habitat loss is due to the landscape being altered. The biggest threats to habitat viability are the impacts from animal and plant non-native, invasive species.

Biologists and land managers have highlighted the deleterious effects of non-native plants such as yellow star thistle and pampas grass for some time now. Non-native animal species can also impact an area's biodiversity. Recently, the feral pig population in the Santa Cruz Mountains has increased. The rototilling of acres of soil in their quest for food

has left disturbed soil where invasive species have a better chance of being established. This has caused significant erosion that hurts wetland and riparian species such as the red-legged frog, steelhead trout and coho salmon.

Collaborative agency efforts, such as the Weed Management Area and the Serpentine Restoration Project, and volunteer stewardship efforts have helped to address the impacts from these non-native species.

DIRECTION

Based upon the information in the indicators of the Federal and State Endangered Species lists, the situation appears stable. However, scientists and land managers believe that biodiversity is moving in a negative direction. The good news is that funds and programs are being dedicated to mapping the current conditions and reversing the loss of biodiversity. Sustainable San Mateo County will review results from these programs in future *Indicators* reports.

Sources: California Department of Fish and Game:
www.dfg.ca.gov

Researcher: Julia Bott



W*are entering the century of the environment, whether we want to or not. In this century everyone who considers himself a realist will be forced to justify his behavior in light of the contribution it made toward the preservation of the environment.*

Ernst von Weizsacker, member of the German Bundestag, 1994
quoted in *Natural Capitalism* by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins,
and L. Hunter Lovins.



CHILD ABUSE

IMPORTANCE

Children cannot protect themselves. Normal childhood development requires a safe and nurturing environment. When a child is abused, particularly by an adult with whom that child has a significant relationship, that child's development is profoundly impacted. Lifelong impairment in social, academic, and occupational functioning may result from the trauma of childhood abuse. It has been suggested that many incarcerated adults are victims of child abuse. Most perpetrators of child abuse experienced abuse themselves as children.

An increase in the number of child abuse referrals reflects a more volatile community and, therefore, a greater need for education and support of parents and caregivers, as well as children's services. Early intervention in the lives of children experiencing abuse leads to fewer physical, psychological, and emotional problems and reduces the probability of abuse in future generations. Healthy children in stable families are a foundation of a sustainable community.

INDICATORS USED

The reported number of child abuse cases for fiscal year (FY) 2000/2001 is reported. These include reports of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect, exploitation, and caretaker incapacity. The types of abuse vary: head trauma, broken bones, and neglect in infants; physical and sexual assault of young children and adolescents and mental abuse associated with living in violent households and witnessing domestic violence. Many child abuse cases are not reported to the police or to Child Protective Services of San Mateo County. Some children are afraid to involve family members with the legal system. Often children have been threatened to "keep the secret." Many children who are experiencing abuse feel embarrassed, ashamed, and hopeless.

FINDINGS

In FY 2000/2001, 4,979 cases of child abuse were reported. These reports included cases of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. San Mateo County is one of the 10 counties ranking highest in indicators of child well-being. San Mateo has nearly the lowest percentage among counties of poor and very poor children. The county's rate of child abuse reports and of children in foster care is among the lowest in the state. In 1996, San Mateo County's rate of child abuse reports was 40.8 children per 1,000 compared with a statewide rate of 78.2 children per 1,000. The FY

2000/2001 data reflect a decrease in the rate of child abuse reports to 27.1 children per 1,000 compared with a statewide rate of 68 child abuse reports per 1,000.

Child Protective Services refers child abuse cases to a number of treatment facilities in the county such as the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County. Treatment includes individual psychotherapy as well as therapeutic and educational groups for children, teens, and perpetrators as well as non-offending parents and adults molested as children. Although these agencies receive state and county funds as well as individual and nonprofit contributions and grants, additional community financial help is needed to provide support for children who have experienced abuse.

DIRECTION

From 1990 to 1992, there was an increase in reported child abuse cases from 6,397 to 8,318. Since 1992, the annual number of referrals for child abuse has declined to 4,979 in FY 2000/2001. It seems that the earlier trend has reversed.

The programs in our county are doing a creditable job of identifying and treating child abuse. The statistics are positive. They do not yet reflect recent events in the national and local economic and political environment, however. In times of recession or low economic prosperity, child abuse often increases because feelings of anger and frustration are misdirected towards defenseless children. Reducing child abuse is vital in insuring the well-being of all San Mateo County children.

Sources: California Department of Social Services; Children Now, Oakland; San Mateo County Child Welfare Services; The Family Service Agency of San Mateo County
Researcher: Anne Hinckle, MFT


*Children may be 20% of
our population, but they
are 100% of our future.*

San Mateo County Supervisor
Rose Jacobs Gibson



CHILD CARE

IMPORTANCE

Child care has become integral to San Mateo County's economic and social infrastructure for several reasons. Because of the high cost of living in the county, many families are unable to function above the poverty level without two incomes or their equivalent. Having safe, consistent care for children while their parents are at work is crucial to maintaining the San Mateo County workforce. Child care is of vital importance to both parents and employers.

Child care is also needed 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 caregiving during the early years affects the structure and functioning of a child's brain and how a child will behave, learn, feel, and perform. Consistent, quality child care can also act as a stabilizing force for children and their families during changing times.

Child care as an industry also occupies a vital niche in San Mateo County's economic picture, providing not only a crucial service for families, employers, and the community, but supplying a number of jobs and revenue.

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 have been drawn from several key sources, including the Child Care Industry Profile (July 2001), 2001 Regional Market Rate Survey, and Needs Assessment data drawn from the Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County.

FINDINGS

Sixty-six percent of San Mateo County children live with two parents in the workforce or a single

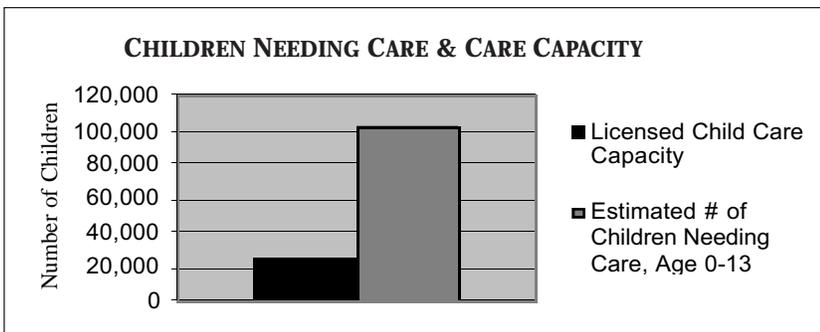
working parent, compared with the statewide rate of 55%. Based on child population and the number of working parents in San Mateo County, there are more than 102,000 children under the age of 13 needing care with fewer than 23,278 licensed spaces available. There are 16,248 spaces available in child care centers, and 7,030 spaces available in family child care homes. Stated simply, less than 23% of children who need child care have formal care available to them. The remaining 77% 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 671 spaces for infants in centers. There are 10,908 center spaces in San Mateo County for the 20,006 preschool children needing care. For the 63,163 school-age children who need care, there are only 4,669 spaces in child care centers.

San Mateo County has a supply of 4,940 subsidized child care spaces for 40,076 children in low-income families. The result is that only about 12% of this segment of the population is currently receiving subsidized child care. The Centralized Eligibility List of families eligible for, but not served by, subsidized child care currently has 2,046 children. The need for child care in this county, particularly subsidized care, far exceeds child care spaces.

The cost of child care is enormous, compounding the high cost of living in San Mateo County. San Mateo County is one of the most expensive counties in California for infant care. Average cost for full-time infant care in a licensed child care center is \$995 per month and \$804 per month in a licensed family child care home. Full-time preschool care is \$649 per month in a licensed child care center and \$698 per month in licensed family child care homes.

San Mateo County's child care industry provides a social infrastructure that is critical to the county's overall economic vitality and quality of life. Licensed child care is a \$148,500,000 industry in San Mateo County. Child care centers generate \$103,586,270 in gross receipts. Family child care homes generate \$44,998,029 in gross receipts. Total industry revenue cannot be reported because of the many children being cared for in unlicensed settings, where gross receipts are not available. The sharp rise in industry revenue over



the past several years is due to higher parent fees and a lower vacancy rate. The child care industry supports over 6,000 jobs in both direct (providers and teachers) and indirect (construction, retail, manufacturing) positions. The licensed child care industry brings over \$22 million to the San Mateo County economy in federal and state child care subsidy dollars.

DIRECTION

The gap between the demand for all forms of child care and the formal supply of child care has continually grown. In 1993, enough formal child care spaces were available to meet the needs of 29% of the children who required care. Today, less than 25% of children who need care can be served.

The demand for child care in San Mateo County has been growing steadily along with the growth in population, the rise and fall of available jobs, and the

increased cost of living.

A lack of facilities, high operating costs, difficulties in recruiting and retaining child care staff, and class size reductions in California public schools contribute to the shortage. Several initiatives in San Mateo County are working to address this shortage through facilities development, capacity-building efforts, and training and retention programs. In the meantime, however, the need for quality child care remains at the forefront of social and economic issues.

Source: *The San Mateo County Child Care Needs Assessment, 1999-2000*, The San Mateo Child Care Partnership Council; *Child Care Industry Profile, July 2001*, The Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County.
Researcher: Sara Sutherland, Child Care Coordinating Council

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

IMPORTANCE

The number and diversity of birds are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem. A small variation in numbers indicates 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 that with migratory birds, the rise and fall in numbers may be related to problems elsewhere in their migratory range.

INDICATORS USED

The Christmas Bird Count in Crystal Springs was conducted on December 15, 2001, with the participation of 45 observers totaling 193 hours in the field, and in Año Nuevo on December 30, 2001 with 36 observers totaling 129.5 hours. Each count encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle with teams of observers assigned to maximize coverage within the circle. This indicator reports on five species found at both count circles: Great Blue Heron, 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 for the American Kestrel. Each species represents different dietary needs, nesting requirements, and mating

behavior. Caution needs to be applied when comparing local results with national trends because of the variables in natural environments and habitats.

FINDINGS

The total number of birds counted in Crystal Springs was 73,737 compared with 72,482 in the 2000 Christmas Bird Count. In Año Nuevo, 16,787 were counted, compared with 18,321 in the previous count. In Crystal Springs, 194 species were identified compared with 186 in 2000; 153 species were identified in Año Nuevo compared with 172 in 2000. The Año Nuevo count day was rainy and windy, and these conditions were probably responsible for the low total number and species count rather than reflecting a trend. The graphs present data for the last 25 counts to reveal any trends.

A positive change from the recent decline in California Quail occurred both at Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo. Crystal Springs counted 331 quail in 2001 compared with only 78 birds in 2000, and Año Nuevo had 400 in 2001 compared with 299 in 2000. Future data will be essential to determine whether the California Quail population is beginning to rebound.

Population trends for the Common Raven in both count areas continue to show a large increase primarily because this species is able to adapt quickly to changes to the environment. A record number of ravens totaling 420

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, *continued*

was counted for Crystal Springs in 2001.

The Great Blue Heron and American Kestrel populations appear to be slowly declining in recent years while the Acorn Woodpecker population appears to be steady. Future data will be helpful in revealing long-term trends for these species.

DIRECTION

Year to year counts vary because of 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 population declines 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: One indicator species was replaced in 2001 from those used in previous years. The Great Blue Heron replaced the Wood Duck because the secretive nature of the Wood Duck makes this species very difficult to count accurately.

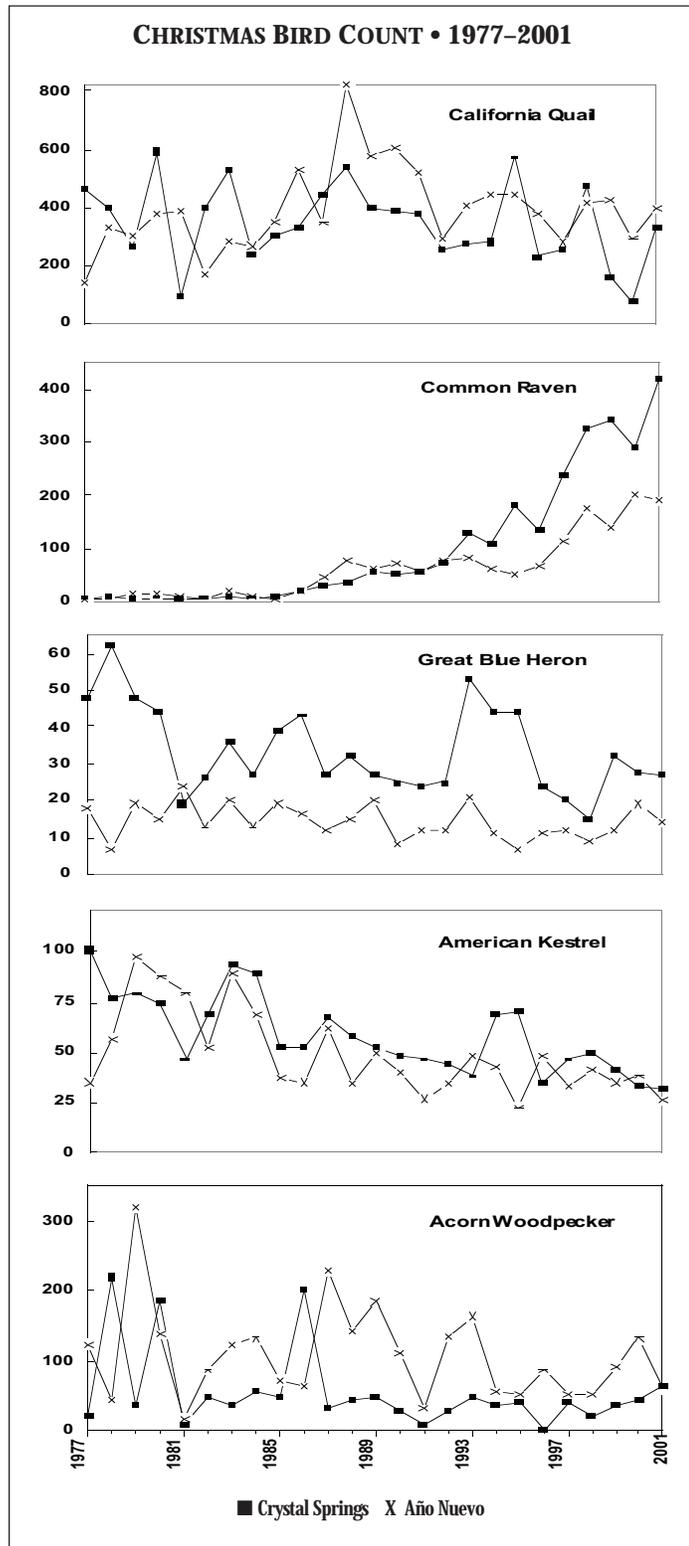
Source: Sequoia Audubon Society, 2001 *Christmas Bird Counts*

Researcher: Susan James



At least three quarters of all threatened bird species are in trouble because of the transformation and fragmentation of forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other unique habitats by human activities, including intensive agriculture, heavy livestock grazing, commercial forestry, and suburban sprawl.

Worldwatch Institute 1998 *State of the World* report



CITY PARKS & OPEN SPACE

IMPORTANCE

The presence of nearby areas for recreation and for the enjoyment of nature adds to the quality of life. By providing opportunities for outdoor activity and for the enjoyment of the natural world, parks and open space contribute to both physical and psychological health.

INDICATORS USED

In each of the last three years (1999-2001) 20 cities in San Mateo County were sent a survey by SSMC regarding city parks and open space. Two basic questions were asked: 1) How many acres of developed park lands are within your city's boundaries excluding 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 excluding school playgrounds, undeveloped lands, developed parks, watershed lands or adjacent county or state parks? There was an additional question on the 2001 survey: What percentage of your city's budget is allocated to increasing park lands?

There were two objectives of the survey: 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.

FINDINGS

Among the 20 cities surveyed during the three-year period 1999-2001, the amount of city park land ranged from none in Woodside to 230 acres in Menlo Park. Compared with the findings for park land, the reported open space acreage in some cities has varied widely from year to year. For instance, reported open space in Daly City was 1.34 acres per 1,000 residents in 2000 and 10.0 acres per 1,000 in 2001. Additional dramatic changes in open space figures are evident in surveys from Colma, Daly City, Hillsborough, and Woodside. It is unlikely that these widely divergent figures are due to any actual large changes in the amount of open space. They are more likely the result

of increasingly more precise inventories of city land or disagreement on how to define "open space." On the most recent survey (2001) the reported amount of open space ranged from none (Atherton, East Palo Alto, Hillsborough, and Millbrae) to 1,000+ (Daly City) and 1,591 (Portola Valley).

Only two cities have a percentage of their budgets allocated to increasing park lands: Brisbane (1.7%) and South San Francisco (2%). Our survey did not seek information on the creation of parks resulting from agreements between cities and developers.

