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We want to acknowledge all of the work done by community members: Ana Carlos, Alejandra Gonzalez, Kari Kalinich, Esmeralda Tabares, Caitie Towne, and their families and many other residents in Bloomington that have been fighting to preserve the equestrian community of Bloomington.

We want to thank all of the community members that gave their time to answer surveys and provide their stories, the community of Bloomington is why we do this work. #BloomingtonIsNotForSale #BloomingtonNoSeVende

Additionally, we want to thank: Dee Arellano, Andrea Vidaurre, Alicia Aguayo, Alondra Mateo, Jean Kayano, and Zoe Caras from the People's Collective for Environmental Justice for supporting the creation of this report.
INTRODUCTION

Bloomington is an unincorporated small-scale community in San Bernardino County. Much of it is rural and residents walk their horses daily, grow their own food, and raise animals.

Since Bloomington is not a city, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors established the Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) to listen to the community and advise the county on the problems the residents face. For the past few years, residents feel that the MAC does not represent what the community wants. Volunteers on the MAC openly support warehouse projects and encourage the private development of huge projects throughout Bloomington. They argue this brings infrastructure money to the community. However, advocating for this instead of advocating with the county for a larger budget has brought about a dramatic increase in warehouses, traffic and pollution. Additionally, this has forced the relocation of schools, homes, and local businesses, and increased dangerous conditions for everyday activities like horse riding and walking.

This report will discuss the results of an environmental survey conducted by The Concerned Neighbors of Bloomington, which aimed to identify the needs of Bloomington residents.
**PURPOSE**

Since 2016, organized Bloomington residents have worked to advocate against warehouse expansions, later forming Concerned Neighbors of Bloomington (CNB). CNB has developed content and educational tools to help inform residents to participate in local decision-making, and provided a space where residents can discuss issues throughout the community. The People's Collective for Environmental Justice (PCEJ) is a community-based organization dedicated to fighting environmental injustice.

PCEJ and CNB were concerned with increased truck traffic and road safety in Bloomington. In the Summer of 2022, CNB began working to ensure residents and persons traveling through Bloomington are safe by assessing and observing direct and indirect impacts due to warehouse expansions.

In addition, a short environmental survey was created to document the concerns of Bloomington residents. The results of this survey and the assessments from audits will be used to advocate for our community with the dignity and consent that Bloomington deserves. This data was also used for SCAG grant research.

This project aims to gather the concerns of Bloomington residents to show that people are being affected by these changes and advocate for the needs of the Bloomington community.
Members of the Concerned Neighbors of Bloomington and volunteers assisted in sharing the survey at Bloomington community events, through social media, and by knocking on the doors of neighbors in Bloomington. The survey used a qualitative approach and community-based research practices. The survey was hosted on Google Form and analyzed with the Sheets tools.

The survey was created to be concise, informative, and accessible. It was made publicly available in English and Spanish and captured the responses of 168 residents of Bloomington and surrounding areas. Additional data from a questionnaire done for DEIR Comments are included and have a sample size of 349.
Population: 24,339
Ethnicity: 84% Hispanic
Population per square mile: 4,008
Poor Air Quality in the Region Includes Bloomington

Bloomington is located in the Inland Empire, a region that has been labeled as one of the worst-ranking places for poor air quality and categorized as a disadvantaged community. The chart below shows the cumulative impacts of air pollution by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's tool CalEnviroScreen 4.0.

