

8

PARKS, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

8.1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The variety, capacity, and quality of public facilities and services that serve a community significantly affect the quality of life enjoyed by those who live, work, and own property there. These services are also a major factor in determining the amount, location, and type of growth that a community can anticipate and will also affect its ability to attract the kind of new development that Castro Valley residents and business owners would like to see in the future.

This element provides policies and proposals to ensure that the public facilities and services the community relies on will have the capacity to serve new development under the General Plan without degrading existing service levels.

As an unincorporated community, Castro Valley relies on Alameda County and a variety of single and multi-purpose special districts for community services. This part of the Plan distinguishes issues related to County services and those service providers over which the County has no jurisdiction.

[Additional text to be added]

GOAL 8-1:

Goal 1.1: Provide and maintain adequate sites and facilities to meet education, cultural, recreation, health care, and related needs of all present and future Castro Valley residents. Make optimal use of facilities while minimizing disruption to neighborhoods resulting from the expansion and use of public facilities.

POLICIES

Policy 8.1-1 ***Environmental Justice in Provision of Community Facilities/Services.*** Ensure environmental justice in the provision of community services and facilities so that all segments of the community have equal access to facilities and none are disproportionately affected by any potential adverse impact.

Policy 8.1-2 ***Identification of Program and Service Needs.*** Work with public agencies that provide community facilities and services to identify the program and service needs of all segments of the community;

Policy 8.1-3 ***Design and Location of Programs/Facilities.*** Design and locate programs and facilities in a manner that will maximize access while avoiding over-concentration that may result in adverse impacts such as traffic and noise.

Policy 8.1-4 ***Prioritization of Funds for Community Services/Facilities.*** Allocate public funds to provide new or improved parks and other community services and facilities to developed areas within existing services areas in accord with the following priorities:

- Areas where existing service and facility deficiencies are now or will constitute a serious hazard to public health and safety;
- Areas where the level of service and/or adequacy of existing facilities and services does not meet community-wide standards;
- Areas where improvement to facilities and services would positively stimulate the maintenance and/or rehabilitation of private property and or other private investment consistent with this Plan;
- Areas where inadequate or deficient public services and

facilities impede development consistent with this Plan.

Design and locate all community and neighborhood service facilities to allow for access by foot, bicycle, public transit, and other alternatives to the private automobile. When appropriate, locate facilities close to retail commercial uses or in mixed use developments to allow patrons to minimize vehicle trips.

Locate and design community facilities and sites in single-family residential areas to be compatible with surrounding development and to minimize traffic, noise, and other disturbances to nearby residents by adhering to the following principles:

- Locate parking areas to divert use-related automobile traffic away from residential streets.
- Locate community and neighborhood service facilities involving high levels of activity – day and/or night – outside of, or at the perimeter of, residential neighborhoods. Where this is not possible, provide adequate buffering (e.g., use of walls, landscaping, setbacks), design measures (e.g., location of activity areas, parking areas), and regulate activities to minimize impacts on adjoining residential areas.

Policy 8.1-5 **Public Ownership of Public Facilities.** Retain all public service facilities in public ownership and maintain their use for the public benefit.

Policy 8.1-6 **Closure or Alternative Use of Community Facilities.** Decisions regarding the closure and/or alternative uses of community and neighborhood service facilities shall be based on an assessment of both short and long-term service needs, reflecting existing and projected characteristics of the service area population, and planned changes in land use

Policy 8.1-7 **Use of General Plan Policies for Decisions Regarding Community Facilities.** Decisions regarding specific alternative public or private uses of close/surplus public service sites should be governed by the goals and policies of the Castro Valley General Plan and any specific plan the County has adopted that is applicable to the site and pertaining to the specific use proposed.