ACREAGE OF PARKS & OPEN SPACE PER 1,000 PEOPLE • 1999-2001

	PARKS				OPEN SPACE			
	1999	2000	2001	3-year + or -	1999	2000	2001	3-year + or -
Atherton	§	2.92	3.9	+0.98	§	.66	0.0	-0.66
Belmont	1.64	1.95	2.6	+0.96	3.86	15.46	11.5	+7.64
Brisbane	4.15	6.55	11.1	+6.95	43.90	41.00	45.3	+1.4
Burlingame	2.34	1.59	2.0	.34	1.68	1.17	.95	-.73
Colma	0.39	.59	2.0	+1.61	734.38	1531.0	704.0	-30.38
Daly City	§	.75	1.9	+1.15	§	1.34	10.0+	+10.0
East Palo Alto	0.55	.63	0.6	+0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	†
Foster City	3.46	4.93	3.9	+0.44	4.13	6.91	6.9	+2.78
Half Moon Bay	§	.63	.60	†	§	1.6	1.6	†
Hillsborough	.09	.09	.09	†	22.34	21.9	0.0	-22.34
Menlo Park	7.40	2.40	7.20	-.20	0.38	4.91	0.38	†
Millbrae	2.02	2.03	5.11	+3.09	2.39	2.40	0.00	2.40
Pacifica	2.64	2.45	0.6	-2.04	1.13	.64	9.7	+8.57
Portola Valley	§	18.30	18.2	†	§	346.60	344.0	-2.60
Redwood City	1.68	1.70	1.70	†	1.09	.61	.60	-.49
San Bruno	2.17	2.21	1.90	-.27	6.03	14.90	1.70	4.33
San Carlos	2.96	2.08	2.0	-.96	5.60	.84	2.80	2.80
San Mateo	1.30	1.30	1.70	+0.40	2.41	4.16	3.70	-1.29
South San Francisco	§	1.36	1.0	-.36	§	2.06	.64	-1.42
Woodside	0.00	0.00	0.00	†	1.78	174.00	142.0	+140.22

Total Acreage/1000 32.79 54.46 68.01 832.1 2172 1285.8

Average 2.19 2.72 3.4 55.4 108.6 64.3

§ No report † No change

DIRECTION

Countywide the mean numerical average of developed park lands in 2001 is 3.4 acres per 1,000 residents, an increase from 2.19 in 1999. The average amount of undeveloped open space countywide is 64.3 acres per 1,000 residents. During the time of the three surveys (1999-2000-2001), the amount of park land has apparently increased by 1.21/1000 countywide and the acres of open space by 8.9/1000. This growth in park land and open space has occurred despite the increase in population within the surveyed cities, estimated to be 6,490 between 1999 and 2001. Both the 2000 and 2001 surveys clearly indicate the continuing increase in park land acreage, with a majority of the cities reporting either no change or an increase in park land per 1,000 residents.

Sources: Acreage figures came from each city. Population figures came from *California Cities, Towns, and Counties—2000* or from *California Cities, Towns and Counties Basic Data Profiles for all Municipalities & Counties 2001*
 Researcher: Ronald Trowse

DEVELOPED PARKS & OPEN SPACE BY CITY 2000 & 2001				
	Developed Park Lands Acres		Open Space Acres	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Atherton	22.0	22.0	5.0	0.0
Belmont	50.6	67.0	403.5	300.0+
Brisbane	22.12	44.96	138.87	183.85
Burlingame	46.67	60.0	34.50	28.0
Colma	.75	2.62	908.0	908.0
Daly City	78.55	200.0	140.0	1,000.0+
East Palo Alto	16.0	16.0	0.0	0.0
Foster City	151.45	120.0	212.0	212.0
Half Moon Bay	7.0	7.0	18.0	18.0
Hillsborough	1.0	1.0	259.0	0.0
Menlo Park	76.0	230.0	155.0	12.0
Millbrae	44.0	109.5	52.0	0.0
Pacifica	100.0	25.1	26.0	400.0
Portola Valley	84+	84.0	1,591	1591.0
Redwood City	130.0	130.0	47.0	47.0
San Bruno	92.1	79.8	620.8	70.0
San Carlos	59.94	59.9	23.5	82.2
San Mateo	121.9	159.0	391.3	353.0
So. San Francisco	83.0	83.0	126.0	40.0
Woodside	0.00	0.0	995.0	803.5
2001 Park Lands Total		1599.88		
2001 Open Space Total		6049		



The necessity to take the industrial world of growth to its next stage of evolution is not a disaster, it is an opportunity. How to seize the opportunity, how to bring into being a sustainable world that is not only functional but desirable is a question about leadership and ethics and vision and courage. Those are properties not of technologies, markets, government, corporations, or computer models but of the human heart and soul . . .

There is no reason why a sustainable society need be technically or culturally primitive. Freed from both material anxiety and material greed, human society would have enormous possibilities for the expansion of human creativity in constructive directions.

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



COMMUNITY SAFETY

IMPORTANCE

Community safety is an important part of a sustainable community. One definition of community safety is ‘protecting people’s right to live in confidence and without fear for their own or other people’s safety.’¹

Community safety embraces a range of issues: crime prevention, domestic abuse, drug abuse, road safety, fire safety, accident prevention, etc. Personal safety is crucial for maintaining a strong sense of community, high quality of life, and healthy families. Criminal activity negatively affects our physical and psychological well-being and results in fear and personal suffering. High crime rates force the community to channel its resources to law enforcement and detention programs, draining the human and financial resources of governments and community programs. A high juvenile crime rate reveals deep problems in the community. Youths who continue criminal behavior do not develop into emotionally stable and productive individuals. This will affect the long-term well-being and stability of the community.

INDICATORS USED

Statistical data used are taken from *California Criminal Justice Profile 2000—San Mateo County* and *Crime and Delinquency in California 2000*. These reports are prepared and published by the Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) of the Department of Justice, State of California. The *Criminal Justice Profile* series is prepared for the state and each county separately, and supplements and expands the data provided in the annual *Crime and Delinquency in California*. Most of the data are reported to the CJSC by state and local agencies, and provide a valid measure of crime. The *California Criminal Justice Profile* series includes the California Crime Index (CCI) and the California Crime Index Rate (CCI Rate).

A “crime index” is composed of specific crimes chosen to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime. The CCI tracks the total number of major crimes in cities and counties with more than 100,000 people. It includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.

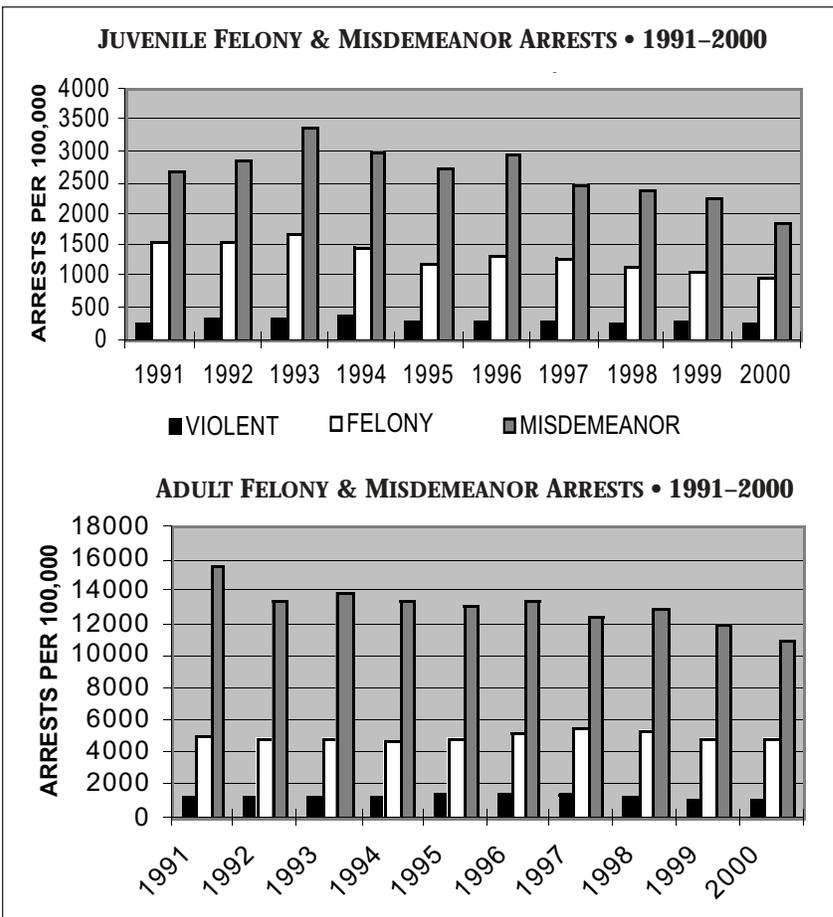
These offenses are chosen because of the seriousness and likelihood of being reported to the police by the public.

A “crime rate” is the number of reported crimes per 100,000 of the general population. The CCI Rate reports the number of major crimes included in the CCI.

Both the CCI and the CCI Rate for San Mateo County are reported here. A comparison of the indices to the statewide statistics shows how the county stands in comparison to state crime. The data for adult arrests and juvenile arrests (youths between the age of 10-17) for felony and misdemeanor in the county are also discussed and compared with numbers statewide. Domestic violence related calls for assistance are included in the *Criminal Justice Profile* and are also reported.

FINDINGS

In San Mateo County, the CCI reporting the total number of major crimes showed an increase of 4.2%



COMMUNITY SAFETY, *continued*

over 1999. The state CCI increased about 2% over the previous year.

The CCI Rate was 922.6 compared with 873.4 in 1999. This represents a 5.6% increase in the county. The population of the county declined by 1.3% in the same period. The population of San Mateo County used by the CCI and CCI Rate to calculate data was 717,900 in 2000. Within California, the CCI Rate increased for the first time in nine years, though by less than 1%.

The total number of adult felony arrests in the county dropped slightly to 4,940 compared with 4,966 from the previous year. Adult misdemeanor arrests showed a decline of 8.9% to 10,950 compared with 12,022 in 1999.

While there was virtually no change in the violent crime rate statewide, the number of arrests for violent crimes in San Mateo County rose to 1,991 compared with 1,900 in the previous year. This amounts to an increase of about 4%.

The total number of juvenile arrests in San Mateo County, was 3,170 compared with 3,675 in 1999. This is a decrease of 14%. The juvenile felony arrests in the county showed a decline of 6% while the misdemeanor arrests decreased by 18.2%. A total of 983 juvenile felony arrests were made in San Mateo County in the year 2000 of which theft, assault, and burglary accounted for approximately 505 of the arrests. Drug related arrests were 10% of the total felony arrests. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes showed a decline of 9.9%. This shows that San Mateo County has done better than other counties in California. The total number of juvenile arrests declined only 5.5% overall in the state.

Three thousand and six domestic violence-related calls for assistance were made in the county in the year

2000. This is an increase of 10% over 1999.

DIRECTION

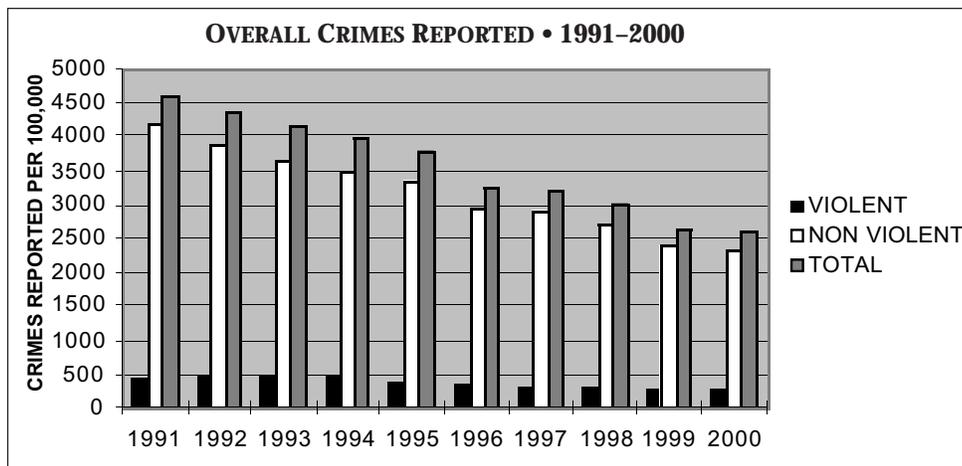
The overall crime rate decreased nationally and in California from 1991 to 2000. In California, it decreased by 49.7% from 1991 to 1999, including the largest one-year decline of 14.9% in 1999. Factors such as improved strength in law enforcement agencies, crime prevention programs, economic factors, population distribution, abatement of drug and weapons usage, etc. contributed to this decrease.

California's major crime rate increased by 1% in 2000, ending the long period of decreasing annual crime rates. Police officials and criminologists offer a variety of explanations for the shift. They have said an eventual upswing in crime across the state was inevitable after an eight-year plunge that began in 1992. This increase is largely attributed to a faltering economy and the re-emergence of some drug markets. Recent figures show a 1.5% drop in violent crime in the state's most populous cities and counties, but a slightly higher increase of 2.9% in property crimes during the first six months of 2001, compared with the same time period in 2000. San Mateo County, however, reported an increase in violent crimes, against the trend elsewhere in the state.

Despite the downward trend in juvenile crime in the last six years, California became the toughest state on juvenile crime when Proposition 21 was passed in 2000. It gives prosecutors the means to move juvenile offenders out of juvenile court and into adult court, where they can be sentenced to adult prisons for violent and "gang-related" crimes to help stop the expected rise in juvenile crime. San Mateo County has done comparatively better in stemming juvenile crime in the year 2000 compared with other counties.

' Definition used by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Sustainability Group which is working on evolving a local Agenda 21 for local communities in Scotland.

Sources: *Criminal Justice Profile—Counties and Cities, 2000*; <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/pubs.htm>; *Crime and Delinquency in California 2000*; <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/publications/candd/pub.htm>
 Researcher: Sapna Singh



EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

IMPORTANCE

Sustainability is largely dependent upon the diversity of the local economy. When a few large industries dominate the majority of jobs, abrupt economic downturns can adversely impact a vast portion of the work force. The community is more prone to mass unemployment and economic subsidence. High growth in industries consisting mainly of high-venture businesses, such as Internet companies, is risky. Projections of job growth by industry are key measures in planning for economic 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.

INDICATORS USED

Shown are the 10 largest employers in San Mateo County with the number of employees each business employs. The data also show the total number of jobs by industry, the change in the number of jobs by industry for the past five years, and the number of businesses operating with fewer than 100 employees. Data are for fiscal year (FY) 2000/01. Events since July 2001 are not reflected in these figures.

FINDINGS

Businesses in San Mateo County employed 402,300 workers. The two largest employers, United Airlines in South San Francisco and Oracle Corporation in Redwood City, employed 19,395 and 12,000 people, respectively. The county is still comprised predominantly of small and medium-sized businesses; of the 23,018 employers, 97% had fewer than one hundred employees and 60% had fewer than five employees.

The services sector accounts for 34% of all jobs and grew by 12% in the past fiscal year, making it the largest and fastest growing industry for several years in a row. Within the services sector, business services employment showed the most growth at 25% and accounted for 43% of all services positions. Construction and mining remained the second fastest growing sector at

11% growth, though it accounts for only 5% of all jobs. Trade, the second largest industry, accounted for 20% of all jobs, but showed virtually no growth in employment because its largest component, retail trade, had minimal growth. Similarly, important manufacturing and transportation industries posted relatively small increases.

DIRECTION

Since 1995, the number of jobs rose by 50,500, which is a 14% increase. The growth rate is higher than that of previously recorded periods.

The five-year growth rate for services was 45.1%, the highest rate ever recorded, which includes 6,900 new business services jobs. Continuing expansion in high tech sectors is reflected in the addition of business services positions and 1,500 new engineering and management jobs, a 10% increase. A steady gain of 500 jobs in hotel services and 2,900 jobs in amusement, private educational services,

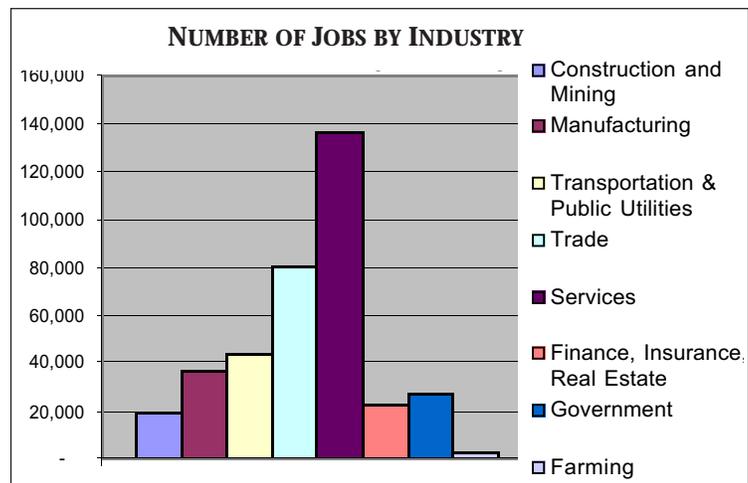
legal services, and social services was reported.

