



Background

The **Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA)** is one of four assessments in the third phase of *San Francisco Healthy Homes (SFHH) Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Process*. The FOCA is designed to answer two main questions:

1. What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?
2. What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

FOCA participants identified many trends, events, and factors as *forces of change* in their community, describing them as either opportunities, threats, or both threats and opportunities. This FOCA Summary helps Bayview Hunters Point and surrounding neighborhood residents and stakeholders develop a Community Action Plan that takes advantage of the various environmental, social, health, economic, and political opportunities in their community and mitigate the threats.

Methodology

In order to identify the various trends, events, or factors that act as *forces of change* in the Bayview Hunters Point community, Resource Development Associates (RDA) collaborated with the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) and the Bayview Hunters Point YMCA to conduct four advisory committee group interviews, four resident focus groups, one Spanish-speaking focus group and individual interviews with monolingual Chinese Bayview Hunters Point residents.

The group interviews were conducted in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood with members of the SFHH Advisory Committee. A total of 12 key informants were interviewed over the course of four luncheons from November 8, 2011 – December 7, 2011.

Four focus groups were conducted with residents of Bayview Hunters Point and surrounding neighborhoods, including members of the SFHH Resident Committee. In total, 18 participants were included in the focus groups that were held from November 8, 2011 – November 22, 2011.

SFE conducted targeted outreach to gather input from non English-speaking residents. A focus group was conducted with three monolingual Spanish-speaking residents who collectively had lived in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood for over 70 years. Also, a total of 12 monolingual Chinese residents of the Bayview Hunters



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Point were interviewed one-on-one by a bilingual Chinese interviewer in December 2011.

The next page presents all forces of change identified by the above stakeholders. Following the full list, responses are summarized according to forces that present the most opportunity, threat, and forces that present both opportunities and threats.¹

¹ Some items are stated as fact, when in fact they are the stakeholders' opinions. This report makes no attempt to verify statements. Also note, the perspectives presented in this report do not represent all residents or stakeholders. There may be competing opinions about the threats posed and opportunities created. Nonetheless this report provides a comprehensive portrait of resident and stakeholder perspectives, free of intended reinterpretation and/or censor.



Forces of Change

*Denotes forces of change identified as priority issues by the SFHH Project Resident Committee.

- Worsening air quality*
- Housing developments undergoing redevelopment
- Disintegrating road infrastructure
- Increasing access to healthy food, despite history of food scarcity
- Outdoor environment affected by how trash and recyclables are dealt with*
- Weakening of EPA and environmental controls harm the environment
- Increased building construction
- Continuing presence of the sewage treatment plant
- Lack of emergency preparedness
- Shifting demographics
- Sustained crime and violence affecting all residents
- Ongoing lack of safe, reliable and affordable transportation
- Reduced hours at temporary library
- Closing of schools and school funding cuts
- General culture of lack of community concern, laziness and apathy*
- Rise in income inequality
- Increases in immigration
- Black flight
- Lack of social cohesion, fear and low levels of trust
- Ongoing cultural insensitivity, racism and economics, fueling racism
- Nonprofits that are increasingly culture- and/or race-specific
- A morass of laws and ordinances that criminalize behaviors
- Teen parents don't have the same support available to them as their parents did*
- Ongoing poor relations between the police and the community*
- Decrease in employment opportunities
- Economic recession
- Cost of living increases
- Closing of Candlestick Park*
- Increasing population density
- Increasing poverty
- New apartment complexes
- Increase in housing developments
- Disbandment of redevelopment agency
- Increasing presence of small factories
- Wider health disparities*
- Reduced health care services and insurance coverage*
- Retail options that remain limited
- Broader visibility of drug use*
- Northeast Medical Center expansion
- Southeast Health Center using holistic approach
- Changes in political leadership
- Increase in 'red-tape' and decreases in local government resources
- Too many studies and not enough actual investment into root causes of underrepresentation*
- No Chinese ambassador/assistant to the Supervisor
- Ongoing neglect by the City and a long history of disparity at multiple levels*
- Ongoing lack of exposure to better ways of life



Forces of Change Summary

Forces of change in the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) and surrounding neighborhoods span across environmental, social, economic and political domains. Threats to community health and the quality of life are rooted in poverty and/or inequality, exposure to environmental pollutants and systemic violence. However, the opportunities created by forces of change show how BVHP residents can reduce barriers to local job creation, expand access to healthy foods and create meaningful positive change for future generations.

Opportunity

The building of a new library is seen as an opportunity for children and adults to access higher quality books, media and computers, better information and research resources. Stakeholders point out recent efforts by residents that raise awareness around social and health issues faced by residents of BVHP and surrounding neighborhoods. Stakeholders see an increase in innovative approaches to addressing health disparities, such as South East Health Center's holistic approach to health (e.g., writing prescriptions for healthier foods – fruits, vegetables and whole grains).

Threats

Stakeholders mention the divestment of resources from local schools, public library and small-businesses as threatening to job creation, educational opportunity and social mobility. The impact of school closures and school funding cuts discourages children to learn the necessary skills to become competitive in the job market, encourages talented student and teacher flight from the area and creates a pipeline directly from failing schools to jail and prison. The impending closure of Candlestick Park will also eliminate local jobs.

Many of the economic activities in the BVHP and surrounding neighborhoods negatively impact the local environment, affecting residents' health. Large, diesel-engine trucks pass in and out of the BVHP and surrounding neighborhoods, increasing air pollution, and contributing to high rates of asthma. Difficult and limited access to quality healthcare and services is seen as a barrier to wellness.

Stakeholders feel there is a history of neglect by city leaders to address the disparities in education, services, care and health in the community. This neglect, some stakeholders believe, is due to a decrease in respect by political leadership



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of residents in the BVHP and surrounding neighborhoods. Stakeholders say teen parents do not have the support available to them that their parents did. Poor police relationships with the BVHP community and surrounding neighborhoods has led to sustained crime and violence, impacting people's movement, safety and increased feelings of stress. Stakeholders report that drugs continue to be a source of multiple problems.

Stakeholders say immigration status significantly impacts how crimes are reported or how residents access medical services. The fear of legal recourse for some immigrant residents prevents them from reporting crimes to police, leading to an underreporting of crime in the Bayview Hunters Point and surrounding neighborhoods. Medical services are underutilized by immigrant residents for similar reasons.

Both Threat and Opportunity

Not all forces of change can be categorized as either a threat or an opportunity. Stakeholders recall how housing undergoing redevelopment both displaces current residents and will create the opportunity for better housing and jobs. Redevelopment is seen as providing residents with the opportunity to live in higher quality housing that doesn't contribute to adverse health outcomes while creating local jobs in construction. However, stakeholders worry that new housing development will lead to increases in the cost-of-living, pushing poorer residents out of the neighborhood. Stakeholders are currently uncertain about the status of many redevelopment projects since the recent defunding of California's Redevelopment Agencies.

Shifting demographics poses both challenges and opportunities to the BVHP and surrounding neighborhoods – it can both increase social tensions between different residents, but overtime, lead to better social cohesion, opportunities to learn about other cultures and raise social consciousness.

Some stakeholders report that food access is still a problem in the face of an abundance of liquor and convenience stores. However, great gains have been made recently with the opening of a new grocery store that provides affordable, healthy foods and local jobs.