

ALKALI FLAT/MANSION FLATS STRATEGIC NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

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Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) Executive Summary

What is the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan?

The Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) is an action-oriented guide to reflect neighborhood priorities and to guide decision-making by both policy makers and the community in order to enhance and preserve the quality of life for area residents. Though the plan was originally intended to be focused solely on Alkali Flat, the action steps were expanded to include the Mansion Flats neighborhood due to the extensive number of similar issues that both of these neighborhoods share.

The SNAP focuses community priorities over the next 3-5 years and identifies actions necessary to achieve those priorities. The plan also develops a project schedule for each item.

The boundaries of the Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats SNAP are 13th Street to the east, G Street to the south, 7th Street to the west, and the Union Pacific Rail Lines to the north.

The SNAP incorporates work developed through community visioning efforts and is consistent and supportive of the objectives in the Alkali Flat Redevelopment Plan, which includes portions of both neighborhoods.



List of Priorities

To obtain community input for the Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats area, the Visioning process used a comprehensive phone and door to door survey along with two community meetings and a series of four focus group meetings.

The surveys and meetings indicated that following four areas were of most concern:

- ☞ Safety in the neighborhood.
- ☞ Safe and attractive parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the residents.
- ☞ Economic and Community development to increase retail and employment opportunities in the area.
- ☞ Parking and transportation improvements to control traffic and manage parking issues.

**Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP)
Executive Summary**

Summary of Actions

No.	Action	Completed	Underway	Scheduled to Begin
1.1	Form Neighborhood Association		January 2005	
1.2	Form Neighborhood Watch Group(s)			Pending
1.3	Form Neighborhood Response Team			Pending
1.4	Attend Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG)		February 2005	
1.5	Install Public Toilets	Temporary		
1.6	Utilize community prosecutor			Ongoing
1.7	Expand shuttle bus service			Pending
1.8	Exercise canine units in J. Neely Johnson Park			Pending
1.9	Call on park rangers to help address crime in parks			Pending
2.1	Utilize J. Neely-Johnson Park, Zapata Park and Muir Park for more recreation activities			Pending
2.2	Develop a community garden in Neely Park			August 2005
3.1	Increase awareness of construction standards in historic area	January 2005		
3.2	Increase level of maintenance and cleanup on 12 th Street			Pending
3.3	Improve parking on 12 th Street			Pending
3.4	Hold more frequent neighborhood clean-up events	January 2005		
3.5	Businesses to clean up the trash caused by their customers			Pending
3.6	Attend Gateway Master Plan meetings		February 2005	
3.7	Support Globe Mills and other development projects	February/ March 2005		
4.1	Re-designation of permit areas			Pending
4.2	Provide input for Parking Master Plan		April 2005	
4.3	Adjust street cleaning schedule to allow for more daytime parking			Pending
4.4	Change two hour parking areas to one hour parking			Pending
4.5	Address traffic concerns around 11 th & G Street intersection			Pending
4.6	Reduce traffic congestion on 12 th Street			Pending
4.7	Initiate Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)			Pending
4.8	Support construction of the Dos Rios Light Rail Station		May 2005	

Introduction

(note – this section covers Alkali Flat only)

The Alkali Flat neighborhood is located in the City of Sacramento, south of the American River, within the Central City Community Plan Area.

Alkali Flat, the oldest remaining residential neighborhood in Sacramento, spans approximately 24 blocks in the downtown Central City.

Since the mid-1800's, the neighborhood transformed from an area populated by Sacramento's wealthy elite to a low-income redevelopment zone and a center of Latino culture. Today, Alkali Flat continues as a neighborhood in economic transition, shaped by Sacramento's rapid growth and history as a gold rush, transportation and agricultural hub.

The Establishment of Alkali Flat

After a devastating fire in the autumn of 1852, most of Sacramento was destroyed but the Alkali Flat area remained largely unaffected since there were few permanent structures.

Many of the oldest remaining buildings in Alkali Flat today are brick or prefabricated wood homes constructed between 1853 and 1869 for Sacramento's wealthy elite. The area originally consisted of large lots owned primarily by land speculators, including Peter Burnett, the first governor of California, who received the land as commission while acting as a land sales agent for John Sutter, Jr.

The neighborhood attracted many of Sacramento's most prominent business, political and social leaders including the fourth governor of California J. Neely Johnson; Supreme Court Justice David Terry; railroad baron Charles Crocker (his home was later used as a hospital for Southern Pacific railroad); saddle and harness factory owner and investor Albert Van Voorhies (also known as "The Prince"); Wells Fargo agent and Fire Department Chief Engineer Issac Miller Hubbard; proprietress of the Orleans Hotel Maria Hastings; tinsmith contractor George Boehme (who supplied the copper roofing for the State Capitol Building); and confection businessman Anthony Egl.