The largest employer, United Airlines, may continue to suffer heavy losses following the September 11 tragedy. On the other hand, concerns over public safety could add new security positions at various public facilities, including San Francisco Airport (SFO).

Downturns in the computer industry may adversely impact the second largest employer, Oracle. With

TEN LARGEST EMPLOYERS

Largest Employers	Number of Employees
United Airlines	19,395
Oracle Corporation	12,000
County of San Mateo	4,700
Genentech Inc.	3,349
SF International Airport	3,200
US Postal Service	3,000
American Airlines	2,600
Gap Inc.	2,389
CHW West Bay (Seton)	2,373
Mills-Peninsula Health	2,360



EMPLOYMENT TRENDS , *continued*

lowered expectations for software sales, employment at Oracle might fluctuate in the coming year.

Despite phenomenal growth for the past five years (13%), retail trade only increased by 200 jobs in the previous year. Grocery stores, apparel vendors, and restaurants are expected to add new jobs in the next few years, but a drop in tourism following the national tragedy is expected to hinder significant increases. Meanwhile, wholesale trade employment has declined to 20,600 jobs since reaching a high of 21,500 jobs in 1997.

Over two-thirds of the 4,100 new jobs since 1995

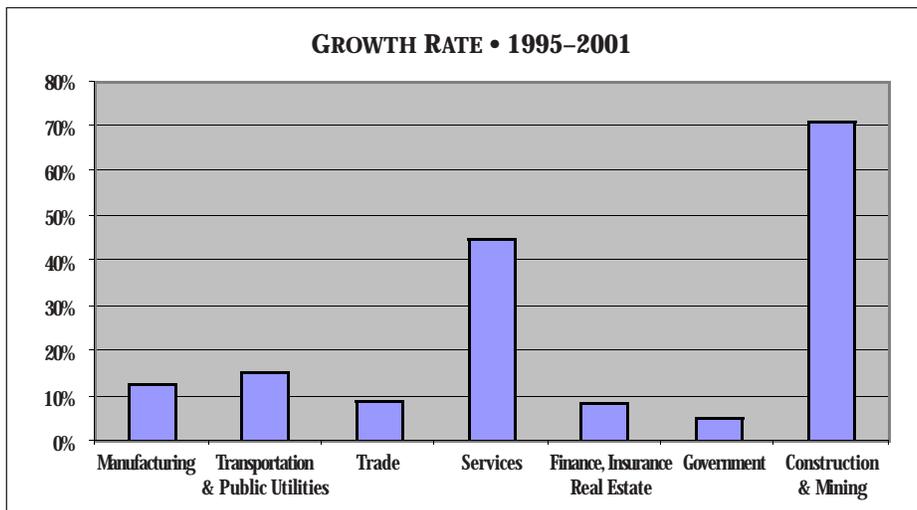
in manufacturing came from greater production of computers, industrial machinery, medical and analytic instruments, and pharmaceutical and chemical equipment. Large biotech corporations such as Genentech Inc. in South San Francisco helped to fuel this increase.

With the completion of the SFO expansion project, the 71% growth rate for construction and mining positions in the past five years will most likely drop significantly, though BART extension to SFO may help to ease the decline.

Government posted one of the smallest growth

rates since 1995, with less than 1% increase. Despite increased employment in public education as part of a class-size reduction program, the overall size of the local government has shown no significant increase.

Sources: California State Employment Development Department (EDD), San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
Researcher: David Chen



The biggest problem facing Americans is not those issues that bombard us daily from homelessness and failing schools to environmental devastation and the federal deficit. Underlying each is a deeper crisis. Some see that deeper problem in the form of obstacles that block problem solving: the tightening concentration of wealth, the influence of money in politics, discrimination, and bureaucratic rigidity to name a few. These are powerful barriers. But for us the crisis is deeper still. The crisis is that we as a people don't know how to come together to solve these problems. We lack the capacity to address the issues or remove the obstacles that stand in the way of public deliberation. Too many Americans feel powerless.

Frances Moore Lappe and Paul Martin DuBois, *The Quickening of America*



ENERGY CONSUMPTION

IMPORTANCE

It has been observed that people in the twentieth century used more energy than in all previous human history. That energy expenditure has come mostly from the burning of fossil fuels — coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Since these fuels take millions of years to form, they are non-renewable. Furthermore, their burning releases unprecedented amounts of carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere, creating global warming and air pollution. From a resource and health perspective, this pattern is unsustainable.

As one of the richest counties in one of the world's richest fossil fuel based economies, San Mateo County contributes disproportionately to the negative sustainability balance. Energy consumption is a major factor.

INDICATORS USED

1. Per capita gasoline consumption in San Mateo County
2. Natural gas consumption in California
3. Sources of electricity generation for California
4. Residential and non-residential electricity consumption in California and San Mateo County

FINDINGS

Gasoline Consumption

The United States has by far the highest per capita gasoline consumption in the world, 459 gallons in 1997. For comparison, Germany has 140, Japan 113 and China 10. San Mateo County exceeds the national average with a per capita consumption of 517 gallons (1998). California is not as dependent as the whole country on foreign oil. The U.S. imports 50% whereas California imports 26%. An unfortunate development that has exacerbated the gasoline consumption figures in the last few years is the popularity of fuel inefficient sports utility vehicles. There are (1998) almost as many registered vehicles in the County (657,263) as there are people (716,500).

Natural Gas Consumption

In 2000 Californians used 6,584,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day. Of this total 21% was used by residences, 8% by commercial establishments, 36% by industrial facilities, and 35% for electrical generation. California's heavy reliance on natural gas, a much cleaner burning fuel, has helped it to avoid the acid rain problems that have plagued the northeast United States. Nevertheless, it is a non-renewable fossil fuel, and most of it comes from out of state in only four pipelines. The extraordinary increase in natural gas prices (2 to 10 times the price in neighbor-

ing states) was one of the contributing causes to California's "electricity crisis," as 38% of electrical power is generated by burning natural gas. The price of natural gas fluctuates widely as it is not publicly regulated. For instance, from May to June 2001, the price per British thermal unit fell 45%.

Electricity Generation and Consumption

As a consequence of the California electricity "crisis" of 2000/2001 the public awareness of our reliance on electrical power has never been higher. Unfortunately, instead of recognizing our wasteful uses of energy and our dependence on unsustainable fossil fuel generation as the underlying problem, some of our political leaders, especially at the national level, have actually blamed environmental regulations for the crisis and denigrated conservation as a solution. The evidence now suggests that the electricity supply shortages were caused by deliberate manipulation, inept legislation, and dilatory regulators. The long-term solutions are greater energy efficiency, conservation, and shift to renewable sources.

In 2000 California used 284,132,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. It was generated from the following sources:

Hydroelectric	14.8 %
Nuclear	15.3 %
Coal	13.0 %
Oil	.2 %
Natural Gas	37.6 %
Geothermal	4.7 %
Organic Waste	2.1 %
Wind	1.3 %
Solar	.3 %
Imports – PNW*	6.6 %
Imports – PSW**	4.1 %

***Pacific southwest*

**Pacific northwest*

Statewide residential accounts used 32% of the generated electricity in 2000. In San Mateo County residences used 32.35% while non-residential uses accounted for the remaining 67.65%. There are 253,893 residential accounts in San Mateo County that used on average 6,542 kilowatts per year or 2,318 per capita. The statewide average was 7,078 per residential account or 2,403 per capita. At the state level non-residential accounts used on average 103,494 kilowatts per year whereas in San Mateo County they used 132,641. In 1998 PG&E provided data on residential electricity usage by city in San Mateo County. It ranged from an average of 18,067 kw per

ENERGY CONSUMPTION, *continued*

year in Atherton to 4,377 kw in Colma. Other high users were Woodside, Hillsborough, and Portola Valley. These data show a strong correlation between wealth and corresponding house sizes with electricity usage. The same correlation exists for the world: U.S per capita energy usage is estimated at 40 to 80 times that of poor countries.

The recent crisis did generate some positive behavior in 2001. Users cut consumption 10 to 15%, at least for a few months; and PG&E's residential rebate program for the purchase of energy saving appliances hit its cap of \$17 million for the first time in 15 years. That included 94,800 refrigerators and over 4 million compact fluorescent bulbs.

DIRECTION

From a sustainability perspective, the biggest problem revealed by these electricity consumption figures is the low percentage that is derived from renewable sources. Since large-scale hydroelectric generators are considered environmentally degrading, the renewable proportion is only about 10%. The California Public Interest Research Group has estimated that the state could get 25% of its electrical energy from renewables in ten years. Wind and solar installations are cheaper, faster to build, and certainly more environmentally friendly than fossil fuel plants. Senator Byron Sher has introduced a bill (SB 531) that would mandate the generation of 20% of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2010. Several bills have already been approved this year which provide substantial rebates as well as income tax credits for the purchase and installation of small scale wind and solar systems. The details are available from the California Energy Commission. Unfortunately, in an effort to get more supply, the Governor has sped up the approval process and reduced environmental (pollution) standards for fossil fuel plants (potentially 26 new power plants and 28 emergency peaker plants). The pollution and sustainability situation will get worse in the near future despite the available renewable options.

According to Hawken and Lovins in *Natural Capitalism*, our energy using systems—motor vehicles, buildings, electrical motors, appliances, etc.—can be designed to be 60-90% more efficient. We could end our dependence on oil imports and thereby significantly decrease our geopolitical exposure to dangerous areas of the world. One highly promising technology is fuel cells. With abundant hydrogen as its basic fuel, zero harmful emissions, decentralized infrastructure,

and eventually much cheaper cost per kilowatt generated (about a fifth of current costs), the prevalent reluctance to aggressively pursue fuel cell development and implementation makes no sense, at least from a socially responsible, sustainability perspective.

Sources: California Energy Commission (energy.ca.gov), PG&E (pge.com), California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG.org), *San Francisco Chronicle* (various articles on energy crisis, 2000/2001), Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins & L. Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism* (Little, Brown and Company, 1999), Seth Dunn, *Micropower: The Next Electrical Era* and *Hydrogen Futures: Toward a Sustainable Energy System* (World Watch Institute, July, 2000 and August, 2001) Researcher: Raymond Miller



People don't need enormous cars; they need respect. They don't need closetsful of clothes; they need to feel attractive and they need excitement and variety and beauty. People don't need electronic entertainment; they need something worthwhile to do with their lives . . . People need identity, community, challenge, acknowledgment, love, joy."

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



FISH POPULATIONS & COMMERCIAL FISH CATCHES

IMPORTANCE

From time immemorial the inhabitants of San Mateo County have depended upon seafood, both oceanic and fresh water, to sustain them. The numerous shell mounds throughout the county remind us of the importance of shellfish to the Native American pre-Hispanic population. The streams leading to the Pacific Ocean and to the Bay produced limitless supplies of fin fish within historical times. Nineteenth century reports tell of young girls catching 10-pound salmon in local streams before suppertime. The Pacific Ocean was and continues to be a biological habitat for a vast array of seafood. Salmon, halibut, cod, mollusks, shellfish—all are important sources of food for today's San Mateans. In addition, the fishing industry provides jobs and thus 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 sustain current harvests and maintain them for the future. Wide fluctuations of wildlife populations can upset the balance among species and lead to dramatic changes in wildlife living patterns and habitat. We see that balance put at risk, and need to restore it.

INDICATOR USED

The California Department of Fish and Game records commercial fish catches at Princeton Harbor, the only commercial fishing port in San Mateo County. Total pounds, broken down by certain categories of species caught, comprise the record of the catch for each year. 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 fluctuation and cycles also impact fish populations. A steady fish catch, however, would indicate some stability of fish populations and hence some measure of the sustainability of seafood in the county.

FINDINGS

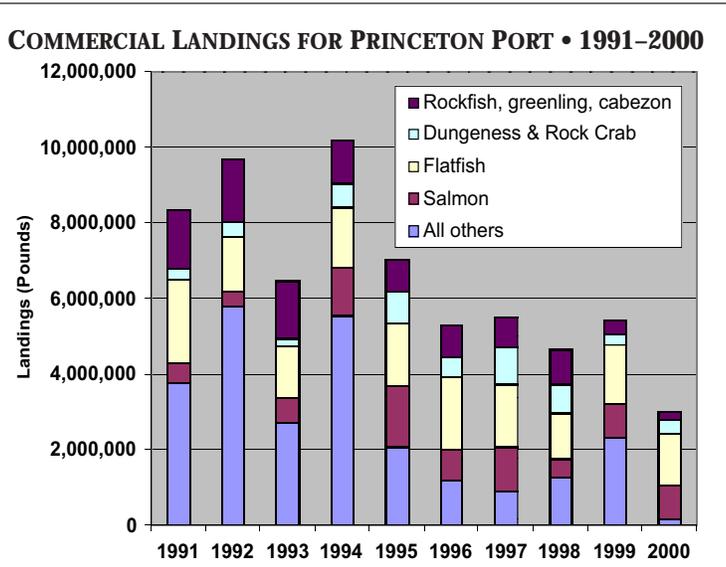
During the decade, 1991—2000 (the last available report) total commercial fish landings rose 16% from 1991 to 1992, slumped by 33% in 1993, and peaked in 1994 20% higher than the average catch of the three preceding years (1991—1993). The seafood harvest for the following six years shows a downward trend averaging 5,154,000 pounds per year—a 37% drop from the average catch of the preceding three years.

DIRECTION

In the early 1990s, commercial fish catches had increased to their highest point in the 1994 fishing season. There was sharp drop in 1993 because of dramatic changes in the number of spawning salmon, hence the California Department of Fish and Game shortened the salmon season. Since 1994 commercial fish catches have decreased to the relatively low number of 3 million pounds in 2000. These harvests have been the lowest in this past decade, and the direction appears to be trending downward.

A new day is breaking. Various forms of intervention may turn the negative trends around. Volunteer efforts to monitor (and improve) conditions in some of the county's coastal streams may result in the resurgence of salmon spawning as will the closure of coastal streams to anglers. The California Department of Fish and Game closed the rockfish fisheries for the first time in 2000, and that should help restore that resource. Curbs on various forms of pollution of the ocean waters will help, as should a growing public awareness of the dangers of off-shore oil drilling.

Sources: Susan E. Ashcraft, Associate Biologist, Marine Fisheries, California Department of Fish and Game, Belmont; Kit Johnston and Cheryl Kaine, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz Lab; Doug Obegi, The Ocean Conservancy (formerly CMC), San Francisco; Chabot, Warner and Crockett, Lee, "Depleted Pacific fisheries need better protection," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 10, 2001; Linden, Laura, "Plan to restrict fishing draws waves of protest," *San Mateo County Times*, July 12, 2001
 Researcher: Wilson Pinney



GREEN BUILDING POLICIES

IMPORTANCE

New construction, demolition, renovation, and long-term use of buildings, although essential for humans, cause much harm to the environment. According to Worldwatch Institute, buildings account for one-sixth of the world's fresh water withdrawals, one-quarter of its wood harvest, and two-fifths of its material and energy flows. Buildings contribute to deforestation, air and water pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion, and global warming. Many buildings and furnishings contain chemicals that contribute to indoor air pollution, adversely affecting human health. Buildings use massive amounts of energy and water over their lifetimes, having long-term economic effects and a long-term impact on the region's environment.

In response to these problems, forward thinking architects, builders, developers, and municipalities have begun to design, build, and promote sustainable buildings. These "green buildings" are designed to save energy and reduce air pollution, use recycled and resource-efficient materials, maximize longevity, save water, create a healthy indoor environment, reduce maintenance and operating costs, and minimize construction waste.

Municipalities that adopt "green building" strategies indicate a willingness to redirect current thinking to more resource-efficient, environmentally benign, healthy, and economically sustainable practices.

INDICATORS USED

Sustainable San Mateo County volunteers telephoned all the cities in the county plus the county government to inquire whether they had a green building policy or ordinance within their jurisdiction, or whether they were considering creating one in the near future.

FINDINGS

1. The county of San Mateo adopted a "green building" policy on December 11, 2001. It applies to all new construction and additions to existing county-owned facilities larger than 5000 square feet. Projects meeting these criteria are required to meet minimum sustainability standards. The county's policy does not apply to private developments at this time, but the county will be considering establishing incentives to encourage green building practices in the private sector in the coming year.

2. None of the 20 cities in the county had a "green building" policy in place as of February 1, 2002, but staff at several cities were familiar with "green building" concepts. For example, the cities of San Mateo and Menlo Park do not have specific policies, nevertheless San Mateo is designing its new central library to be "green" and Menlo Park is designing a "green" child care facility, while Colma has ordinances encouraging water conservation and solar energy.

