



San Mateo County South Coast Community Conversation Appendix

February 27, 2017
La Honda Pescadero Unified School District, Board Room,
360 Butano Cutoff, Pescadero, California

The detailed notes below are actual comments and feedback from the participants from this community conversation and may not reflect the opinions or future plans of the community foundation.

QUESTION ONE

What are the most pressing issues in Pescadero?

(Two breakout circles, total of 30 participants)

DETAILED NOTES FROM CRITICAL QUESTION ONE

Flooding

- Town/Road Flooding.
- Flooding (3x).
- Roads that flood and break down in storms (2x).
- Butano Creek flooding.
- Cannot get state parks and beaches to clean sand from creek to reduce flooding.
- Pescadero Creek and its tributaries are impaired by this sand and sedimentation that causes flooding.
- Coastal Commission is a barrier as it retains jurisdiction and issuance of coastal clean up and development.
- Healthy communities via water, lack sewage disposal.
- Waste water floods roads and agricultural lands.
- Residents become unable to navigate landscape.
- Waste water and flooding.
- Water quality and flooding.
- Flooding/solutions for flooding (4x).
- Solutions for flooding.

Affordable housing & land

Affordable housing

- Housing affordability and availability.
- Housing and affordable housing.
- Housing (3x).
- Clean and affordable housing.
- Teachers driving long distance to come in to work in Pescadero, unable to keep teachers because there is no availability of housing.
- Lack of farmworker housing.
- Urgente es vivienda.
- Vivienda porque no hay rentas para las personas que necesitan.
- Affordable Housing (2x).
- Housing, availability, security, safety.
- affordable, housing for workforce.
- Affordable housing, restrictions on raising houses.
- Affordable housing and protection for low wage tenants.
- Affordable housing for all income levels.
- Affordable housing (professional, teachers, workers, etc.)
- Housing for school teachers.
- Housing/Vivienda.
- “Who gets to live here? Tourists, open space, us? I ended up here, but who gets to stay here?”

Farmland

- Arable and affordable land for farmworkers.
- Access to land for farming.
- Access to affordable arable/farmable land.

Connectivity / isolation

- Isolation from the rest of the county.
- Outside resources do not trickle in.
- Rural isolation.
- Lack of community space.
- Lack of social opportunities.
- Lack of community space, “no big square” for people to gather socially.
- Integration in the community, like tonight but it doesn’t happen that often, this is really cool to be able to communicate, but it doesn’t happen often.

- A place to hang out, there is no place to be to convene, or communicate, used to be Cindy's but it burned, and maybe the post office, but there is no place to be, no gathering.

Segregation, along lines of race, class, ethnicity, local versus tourist

- Cultural divide that exists between different groups in the community.
- "Two Pescaderos... A Latino Pescadero and an Anglo Pescadero."
- Issues of Race, socio-economic class divisions.
- Issues of race divisions and socioeconomic class divisions.
- Cultural diversity.
- No discounts for locals.
- Due to the lack of groceries and other services, locals should have discounts on the goods and services that they cannot afford.

Infrastructure

Water, sewage, garbage

- Infrastructure: water, wastewater, coordinated services, roads.
- Healthy community via water and sewage disposal.
- Access to public services.
- Garbage services raising rates and illegal dumping.
- No public garbage system, illegal dumping.
- Dump is only open three days a week.
- Approval for package waste water systems.
- Sewer treatment and sustainable water supply.

Communication and Internet

- Lack of reliable communication infrastructure.
- Lack of cell phone service throughout Pescadero.
- If/when power goes out, no way to be in touch with other members of community and beyond.
- Communication and access to reliable internet.
- Many families lack internet because Comcast hasn't found some areas, which handicaps youth academic success.
- Access to Internet – Comcast doesn't invest to build infrastructure in the area.
- We need to fix our problems and telephone signals and internet.
- Cell phones service /servicio celular con buena señal.
- Kids have homework online and they do not have internet.

Transportation

- Transportation.