Southern Pacific Hospital, 8th & F St.

In the 1860s, Alkali Flat was a desirable neighborhood due to its proximity to downtown businesses, local churches and schools. Most of the area residents owned businesses in the nearby business district located, J and K Streets and Front Street on the Embarcadero. Some of Sacramento's earliest churches predated the residential buildings in Alkali Flat and bordered the neighborhood including the First Baptist Church in 1850 on H Street between 6th and 7th and the Kingsley Chapel (known as the H Street Church) in 1855 on H Street between 11th and 12th. Sacramento's first African

American church, St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church, was organized in 1850 and located on 7th Street between G and H.



J. Neely Johnson House, 1029 F St.

Alkali Flat was slow to develop its own business district. However, as early as the 1850s some light industry appeared on the edges of the neighborhood close to the American River and the downtown business district. In 1854, a Chinese distillery began operation at 7th and E streets though it was a short-lived enterprise that closed the same year due to the high price of grain.

Three breweries started in the area beginning with the opening of The St. Louis Brewery on 6th and G streets in 1860 and followed by The Capital Brewery and the City Brewery in 1869 on 12th, H and I streets. The California Stage Company also had part of its operation in Alkali Flat in the 1850s. It's two buildings and yards could manage 40 coaches and more than 200 tons of hay and were located on E St., between 11 and 12th. It was completely destroyed by fire in 1857.

Modernization and Progress: 1870 –1930

An economic boom, industrial growth, the rise of agriculture and modernization spurred by the introduction of electricity and the automobile, marked these decades. The advent of World War I provided Sacramento with entrée into the war economy: local businesses constructed military airplanes and Mather Field Air Base opened.

Alkali Flat slowly transformed from a quiet, wealthy enclave to a working class residential area bounded by steel rails and subject to the incessant comings and goings of trains. Throughout this period, the neighborhood businesses multiplied and new industries were established in Alkali Flat, including a few that remain into the 21st century.

Alkali Flat Businesses Grow During the “Electric Age”

Alkali Flat residents depended on gaslights until the 1880s when two steam-generated electrical plants were constructed near 6th and H streets. After the Folsom power plant was built in 1895 and connected to the powerhouse on H Street, electricity became more affordable. At half the cost of steam electricity, average working people could now enjoy the benefits of hydropower.

By 1884, Sacramento had 23 miles of electric trolley track constructed by the Sacramento Electric Power and Light Company. The G Street line originated at the railroad depot and wound its way around the border of Alkali Flat along 7th Street to G Street and then up G Street to 19th Street. Connections with

other lines running to East Park and Oak Park from downtown, allowed greater mobility between residence and place of work. This greater mobility and the increasing domination of the neighborhood by noisy railroad operations contributed to the first flight of the middle class to newer less crowded suburban areas.

Still, until the early 1900s, the homes and gardens of Alkali Flat were beautifully kept. Picket fences or wrought iron gates lined the streets and were useful in keeping out flocks of sheep and cows that were run through Alkali Flat twice each year. Until the railroad added cattle cars to transport the animals, shepherds from Yolo County ranches crossed the neighborhood en route to 12th Street and the high country each spring for summer feeding and returned again in the fall.

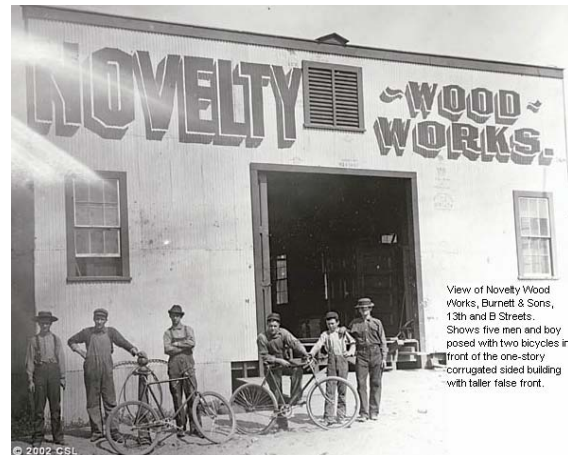
Neighborhood businesses grew to accommodate the larger, more varied population of Alkali Flat. The 1897 Sacramento City Directory indicates that the 12th Street corridor between B and H streets had become almost entirely a commercial area and included two meat markets, a retail liquor store, a steam laundry, a grocery, grain and feed store. While many of the businesses served the immediate neighborhood, a box manufacturer, carriage and wagon maker, and the Central California Gas Company office served a wider clientele.

There were also many informal, home-based businesses in Alkali Flat including at least ten nurses and music teachers who listed their homes as a business address. Door-to-door merchants sold

bread and other goods; there was an ice cream man, fishmonger, tamale seller, rag man, Italian organ grinder and a Chinese “chair-fixem” man who collected wooden and wicker chairs for repair and always returned them to the proper owner without written receipts.

