

COMMUNITY ISSUES

At the community workshops held in late winter 2007, North Fair Oaks residents gathered to identify and prioritize key community concerns. These issues follow.



A. NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Top Issues

- Frequency of street sweeping
- Loud music from cars and homes
- Lack of street trees
- Code enforcement (*including abandoned cars*)
- Road condition
- Sewer capacity
- Inconsistent zoning
- Lack of street lights
- Lack of after-school youth activities

Other Concerns

- Lack of consistency in garbage collection
- Flooding problems
- Graffiti problems
- Billboard placement and content
- Lack of signage overall

- Lack of signage in Spanish
- Lack of signage about parking policies
- Cars for sale or repair in streets
- Cars parked illegally in streets (*especially when these cars impede street sweeping*)
- Impacts of Hetch Hetchy pipeline expansion
- Barking dogs
- Need for college-level or adult classes that don't affect residential parking situations
- Cleanliness of vacant lots
- People who do not clean up after dogs
- Potential impacts of Dumbarton Caltrain line
- Spilled gasoline from gas stations (especially gas station at 8th and Middlefield)
- Dangerous diagonal parking
- Responsiveness of Public Works on flooding and other road condition issues
- No way to make anonymous calls or complaints about road problems
- Lack of design review for commercial buildings
- Inadequate garbage collection along Middlefield
- Need for sidewalks and commercial areas to be swept and cleaned
- Too many potholes/streets with standing water
- Problematic precedent of needing to tip Allied Waste in order to have all garbage cans picked up



- Perception of favoritism with respect to road repairs and improvements
- Lack of clarity on who maintains rail corridor

B. HOUSING

Top Issues

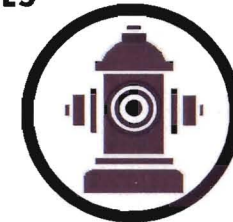
- Overcrowding
- Housing affordability for low-income residents

- Subdivision of large lots/Non-conforming lot sizes (*both legal and illegal*)
- Lack of a shelter for residents experiencing homelessness

Other Concerns

- Cost of housing
- Rent control
- Displacement of residents/gentrification
- Garage conversions and other renovations that intensify residential uses
- Absentee landlords
- Not enough home improvement loans

C. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES



Top Issues

- Quality of local schools
- Safe routes to school
- Lack of community parks
- Lack of a cultural center for youth and families
- Use of PUC right-of-way for parks
- Lack of a job training center

Other Concerns

- Community gardens
- Joint use of park and school facilities

- Information about available services
- Lack of quality child care
- Later garbage collection
- Trash and recycling pickup
- Pickup of bulky items
- Bulk trash and electronic waste on streets
- Lack of trashcans on Middlefield Road
- Lack of portable toilets for day workers
- Lack of dog parks
- Lack of funding for FOBA activities and other community-based initiatives
- Not enough sidewalk maintenance



D. LOCAL ECONOMY

Economic development in North Fair Oaks is also a concern for many residents, who would like to see additional local-serving retail establishments and better

support for local businesses in general. In addition, commercial façades along Middlefield Road need improvement.

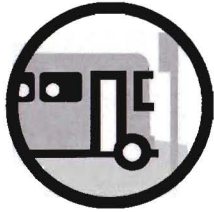
Top Issues

- Lack of neighborhood-serving retail services
- Lack of a Latino chamber of commerce
- Condition of commercial façades
- Lack of support for new businesses



Other Concerns

- Lack of a day workers' center
- Lack of a North Fair Oaks business alliance
- Need for better financing for businesses
- Problems with unlicensed businesses
- Need for basic services: hardware store, pharmacy, grocery stores, etc.
- Need for bank or ATMs on Middlefield Road



E. TRANSPORTATION

Top Issues

- Safety of pedestrian crossings
- Speeding
- Safety of major intersections

Other Concerns

- Safety of railroad crossings
- Lack of transportation for older residents
- Need for traffic calming
- Poor bicycle access and paths
- Poor access to transit
- Poor design of Middlefield Road
- Too much traffic turning right off of Middlefield Road during commute hours
- Problematic placement and size of chicanes
- Concerns about the cost and longevity of patching versus paving
- Problems with cut-through traffic

F. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Top Issues

- Gang presence
- Lack of community policing
- Racial profiling by the police
- Drug dealing
- Lack of sheriff response to “hot spots”
- Lack of emergency clinics

- Public drinking
- Loitering
- Lack of universal health and safety standards
- Commercial dumping of toxic substances
- Number of neighborhood liquor licenses
- Slow CHP response to local traffic accidents
- Poor service at the North Fair Oaks Clinic

Other Concerns

- Too much aircraft noise
- Poor water quality
- Lack of places to buy quality water
- Air pollution
- Alcohol sales to minors
- Too little collaboration between North Fair Oaks neighborhoods
- High juvenile crime and detention rates
- Lack of North Fair Oaks-specific fire codes
- Lack of enforcement of open container law
- Lack of access to health care
- Lack of police presence at parks at night
- Inconsistent light/siren use by emergency vehicles
- Need for better community information on liquor laws affecting North Fair Oaks
- No public pool or soccer field for youth
- Problems with car racing