



Attendees prioritize potential sustainability strategies

Sustainability and Resilience

Sustainability Dot Exercise

The Sustainability Dot Exercise included two large posters listing 16 potential strategies for Moraga to become a more sustainable community. Some of these strategies were adapted from the Town's 2014 Climate Action Plan. Others were based on best practices from other communities, or suggestions from sustainability advocates.

Participants were asked to assign a dot to each potential strategy indicating whether its implementation should be a low, medium, high, or "highest" priority, or not a priority at all. A ranking of minus one (-1) was assigned if the strategy was listed as "not a priority at all". The other choices were ranked 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. A weighted average was assigned to each strategy based on its cumulative score. A score of "4" would indicate that every participant selected the strategy as a "highest priority." The closer a score was to "4," the higher the level of support. Scores closer to "zero" indicated a lower level of support.

Fifteen of the 16 strategies scored 2 or higher. Ten scored 3 or higher. The top-ranked strategy, with a score of 3.42, was to encourage denser housing in the commercial districts in order to improve walkability and reduce dependency on cars. Second was

improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to reduce dependency on cars (3.32). Third was supporting energy efficiency and conservation (3.31).

The lowest scores were assigned to telecommuting (1.87), decarbonizing buildings (e.g., shifting from natural gas to renewable electricity) (2.09), and using recycled water and graywater for household use (2.46).

As in the other exercises, a low score does not necessarily indicate a lack of support—it simply means this was less favored as a General Plan strategy than some of the others listed. Likewise, the high score for denser housing should be considered in context. It does not necessarily indicate that residents want more high-density housing, but it does indicate that residents would rather see such housing in the commercial areas than in existing residential areas or open spaces.

Participants in this exercise were invited to add their own strategies to the list of 16. Among the additions were:

- More education on the health and safety benefits of clean energy in buildings, including tax and rebate incentives.
- A local commitment to meeting the State's GHG reduction targets (50% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2045).
- Banning single use plastic bags, or requiring that they be made from recycled plastic.
- Biodiversity and ecological practices.

Table 2 shows the summary results for this exercise.

Resilience Dot Exercise

The Resilience Dot Exercise included two large posters listing 15 potential strategies for Moraga to become a more resilient community. Many of these strategies are already in place, so this exercise in part tests the level of support for current efforts. It is also a helpful way to gauge what new programs might be supported.

Participants were asked to assign a dot to each potential strategy indicating whether its implementation should be a low, medium, high, or “highest” priority, or not a priority at all. A ranking of minus one (-1) was assigned if the strategy was listed as “not a priority at all”. The other choices were ranked 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. A weighted average was assigned to each strategy based on its cumulative score. A score of “4” would indicate that every participant selected the strategy as a “highest priority.” The closer a score was to “4,” the higher the level of support. Conversely, scores closer to “zero” indicated a lower level of support.

Table 3 shows the results for this exercise. All 15 of the strategies scored 2 or higher. Twelve scored 3 or higher. The top-ranked strategy, with a score of 3.73, was to conduct additional planning for evacuation in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster. Second was coordinating with Police and Fire to create shelter in place strategies (3.50). Third was providing additional support for vulnerable populations, especially seniors and persons with disabilities (3.47).

The lowest scores were assigned to cooling centers for extreme heat events (2.33), planting more trees (2.48), and capturing stormwater to reduce flooding (2.63). However, even these actions received relatively high levels of support, with about a third of the respondents listing tree planting and stormwater retention as “highest” priorities.

One of the limitations of this particular dot exercise was that participants were not constrained by cost or limited in the number of strategies they could list as “highest” priority. Some participants appeared to list almost every one of the 15 as “highest” priority. Out of 411 total dots placed on the posters, only three were in the column labeled “not a priority at all.”

Participants also could list their own priorities, if they thought something was missing from the menu. The additions included incentives for household solar battery storage, providing battery storage at community facilities, maintaining a list of people/addresses needing assistance in an evacuation, protecting pollinators, and converting the Town's vehicle fleet to electric (or plug-in hybrid) vehicles.



Information on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan also was provided

Table 2: Sustainability Priority Dot Voting Results

Summary: Participants were given this list of 16 potential sustainability strategies and asked to rank each one as a low, medium, high or highest priority, or “not a priority at all.” After scores were tallied, a weighted average was calculated. The strategies are listed in descending order below.