- No public transportation for students who attend community college outside of Pescadero to get to classes.
- No transportation for youth to attend afterschool programming.
- Transporte para la comunidad.
- Public transit(2x).
- Infrastructure, transportation accessibility.
- Transportation for youth to go to college.
- Finding reliable transportation for high school students going to community college.

Emergency services

- Better coordination and emergency prep from all entities of county.
- "No one was monitoring the creek, no one was informing residents when there were emergencies."
- Help with flooding and other disasters.
- Improvement for fire, water, and infrastructure.
- Emergency communication for the whole community, we don't have community wide anything – newspaper, radio station, etc.
- Emergency fire station and emergency communication system.

Basic Needs

Water

- Water quality.
- Schools with unsuitable drinking water.
- Potable water in the high school.

Food

- A supermarket, a place to wash clothes.
- Access to healthy and affordable food.
- Access to fresh groceries.
- Local, sustainable food supply.
- Food store of food bank or combo with jobs.
- Community food security.

Laundry

- Lack of Laundromat (2x).
- No laundromat means residents must travel miles on weekends or whenever able to do laundry.
- Laundry/place to wash clothes/lavandería.
- En mi caso necesitamos un lugar para lavar. Como también para hacer compras.

Access to health care

- Lack of access to health clinic.
- Lack of access for farmworkers to affordable healthcare.
- Access for farmworkers to affordable healthcare.
- Health.
- Clínica porque las personas tienen que ir fuera de aquí. Solo tenemos un vez por semana un doctor.
- Healthcare for community.
- Healthcare access.
- Need a clinic.
- Health clinic (2x).
- Local health care safety.
- Ob-Gyn pediatric additional clinic services.
- Teen health center.

Public facilities and parking

- Lack of public bathrooms, public parking, on county lands and in town.
- “We are the Bay Area’s playground on the weekend” and there is nowhere for visitors to use the bathroom.

Childcare

- Lack of daycare/childcare.
- Some family members who would otherwise be able are either unable to work to take care of children or children must stay with someone who maybe isn’t registered/qualified in childcare.
- Space for childcare.

Recreational facilities

- Parks (central place to go with kids and strollers).
- Public swimming pool.
- Community center that has health care and swimming pool, food store.

Education and resources to support young people

Resources to support young people

- No opportunities for youth to attend afterschool programming.
- Youth teen health - confidential accessibility.
- Drug and alcohol use by adults and teens, perhaps due to lack of social opportunities.
- Lack of weekend activities for family enrichment
- No movie theater, no little league, no theater program, etc.
- Unable to sustain funding for activities like little league. Therefore it is unavailable for youth.

- Youth center – a place where youth can go, basketball, fun, dances, kids have nowhere to go,
- We need a little YMCA here.
- Youth stay home, on Wednesdays I go to open gym for two hours, and that's about it, I would go every night if they have it open, I stay home otherwise.
- School needs more personnel to organize these things, connects with finances, more staff to implement extra-curricular programs.

Education

- Education that leads to project based learning, new kinds of curriculum that focus on problem solving and utilizing working lands in the area.
- Few education opportunities that prepare you for the real world.
- Would like to see us as a community define our school that will meet the challenges posed by the new voucher system grow the school that will fit our community, the new voucher system – what could we do to get those vouchers to meet the needs of the community.
- More staff at school - morning and afternoon.
- Trade classes for high school like shop, culinary arts, could use a corporate sponsor for those classes, not everyone is college material, and every college bound student should know that, and we could have a lot of local hires.
- Opportunities leading to internships for youth.
- Money for youth to go to college.
- Support with transition of youth to go to college.
- School needs more personnel to organize these things, connects with finances, more staff to implement extra-curricular programs.
- Additional long term funding for education.

Immigration

- Lack of services.
- Necesidades de la comunidad: primer lugar – vivienda, una clínica estable, lavandería.
- Fear of family member/self-deportation.
- Immigration services where people feel safe to go to.
- *"Immigration and how we can protect them in current political environment."*
- Green card acquisition for long-standing undocumented people, need safety at this point in time.