ACTIONS

- Action 8.1-1 **Community Improvement Districts.** Explore formation of a Community Improvement District to provide an additional mechanism for funding physical improvements and other programs to enhance the quality of the Castro Valley community.
- Action 8.1-2 **Community Centers.** Work with the Castro Valley and Hayward Unified School Districts, the Hayward Area Recreation District, the Alameda County Library, and Eden Medical Center to establish a network of community centers that offer services such as childcare, healthcare, and recreational programs. Identify a location for at least one new building to house such services. Utilize existing public facilities to the maximum extent feasible to create a more extended network of service locations. For example, consider adding services at the new library, existing senior center, existing community theater, etc. Priority should be given to services for seniors and indoor recreation areas for school age children.
- Action 8.1-3 **LAFCO’s Municipal Services Review Process.** Participate in the Alameda County LAFCO’s municipal services review process to evaluate the adequacy and need for community facilities and services in Castro Valley relative to other places in Alameda County. Evaluate infrastructure needs and deficiencies, financing constraints and opportunities, opportunities for shared facilities, and other conditions that affect their capacity to provide services to support projected growth and development.
- Action 8.1-4 **Establishment of a Public and Semi-Public Zoning District.** Amend the Alameda County Zoning Ordinance to establish a Public and Semi-Public Zoning District that would apply to existing and proposed public and institutional uses such as Eden Medical Center, East Bay MUD pumping facilities, and public and private schools. Include provisions to ensure that closure of an existing public facility and conversion to private development requires a public hearing and rezoning application.
- Action 8.1-5 **Establishment of a Parks and Open Space Zoning District.** Amend the Alameda County Zoning Ordinance to establish a Parks and Open Space Zoning District. Include provisions in the ordinance that establish a “no net loss”

policy for public open space.

- Action 8.1-6 Promotion of Mixed-Use Project that Include Community Facilities.** Amend the Alameda County Zoning Ordinance to promote the development of mixed use projects that include community facilities and services including standards to ensure compatibility and appropriate incentives.

8.2 PARKS AND RECREATION

Castro Valley has close to 130 acres of neighborhood and community parks, or approximately two acres of local parkland for every 1,000 residents, as described in Table 8-1. (Note to Reviewer; we are verifying the exact number) This is less local parkland than the residents of Hayward enjoy (2.37 acres per 1,000), but more than San Leandro (1.57 per 1,000) and the unincorporated area of San Lorenzo (1.63 per 1,000). In addition to neighborhood and community parks owned and operated by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Castro Valley residents also have access to more than 5,700 acres of East Bay Regional Park District facilities within or adjacent to the community. A more important measure of the adequacy of parklands in urbanized areas is the distance residents need to walk (ideally) or drive to reach a neighborhood park. As shown in Figure 8-1, most Castro Valley neighborhoods are within a 10-minute walk of a neighborhood or community park. However the most western neighborhoods of Castro Valley do not have a park within a 10-minute walking distance.

Castro Valley is part of the 64 square mile service area of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD), the largest recreation district in the State. The District also serves the City of Hayward and the major unincorporated areas of Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Cherryland, Ashland and Fairview. Since its formation in 1944 to operate recreation programs on school playgrounds, HARD has continued to coordinate its operations with local school districts and about half of Castro Valley's neighborhood parks are School Parks that are adjacent to or part of public school facilities.

Several of the community's newer parks, including Deerview, Palomares Hills and Five Canyons, were developed as a result of dedication requirements imposed as conditions of approval of major subdivisions. The acquisition and development of parks in unincorporated areas of Alameda County is also financed through impact fees paid by residential developers. The fee for new single-family homes increased to \$11,550 in July 2006 under a three-year phase-in program that the Board of Supervisors approved in July 2004. The fees for multi-family units, senior and affordable housing development, and mobile home parks are \$10,200, \$5,775, and \$7,975 per unit respectively. These fees make it possible to acquire a limited amount of land for small new parks, but is not adequate to pay for full-size neighborhood or community park sites, capital

improvements, or ongoing operations and maintenance. As a result, HARD heavily relies on voter-approved parcel taxes to cover these costs.