Rank		Not a priority/ don't support	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGHEST	Total	Weighted Average
1	Encourage denser housing in the center of town, where residents can walk to basic services instead of driving.	0	1	6	4	22	33	3.42
2	Improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities and safety so Moraga is less car-dependent.	0	1	6	10	20	37	3.32
3	Support more energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.	0	0	7	8	17	32	3.31
4	Support better public transportation and shuttle service to BART.	0	2	6	8	20	36	3.28
5	Support more renewable energy use, especially solar energy and/or battery storage.	0	2	6	8	15	31	3.16
6	Expand electric vehicle infrastructure (charging stations, etc.)	0	1	8	10	13	32	3.09
7	Reduce solid waste volumes by promoting recycling, composting, and less consumption.	0	0	8	9	9	26	3.038
8	Update Moraga's Climate Action Plan.	0	1	7	9	10	27	3.037
9	Pursue grants that help homeowners and businesses become more energy independent and shift to renewable energy.	0	4	5	10	14	33	3.03
10	Require water-efficient landscaping and encourage the conversion of lawns to drought-tolerant planting.	0	2	11	10	15	38	3.00
11	Support sustainable businesses and sustainable business practices.	0	0	9	10	6	25	2.88
12	Increase public education and awareness of climate change and climate-related hazards.	0	5	8	8	12	33	2.82
13	Require “green building” measures that go beyond standard State building codes.	0	5	10	6	8	29	2.59
14	Allow recycled wastewater and “graywater” for household use.	2	2	7	7	6	24	2.46
15	Decarbonize buildings (i.e., shift from natural gas to clean energy).	5	6	6	6	9	32	2.09
16	Encourage telecommuting/working from home.	4	6	3	5	5	23	1.87

Note: For this table, the weighted average is calculated by multiplying “Not a priority/Don’t support” by minus 1, multiplying “Low” by 1, multiplying “Medium” by 2, multiplying “High” by 3, and multiplying “Highest” by 4, then dividing by the total number of responses in the category.

Table 3: Resilience Priority Dot Voting Results

Summary: Participants were given this list of 15 potential resilience strategies and asked to rank each one as a low, medium, high or highest priority, or “not a priority at all.” After scores were tallied, a weighted average was calculated. The strategies are listed in descending order below.

Rank	Strategy	Not a priority/ don't support	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGHEST	Total	Weighted Average
1	Conduct additional planning for evacuation in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster.	0	0	3	3	27	33	3.73
2	Coordinate with Police and the Fire District to develop “shelter in place” plans for emergencies.	0	0	1	12	15	28	3.50
3	Provide additional focus on vulnerable populations in the event of an emergency, particularly seniors and persons with disabilities.	0	0	3	4	12	19	3.474
4	Lobby for increased access to fire insurance.	0	0	4	8	18	30	3.467
5	Limit development in areas with the highest fire hazards.	0	3	1	6	18	28	3.39
6	Promote neighborhood-level disaster drills, training, and preparedness events, including the CERT program.	0	0	5	7	15	27	3.37
7	Undertake vegetation management and brush clearing programs in open space areas.	0	2	3	8	18	31	3.35
8	Support PGE in efforts to make transmission lines safer and more resilient.	1	1	2	8	17	29	3.31
9	Enforce defensible space requirements around all homes to reduce fire risks.	0	0	4	13	11	28	3.25
10	Prioritize capital improvement projects that make Moraga more resilient.	0	0	4	12	9	25	3.20
11	Support utility undergrounding initiatives.	0	1	8	6	13	28	3.11
12	Create “microgrids” that make Moraga less dependent on the electrical grid for electricity.	0	2	7	9	12	30	3.03
13	Capture stormwater runoff to reduce flooding.	0	6	6	7	8	27	2.63
14	Plant more trees.	1	9	1	7	9	27	2.48
15	Provide cooling centers for extreme heat events and power outages.	1	3	7	7	3	21	2.33

Note: For this table, the weighted average is calculated by multiplying “Not a priority/Don’t support” by minus 1, multiplying “Low” by 1, multiplying “Medium” by 2, multiplying “High” by 3, and multiplying “Highest” by 4, then dividing by the total number of responses in the category.