Economic sustainability

- Viable working lands, paying livable wage jobs.
- Economic disparities.
- Agriculture and economic sustainability in a changing economy.
- Community bank, the money goes in, it's a nonprofit, give it to people for small business, when they make a profit it goes back in and goes to more people.

Lack of coordination/communication among entities/imbalance

- We have resources here that are not being used.
- Better coordination between funding entities.
- Collective impact approach to solving complex problems – looking at intersections of a problem from economic to education to environment and bringing them together - example: food justice, community food security, if building a community center that doesn't tap into long term economic security. Use this overarching approach to all of this.
- Post and mid-pen not paying property taxes forever, they will never pay taxes, school district is losing 700K/year, they don't pay for first responders, anything – it is all free and that is not right, someone should help fund the endowment to cover the missing taxes.
- Two competing goals of conserving valuable open space, and the way the laws work one good thing has been at the expense of another, instead of one being pitted against the other, an endowment solution would be a win/win.
- Land use and construction facilitation, zoning needed.

QUESTION TWO

How can SVCF add value and best engage to help solve the most pressing issues in Pescadero?

(Two breakout circles, total of 30 participants)

DETAILED NOTES FROM CRITICAL QUESTION TWO:

Funding

Community basic services

- A laundromat!
- Help us staff and equip a clinic.

Programming for youth

- Fund youth development, cultural sharing, race issues, services, AOD, LGBTQ, Job development, College prep information, counseling.
- Multiyear funding in youth programs, we cannot tell the youth this year we have you covered and next year we will see.
- Investment in Early childcare and education.
- Multiyear investment in youth development workforce development.

Housing

- Identify resources housing.
- Prefab housing for teachers on school land, could be a part of their compensation (SVCF would fund).
- Identify resources to address the affordability and availability of housing.
- Buscar la solución para poner más recursos en viviendas.

Planning

- Provide funding for comprehensive inclusive area plan that addresses core issues with funding for said solutions.
- Help fund planning for community resilience (multiyear) emergency response and planning for sea level rise.

Immigration

- Immediate funding for immigration services.

Community center/communication/events

- FSVCF can develop grant programs to support building and programming for community center.
- Help bring groups together to figure out all-encompassing community center.
- Funding for community center – gathering place or meetings, after school programs and classes for art, cooking, gardening and childcare.
- Fund community-building regular weekend local event and activities.

- Fund events themselves and an improved communications and scheduling system to share opportunities.

Infrastructure

- Transportation for college students in and out of Pescadero.
- Hay que invertir recursos para transportación a los colegios para los estudiantes
- Fund capital infrastructure improvement projects.

Convene and facilitate within Pescadero, coordination; convene partners and moderate conversations to identify solutions

- Moderate planning and collaboration in Pescadero, we need someone from the outside to help us be neutral with each other.
- Convening for innovative systems/solutions.
- Help facilitate discussion on local coastal plan, hazard mitigation and town planning for water and sewer and housing.
- Facilitate a "solution funding process: between County, community members, etc.
- Speak to government on our behalf.
- Help fund and facilitate more meetings to develop community solutions to problems stated.
- Bring together the partners we need to create all-encompassing community center – including financing, planning, and people (2x).
- Convene and facilitate civil discourse on long held views and complex issues of environment and infrastructure.
- "You're in SV with all the money and decision makers, we have property owners that have huge chunks of property that we never see, and we can use some of their money and their input into community but we don't know them, would be nice to have a get together to facilitate that to meet their neighbors."
- Fund a community meeting to plan for infrastructure – convening and funding.
- Local collaborative is not still in place, founded around 20 years ago, Carol Young-Holt had the vision, with others, to bring together all the critical organizations serving the community, county agencies and local decision makers with philanthropy institutions to identify issues and create solutions. Addressed issues of education, transportation, health care, emergency preparedness, isolation from resources in San Mateo County.
- Host/fund initiatives that include DIVERSE constituencies to solve systematic issues.
- Collaboration and funding that is interdisciplinary among organizations/expertise; For example, ensuring the health of Pescadero's children is a mission that can and should bring everyone to the table.
- Overarching planning tool or process to come together to identify community needs and efficiently plan action steps.
- Fund a housing task- force – convening and funding.
- Moderate planning collaboration.
- Support creation of cohort for South coast planning committee comprised of local stakeholders, funding for creating comprehensive area plan, there could be a plan to go back to with specific agencies in charge based on core competencies.
- Support with workshops so there is more communication within the group (similar to tonight with translation and mixed groups).