[Additional text to be added]

GOAL 8-2:

Provide and maintain, in coordination with other public agencies, a system of local public park and recreation facilities offering a variety of active, passive, and cultural recreational opportunities that is adequate to meet the diverse recreational needs of community residents Also consider the additional demands of those who work in the community but are not residents.

POLICIES

- Policy 8.2-1 **Parkland Standards.** Provide additional neighborhood and community park and recreation facilities in the Castro Valley planning area to increase and maintain a parkland standard of at least 3 acres for every 1,000 residents.
- Policy 8.2-2 **Use of HARD, EBRPD and School Districts for Neighborhood/Community Parks.** Continue to rely on the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD), the East Bay Regional Park District and other public agencies such as the school districts to develop and maintain neighborhood and community parks to serve Castro Valley.
- Policy 8.2-3 **Identification of Areas Underserved by Parkland.** Use HARD standards to identify areas that are underserved and as a basis for planning and prioritizing community and neighborhood parks and facilities to serve Castro Valley’s existing and projected population.
- Policy 8.2-4 **Pocket Parks.** Where appropriate, provide smaller “pocket parks,” that can serve an area no more than one quarter mile in radius, with a population no greater than 4,000. Work with HARD to amend park standards to allow such “pocket parks” in developed areas where acquisition of larger size sites is not feasible. Neighborhood park service areas should be bounded, but not intersected, by major streets.
- Policy 8.2-5 **Protection of Neighborhood-Serving Parks.** Neighborhood-serving parks include sites developed by private developers in accord with the standards of this plan that are permanently protected by dedication, easement, or other legal means against conversion to non-park purposes.

- Policy 8.2-6 ***Improvement of Existing Parks.*** Improve existing parks in Castro Valley. Renovate and add new facilities such as playgrounds, parking, restrooms, etc. Acquire key parcels adjacent to existing parks that would provide greater street frontage and visibility and/or make them safer and more usable.
- Policy 8.2-7 ***Terrain of Local Parks.*** Ensure that the terrain of local park sites is suitable to accommodate the intended uses and activities, and doesn't present drainage problems, potential for landslides or other physical hazards or constraints.
- Policy 8.2-8 ***Park Accessibility.*** Locate and plan park and recreation facilities to facilitate access by foot, bicycle, and public transit as well as private automobile.
- Policy 8.2-9 ***Location of Neighborhood and Community Parks Near Center of Service Area.*** To the extent possible, locate neighborhood and community recreation facilities near the center of their service areas, except where alternative sites may offer considerable advantages (e.g., significant natural features and vistas, incorporation of a public utility easement, etc.) over a centrally located site. Neighborhood and community recreation facilities should be conveniently accessible from all parts of their service areas and not separated from residents in their service areas by natural or manmade barriers. Sites that would require hazardous travel should generally not be used as recreation facilities.
- Policy 8.2-10 ***Location of Neighborhood and Community Parks Near Residential Areas.*** Neighborhood and community parks and recreation facilities should, to the extent possible, be located in or immediately adjacent to predominantly residential areas and within a reasonable 10 to 15 minute walking distance of the population the park is intended to serve.
- Policy 8.2-11 ***Location of Community Park and Recreation Facilities Near Major Streets and Public Transit.*** Site community parks and recreation facilities close to major streets and to public transit service.
- Policy 8.2-12 ***Location of Community Playfields Adjacent to Intermediate/Secondary Schools.*** Where appropriate, community playfields may be located on the site of an adjoining intermediate or secondary school. These playfields will provide areas and facilities that are typically required to meet the school's physical education program needs but shall also be developed to meet needs from the broader community during after-

school hours. Community park facilities, providing primarily for passive recreation, and a community center building, should also be included.