DIRECTION

The concept of "green building" is rising on the national and local agenda. Nationally, the cities of Denver, Seattle, Atlanta, Kansas City, Austin, Santa Barbara, Portland (Oregon), and Boulder, Colorado, plus Clark and Kitsap Counties in Washington State have adopted green building programs. Locally, San Francisco, San Jose, Palo Alto, and San Mateo County have adopted nascent green building policies within the past two years. None of the 20 cities in San Mateo County has signed on to this growing trend, but it is expected that green building concepts will be recognized by peninsula cities in the near future.

Source: Telephone survey of San Mateo cities and the county government

Researchers: David Crabbe, Rosemary Trujillo, Mark Bettis



No national political leader of an industrial country, no matter how affluent, has announced plans to stabilize demands on the Earth's ecosystem once people's basic needs for food, shelter, and health care are satisfied. The challenge facing the entire world is to design an economy that can satisfy the basic needs of people everywhere without self-destructing.

Worldwatch Institute 1998 *State of the World* report



HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

IMPORTANCE

A large high school dropout rate affects the student who is considering dropping out, as well as the county as a whole. Without a high school diploma, and increasingly, a college degree or specific training, chances for obtaining a good job are decreased. Business leaders report that there is a growing necessity for qualified workers. With fewer qualified workers, businesses are forced to hire people from other areas, thus contributing to traffic congestion and air pollution.

Dropping out of high school can become a cycle that continues from parent to child. Students who do not receive adequate education are more vulnerable to poverty, homelessness, crime, or substance abuse, affecting individuals and tax payers too.

INDICATORS USED

The dropout rate for San Mateo County public high schools is reported for grades 9 through 12 for the years 1993/94 to 1999/2000. Dropout rate by ethnicity is shown for the year 1999/2000. Because of the difficulty of keeping track of students who leave or enter school districts, numbers may be inaccurate by a small margin. Information for the academic year 2000/01 is not yet available.

FINDINGS

The dropout rate for the 1999/2000 school year was 2.4%, compared with 1.8% the previous year. Looking at individual districts in the 1999/2000 year, Sequoia Union High School District had the highest rate with 4.5%, while La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District had no dropouts at all. Black and Pacific Islander students shared the highest dropout rate of the 1999/2000 high school year at 4.6%. Asians had the smallest rate of the year at .4%.

DIRECTION

The high school dropout rate in San Mateo County was on the decline in the early part of the 1990s. Reaching a low rate of 1.6% in the 1996/97 school year, the dropout rate has experienced its most dramatic rise in the last few years. Sequoia Union High School District and South San Francisco Unified School District have alternated highest dropout rates in recent years. The La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District has consistently had the lowest dropout rate in the county. Dropout rates by ethnicity have remained fairly consistent, with Blacks and Pacific Islanders having the highest rates, and White and Asian students the smallest.

Source: California Basic Education provided by Jeannie Goodwine, San Mateo County Office of Education, Instructional Services Division; <http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics>
Researchers: Karen Teresi and Andrew Ramroth

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

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 and municipalities 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. It drives essential service workers out of the area and can bring low-income people below the poverty line. In some cases, this can lead to homelessness.

INDICATORS USED

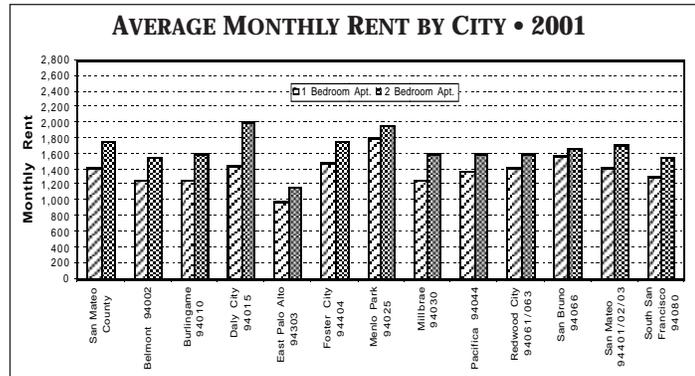
The relationship between the countywide median price of a single-family home and condominium; the countywide average rent for a vacant one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartment; and the ability to pay annual housing costs are measured. Affordability calculations are based on local lenders' guidelines that homeowners not pay more than 35% of gross household income per year for housing. This is higher than the 30% used nationally because of the high cost of housing in the Bay Area. Annual cost of ownership housing assumes a 20% down payment and a 30-year, fully amortized loan.

FINDINGS

In 2001, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) countywide median income for a family of four

increased 6.9% over the previous year to \$80,100. Median income nationwide is \$52,500 and is \$60,800 in California.

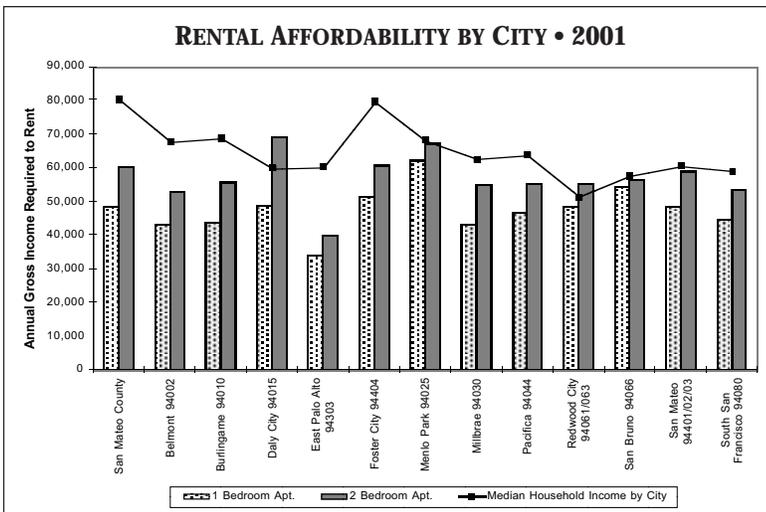
Contrary to a general perception that house prices fell considerably in 2001, they did not. During 2001, the median sales price of a single-family home countywide decreased by 1.7% from \$600,000 to \$590,000. This compares with a median price of



\$280,000 in California and \$170,000 nationwide. Meanwhile, the price for a condominium increased 6.9% to \$384,700 compared with \$360,000 last year. To further complicate the picture, a breakdown by city reveals almost half the cities in the county recorded price increases for the year. Prices increased in Daly City, East Palo Alto, El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Montara, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Bruno, San Mateo, and South San Francisco. Prices decreased in Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Menlo Park, Moss Beach, Pescadero, Redwood City, San Carlos, and Woodside, while

Hillsborough saw no change. Long-term interest rates have a major impact on housing affordability and were volatile in 2001, varying from 6.5% near the middle of the year to 7.25% at the end.

The annual gross income required to buy a median-priced house dropped 11% in 2001 to \$130,312. This is the first improvement in affordability since 1993 and is attributable to a slightly lower median house price and lower long-term interest rates. The annual gross income required to buy a condominium also dropped, but by only 3% because the median condominium sales price increased over the year.



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, *continued*

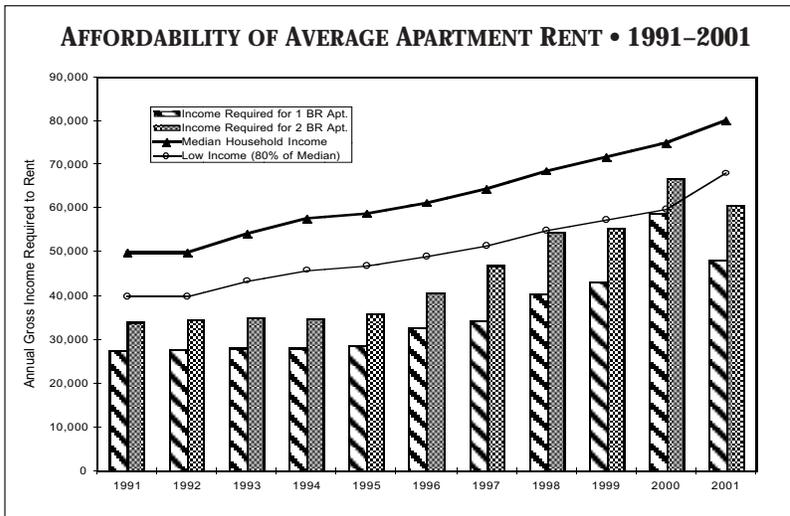
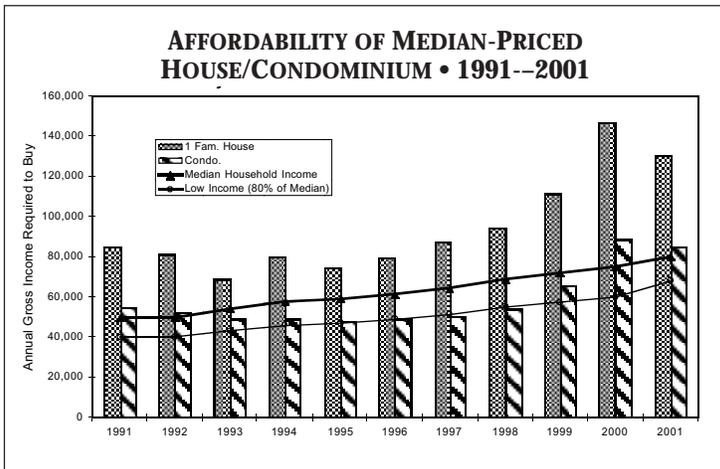
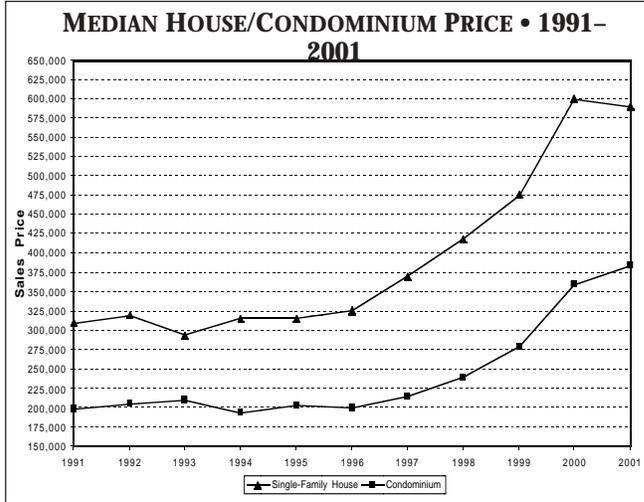
Even though housing countywide was somewhat more affordable in 2001, the median-income family could still not afford the median-priced home or

condominium. Based on figures released by the California Association of Realtors in February 2002, only 20% of the families in San Mateo County could afford to purchase the median-priced single-family home last December. Only in San Francisco and Contra Costa counties was housing less affordable with a ratio of 15% and 18% respectively. State-wide, the affordability ratio was 34% while the nation as a whole had a ratio of 57%.

Between December 2000 and December 2001, the countywide average monthly rent for a vacant apartment decreased 17.5% for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,415, and 9.7% for a two-bedroom apartment to \$1,764. This meant that median-income families and low-income families (80% of median) could afford to pay the average rents. A breakdown of rents by city ranges from a low of \$997 for a one-bedroom and \$1,156 for a two-bedroom apartment in East Palo Alto to a high of \$1,813 (1 BR) and \$1,964 (2 BR) in Menlo Park.

Occupancy rates decreased 3.5% to 93.5% countywide in 2001 as compared with 97% in 2000. This meant that more apartments were available for rent in 2001 than in 2000.

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. Families earning low and very-low income (80% of median and 50% of median respectively) may be paying more than 35% of income for housing, live in subsidized housing, share housing with others, live in substandard and overcrowded housing, or be homeless.



DIRECTION

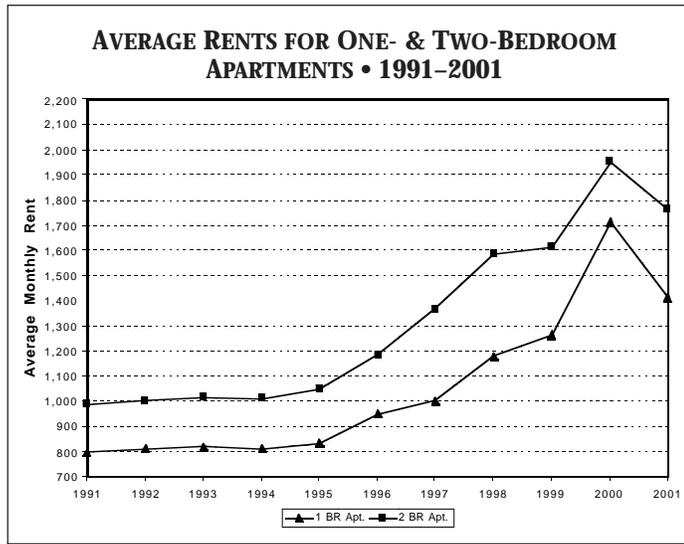
The large increases in single-family home prices over the past five years leveled off in 2001, but condominium prices continued to rise. This implies that condominiums, which are generally priced lower than single-family houses, are becoming the entry level housing of choice for median-income and less affluent families in the county. Meanwhile, the more affluent families are less willing to pay exorbitant prices for single-family houses. Given the limited supply and increasing demand for condominiums, the

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, *continued*

trend is for condominium prices to continue to move upward in the coming year while single-family home prices may level off or even drop slightly.

The trendline indicates that rents in the county are decreasing. This is an improvement from previous years and will probably continue into 2002. This is probably a deceptive trend because only a limited number of new rental units are being constructed. As rents drop and more families move into less expensive apartments, occupancy rates may once again rise to the levels of 1996-1999, which severely limited rental availability and drove up rents.

Although real estate prices are slightly softer in 2002, the overall trend is troubling because the gap between housing costs and affordability is not narrowing. If this continues, only the most affluent are going to be able to live in San Mateo County. Gradually middle-income and lower-income families and individuals will move out of the area, making it harder for local businesses to hire needed workers. Lack of a local workforce creates pressure to increase wages, attracting employees from out of county. This increases the cost of products and services for residents, making local businesses less competitive, which could drive businesses out of the

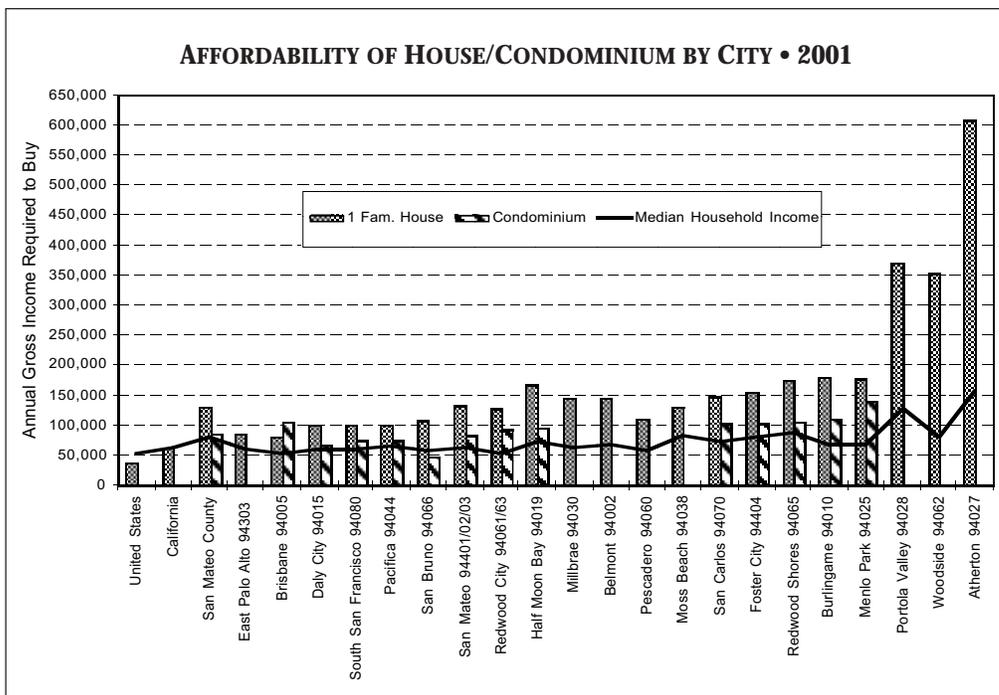


county. Pressure will also continue to construct more housing of all types within the county.

Sources: County of San Mateo; ABAG; San Mateo County Association of Realtors; HUD; California Association of Realtors.

Note: Data on median income by city for year 2001 were not available before publication, thus affordability by city is based on year 2001 housing costs and year 2000 median income data.