Advocacy, help develop and support a political presence/voice for Pescadero needs

- Increase feedback loop with community. Advocate for Pescadero needs.
- Advocacy and expertise for policy action: water (clean and affordable), flooding, coastal commission, county.
- “Flex political muscle to allow Pescadero to make our own decisions.”
- Pescadero is dependent on county for resources.
- People want to keep us isolated. Pescadero is rural and beautiful so we can be a playground for Silicon Valley on the weekends.
- “Can’t keep Pescadero as a weekend getaway at expense of the livelihood of its community members.”
- Tap into the Foundation’s role of understanding local public policy to leverage credibility and political independence.
- Solicit SVCF’s support to endorse Pescadero community’s input and interest on important local decisions made OUTSIDE county.
- Hablar con los representantes del condado o con un gobernador.
- Bring our issues to the outside world.
- Once a year come to a community council meeting; have SVCF listen carefully so they can be advocates at county level.

Promote and sponsor community connectivity

- Community fun events - some of our best moments is when we are having fun as a community – like Sunday afternoon at the fun festival, we don’t have enough things that are fun as an integrated community, sponsorship for events.
- Something like Nextdoor.
- We have a big board in town, and if you want to know what is going on, you look at the board. We need something more accessible and robust.
- Improved community communication, develop systems, tools, etc.
- Urban/rural partnership – not seeing Pescadero so isolated but seeing opportunities to bring coast-side to hillside.

Procure technical expertise

- Legal counsel for community, contractual obligations and broken promises about maintaining the marsh.
- Provide consultant for technical assistance on new sewer system, green infrastructure and “one water” approach to storm weather.
- SVCF guidance and assistance on clean water, flooding, etc. How do we navigate it all?
- Commission research.
- Advocacy and expertise for policy action: water (clean and affordable), flooding, coastal commission, county.

Build capacity locally

- Trainings, leadership development, ability to analyze research, how not navigate systems that already exist.
- Introducing youth to leadership, ethnic diversity, resources for LGBTQ, counseling.

- Learning opportunity to youth that that they can bring back, share and implement.

Research

- Research other remote community resource solutions.
- "What we can customize to our area based on our particular issues."
- Commission research.
- SVCF can do research on innovative solutions to "food desserts."

Policy

- Support policy initiatives like the Local Food and Farm bill that San Mateo Food Systems Alliance is working on now, take a failed federal policy and make it work for here.
- Apoyando con talleres para crear más trabajo y sobre todo tener oportunidad de obtener más dinero así como aprender a trabajar en equipo.

Link and leverage diverse funding streams for basic needs and infrastructure

- Coordinate advocacy efforts with government agencies and leaders that lead to specific public and private funding and can lead to public support for larger scale projects/local infrastructure.
- Advocate for infrastructure review and planning.

Strategic approach for philanthropy and SVCF

- Host/fund initiatives that include DIVERSE constituencies to solve systematic issues.
- Collaboration and funding that is interdisciplinary among organizations/expertise; For example, ensuring the health of Pescadero's children is a mission that can and should bring everyone to the table.
- A lot of their DAFs are from tech billionaires and can be tapped for their expertise to fix communications problems.
- Multi-year funding (several times).
- Larger investment into complimentary organizations addressing innovative systemic solutions.
- Work small we have the opportunity - we are so small and rural we can make a huge impact because we are so small, so small changes can have an a huge impact because of the size, it is easier to do because we are so much smaller, and the changes and benefits radiate to the larger community, tackling any of these issues like the community center, "small changes make a big impact here."
- Collective impact approach to solving complex problems – looking at intersections of a problem from economic to education to environment and bringing them together - example: food justice, community food security, if building a community center that doesn't tap into long term.