- Policy 8.2-13 ***Diversification and Specialization of Community Parks.*** Where possible, plan community parks to include natural areas, special use recreation areas and facilities, and community cultural resources to satisfy more diverse and specialized recreation needs and to preserve significant natural features and cultural resources.
- Policy 8.2-14 ***Consideration of Park Accessibility, Use and Character over Size.*** Park accessibility, use, and character shall be considered more important than size when considering the acquisition and development of new parks and recreation facilities.

ACTIONS

- Action 8.2-1 **Development of New Neighborhood Parkland in Northwestern Castro Valley.** Work with HARD to develop a new neighborhood park to serve the northwestern part of the Castro Valley Planning Area on the EBMUD property on Sydney Way or a comparable location.
- Action 8.2-2 **Funding Park Renovation and Expansion.** Work with HARD to prioritize and obtain funding for renovation and expansion of existing parks.
- Action 8.2-3 **In-lieu Fees for Park Acquisition.** Maintain the County's in-lieu fee for park acquisition and development at the highest level allowed under State law. Evaluate the adequacy of the fee on a regular basis and adjust as necessary to ensure that adequate funds are available to provide parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of Castro Valley residents consistent with this Plan.
- Action 8.2-4 **Land Dedication and Park Improvement.** Revise regulations to allow and encourage land dedication and improvement of small neighborhood parks in lieu of impact fees. Such parks may be owned and operated by HARD, or by another entity that provides for permanent public access.
- Action 8.2-5 **New Mechanisms for Funding Park Maintenance.** Establish mechanisms to raise additional funds for park

maintenance, particularly for new small neighborhood parks that do not meet current HARD standards for size of sites.

- Action 8.2-6 **Common/Private Open Space Requirements for New Residential Development.** Amend the County zoning ordinance to ensure that all developments with 5 or more units are required to provide good quality common and private usable open space for active and passive recreation.
- Action 8.2-7 **Open Space Requirements for Non-Residential Development.** Amend the County zoning ordinance to require or provide incentives to non-residential development to develop and maintain open spaces including planted areas, seating, artwork and other features that are available for public use.
- Action 8.2-8 **Monitoring Usage and Demand for Parks.** Work with HARD and the East Bay Regional Park District to monitor usage and demand for parks and recreation facilities to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the community given changes in racial, ethnic, age and other demographic characteristics.
- Action 8.2-9 **Greater Public Use of School Recreation Facilities.** Work with the Castro Valley Unified School District and HARD to allow greater public use of school site recreational and park facilities after school hours. This may involve establishing extended hours for public use, on-site supervision, scheduling systems, joint operations and maintenance agreements, and other programs.
- Action 8.2-10 **Inclusion of Public Use Opportunities in School Bond Measures.** Work with the Castro Valley Unified School District to ensure that bond measures include provisions to maximize opportunities for public use of recreational and cultural facilities.
- Action 8.2-11 **Use of Castro Valley Library Property for Recreation Facility.** Assess the feasibility of using the existing Castro Valley Library on Redwood Road as a recreation facility when the new library opens.
- Action 8.2-12 **Physical Fitness Center on Eden Medical Center Campus.** Work with Eden Medical Center to incorporate a physical fitness center within the hospital campus and landscaped open areas that will be available for general

public use.

8.3 TRAILS

[Additional text to be added]

GOAL 8-3:

Provide a system of hiking, equestrian and bicycle trails to connect major park and recreation areas within and adjacent to the Castro Valley Planning Area, to connect neighborhoods, and to provide an alternative means of access between neighborhoods and the Downtown.

POLICIES

- Policy 8.3-1 ***Integration of Trails in New Development.*** Incorporate trails, greenways, and linear recreation facilities as integral components of new development.
- Policy 8.3-2 ***Enhancement of Public Awareness about Trails.*** Increase public awareness of trails and pathways.
- Policy 8.3-3 ***Location of Trails within Flood Control and Riparian Corridors.*** When feasible, locate trails within the boundaries of flood control and riparian corridors. Site creekside trails to minimize disruption to riparian areas.