Researcher: David Crabbe



LAND USE

IMPORTANCE

A healthy and sustainable community provides for all of the community's needs—housing, business, services (such as education, health care, and transportation), industry, recreation, agriculture, open space, and habitat/watershed protection. To accommodate these needs, a county must balance land uses. This indicator looks at the priorities that San Mateo County has set for its limited space, relative to other Bay Area counties.

INDICATORS USED

Three categories of land uses are considered: urban, rural, and greenbelt. The United States Census defines an urbanized area as a densely settled territory that contains 50,000 or more people. Rural areas are sparsely settled, and a greenbelt is comprised of areas permanently protected from urbanization as parks, preserves, watersheds, or land trusts. Greenbelt does not include urban active-use parks and playgrounds.

FINDINGS

Land uses in the county remain fairly evenly split among urban, rural, and greenbelt uses. The county ranks second behind Marin County in the amount of land protected from development (34.7%). Rural activities, including agriculture, forest, and rangeland, account for 39.1% of the county's land use. San Mateo currently ranks fourth, behind San Francisco, Contra Costa, and Alameda counties, in percentage of land dedicated to urban uses. The Greenbelt Alliance estimates 6.7% of the county's undeveloped land is at high to medium risk for urbanization. Most of this

property is located in the unincorporated areas north of Half Moon Bay, adjacent to San Bruno Mountain, and in the off-campus areas around Stanford University.

DIRECTION

The Land Use indicator report for 2000 stated that, for San Mateo County as a whole, the highest ranking land use issues were (1) economic vitality, (2) location and intensity of urban development, and (3) housing supply and affordability. These priorities indicate that in order to preserve rural open space, and some separation among towns, San Mateo County planners will need to pay careful attention to infill development.

Infill development—locating new housing, commercial services, and amenities in existing urban areas—is recognized as a legitimate way to revitalize older areas and protect open space. Infill also tends to increase population density in the already-developed areas. This, in turn, encourages use of public transit, bicycles, walking, and other sustainable means of transportation. San Mateo County ranks third, behind San Francisco and Alameda counties, in housing units per square mile in the urban areas (but San Francisco is more than three times denser than any other county). This indicates that San Mateo County is tending toward sustainability by concentrating housing in already urbanized areas.

Sources: AmericanFactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File; Greenbelt Alliance, *Greenbelt at Risk 2000*
 Researcher: Christine Shirley

ALLOCATION OF LAND USES BY COUNTY

County	Urban%	Rural%	Greenbelt%	Estimated UDI
Alameda	29.2	56.9	21.6	25
Contra Costa	30.2	46	23.8	16
Marin	14	35	51	14
Napa	4	75.8	20.2	16
San Francisco	79.4	1.3	19.3	92
San Mateo²	26.2	39.1	34.7	22
Santa Clara	21.5	56.9	21.6	21
Solano	9.7	71.1	19.2	8
Sonoma	6.3	83.7	10	18

Source: Greenbelt Alliance: *Greenbelt at Risk 2000*

1. Urban Density Index (UDI): Total housing units/urban square miles/100. Source: US Census 2000

2. Total area of San Mateo County is 285,339 acres.

✻

Most of us would like to end our lives feeling both that we had a good time and that we left the world a little better than we found it.

William Slater (found in Cecile Andrews, *The Circle of Simplicity*)



PER PUPIL FUNDING

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.

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 1999/2000 are shown. Also reported

are the total revenues and expenditures and the average pupil/teacher ratio for grades 1-3 1999/2000. In San Mateo County funding comes primarily from local taxes (approximately 65%). Federal funding is approximately 3%, and the remainder comes from the state, the lottery, and other local sources.

FINDINGS

Average revenues per annual ADA for grades K-12 in 1999/2000 in San Mateo County were \$6,718; average expenditures were \$6,521. Total revenues countywide for 1999/2000 increased by 7.7% to \$576,072,292. Total expenditures increased by 7.2% to \$559,163,246. Average revenues per ADA by school district are shown in the chart.

San Carlos Elementary School District showed the largest increase in ADA revenues and expenditures. Revenues per ADA increased by 40% to \$7,361, and average expenditures increased by 36% to \$6,824. It also had the greatest ADA increase of any elementary school district, 6.5%, to 2,599 students. The largest ADA decrease in elementary districts was reported by Jefferson, which lost 3%, or 208 ADA.

The only high school district to show an increase in ADA, Sequoia Union High School District's ADA grew by 6.6%. No high school district showed decreased revenues compared with 1998/99. La Honda Unified was the only unified district that decreased spending compared with 1998/99. It also reported the greatest increase in funding compared with the previous year. La Honda managed to keep the position of having the highest unified school district ADA revenue and spending per student.

Revenues and expenditures per ADA can impact the pupil-per-teacher ratio of each district because the amount of money available may determine how many teachers will be hired. While most elementary school districts saw a continued decrease of the pupil-teacher ratio in the first through third grades, four districts, Burlingame, Millbrae, Portola Valley, and Redwood City, showed an increase. All four districts, however, still have pupil-teacher ratios below the countywide elementary district average of 20.4 students per teacher, and well below state average of 21.4 pupils per teacher. The only two elementary districts to have pupil-teacher ratios above or near the state or county average are Jefferson and Laguna, with 21.5 and 21.2, respectively. Though both districts still show a decline over the pupil-teacher ratio of the previous year, Laguna only reported a decrease of 0.1 from 1998/99 compared with

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES PER ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE (ADA) 1999/2000

Districts	Annual K-12 ADA	Revenues Per ADA	Expend. Per ADA
Elementary			
Bayshore	444	5,859	5,824
Belmont-Redwood Shores	2,260	6,954	6,695
Brisbane	626	6,160	6,553
Burlingame	2,257	6,048	5,489
Hillsborough	1,318	8,905	8,879
Jefferson Elementary	7,175	5,578	5,410
Laguna Salada	3,479	5,868	5,520
Las Lomas	960	8,836	8,576
Menlo Park	1,893	6,907	6,797
Millbrae	2,187	5,791	5,557
Portola Valley	668	9,136	8,237
Ravenswood	5,021	6,852	6,675
Redwood City	8,869	7,101	7,083
San Bruno	2,649	5,438	5,481
San Carlos	2,599	7,361	6,824
San Mateo-Foster City	10,071	5,934	5,864
Woodside	454	9,505	9,291
Total Elementary	52,930	6,486	6,321
High			
Jefferson High	4,959	6,878	6,430
San Mateo High	7,602	8,351	7,840
Sequoia High	6,734	8,419	8,231
Total High	19,295	7,996	7,614
Unified			
Cabrillo Unified	3,599	5,970	6,016
La Honda-Pesc. Unified	427	8,377	7,734
S. San Francisco Unified	9,494	5,624	5,557
Total Unified	13,520	5,803	5,748
Total/Averages	85,745	6,718	6,521

4.4 from 1997/98.

The only high school district showing a decrease in its pupil-teacher ratio was La Honda, despite the fact that its spending per student was also reduced. Four out of the other five high school districts, the exception being Cabrillo Unified, have pupil-teacher ratios either at or exceeding the state average.

DIRECTION

For the fourth consecutive K-12 school year, average revenues and expenditures continue to increase. Though total enrollment also continues its downward

trend, declining to 85,745 in 1999/2000 from 85,959 in 1998/1999, the decrease of 214 students was substantially less than the decrease of 3,617 students from 1997/98 to 1998/99.

Sources: California State Department of Education; California Basic Education Data Partnership at www.ed-data.k12.ca.us; 1999/2000 *Financial Statistical Report*, San Mateo County Office of Education
 Researchers: Willy Cheung, Lawrence Kang

POPULATION

IMPORTANCE

Demographics paint a community picture using the social and vital statistics for a given area’s population over a selected period of time. The political, economic, and social institutions working to meet the needs of individuals who reside in San Mateo County need to respond to changing demographics. Sustainable communities accommodate the challenges of growth, while maintaining the physical and cultural environments for lives of good quality for all.

The planning challenges for a sustainable San Mateo County are: population changes due to economic conditions, a large commuting population that does not live in the county, the high cost of living and lack of affordable housing for professional and blue collar workers, and encouragement of retired people on fixed incomes to remain in the county.

INDICATORS USED

County population data including components of growth were obtained from the Demographic Unit of the California Department of Finance E-2 and E-6 reports. City populations are January estimates from the

state’s E-1 report. Race and age statistics for 2000 come from the Bureau of the Census Summary File.

FINDINGS

The total county growth remains low. Population figures have been revised downward for each of the years from 1990 to 2000. This is the result of the state’s decision to delete past adjustments for the 1990 census undercount, estimated as high as 2.7% for California. The figures on the chart, released in February 2002, supersede the previously published Department of Finance reports for the 1990s, and do not incorporate estimated census undercounts.

City populations have been revised downward as well. The result is a decline of 16,000 people in the year 2000 from the numbers in last year’s report. Growth in most cities remains low, a continued result of housing and economic factors.

San Mateo County continues to be a place of ethnic diversity. The racial makeup of the county in 2000 was 50% White, 22% Hispanic, 21% Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 3.5% African American. County statistics

	CITY POPULATIONS		
	2000*	'00-'01 % Increase	2001*
Atherton	7,250	0.3	7,275
Belmont	25,250	0.8	25,450
Brisbane	3,570	2.2	3,650
Burlingame	28,250	1.2	28,600
Colma	1,210	0.0	1,210
Daly City	104,800	0.6	105,400
East Palo Alto	30,050	1.0	30,350
Foster City	29,000	0.5	29,150
Half Moon Bay	11,950	1.3	12,500
Hillsborough	10,900	0.5	10,950
Menlo Park	31,050	0.6	31,250
Millbrae	20,900	0.5	21,000
Pacifica	38,700	0.9	39,050
Portola Valley	4,480	0.7	4,510
Redwood City	76,300	0.5	76,700
San Bruno	40,600	0.5	40,800
San Carlos	27,900	0.5	28,050
San Mateo	93,400	0.5	93,900
So. San Francisco	61,200	0.8	61,700
Woodside	5,375	0.9	5,425
Unincorporated	61,900	2.9	63,700

Source: E1 Report, May 2001 – California Department of Finance
 *Population as of January 1, 2000 (revised) & January 1, 2001 (preliminary)

POPULATION, *continued*

reflect a trend similar to the State of California where Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders account for 43% of the state's population.

In the 2000 census, 6.4% of the County population is under 5 years of age, 30% under 18, and 12.5% over 65. The median age in San Mateo County in 2000 was estimated to be 37 years.

DIRECTION

The total county population grew 9.8% in the years between 1990 and 2001, more slowly than the State's

growth of 16%. Natural increase (births minus deaths) remains relatively stable. The annual growth fluctuated significantly, however, owing to migration factors. Residents continue to move out of the county, and the state, but that is offset by a high foreign immigration. According to the California Institute,

POPULATION WITH COMPONENTS OF GROWTH									
YEAR	Total Population (July 1)	% Growth	# Growth	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Net Immigration	Net Domestic Migration
1990	648,200								
1991	653,900	0.9	5,700	10,838	4,746	6,092	-392	4,887	-5,279
1992	662,000	1.2	8,100	10,609	4,873	5,736	2,364	5,645	-3,281
1993	666,800	0.7	4,800	10,455	4,910	5,545	-745	5,853	-6,598
1994	670,600	0.6	3,800	10,349	4,803	5,546	-1,746	5,912	-7658
1995	675,900	0.8	5,300	10,185	5,020	5,165	135	4,977	-4,842
1996	679,900	0.6	4,000	10,048	4,952	5,096	-1,096	4,924	-6,020
1997	690,400	1.5	10,500	10,098	4,973	5,125	5,375	5,817	-442
1998	695,800	0.8	5,400	9,918	4,841	5,077	323	5,556	-5,233
1999	700,800	0.7	5,000	10,177	5,020	5,157	-157	5,649	-5,806
2000	711,700	1.6	10,900						
2001	714,500	0.4	2,800	10,440	4,977	5,463	-2,663		
	Total	9.8	66,300						
	Average	0.9	6,027						

Source: E6 Report, January 2002, California Department of Finance
E2 Report Revised, February 2002, California Department of Finance (2000 & 2001)

California ranked third behind New York and Illinois in domestic migration losses.

Sources: California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit: <http://www.dof.ca.gov>; US Government, Bureau of the Census: <http://www.census.gov>
Researcher: Carol Mink

POVERTY

IMPORTANCE

Poverty trends are significant indicators of the effectiveness of a county's economy. Keeping track of the number and sufficiency of programs available to recipients of the different welfare programs allows San Mateo County to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current economic policies and programs, and demonstrates the general well-being of the county as a whole. With too many people living in poverty, potential investors turn elsewhere. County general funds spent on entitlements leave less for parks, libraries, and other civic enrichments.

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 physical growth and cognitive development lasting into adulthood.

INDICATORS USED

There is no single yearly measurement that reflects the number of people living in poverty in San Mateo County. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) provides and monitors welfare programs for the county. These programs include CalWORKS (for families with dependent children), General Assistance (single adults), Food Stamps, and MediCal. Given here are the number of people enrolled in these welfare programs in San Mateo County in October 2001. The HSA's estimate of the amount of money needed for a family of three to survive in our county in 2001, and data from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey are provided.

POVERTY , *continued*

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

FINDINGS

In October 2001 the HSA provided services as follows: 1,604 families (3,563 people) received services in the CalWORKs program, 244 individuals received General Assistance, 782 cases (family members and individuals totaling 1,507) received food stamps, and 18,188 cases (27,209 people) received MediCal. Most recipients of CalWORKs also received Food Stamps, and all are eligible for MediCal. The latter two programs served additional people who receive no assistance payments.

United States Census 2000 Supplementary Survey data show that for California as a whole, 14% of the population are living below the poverty line. 60% of these are female and nearly a third (30%) are children under the age of 18. Percentages of the population living below the poverty line ranged from 5.7% (Contra Costa County) to 25.5% (Fresno County). In San Mateo County, 6.5% of the population are living below the poverty line, 1.8% receive Public Assistance Income, and 9.4% receive Public Assistance Income or Non-cash Benefits.

The HSA's estimate of the amount of money needed for a family of three to survive in our county (in 2001) was \$5,112 a month.

DIRECTION

San Mateo County's "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report" to the Controller's Office for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2001/2002 budget, describing county caseload trends states:

"Between 1996 and 2000, the County of San Mateo had a steadily declining rate of families on public assistance compared with California as a whole. During this period, San Mateo County's public assistance, or CalWORKs (formerly known as AFDC), rate decreased twice the rate of the state. Between 1996 and 2000, the total number of CalWORKs participants in the County decreased by 71.3 percent; Statewide, the number of recipients decreased 38.7 percent. Between 1996 and 2000, the total number of Food Stamps recipients in the County decreased by 73.2 percent from 16,862 to 4,526; Statewide, the number of recipients decreased 48.1 percent. The County has increased the proportion of CalWORKs recipients under age 18 from 72 percent

of all recipients in 1996 to 83 percent in 2000. Statewide in 2000, only 75 percent of CalWORKs recipients were under age 18. The only exception in this pattern occurred in the Welfare to Work caseload; Welfare to Work is a new assistance program that links families on public assistance with housing, helping them become self-sufficient. Between 1999 and 2000 San Mateo's caseload nearly tripled from 349 to 1003; Statewide, the Welfare to Work caseload decreased by 7.5 percent.

Fund savings from [the overall] caseload decline were shifted to provide supportive services for low-income families who struggle to attain self-sufficiency in a high cost of living area. Additional supports were also provided to assist remaining clients with multi-barriers to self-sufficiency. Moreover, prevention and early intervention services were expanded in the area of children's services. The HSA budget experienced a net increase of 14.4 percent in actual cost from FY 1999/2000 to FY 2000/01."

Sources: James V. Miller, Research Analyst, Research & Planning, San Mateo County Human Services Agency; *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (for Fiscal Year 2001/2002), San Mateo County; *Census 2000 Supplementary Survey Results for San Mateo County*, United States Census Bureau, <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/c2ss.html>
Researcher: Jane Weidman



The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain . . . until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.

Jane Addams



PUBLIC LIBRARY USE

IMPORTANCE

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading, videos, CDs, and computers. Libraries are gateways to information for large numbers of people. They are also an access point to the internet and a multitude of data bases. Library programs aimed at children and adults are cultural assets to the 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.