[FIGURE 1] CalEnviroScreen 4.0, showing red for high pollution by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
FINDINGS

As the logistics industry has grown in the Inland Empire, it has posed concerns and health impacts for those living on the frontline of these communities. The findings in this report reflect the sentiments of residents with environmental and health concerns on several issues, such as traffic, land use, air pollution, and more. While these were some of the top-rated issues within the survey responses, there are more concerns encompassing health and environment and beyond expressed through community input. This report aims to do its best to share perceptions, thoughts, and the daily experiences community members in Bloomington have had over the past several years and continue to experience daily.
Local Environment and Landscape

Bloomington is one of the most rural landscapes in the urban Inland Empire, and those surveyed shared that they spend time outdoors often because of this major factor. Yet poor air quality in Bloomington is a daily experience for most residents. Seventy-five percent of respondents said that smog impairs their visibility of the hills or mountains. Bloomington is likely a community with increased risks from poor air quality, given the rural environment where residents recreate and work outdoors. As noted in Figure 2, the majority of survey respondents shared they spend between 1-6 hours outdoors daily, with nearly two-thirds of people surveyed reporting that they spend more than 3 hours outdoors daily. With the increased risk of exposure, one in every ten community members surveyed spend more than 12 hours of the day outdoors as part of their occupation and regular activities.
I’m concerned about the increase in pollution leading to increases of cancer risks within the area. This is in conjunction with asthma, and other health concerns."

Despite being a community at increased risk of exposure to poor air quality, most residents surveyed did not know how to report environmental concerns or emergencies. Over 89% of respondents shared that they did not know who to call when they needed to report an environmental concern or emergency. [FIGURE 3] Environmental issues can look like extended periods of truck idling, which are out of compliance with the South Coast Air Quality Management District regulations. An individual can submit an air quality complaint online to those in charge of regulating the air. Our data has led us to find that daily occurrences in communities like Bloomington go unreported.
Although residents largely did not know how to report environmental concerns, more than half of those surveyed shared extreme concern over air quality. Of those extremely concerned about air quality, a similar number of respondents, 88%, did not know who to call if they had an environmental concern or emergency. Our findings demonstrate that residents’ lack of knowledge in reporting processes was not due to a lack of concern. This finding raises concerns that air quality management systems and environmental regulation enforcement are failing Bloomington residents. Bloomington residents have few resources for information on environmental concerns in their community. Forty-seven percent of community members surveyed shared that they have no source for getting information about environmental issues in Bloomington. A little less than a third of community members surveyed rely on social media and the internet to stay informed about environmental issues in Bloomington. While one in every ten community members surveyed relies on organizations like CNB and PC4EJ for information on local environmental issues, only one respondent shared that their source of environmental information was through the MAC.
Our survey found that air quality related issues have had serious impacts on Bloomington residents’ health and well-being. Of those surveyed, over a third of respondents said themselves or a family member missed work or school due to a respiratory health concern in the last year. Thirteen percent of community members surveyed even had to go to the emergency room for a respiratory or heart-related condition over the past year. The number of respondents who had respiratory and heart-related emergencies increased to 20% when looking at those surveyed who spend five or more hours outside daily.

**Key Findings**

- Over half of respondents shared that they are extremely or very concerned about the air pollution in Bloomington.
- Over 33% of respondents missed school or work because of respiratory illness related to the air quality.
- Of those who spent five or more hours outdoors daily, 20% went to the emergency room due to respiratory problems or a heart related condition.
In a survey follow-up question, residents were asked whether they supported the San Bernardino County plan to rezone 213 acres from agricultural/residential to commercial/industrial, and there were a total of 349 responses. Over 96% of these respondents said no, they do not agree. This aligns with the priority issues most cared about: traffic, land use, and air quality. Additionally, few residents currently feel safe walking around Bloomington due to the top three concerns.

Do you agree with the San Bernardino County plan to rezone 213 acres from agricultural/residential to commercial/industrial?

- **No**: 96.8%
- **Yes**: 1.5%
- **Not Sure**: 1.7%

How safe do you feel walking in Bloomington?

- **Extremely safe**: 0%
- **Very safe**: 25%
- **Moderately safe**: 75%
- **Slightly safe**: 75%
- **Not at all safe**: 0%

[FIGURE 5] [FIGURE 6]
What is your biggest concern in Bloomington?