ACTIONS

- Action 8.3-1 **Amendment of Subdivision Requirements for Trail Linkages.** Amend the County subdivision ordinance to require projects abutting existing parklands to provide linkages to the trail system.
- Action 8.3-2 **Pedestrian/Bicycle Path Connecting Library and Commercial/Residential Areas.** Study the feasibility of developing a pedestrian and bicycle path linking the new Castro Valley Library to surrounding commercial and residential areas along Castro Valley Creek.
- Action 8.3-3 **Multiple Uses for Land Adjacent to Natural Watercourses.** Identify opportunities for acquiring land along Castro Valley's natural watercourses to meet multiple objectives of flood protection, recreation, improved water

quality, and increased non-motorized connectivity between residential, commercial, and civic areas.

Action 8.3-4 Multi-Use Trail System. Coordinate with HARD, the Cities of Hayward and San Leandro, and the East Bay Regional Park District to provide trailheads and linkages to a multi-use trail system.

Action 8.3-5 Funding for Signage and Maps of Trail System. Seek public and private funding to install attractive signage and produce maps illustrating trails and pathways.

8.4 SCHOOLS

Ten public elementary schools and three public middle schools serve Castro Valley. The majority of Castro Valley's residential areas are within the Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) but the area south of Interstate 580 and west of Fairview Avenue is part of the Hayward Unified School District. Students in the area west of Fairview Avenue attend Strobbridge Elementary, Bret Harte Middle School, and Hayward High.

In 1985, when the current Castro Valley General Plan was written, the number of students in Castro Valley was declining, resulting in the closure of several schools and sale and lease of school sites. By 1980, enrollment in the CVUSD had dropped from 5,046 in 1970 to 4,360. This began to change during the decade of the 1990's due to both natural increase and new residential construction. Total enrollment in the CVUSD is now close to 8,000; Castro Valley High School and all of the CVUSD middle schools are now at capacity and few spaces are available in the elementary schools.

Except for Jensen Ranch Elementary, which opened in 1995, and Canyon Middle School built in 1964 on the site of a closed high school, the community's public schools date from the post-World War II period and the 1950's. Most of the schools are now at full capacity.

[Additional text to be added]

GOAL 8-4:

Provide for a system of schools and other educational facilities to meet the educational needs of community residents of all ages and promote community identity.

POLICIES

- Policy 8.4-1 ***Provision and Facilitation of Sufficient Public Schools.*** Provide sufficient K-12 school sites in the Castro Valley Planning Area and facilitate their development to meet or exceed State standards and the standards of the local school districts.
- Policy 8.4-2 ***Minimization of Conflicts between School Sites and Adjacent Residential Uses.*** Plan and use school sites to avoid or minimize conflicts with surrounding residential use.
- Policy 8.4-3 ***Provision of Public School Facilities for Community Use.*** To the extent possible given fiscal considerations, ensure that public school facilities are available for community use and activities that will not interfere with the local school districts' primary educational mission.
- Policy 8.4-4 ***Closures and Alternative Use of School Facilities.*** If school facilities are no longer needed for and used for public education, first consideration should be given to the use of the sites/facilities for alternative public purposes, and in particular, for parks and recreation and other similar community uses.
- Policy 8.4-5 ***Adult Education and Vocational Training.*** Maintain and improve opportunities for adult education, vocational training, and other programs that provide life-long learning and training to improve the job skills of community residents.
- Policy 8.4-6 ***School District Boundaries.*** Support changes in school district boundaries to include Castro Valley neighborhoods south of I- 580 in the Castro Valley Unified School District.

ACTIONS

- Action 8.4-1 ***County Subsidization of Use of School Sites for Community Activities.*** Consider providing County subsidies to the Castro Valley Unified School District to maximize opportunities for community use of school facilities.

