



ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040

Draft Guiding Principles for El Sobrante

The following guiding principles articulate the values, priorities, and aspirations for the future shared by community members at our first community meeting for El Sobrante:

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

- El Sobrante should remain unpretentious, independent, eclectic, and fiercely proud of its community assets and institutions.
- Change should be carefully managed to enhance El Sobrante's unique semi-rural/suburban character and preserve its scenic environment, open space, and agricultural land.
- Growth and economic development should be focused in a way that conserves and strengthens established neighborhoods, meets local needs and the desire to be a "full service" community, revitalizes the commercial core with local-serving businesses, and enhances the quality of life for area residents.
- El Sobrante's built environment should be designed and developed at a human scale, incorporating healthy community concepts that provide for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized transportation; recreation; access to healthy foods; and energy- and resource-efficient buildings and development.
- El Sobrante should be a model for sustainable development, including local food and energy production, and green building construction.
- Because Richmond surrounds El Sobrante on three sides, coordination with the City of Richmond is essential, and the County should work proactively to address and ameliorate the effects of Richmond's decisions on the quality of life in El Sobrante.

MOBILITY

- Transportation options should be improved, particularly public transit connections to BART and bicycle facilities along San Pablo Dam Road.
- Long-term solutions should be developed to address traffic congestion, particularly "cut-through" traffic on local streets.
- San Pablo Dam Road and Appian Way should be safer and more attractive thoroughfares and communicate a positive and cohesive image of El Sobrante.

HOUSING

- A stronger, more vibrant, and walkable center should be created in the heart of El Sobrante, providing a community gathering place and destination with new opportunities for housing, businesses, and open space.

RECREATION AND ACCESS TO NATURE

- El Sobrante should remain an economically and culturally diverse community with amenities and services for people of all ages and parks and recreational facilities that meet community needs.
- San Pablo Creek and its tributaries should be enhanced as open spaces, wildlife corridors, and natural amenities that add beauty, character, and ecological value to the community.

SAFETY & RESILIENCY

- Access to local hospitals and health care services is critically important and should be retained.
- El Sobrante should become more resilient and better prepared for disasters, particularly wildfires and earthquakes.