- Traffic
- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Noise Pollution
- Water Quality
- Other

[FIGURE 7]

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FERNANDA DURAZO @FERNANDA.PHOTOGRAPHYY
We feel betrayed by CJUSD. There are 4 generations of my family who have lived in Bloomington since the 50's. 3 generations who went to school at Zimmerman & BHS. This is our home where we have enjoyed the small town rural life. Last few years have been awful, houses & land bought up by outsiders. Big warehouses built across the street from me which goes down the street to property line of Zimmerman. I can't even see & enjoy the mountains from my yard anymore. The truck traffic is awful on my street & they travel up linden which is not a truck route. Also travel down to numbered streets which is not a truck route either. Trucks run the stop sign which endanger everyone including kids walking to & from school. The Cedar overpass still hasn't been expanded even though promised 4yrs ago when Jurupa warehouse was built along w/the 2 warehouses across from school on orange st & cedar. Everyone is all about money, greed is fueling all this. Our kids' future, health & mental health are in jeopardy.
I have lived in Bloomington since 2004. I have seen the drastic changes first hand from warehouse development and trucking congestion they offer very little to the community. I'd like to see more parks and shopping centers because all warehouses offer is low quality jobs, bad air quality, and trucker congestion we don't need."

-Bloomington Community Member
In sum, the top three issues that were rated in the survey were issues of: traffic, land use, and air quality. Residents in Bloomington spend an average of more than 5 hours outside daily, as it is part of their routine, lifestyle, and occupation. Bloomington has seen development much like the rest of the Inland Empire that has created concern among residents about air pollution, and for some has exacerbated health problems to the point where they are forced to miss work or school due to respiratory illnesses. Further, residents expressed feeling unsafe walking around Bloomington and extreme concerns about air pollution. Finally, the majority of residents expressed opposition to the plan to rezone agricultural/residential to commercial/industrial and want to protect the equestrian lands in Bloomington.
The following recommendations are based on the qualitative and quantitative survey results, safety audits, and interviews that the Concerned Neighbors of Bloomington distributed among their community in Bloomington. These recommendations are directed at all political leadership in San Bernardino County that have influence over the lives of those that live and work in the unincorporated community of Bloomington:

**SOLUTIONS**

According to survey results and resident responses to their Region's plan, Bloomington residents are highly concerned with warehouse development in their community. Almost 100% of residents that answered the survey do not want to see the Bloomington Business Park Specific Plan built. There are many indirect impacts of warehousing development, such as infrastructure damage, traffic congestion, air pollution, safety hazards, and more to consider. Bloomington residents have made it clear over the past five years that warehouse and industrial development should be kept in industrial areas and not in residential areas. The County should not move forward with any more rezoning projects that transition residential and commercial zoning to industrial zoning.

Stop the proliferation of warehouse development in Bloomington
Upgrade local infrastructure to support a healthy quality of life in Bloomington

There are huge concerns in Bloomington about street flooding, lack of sidewalks and bike trails, sewage drainage and lighting. According to in-person audits, it is clear that there are multiple areas of Bloomington that have sub-average infrastructure that should be upgraded to support the safety and health of Bloomington residents. We understand that supporting infrastructure projects is planning and cost-intensive. However, we believe that since Bloomington is considered a Disadvantaged (DAC) and Justice 40 community, Bloomington has many opportunities for investment that can be leveraged for infrastructure projects. The County can look into establishing a warehouse tax measure that targets the existing warehouse development in the County and pilots money directly into their infrastructure fund. This can also create long-term jobs for organized labor in our community, such as the building trades.