- Action 8.4-2 **School District Boundaries.** Meet with the Castro Valley and Hayward Unified School Districts to explore changing school district boundaries so that all lands within the Castro Valley planning area are included within the Castro Valley Unified School District.
- Action 8.4-3 **Expansion of Adult Education and Training Programs.** Facilitate coordination among the Castro Valley Adult School, the Alameda County Library, Cal State East Bay, Alameda County Private Industry Council, East Bay Works, and local employers to expand adult education and training programs available to Castro Valley residents and workers.
- Action 8.4-4 **Establishment of a Network of Community Centers.** Work with the Castro Valley and Hayward Unified School Districts, the Alameda County Library, and Eden Medical Center to establish a network of community centers that offer services such as childcare, health care, and recreational programs.
- Action 8.4-5 **Inclusion of Public Use Opportunities in School Bond Measures.** Work with the Castro Valley Unified School district to ensure that bond measures include provisions to maximize opportunities for public use of recreational and cultural facilities.
- Action 8.4-6 **Regulations for Public and Private Schools.** Amend the County Zoning Ordinance to make public schools subject to the same regulations applicable to private and parochial schools to the extent allowed by State law.

8.5 CHILDCARE

Castro Valley has the highest proportion of children with parents in the workforce among all Alameda county cities and unincorporated towns. According to the 2000 census, children aged 12 and younger accounted for more than 16 percent of Castro Valley's population and about 35 percent of all of the households in Castro Valley have children under the age of 18. About 63 percent of Castro Valley children under the age of 6 and 74 percent of children 6 to 17 had two working parents or a working single parent. Of these working households, 5.7 percent have a female head.

Determining the demand for child care is difficult because it is often unclear whether parents' choices reflect their preferences or result from location and cost constraints. Based on statewide patterns for different provider types and

income levels, Castro Valley has an existing shortfall of at least 300 licensed childcare spaces. If all families in which both parents or a single head of household works demanded licensed childcare Castro Valley would need more than three times the number of spaces available in the community's 86 licensed and license-exempt child care centers and family child care homes. Despite the projected aging of Castro Valley's population, the County's Need Assessment Report anticipates that the demand for spaces is expected to increase by about 8 percent within the life of the plan. Even though the percent of children living below the poverty level in Castro Valley is lower than countywide (3 percent compared with 9 percent countywide according to the 2000 Census), the cost of childcare remains an obstacle for many families.

In 2004, the County's Child Care Coordinating Council received 321 requests for child care referrals for 388 children needing care. Despite the demand, the Council reports that child care providers have had difficulty receiving the necessary approvals to add child care slots. In addition, providers have met with community resistance to proposals for opening new centers or expanding existing services in unincorporated areas of Alameda County including Castro Valley.

[Additional text to be added]

GOAL 8-5:

Provide a variety of affordable childcare facilities to meet the needs of present and future Castro Valley residents and those who work in the community.

POLICIES

Policy 8.5-1 ***Expansion of Childcare Facilities.** Expand childcare facilities in residential and commercial districts subject to reasonable standards to reduce conflicts with surrounding uses including traffic, noise, and parking impacts.*

Policy 8.5-2 ***Promotion of Development of Childcare Facilities.** Promote the development of childcare facilities within new residential and commercial projects, and at existing public facilities.*

ACTIONS

Action 8.5-1 ***Ministerial Approval of Large Family Daycare Facilities.** Amend the County Zoning ordinance to include standards for ministerial approval of large family daycare facilities in residential districts as provided for by State law.*

- Action 8.5-2 **Ministerial Approval of Childcare Centers in Residential Districts.** Revise the zoning ordinance to allow ministerial approval of childcare centers in residential districts as an accessory use within an existing community center, religious facility, clubhouse or similar community facility subject to reasonable standards to minimize parking and other conflicts with surrounding residential uses.
- Action 8.5-3 **Consideration of Childcare Centers in Neighborhood Commercial, Mixed Use and Office Districts.** Revise the zoning ordinance to make childcare centers a permitted use in neighborhood commercial, mixed use, and office districts subject to reasonable standards to reduce conflicts with surrounding uses including traffic, noise, and parking impacts.
- Action 8.5-4 **Expansion of After-School and Summer Childcare Services Programs.** Work with the Castro Valley and Hayward School Districts, local private schools, the Childcare Coordinating Council and HARD to develop a plan for expanding programs providing after-school and summer childcare services.