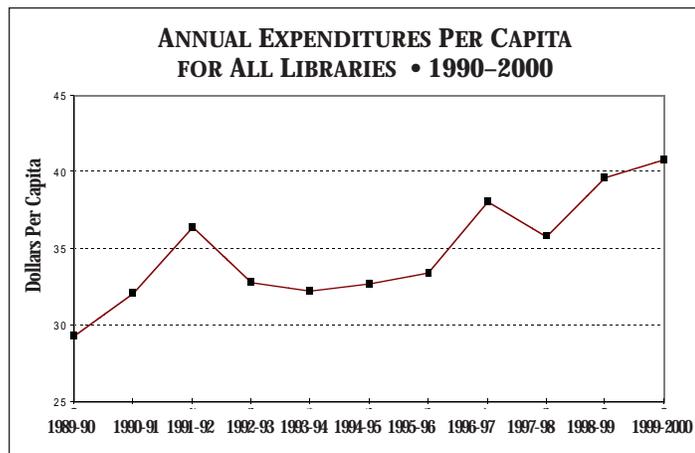
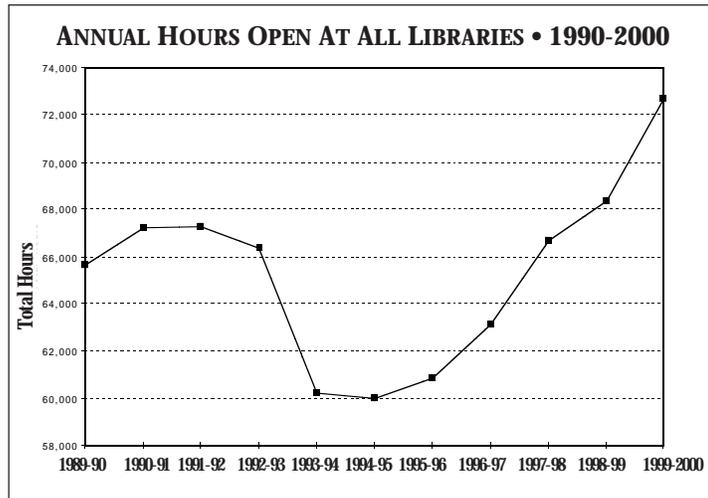
INDICATORS USED

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 public libraries in Daly City, San Mateo, Redwood City, South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Bruno, and Menlo Park, plus 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.

FINDINGS

Funding and usage vary by library system within the county. In 1999/2000, the total combined annual expenditure for all the library systems in the county rose 2.9% from 1998/99 to \$40.82 per capita. Materials circulation per capita was down 4.3% from 1998/99 and reference questions asked were down 7.3%. Circulation per capita in 1999/2000 was 7.72 in the county compared with 4.83 in the state. Annual per capita expenditure was also higher (\$40.82) in the county than in the state (\$21.96). All libraries countywide in 1999/2000 were open to the public 72,714 total hours, a 6.4% increase over the previous year.

In general, all eight library systems in the county



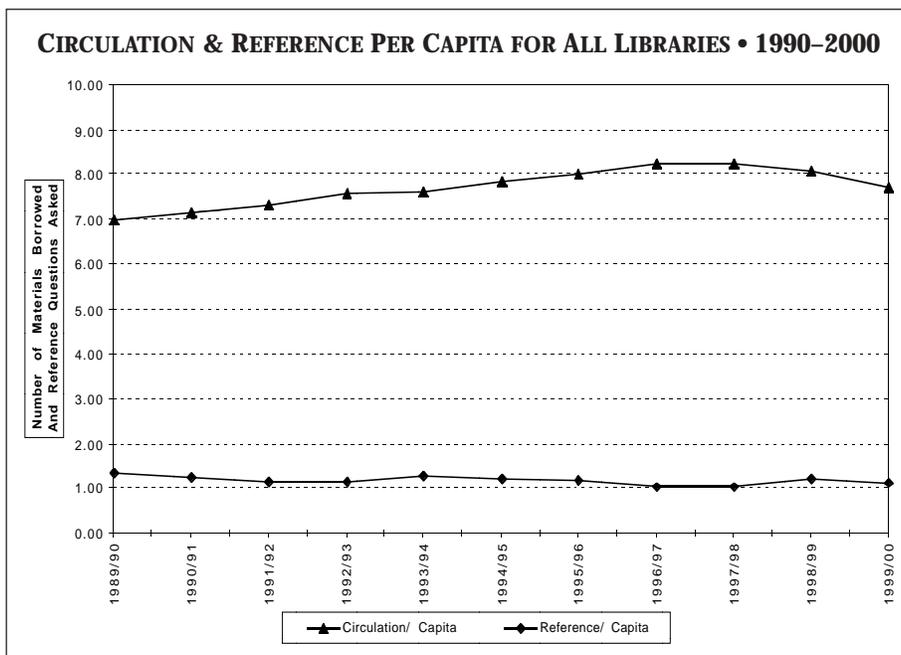
are exceeding the state average in funding and usage which is a positive statistic, but some jurisdictions are doing better than others. Expenditure per capita for libraries in Burlingame (\$67.54) and Redwood City (\$63.08) is considerably higher than libraries in Menlo Park (\$45.32), South San Francisco (\$44.30), San Mateo County (\$38.71), San Mateo City (\$34.93), and San Bruno (\$31.77), while Daly City receives the least funding (\$19.41). In general, the library systems with the higher expenditures per capita are open more hours and support higher usage.

DIRECTION

Countywide expenditures for libraries are up from 1998/99, but the rate of increase is declining. This could be a precursor to a leveling off of funding in the near future. The number of materials circulated per capita in 1999/2000 is trending down toward 1992/93/94 levels and reference questions asked per capita have dropped by 16% since 1990 indicating an overall

decline in usage. Some of this decline may be attributed to greater use of the internet for reference and recreation. Hours open to the public have been steadily increasing since 1994/95, but it is not clear that this trend will continue.

Source: *California Library Statistics 1990 – 2001*, Library Development Services Bureau, California State Library, Sacramento.
 Researcher: David Crabbe



SOLID WASTE

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 1 is closed to any additional landfill and is completely decommissioned. Parcel 2, in Colma, is scheduled to close in 4 to 5 years, depending on the success of recycling. The third parcel, on county property, is also completely closed. The Ox Mountain site has an approximate life expectancy to the year 2027. More than 90% 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 even further.

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%. This goal can be achieved by reducing the amount of waste produced and by increasing recycling, composting, and reuse of goods and materials. Many of the cities in San Mateo County have already achieved this goal.

INDICATORS USED

Reported are the tonnage of solid waste disposed into landfills of San Mateo County from 1990 through 2000 and the approved diversion rates (the amount of waste reused, recycled, or composted) for 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998. All the 1999 diversion rates have been submitted and will be approved in conjunction with a two-year cycle, which will also include the 2000 diversion rates. Submitted diversion rates for 1999 and 2000 must be approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Figures have been included in the chart as possible indications. Total tonnage of waste for 2001 will be submitted after February 15, 2002. The tonnage of solid waste

represents the total San Mateo County waste disposed of in San Mateo County landfills.

FINDINGS

In 1999, San Mateo County sent approximately 1.3% less waste to county landfills than in 1998. The 958,185 tons in 1998 were reduced down to 945,673 tons in 1999 and 878,409 tons in 2000. It should be noted that a variety of factors such as new construction, demolition, transportation projects, and disaster waste (especially El Nino in 1998) will affect solid waste landfilled and diversion rates for any given period. Additionally, the number of San Mateo County cities on “Compliance Schedules” (cities that still need assistance in reaching the 50% goal) has been reduced from seven cities in 1998 to only three cities in 2000. Those cities are Daly City, Portola Valley, and Woodside.

In 2000, only 25,896 tons or 2% of San Mateo County solid waste were disposed of in landfills outside of San Mateo County, compared with approximately 10% in 1998 and 3% in 1999. 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 (see chart) have been omitted, as special circumstance or new base figures have made it impractical to recalculate the figures.

DIRECTION

Improving accuracy and understanding the specific criteria for calculating diversion rates has much improved over the past year. New or corrected “base year tonnage” has improved calculating accurate diversion rates. New solutions are constantly being developed which are increasing recycling and finding new solutions to existing problems associated with waste disposal programs. The Blue-Line Transfer Station in South San Francisco has a new facility with three times as much space. This allows for updated sorting equipment and more floor space to further sort mixed debris. They are able to capture more construction & demolition waste, as well as more cardboard. In three months they have recycled 33 tons of electronic waste. Other e-waste recycling facilities in the county

Jurisdiction	DIVERSION RATES					Unapproved	Unapproved
	Approved Diversion Rates				Diversion	Diversion	
	1995	1996	1997	1998	Rates	Rates	
Atherton	17%	43%	15%		31%	56%	
Belmont	36%	33%	43%	48%	48%	63%	
Brisbane	25%	34%	40%	32%	3%	48%	
Burlingame	37%	41%	42%	40%	46%	47%	
Colma				47%	51%		
Daly City				14%	19%	20%	
East Palo Alto	10%	15%			46%	59%	
Foster City	27%	25%	54%	50%	37%	43%	
Half Moon Bay				32%	44%	45%	
Hillsborough	19%	25%			25%	53%	
Menlo Park	36%	34%	39%	30%	40%	50%	
Millbrae	30%	12%	31%	40%	52%	50%	
Pacifica	36%	26%	30%	28%	31%		
Portola Valley	-2%	17%		32%	32%		
Redwood City	39%	41%	43%	46%	44%	47%	
San Bruno	29%	19%			46%	47%	
San Carlos	34%	38%	39%	34%	39%	42%	
San Mateo	40%	33%	42%	29%	34%	39%	
S. San Francisco	26%	27%	36%	39%			
Unincorporated	30%	34%	33%	26%	39%	43%	
Woodside	21%	8%			44%		

are San Carlos Transfer Station, Ox Mountain Landfill, Coastside Scavenger Company, and San Bruno Transfer Station. The County of San Mateo RecycleWorks has made additional progress increasing public education throughout the county. They have created a recycling hotline (1-888-442-2666) and a website (www.RecycleWorks.org) where extensive recycling information can be utilized. Several cities have adopted new construction and demolition ordinances aimed at recycling materials from construction and demolition projects. Those cities now with recycling ordinances are Atherton, Burlingame, Colma, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, San Carlos, and Woodside. Those cities with a construction and recycling policy only are Belmont and Millbrae. On December 11, the County of San Mateo adopted Green Building Policies. Additional attention will be needed by individual San Mateo County cities to also adopt Green Building Policies.

Source: County of San Mateo RecycleWorks
 Researcher: Don Eagleston

SUBSTANCE ABUSE • ARRESTS FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

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.

INDICATORS USED

The California Department of Justice records the number of arrests in San Mateo County for driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs. Figures from 1991 to 2000 are shown.

FINDINGS

A total of 3,580 DUI arrests were recorded for 2000. Of these, 3,507 arrests were misdemeanors, and 73 were felony arrests. The majority of the DUI arrests occurred in the 30-39 year old age group, accounting for 3,473 misdemeanor and 70 felony arrests. A felony arrest is one in which someone other than the person arrested is injured or if the perpetrator has had three or more arrests within seven years.

Juveniles had 37 DUI arrests in 2000, which is one percent of the total.

DIRECTION

During the period from 1991 to 2000, there has been a general decrease in DUI arrests (from 5,592 to 3,580) This is a decrease of 64%. The trend has slowed in recent years. From 1998 to 1999 DUI arrests decreased 3.9%, from 3,889 to 3,739. In 2000, arrests continued to decrease. Juvenile arrests have not exhibited this gradual decrease. Arrests increased from 31 in 1998 to 42 in 1999. Going down to 37 in 2000, arrests are almost to the 1998 level of 31.

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 be more widespread and more effective in reaching the general public.

Increased public awareness of the hazards of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has led to stricter laws and increased enforcement of those laws. Since 1991, the streets have become much safer because of 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, 2000, San Mateo County*.
Researcher: Teri Whitehair



*By choice or catastrophe,
civilization will discover a
sustainable way of life, and for an
enticing future is better than
blundering into a catastrophe.*

Alan AtKisson (found in *Timeline*)



SUBSTANCE ABUSE • TREATMENT PROVIDED

IMPORTANCE

Past statistics for violence, automobile accidents, and the spread of hazardous diseases show direct correlation between these societal detriments and substance abuse. The disastrous effects of drug addiction and excessive consumption of alcohol constitute "one of the biggest threats to the health of the community," according to *Healthy San Mateo*. To fight substance abuse, the community expends \$400-\$500 million annually.

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.

INDICATORS USED

The latest data from the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, particularly its Alcohol and Drug Services division, provide the number of people who sought 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) 2000/2001 have been compared with data for several previous years to determine trends in the treatment services.

FINDINGS

The total number of treatment episodes for FY2000/01 is 6,610. A treatment episode is defined to be one client enrollment in an alcohol/drug treatment program, regardless of the number of visits the client makes during the FY. From FY 1999/2000 to FY 2000/01, the total number who sought treatment increased 13%, as opposed to a 3% increase between the previous two fiscal years. Substantial increases, in terms of specific demographics, occurred with adolescents under 18 (33%), Latinos/Hispanics (25%), Asians/Pacific Islanders (21%), and persons using only one drug (16%). Despite the significant percentage increase for Asians/Pacific Islanders, the actual number of people in that group was considerably lower than the numbers for the other ethnic groups. Whites, the group that showed one of the smallest percentage gains of all ethnic groups, accounted for the largest number of people in the treatment programs (50% of all patients).

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. The county has 11 slots per 10,000 residents, as opposed to a state average of 28; the county average waiting time was 50 days, more than twice the state average of 20 days.

For the drug of choice of clients who sought treatment, the county saw a 36% increase in marijuana users and a 15% increase in alcohol abuse patients during FY

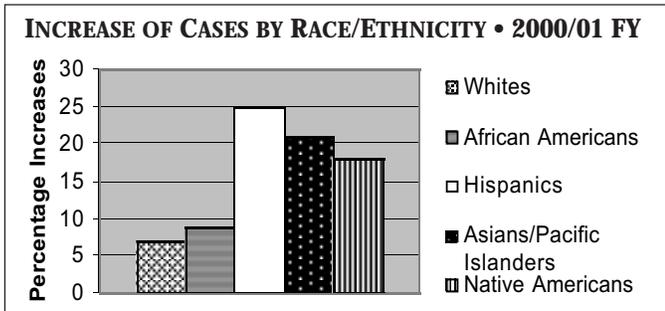
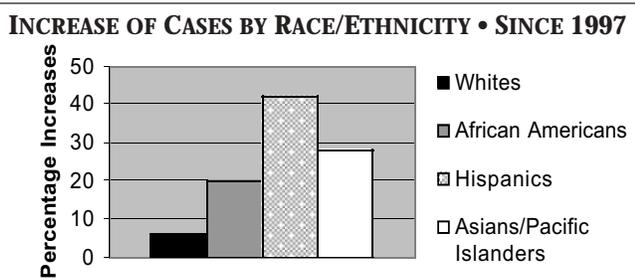
2000/01. Those using two or more drugs showed a 6% increase, but more than half of the people treated reportedly fell into this category. Increases were also recorded in heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine patients at 8%, 11%, and 9%, respectively.

DIRECTION

The total number of people treated during the last fiscal year showed an upturn similar to the previous fiscal year, whereas the previous fiscal years posted modest declines or negligible growth. Since this number has been in fluctuation, no apparent trend can be established. Data for the state have also been inconstant. However, the 55% increase in marijuana, 27% increase in alcohol, and 25% increase in cocaine since 1997 are alarming figures. Some of this increase can be attributed to the growing population of the county. Other factors may include a downturn in the economy, increased access to drugs for young people, or insufficient or inadequate efforts to promote awareness of the risks of substance abuse.

To continue curbing substance abuse, San Mateo County Alcohol and Drug Services wants to improve the existing county drug treatment system by offering higher quality service that is culturally appropriate, cost effective, and suitable for meeting patients' needs and demands. They envision the system to be coordinated and integrated, with continued sharing of resources, talents, and problem solving between parties involved. Their secondary goal is to continue providing leadership in the development of partnerships and relationships with others concerned about problems relating to alcohol and drug abuse in San Mateo County.

Sources: William Huffman, San Mateo County Human Services Agency; CA Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
 Researcher: David Chen



TRANSPORTATION

IMPORTANCE

Finding better ways of carrying people and goods from one place to another and delivering them efficiently and safely is a constant community concern. Ongoing monitoring and reporting of the problems and costs of present modes are a necessary base for adequate decisions and plans. Automobiles are the greatest generator of air pollution, contributing up to 76% of the total environmental damage. The health of more than 29 million Californians is at risk from poor air quality in 33 California counties, of which San Mateo is one. An “F” grade has been given to those counties by the American Lung Association based on Environmental Protection Agency data from 1997 to 1999, the most recent data available.

Fossil fuels are non-renewable resources with hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and other automobile emissions posing immediate health risks. Starting up an automobile for a short trip, or even for a longer commute trip, is when the most exhaust results. Carbon dioxides contribute to long-term climate change. Nitrogen dioxide contributes to a light brownish discoloration of the atmosphere, called “smog.” Other modes of transportation, bicycles, buses, and trains, produce less pollution and generally are safer for passengers. Roads take up valuable land, reduce habitat for wildlife, and consume scarce monetary resources.