Turn of the Century Neighborhood Change

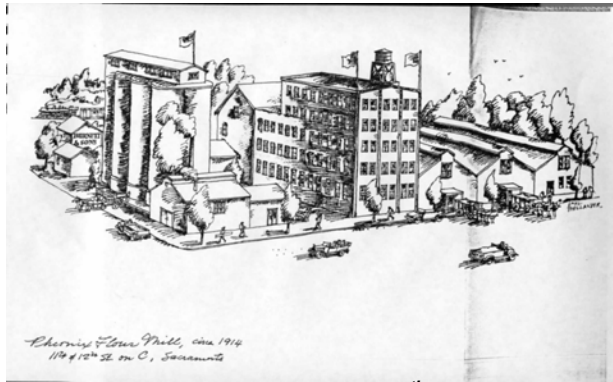
The turn of the century marked the establishment of several anchor businesses in Alkali Flat – several of which still operate in 2003. First, the Banta mill began in 1898 behind the owners’ home on D Street (it later moved to 12th Street in 1902). In 1900, the Burnett and Sons mill moved its operations to 13th and B streets.



© 2002 CSL
**1900 Burnett & Sons Novelty Wood Works,
13th and B Streets**

The custom woodworking company was founded in 1869 and became well known for the construction of the solid black walnut staircase in the new State Capitol building (the stairs were later moved to St. Francis Church on K Street). In 1931, the business moved to its current location at 11th Street and continues to operate as a family owned business.

The Phoenix Milling Company opened what became known as the Globe Mills complex at 12th and C streets in 1913; the flourmill was one of the area's most successful enterprises. By locating near the railroad, it was easy to ship long distances and the mill supplied markets throughout California and Nevada.



1914 Phoenix Flour Mill, 11th & C St.

In 1910, a group of 230 farmers formed a cooperative called the California Almond Growers Exchange. Four years later, they built a receiving and packing plant near the Alkali Flat neighborhood on 18th and C streets and introduced the Blue Diamond label. By the next turn of the century, about 4,000 growers owned the co-op (70% of all California almond growers) and produced more than one-fourth of the world's annual almond crop.

Crystal Cream and Butter Company, founded in 1901, moved to its still current location at 10th and D streets in 1913. In 1921, Danish immigrant Carl Hansen purchased the company and it remains a family owned business. It later became California's largest one-site milk-processing facility with distribution centers in Stockton, Yuba City, Antioch, Chico, Arcata and Redding.



**1912 Crystal Cream & Butter, Co.,
1013 D St.**

The construction of the 12th Street Bridge over the American River in 1911 connected Sacramento to points north and east and reinforced 12th Street's commercial corridor. Several of the early businesses serviced carriages and horses and later converted to auto-related services.

New apartment buildings built on lots previously occupied by single-family dwellings also characterized this era. In addition to new construction, builders and speculators began converting large, single-family homes into apartments or demolishing older homes to make way for new.

By 1912, the character of the Alkali Flat neighborhood had completely changed. One former resident recalls that not only were the big houses converted into flats and rooming houses, but also "the fences were down or in disrepair and once-trim gardens were overrun with weeds".

By the 1920's, the neighborhood was home to Irish immigrants as well as a growing number of Mexicans. Around this time, the term Alkali Flat came into common use and clearly referred to the

area bisected by 12th Street, extending from the rail lines along G and H streets north to the American River levee and from the railyards east to about 18th Street. Most people attribute the name to a white powdery substance that once coated the ground, a result of salt ocean tides that overflowed into the area through Sutter Slough. An amateur baseball team named the “Alkali Flat Gang” helped popularize the neighborhood name with their exploits on and off the field.

Decline and Renewal: 1930-1972

It is unclear how Alkali Flat fared during the years between the Depression and the immediate post-war period. However, in the 1950’s, many Latinos displaced by the first redevelopment efforts in Sacramento’s West End relocated to Alkali Flat. The neighborhood soon became its own redevelopment area and the center of organizing efforts for the local Chicano movement.

Latinos in the 1940s

Though only about 2,000 Latinos were in Sacramento in the 1940s, the Alkali Flat neighborhood was home to a majority of Latinos living in the Sacramento area. Most Latinos in the area worked in the fields, the railroads and eventually, in the canneries. In 1942, the Latino community began to grow with the introduction of the bracero program - an agreement between the U.S. and Mexican governments to allow Mexican nationals to work on American farms.

Exodus to Alkali Flat

Alkali Flat became the neighborhood of choice primarily due to the availability of affordable housing. Additionally, relocation decisions also were influenced by the area’s proximity to shops and amenities along with racially motivated practices that restricted minority home ownership in the suburbs. Yet, it was the supply of cheap rentals that most attracted the displaced. In 1970, rentals comprised 81% of the neighborhood’s housing stock, up from 66% in 1950.