Invest in social and cultural projects in Bloomington

There is a large equestrian community in Bloomington that would benefit greatly from equestrian-friendly infrastructure, development and landscaping. Existing businesses would benefit from support from the County to grow their businesses in the region so they can continue contributing to the county’s local economy. In Bloomington, there are also many hills that the equestrian and local community uses recreationally for hiking, riding, and other outdoor recreational activities. There are examples throughout the Country of social and cultural investment leading to higher levels of safety, alternative forms of income, and diverse employment opportunities. Locally, the Peoples' Plan, a San Bernardino- based initiative, lays the groundwork for equitable and community-determined strategies for economic growth that includes investment in social and cultural projects. The Peoples Plan could provide a model for similar initiatives in Bloomington.
Many residents that live within Bloomington, do not work in the warehouse and logistics industry that is being forced onto Bloomington. Instead of forcing one type of industry into a community, it is important to diversify the types of industries, especially as automation is a growing trend for industrial warehouses. For example, the Amazon warehouse on Slover and Locust Avenue closed down after two years so they can fully automate the facility. This land use was previously zoned residential before it was reclassified as industrial to make room for the Amazon warehouse. The County would benefit more from development fees, property taxes and income from more housing development than they would from these warehouse facilities that are being used for automation. Additionally, there is a large food business industry in Bloomington that would benefit greatly from more investment into micro-kitchens, small grants and places for them to serve hungry customers.

**In conclusion**, the County of San Bernardino should invest in the residents, cultural traditions and businesses co-existing in Bloomington instead of pouring concrete over it. There are fountains of local innovation, economies, and potential within Bloomington that can be grown if there is meaningful public involvement in the process of project planning between the County and local residents' vision of what they want in their community. There needs to be a larger commitment to working together to find solutions to problems of infrastructure, traffic, and pollution to ensure stronger and better connected communities. Members of the public with limited English proficiency, digital divide challenges, and other cultural and social barriers have a right to be part of local decision-making. Through inclusive outreach and meaningful public process, planners can gain insights into community-specific issues and concerns that may be unknown to elected officials. With effective collaborations, solutions can be identified early on that best meet the community’s needs and result in better-designed projects and planning. We hope that we can work together on these recommendations to get to our shared goals of an equitable and thriving Bloomington community.
LIMITATIONS

As previously mentioned, this survey was created to identify the concerns of Bloomington residents to advocate for our community’s growing needs. To identify the limitations of the survey, one must look at the number of people who responded, the approach taken to collect responses, and the timeline of the survey. This survey had 168 responses during a period of 2 months. Though this is not a representation of all of the Bloomington residents, responses encompass residents from more than just one area. In future surveys, it may be beneficial to keep the survey open for a longer period of time and dedicate a certain amount of time to each area of the community. Additionally, it is important to acknowledge that the sample size could be larger with the support of more data collectors as the volunteers gathering the data have full-time jobs and limited time.
RESOURCES

Report Air Quality Concerns

- **Visit AQMD.gov/Complaints** to submit a complaint
- Call 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664)
- Download the South Coast AQMD app and select "1-800-CUT-SMOG"

Stay Up to Date with Local EJ News

@cnbloomingtonca
@ConcernedNeig15

THE FRONTLINE OBSERVER
frontline-observer.com

The People's Collective for Environmental Justice
@PC4EJ
RESOURCES

Your Local Government

Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council

According to the County, “The mission of the Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council is to engage the community and advise the County to solve problems, create solutions, and set a course for the future of Bloomington.” You are able to attend these meetings to make comments and raise concerns about anything Bloomington related.

The Bloomington MAC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 909.387.4565.

Members: Gary Grossich, Stephanie Santoyo, Larry Burgos, Angela McClain, Teresa Escoto, Dianne Mendez-Cantu

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

The function of the Board of Supervisors is to control land use, oversee environmental issues, departments, and allocate funds to where they are needed in the county.

Paul Cook 1st District
Janice Rutherford 2nd District
Dawn Rowe 3rd District
Curt Hagman 4th District
Joe Baca, Jr. 5th District
RESOURCES

Your Local Government

San Bernardino County Planning Commission

The Planning Commission members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and advise on development and maintenance of the County's General Plan; consider and recommend amendments to the General Plan and to the Development Code; periodically review the capital improvement program of the county; review and considers matters of countywide planning concern; and interpret the maps of the General Plan.

Jonathan Weldy
1st District
Raymond Bragg
2nd District
Michael Stoffel
3rd District
Thomas P. Haughey
4th District
Kareem Gongora
5th District
SOURCES

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