Increased automobile travel reduces mobility by causing gridlock and traffic jams resulting in more tailpipe emissions. The San Francisco Bay Area now ranks second in traffic congestion in the United States. Adding lanes to freeways often ends up with more congestion after a short time. Better utilization of our rail corridors by upgrading and adding capacity can reduce pollution. One double track rail line can carry the equivalent of 16 freeway lanes faster and with much less atmosphere damage.

Time spent commuting reduces time available for more productive and valuable activities, leisure time with family and friends, and time spent at home. Mass transit convenience and availability would cut transportation time significantly.

The San Francisco Bay Area leads the nation in carpool usage, but it is third in overall average time taken from home to work—29.6 minutes. Gasoline consumption and air pollution are greater in gridlock and stop-and-go situations than in cars traveling at continuing higher speeds. Construction of new roads also diminishes wildlife habitat and open space areas for leisure activities.

Attitudes toward use of public transit are important. Many feel that mass transit is only for the poor, elderly,

and school children, which is untrue. Use of public transit to and from the airport on SamTrans express buses and Caltrain’s efficient van connection to and from Millbrae are most effective and economical when compared with airport parking fees and congestion at the airport itself when dropping off or picking up passengers.

It is important to stress availability of public transit, its economy and frequency, and its smaller contribution to air pollution (electrified Caltrain and “clean” diesel buses for SamTrans). Emphasizing the convenience of carpools, with reduced parking costs and faster travel in carpool lanes, is one strategy for improving current conditions.

The United States has fewer electrified railroads and transit than even many third-world nations. Electrified railroads and electric automobiles and buses could be placed higher on our list of national priorities with people demanding them and political will to enact appropriate legislation.

INDICATORS USED

This report gives the estimated percentage of commuter and total trips taken in automobiles, transit ridership, estimated increase in percentage of delays during peak travel periods (now almost all day) on 13 automobile corridors, estimated percentage of change in highway vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year—all within San Mateo County.

FINDINGS

Automobile travel continued to comprise 94% of commuter trips in 2001, but the overall total of all trips dropped to 94% from 97% the previous year. The percentage of weekday commute trips into and out of San Mateo County remained constant at 56%, as did the percentage of weekday commute trips within the county at 44%. VMT increased 8%. Hours of delay on major corridors increased 8 % from 1999.

Ridership percentage in 2000 was distributed among the transit systems as follows: SamTrans 50% of total transit ridership, Caltrain at 27%, and BART 23%. SamTrans bus ridership decreased 1% in the year 2000; Caltrain ridership increased 7% while BART ridership decreased 3% in fiscal year 2001 (July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001).

DIRECTION

The number of motor vehicles and freeway congestion in the county increased moderately in 2001, possibly owing to the flattened economy, but still at unacceptably high levels. The policy of “Transit Oriented Development” will partially offset big gains in traffic, but such development is yet to occur, with a few exceptions. Travel along the busy Caltrain and El Camino corridors contin-

ues to increase with housing and businesses in easy walking distance, but much of San Mateo County is hilly and those homes located west of the Alameda and on the coastside will continue to be automobile dependent.

SamTrans plans a new express bus service from Daly City (BART) to Palo Alto on El Camino Real supplementing the half-hourly train service by Caltrain. In 2003 a new "Baby Bullet" express train service will commence on Caltrain allowing faster trains to pass slower locals at select locations on the important trunk rail line. BART's extension to Millbrae with seamless connections to and from Caltrain as well as direct service to San Francisco International Airport will start in late 2002.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, most of the added auto activity for suburban dwellers is not to and from work, but rather the "soccer moms" going to and from

schools, athletic fields, dances, and movies, as well as errands and shopping in general. Unfortunately, in San Mateo County, many of these trips are by SUVs with high fuel consumption and lower pollution standards.

New "Transit Oriented Developments" are now being fostered by San Mateo County cities, an example being Redwood City's City Center Plaza. Any housing within 1/3 mile of a Caltrain or BART station or SamTrans bus line encourages walking to and from that site.

Sources: *San Mateo County Transportation Plan* (CCAG), 2001; *California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 10 year plan*; American Lung Association of California, Fall 2001 bulletin; Greenbelt Alliance; *Caltrain/SamTrans 10-year plan* (2001 issue); Sacramento Area Council of Governments Report, November 2001
Researcher: Arthur Lloyd

UNEMPLOYMENT

IMPORTANCE

The measure of unemployment is vital to understanding the economic well-being of the county as compared with the state and nation. Sustainability of a community is affected positively by a low rate of unemployment. Employment creates stable tax revenues that help to sustain infrastructures and social programs that benefit the community. High unemployment makes costly financial and emotional demands on individuals and families, which in turn puts costly demands on the social services of a community.

INDICATORS USED

The average annual unemployment rates from 1992 through September 2001 for San Mateo County, the State of California, and the United States are reported. These statistics are used to find employment trends in San Mateo County, comparing the county with the state and the nation. Unemployment rates as shown by County Preliminary Data for September 2001 are not seasonally adjusted and are calculated on non-rounded data.

"Employment" includes all non-institutional civilians, 16 years of age and older who are working for a wage or salary, are self-employed, or are working at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th of the month. Those who are on vacation, other kinds of leave, or involved in a labor dispute, are also counted as employed. The employment reports do not include people who work for cash that is not documented.

"Unemployment" includes those individuals 16

years of age and older who are not working but are able, available, and have been looking for employment during the week, including the 12th of the month. Individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are also considered to be unemployed. The unemployment report does not include individuals who are part-time employees who desire full-time employment (from United States Bureau of Labor Statistics).

FINDINGS

San Mateo County's 2001 (through September 2001) unemployment rate of 3.1% is lower than that of the state and the country, both at 5.4%. San Mateo County's unemployment rate is the sixth lowest of all 58 counties in California in the year of 2001. The counties with a slightly lower unemployment rate are San Luis Obispo at 2.5%, Marin at 2.7%, Napa, Sonoma, and Santa Barbara, all at 2.8%.

The unemployment rate of 1% for San Mateo County in the year 2000 was the lowest rate of the last 24 years. The change this year is partially due to dotcom companies, software related services companies, and information-based industries in the county. As some of these companies have downsized or folded, and the overall economy in the United States has cooled down, the unemployment rate in the county has gone up. Also the events of September 11, 2001 have caused significant economic disruption to the nation, California, and the county. The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, issued a non-farm employment report that states it is not possible to separate the overall

UNEMPLOYMENT , *continued*

October employment loss into the effects from the September 11, 2001 events and the effects from a generally weakening employment trend reported for several months prior. However, several of the industries with substantial employment declines in October, particularly air transportation, transportation services (which includes travel agencies), hotels, and eating and drinking places, were undoubtedly affected by the aftermath of the terrorist attacks and widespread decline in travel. The three cities with the lowest unemployment rate are San Carlos and Half Moon Bay at 1.8% and Burlingame at 2%. The areas with the highest unemployment rates are East Palo Alto at 7.9% North Fair Oaks, a census designated place (CDP) in Redwood City, at 6.8%, and Daly City at 4%.

DIRECTION

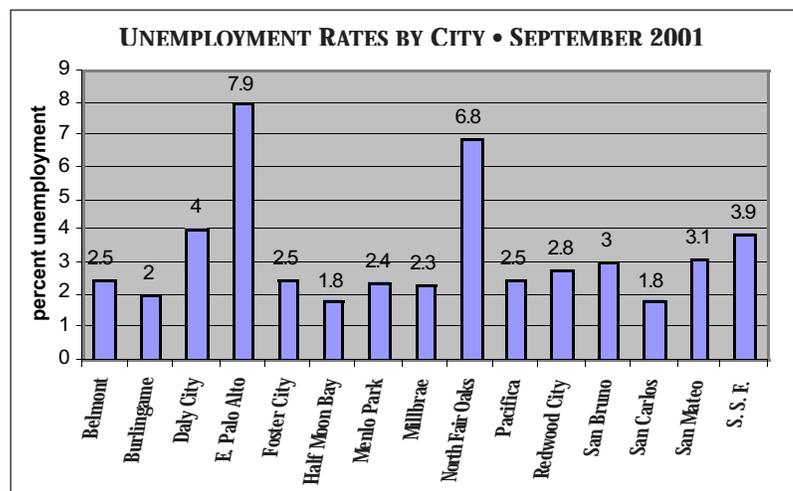
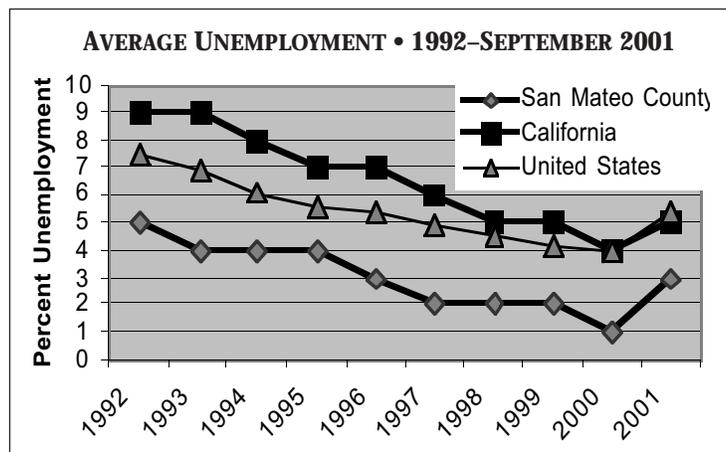
The Employment Development Department (EDD), Labor Market Information Division, combines Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties into San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The October 12, 2001 MSA report combines employment information for these West Bay counties. The unemployment rate in the San Francisco MSA was 4.1% in September, above the year-ago estimate of 2.2%. The unemployment rate was 2.7% in Marin County, 5.6% in San Francisco County, and 3.1% in San Mateo County. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 5.2% for California and 4.7% for the nation during the same period.

The total number of wage and salary jobs in the San Francisco MSA stood at 1,108,700 in September 2001, down by 200 jobs from the August total. Construction recorded a loss of 900 jobs over the month. The finance, insurance, and real estate industry division lost 700 jobs, with payroll reductions in all three of its sectors. Transportation and public utilities reported a decline of 600 jobs, while employment in manufacturing and wholesale trade each dropped by 300 jobs. Government showed a gain of 1,300 jobs. The increase occurred mostly in local and state education with the start of a new school year. Services showed a net increase of 1,200 jobs, largely the result of payroll increase in private schools with the new school term. Farm category added 100 jobs. Mining and retail trade employment remained unchanged. Compared with September 2000, MSA employment rose over the year by 10,100 jobs, or 0.9%. Services led the expansion,

with a net increase of 12,000 jobs. Business services added 6,100 jobs, while engineering and management services gained 2,300 jobs, and private education increased by 1,400 jobs. Government noted an increase of 2,800 jobs; city government and public education account for most of the gains. Transportation and public utilities expanded by 500 jobs from a year ago. On the down side, retail trade netted 1,700 fewer jobs. Finance, insurance, and real estate recorded a decrease of 1,200 jobs from September 2000. Manufacturing showed a net decline of 900 jobs, while construction and wholesale trade each lost 700 jobs. Farm and mining matched last year's job totals.

EDD's Labor Market Information Division projects a 33.8% non-farm job growth in San Mateo County for the years 1997 through 2004.

Sources: State of California, Employment Development Department (EDD); Ruth Kavanagh, EDD Labor Employment Consultant; United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Hotline (Tod Wilson); Department of Labor Information Line (Diana)
 Researcher: Angi Burgess



VOLUNTEERISM

IMPORTANCE

The nonprofit sector provides housing to the homeless, feeds the hungry, cares for the sick, and saves lives in times of disaster. It helps educate the young, protects the elderly, preserves our air and water, and enriches our lives with music and art. Hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the community make a meaningful, measurable difference in the lives of people. Volunteers are increasingly needed as public funding for support services decreases. By tracking who is involved and why they are involved, we can better estimate and engage the future volunteer force.

INDICATORS USED

Five indicators were used to describe volunteerism in San Mateo County. The first estimates the percentage of youth and adults who volunteer, and from that estimate, the value of volunteer work for the county is calculated. The second indicator categorizes the areas of volunteer interest. The third identifies the ethnicity of volunteers. The fourth shows the gender of volunteers. The fifth reports how people get involved in volunteer work.

Data for the first indicator were derived from a survey conducted by the Volunteerism Project and the Volunteer Centers of the Bay Area in 1999. The second, third, and fourth estimates are derived from data collected by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County (VC of SMCO). The fifth estimate comes from findings by the Independent Sector, a nonprofit coalition of 700 national nonprofit organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs.

Tracking volunteerism is difficult. The places where volunteers work are many and varied—schools, hospitals, museums, theater groups, environmental groups, churches, agencies, and service groups of many kinds. Most agencies do their own recruiting for volunteers, and they ask the VC of SMCO for assistance for special occasions or additional help. Many agencies do not collect statistical data on volunteerism and even if they do there is no central point for the compilation of this data.

FINDINGS

The January 1999 *Volunteerism Project's Survey of Volunteering in the San Francisco Bay* found that 42% of adults and 51% of youth volunteered in 1998. Assuming these percentages are still applicable, approximately 275,000 residents in San Mateo County volunteered in 2000 (using population data from *Census 2000*). The Independent Sector estimates that volunteers work on average 3.5 hours per week, a

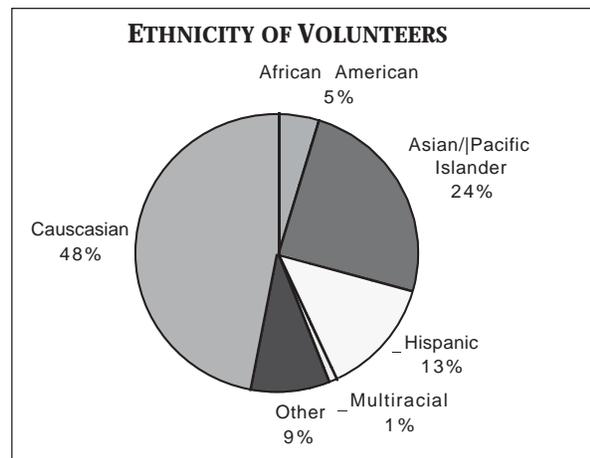
decline from 4.2 hours in 1995, and it assigns a national hourly value of volunteer time to be \$15.39. The total value of work done by volunteers in the county is estimated to be \$770 million.

Data from the VC of SMCO indicate that areas of volunteer interest have shifted in the last two years. The most popular areas for 2000/2001 are community involvement (23%), strengthening families (13%), children's education (16%), and independence of the disabled (12%). This shift can be attributed, in part, to the trend for an increasing number of volunteers seeking short-term projects. Community involvement, building houses for the poor and painting projects for example, has opportunities for short-term work; whereas, working with children, which was the most popular area in 1999, often involves a long-term commitment.

Total volunteers by ethnicity were 48% Caucasian, 24% Asian/Pacific Islander, 13% Hispanic, 5% African American, 9% other, and 1% multiracial. This parallels the racial/ethnic makeup of the county. California County Data Book reported that the racial/ethnic makeup of the county in 1996 was as follows: 366,433 White (51.5%); 154,540 Hispanic (21.7%); 35,173 African-American (4.9%); and 154,856 Asian/Other Race (21.8%).

More women (63%) volunteer than men (37%). This trend is consistent with the findings (61% were women, 39% were men) in 1999.

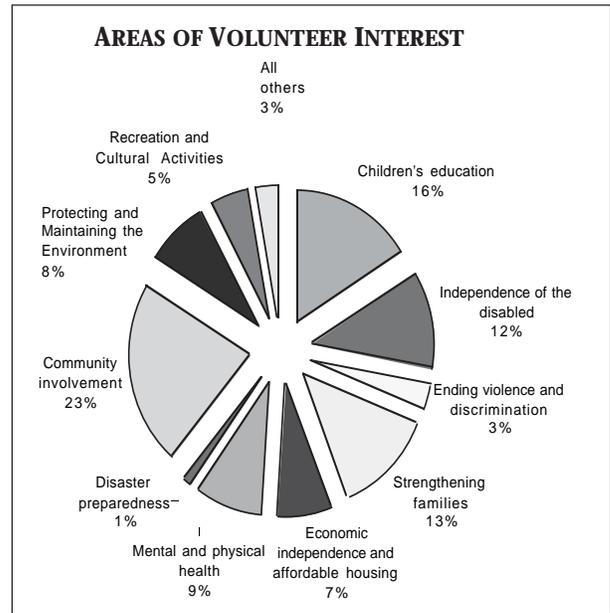
The Independent Sector's surveys over the years consistently show that people are likely to volunteer for three reasons: when asked by someone; through participation in an organization; and through a family member or relative. When asked 89.5% of people volunteer.



DIRECTION

Since no survey on volunteerism has been conducted on a local or national level since 1999, it is difficult to gauge the trend of volunteerism for adults or teens. The total value of volunteer work has increased since the hourly value of volunteer time has increased, while the average number of volunteer hours per week has declined. People seek short-term, episodic volunteer projects and are more likely to volunteer if asked.