8.6 LIBRARY SERVICES

The Castro Valley Library at 20055 Redwood Road is one of ten local branches operated by the Alameda County Library. Built in 1962, the building has 10,200 square feet of floor area, including a 3,000 square foot children's room and a small meeting room, and 38 parking spaces. Although the majority of Castro Valley residents use this facility, they are also entitled to use any of the County's other branch libraries. The Castro Valley Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library system, is owned by the County and service is provided by County Library staff. It operates a bookmobile, which makes stops in Castro Valley. In addition to receiving a dedicated share of property taxes, the County Library is funded by a portion of the County's business license and utility users taxes generated by the County's unincorporated areas.

With a \$13.9 million grant from the State Office of Library Construction, Alameda County is building a new 34,000 square foot library on a 2.95-acre county-owned site at the eastern end of Norbridge Avenue. The new library, which is projected to open by 2009, will have 145 parking spaces, enough space for 161,000 books, magazines, CDs, videos and other materials, up from 105,000 in the current library. Other features include 87 computer terminals (up from 18 in the current building) and 6,435 square feet for children's services, which is more than twice the space in the current building.

The new library will also offer a bookstore operated by the Friends of the Library, a café, a 2,000-square-foot community meeting room to accommodate 180, and a multi-purpose education center. The education center is being developed under a Joint Use Agreement with the Castro Valley Unified School district and will include a homework center, family literacy center, career center, and computer learning center.

The library's Downtown location, about two blocks from the BART Station in an area the General Plan proposes for a multi-family housing, commercial activity, and civic buildings, creates the potential for the facility to function as a community gathering place and civic center. The future use of the existing library site has not been determined.

GOAL 8-6:

Develop a new library that will meet the diverse needs of Castro Valley's present and projected population residents consistent with this Plan and will serve as a focal point and place of civic pride for the community.

POLICIES

- Policy 8.6-1* **Use of New Library as Activity Center.** Enhance the role of the new library as an activity center in the Downtown
- Policy 8.6-2* **Expansion of Library Programs and Services.** Maintain and expand library programs and services to meet the needs of all segments of the community including youth, older and retired residents, and those who are not native English speakers.
- Policy 8.6-3* **Funding for Library Programs.** Identify additional sources of funding to support and maintain library programs.

ACTIONS

- Action 8.6-1** **Consideration of Library in Design of Adjacent Developments.** Review proposed development in the vicinity of the new library to ensure that that building and site plans are designed to complement and enhance the role of the library as a Downtown focal point. Provide clear and inviting pedestrian and bicycle routes from the library to nearby downtown development. Design the library building so that it is highly visible and prominent.
- Action 8.6-2** **Inclusion of Community Meeting Space in Construction of Library.** Construct the Castro Valley library, and include a community meeting space in the building. Include

a small café and outdoor plaza if feasible. Coordinate the building project with creation of a creek trail improvement project adjacent to the site. Plan the library site so that there is the potential for the addition of other public and civic spaces, so that this area of the downtown can function as a civic center for the Castro Valley community.

Action 8.6-3 **Creation of Partnerships to Support and Expand Library Services.** Work with school districts, other educational institutions, local businesses and nonprofit organizations to create partnerships to support and expand library programs including funding sources to augment County tax revenues.

Action 8.6-4 **Distribution of Information about Library Services.** Identify additional opportunities to inform Castro Valley residents and business owners about library programs and services and encourage their input on decisions about programs and activities such as insertions with utility bills and PTA mailers.