Sources: Fran Guevarra, Director of Agency Relations, Volunteer Center of San Mateo County; The Volunteerism Project and The Volunteer Centers of the Bay Area, *Volunteerism Project's Survey of Volunteering in the Bay Area, January 1999*; Independent Sector, *Giving and Volunteering in the United States, Findings from a National Survey, 1999 Edition*; California Department of Finance, *E1 Report 2000*; California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, California State Census Data Center, *Census 2000, Population by Age and by Sex*.
Researcher: Chris Chang Weeks



In trying to develop a new vision of societal well-being, we need to have a new way to measure what is going on in the economy and society . . .

People need access to accurate information and a way to talk over what they have learned in order to understand what is in their long-term best interest.

Cecil Andrews, *The Circle of Simplicity*



We must be the change we wish to see.

Mahatma Gandhi (as quoted by Oscar Arias Sanchez in *Timeline*)



If you don't vote, you don't count.

Vernon Dahmer, Sr., murdered in 1966 for registering African-American voters



VOTER PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANCE

In an ideally sustainable society, citizens participate in making decisions about their communities. Voting is one way they can do so, and is the most easily observed and counted. Low voter turnout is a matter of concern in maintaining a vital community.

INDICATORS USED

Three countywide measurements of voter participation for the off-year (odd-numbered year) elections from 1991-2001 are given: 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 consolidated municipal, school, and special district election of November 6, 2001 is also given.

FINDINGS

Fifty-nine percent of the adult population was registered to vote in the 2001 election. Of those registered 28% actually voted, giving an adult population participation of 16%.

The November 2001 election consisted of school districts (members of the governing boards for the Community College District, Sequoia and San Mateo High School Districts, and six elementary school districts); mayor of San Bruno; city council members for Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Portola Valley, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, and Woodside; city clerks in three cities; treasurer in three cities; directors of fire protection in three districts; directors in one recreation district; directors for three sanitary districts, directors for three water districts; seven school measures for taxes or bonds; two countywide measures; 10 city measures for taxes or bonds; two district-wide measures; and one measure for a proposed district (San Francisco-Brisbane Municipal Utilities District).

A breakdown by city shows a range of 13-57 % of registered voters voting in the 2001 election.

DIRECTION

There is a fairly consistent pattern of voting participation over the last 10 years in off-year elections. Since 1991 the percentage of adult population voting in off-year elections has been less than 20%. Participation in general elections (even-numbered years), in which the president, congressional, and state government officials are elected is higher than participation in off-years. The low level of voter participation in all elections, however, continues to be the most significant trend.

Thirty-six percent of voters voted by absentee ballot, compared with 25% in 2000.

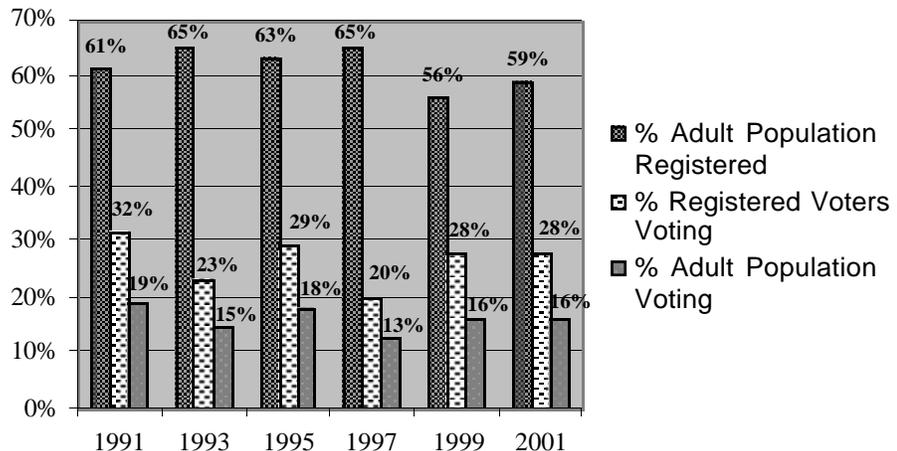
Sources: California State Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; *Supplement to Sales and Marketing Management: 2000 Survey of Buying Power*; *San Mateo County Statement of Vote, Tuesday, November 7, 2001*.

Researcher: Marcia Pagels

PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS VOTING BY CITY • NOVEMBER 2001

Atherton	33	Millbrae	36
Belmont	37	Pacifica	19
Brisbane	48	Portola Valley	57
Burlingame	42	Redwood City	24
Colma	18	San Bruno	30
Daly City	17	San Carlos	34
East Palo Alto	13	San Mateo	25
Foster City	26	So. San Francisco	26
Half Moon Bay	44	Woodside	49
Hillsborough	22	Unincorporated	32
Menlo Park	32		

VOTER PARTICIPATION • 1991-2001



WATER CONSUMPTION

IMPORTANCE

Water is necessary for life. It is also important to humans for everyday activities such as bathing, washing clothes or dishes, and basic living. Water consumption varies based on the amount of rainfall and the average maximum temperature. The higher the temperature and the less rainfall, the greater the water consumption.

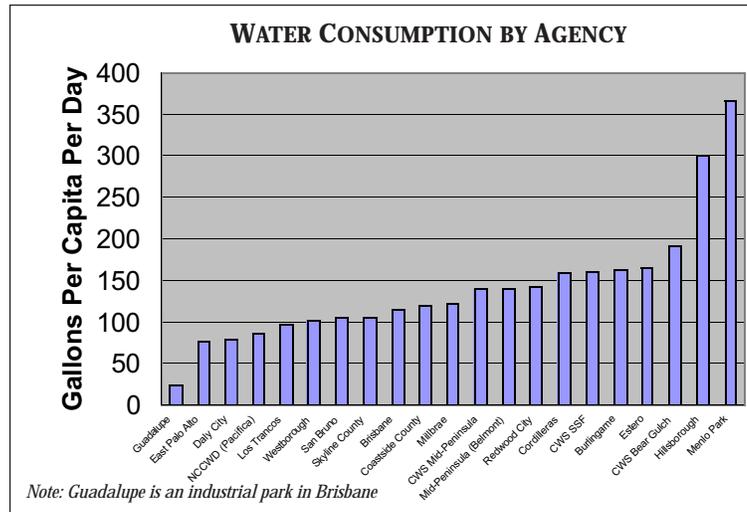
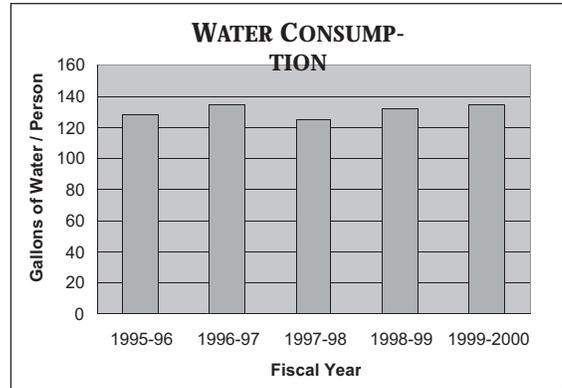
Water conservation is important because current use is overdrawing local sources and relying heavily on faraway sources. With an expanding population and increasing demands on our finite water supply, water conservation is necessary for a community to move toward sustainability. Approximately 90% of San Mateo County water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park. This reservoir is fed by snow melt from the Sierra Nevada mountains. The remaining 10% of San Mateo County water comes from a fresh water aquifer, a natural underground water deposit created by rain percolating through the soil. Increased urbanization—in the form of pavement, buildings, and other impermeable structures—typically diverts rainfall into storm drains, preventing natural recharging of the aquifer. The reduction of inflow as well as overdrawing of water from the aquifer can cause the surrounding earth to collapse, decreasing the capacity for future water storage.

INDICATORS USED

The Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA), a nonprofit corporation representing 29 water retailers (water districts, et al.) in San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara counties, annually surveys and publishes data on water consumption in the areas served by its members. This indicator reports on San Mateo County's annual per capita water consumption for fiscal year (FY) 1999/2000; compares this amount with water consumption in BAWUA's total service area as well as with consumption in San Mateo County for the preceding four years; and compares water consumption rates in different communities within San Mateo County.

FINDINGS

Annual water consumption in San Mateo County for FY 1999/2000 was 47,133,726 ccf (1 ccf = 748 gallons) or 35.3 billion gallons, approaching 100 million gallons per day. Thus per capita consumption for the 715,848 people residing in the San Mateo County service area is 134.9 gallons per day. Although less than the BAWUA service area average of 161.2 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd), it is the highest consumption reported to date in



these *Indicators*. Significantly, the range in daily per capita consumption roughly correlates with affluence. Less affluent jurisdictions, such as East Palo Alto, Daly City, and Pacifica, rank among the lowest water users, while Burlingame, Hillsborough, and Menlo Park are among the highest. Water consumption in Menlo Park, the highest per capita water user (365.6 gpcpd), is nearly five times as high as in East Palo Alto (74.8 gpcpd).

DIRECTION

Water consumption in San Mateo County (134.9 gpcpd) increased about 2.2% over the previous year (132.0 gpcpd) and is the highest reported in these *Indicators* to date. Overall, fluctuations in the past five years have been relatively minor. The difference between the highest year and the lowest (1997/98 — reported by BAWUA to be one of the wettest years in history) is less than 8%, and there is a very small difference (1.5%) between this year and the second highest consumption year (1996/97) analyzed by SSMC. Differences of this magnitude are likely due primarily to natural variations in rainfall and temperature.

Sources: Bay Area Water Users Association, Annual Survey 1999/2000.

Researcher: Ann Edminster

WATER QUALITY • TAP WATER

IMPORTANCE

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.

Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are chemicals that arise in the chlorinating of water and are suspected to be carcinogenic and mutagenic, possibly causing damage to DNA. Lead (Pb) can cause severe learning disabilities in children, elevated blood pressure and neurological ailments in adults, and complications in pregnancy. Copper (Cu) can cause nausea, vomiting, and even death when ingested in large quantities. Because of these risks associated with lead and copper ingestion, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) places special emphasis on the monitoring of lead and copper levels in drinking water.

INDICATORS USED

The most potentially dangerous impurities likely to be found in drinking water were measured. Levels of TTHMs, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), copper, and lead in water delivered by San Mateo County's two largest water suppliers—the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) and the California Water Service Company (CalWater) are reported. Well water supplies a small percentage of the county's water and no data are available. The water quality reports for the SFWD and for CalWater for 1998, 1999, and 2000 were reviewed. The SFWD supplies most of San Mateo County's water, while CalWater supplies water for San Mateo and San Carlos and adjacent unincorporated areas of the county; both SFWD and CalWater supply Menlo Park, Portola Valley, and Woodside. The state and federal governments assign a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for many of the chemical and biological pollutants found in water, and these MCLs are used to suggest assessments of the quality of tap

water provided within the county.

The media have paid a good deal of attention to certain water contaminants in the last several years: chromium 6+, MTBE, and arsenic. Both SFWD and CalWater have tested for these dangerous pollutants and reported that none was detected in treated water.

FINDINGS

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

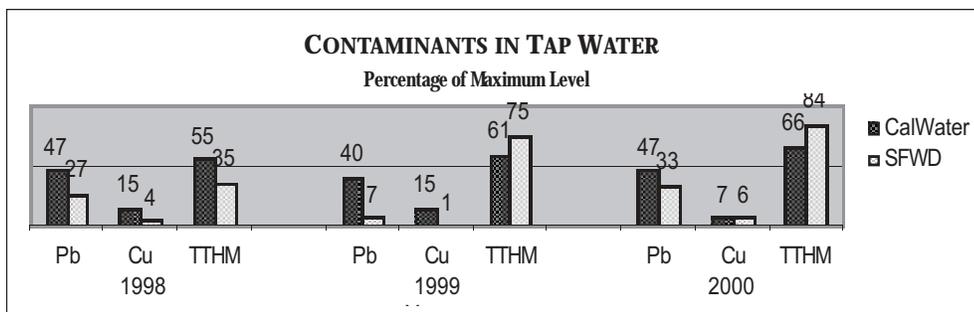
Of the 21 contaminants found in the water supplied by CalWater and SFWD, only TTHMs seemed to give a warning by passing 50% of the MCL. To comply with stricter federal TTHM regulations, the SFWD will substitute new disinfectant chloramines for presently used chlorine by early 2003 to further lower TTHMs levels.

SFWD and CalWater reported in 2000 that no MTBE has been found in county tap water provided by either. Throughout the county, however, reported as recently as August 2001, MTBE is turning up in well water. MTBE is a byproduct of fossil fuel refining and has been used as an oxygenate to be added to gasoline as a way to meet clean air anti-pollution requirements. MTBE is being phased out since it was discovered to be a neurotoxin and possibly a carcinogen. Wherever gasoline tanks have leaks, however, MTBE leaches into the soil and has been found to travel a considerable distance in ground waters, thus polluting wells and the waters of San Francisco Bay.

There is no MCL for lead or copper, but there are Action Levels (AL). An AL tells water managers to cut off any source of water leading to a drinking water use until remedial steps have been taken. An AL, then, is a more stringent measure than an MCL because it requires that water contaminated at an AL reading be shut off. Lead and copper are both associated with pipes inside individual buildings, largely those built before 1945. The lead and copper levels in San Mateo County are well within acceptable levels.

DIRECTION

Although analysis continues to reveal more TTHMs in San Mateo County drinking water, the quality of tap water supplied to the county remains excellent. TTHMs,



TAP WATER QUALITY , *continued*

lead, and copper levels remain below their MCLs or ALs. Continued vigilance must be given to measurements of MTBE near wells supplying drinking water, and TTHMs reduction should begin to appear in the near future.

Sources: California Water Service Company, *San Carlos & San Mateo 2000 Water Quality Report*; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, SF Water Department, *City of San Francisco Water Quality Data 2000*; John Berg, California Department of Health Services, Oakland, CA.; Bowman, Chris, "Judge ups stakes in MTBE cleanup," *The Sacramento Bee*, August 21, 2001; Kay, Jane, "Drinking water in peril," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 26, 2001; Rubien, David, "Water, water, everywhere, but is it safe to drink?" *San*

COMPARISON OF CONTAMINANTS IN TAP WATER • 1998–2000

Contaminant:	1998			1999			2000		
	Pb	Cu	TTHM	Pb	Cu	TTHM	Pb	Cu	TTHM
CalWater	7	200	55	6	200	61	7	90	66
SFWD	4	50	35	1	1	75	5	80	84

CalWater	47	15	55	40	15	61	47	7	66
SFWD	27	4	36	7	1	75	33	6	84

Top two rows of numbers are parts per billion (ppb).
 Bottom two rows are % of Alert Level (AL) or Maximum Contamination Level (MCL)
 AL for Lead (Pb)=15 ppb
 AL for Copper (Cu)=1300 ppb
 MCL for Trihalomethanes (TTHM)=100 ppb

Francisco Chronicle, November 3, 2001.
 Researcher: Wilson Pinney

STATUS OF OTHER INDICATORS

HEALTH CARE

SSMC regrets that no new public health data are included in this issue. No data not already published in our previous indicators were made available by the Health Services Agency, which supplied the statistics for our previous public health indicators: communicable diseases, mortality/morbidity, and prenatal health care. We strongly believe, like Samceda, that "health care is a critical issue for San Mateo County." For their critical issues, in a recent newsletter, *The Voice*, they used: sufficient number of hospital beds, bringing local hospitals up to seismic standards, shortage of health care professionals, health needs of our aging population, and the increasing cost of health care. The County of San Mateo in *Shared Vision 2010, the Promise of the Peninsula*, selected the number of children immunized by age 2 and the percent of health clinics accessible by public transit to highlight as significant signs of the health care community's ability to meet current and foreseeable needs.

SSMC perceives our regrettable lack of health care indicators this year to be an opportune time to review the quality and number of indicators we have been using up to now. First we would need to inventory current

health care provisions for handling day-to-day needs and readiness for civic emergencies. Our criteria of sustainability require that we consider the economic, environmental, and social equity aspects of each indicator in the context of a comprehensive interrelationship with all of the others. Possibilities for next year's health indicators could be the Adequacy of Health Insurance, School Health Care Education for Children, and Civic Health Care Preparedness. We urgently solicit your suggestions. Please tell us early enough to allow sufficient time to research and study the issues involved, find adequate timely sources of information and statistics, and prepare a report.

HOMELESSNESS (*Summary reprinted from last year; no new information available*)

The total number of homeless in the county has remained fairly steady from 1994 to 1998. 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.

SUPPORTERS

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I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TIME AND EFFORT

- Help with presentations
- Help the Indicators Project report on San Mateo County's sustainability
- Work with the Business Task Force
- Work with the Education Task Force
- Participate in presenting the Annual Sustainability Award
- Promote sustainability through other actions or projects

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