During the same time period, the percentage of rental units in Sacramento County’s housing stock decreased from 41% to 39%. Most of the rentals in Alkali Flat were single-family homes or two to four unit apartments.

Alkali Flat Redevelopment Project Area 1972-2003

On February 10, 1972, the Sacramento City Council adopted the 30-year “Redevelopment Plan Alkali Flat Project No 6.” The Redevelopment Agency prepared the plan in concert with the interim Alkali Flat Project Area Committee (PAC), a group comprised of local residents and business owners that later incorporated as a nonprofit.



Boys Girls Club, 1117 G St.

The Federal Neighborhood Development Program (NDP) financed

most of redevelopment activities at this time. Additionally, the Redevelopment Agency was authorized to issue bonds and receive funds generated through tax increment funds. The project allotment for fiscal year 1972-73 was \$800,000; these funds were earmarked primarily for land acquisition and demolition.

The plan instituted new standards for upkeep and maintenance of properties and changed land use provisions to create new housing.

Other elements of the plan included the revitalization of the 12th Street commercial corridor, the addition of four mini-parks, street closures to reroute traffic, the provision of open space and restoration of historic Victorian homes.

Two Decades of Redevelopment

By 2004, SHRA had assisted with the development of 213 housing units, rehabilitated 145 residential units, implemented the Alkali Flat Historic Infill program and focused on businesses revitalization along the 12th Street corridor.



F Street Town Homes, 13th & F St.

Steadily improving economic trends in the Sacramento area, coupled with increased public interest in Central City living, could create redevelopment possibilities for Alkali Flat in the near future. Additionally, the northern

extension of Seventh Street to Richards Boulevard, along with the proposed development of the former Southern Pacific Railyards, could stimulate complementary urban infill construction in the Alkali Flat Redevelopment area.



***La Valentina Light Rail Station
12th & E St.***

Tax Increment fund generation in the project area had been relatively flat for several years, and it was unclear what assistance the Agency would be able to offer to larger projects. However, in 2003, the Agency was able to secure \$4.2 million bond funds for Alkali Flat which will help considerably with the implementation of projects in the area.

Redevelopment 2005 - 2009

The Redevelopment Agency's five year strategy for Alkali Flat is based on continuing the rehabilitation and revitalization of the area's vintage residential neighborhoods, supporting commercial uses, and reviving this great neighborhood. This strategy principally focuses on:

Prioritizing the Gateway: Recognizing that 12th Street is one of the primary gateways into the downtown core, a major effort is envisioned to capitalize on this on this asset. Strategies envisioned to help improve the Gateway include transit oriented development, provision of additional housing opportunities on 12th Street, and the

renaissance of blighted commercial buildings along the corridor.

Preserving History: As the area's first residential enclave, Alkali Flat is rich in historic structures. In addition to the Globe Mills and other historic commercial buildings, the area is home to many distinctive Victorian structures. The Agency will champion the preservation and/or rehabilitation of these one-of-a-kind structures.

Enhancing the Neighborhood: Another strong focus is to continue to work toward the development of an economically viable area that possesses strong housing stock, new and successful businesses, rehabilitated commercial buildings, and a self-sustaining community structure that can provide a resource base for Alkali Flat residents and business owners. Public and private investments will be encouraged to promote new development in the area while helping enhance existing businesses.

Housing Program Strategy: The redevelopment strategy for the residential portion of Alkali Flat focuses on retaining and upgrading the area's historic housing stock, promoting affordable infill development and encouraging quality mixed use developments. Projects such as the La Valentina site is also proposed as a mixed use development that will take advantage its proximity to the light rail station.

Historic Preservation

In recognition of the neighborhoods historic significance, The City of Sacramento expanded the Historic

Preservation zones in the area. This will ensure that future development will complement the areas historic structures and more importantly the expanded zones will protect the existing historic stock.



Map of expanded historic district

Neighborhood Profile

As reported by the 2000 Census, the total population within the Alkali Flat SNAP project area is 2,296 people. The racial breakdown of the resident population is reported as follows:

- White- 54%
- Latino or Hispanic- 27%
- Black or African American- 9%
- Asian- 4%
- American Indian or Alaska Native- 2%
- Some other race- 4%

Historically, the Alkali Flat neighborhood was home to a substantial Hispanic population; that trend still exists today. Approximately 27% of the residents in the area identified themselves as being Hispanic or Latino. This is higher than the City as a whole, where 21.6% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

The neighborhood also has a high number of rental units. Of the 1,465

housing units reported in the project area, approximately 10% are owner occupied and 93% renter occupied. The City of Sacramento housing as a whole is approximately 50.1% owner occupied to 49.9% renter occupied, according to the 2000 Census.

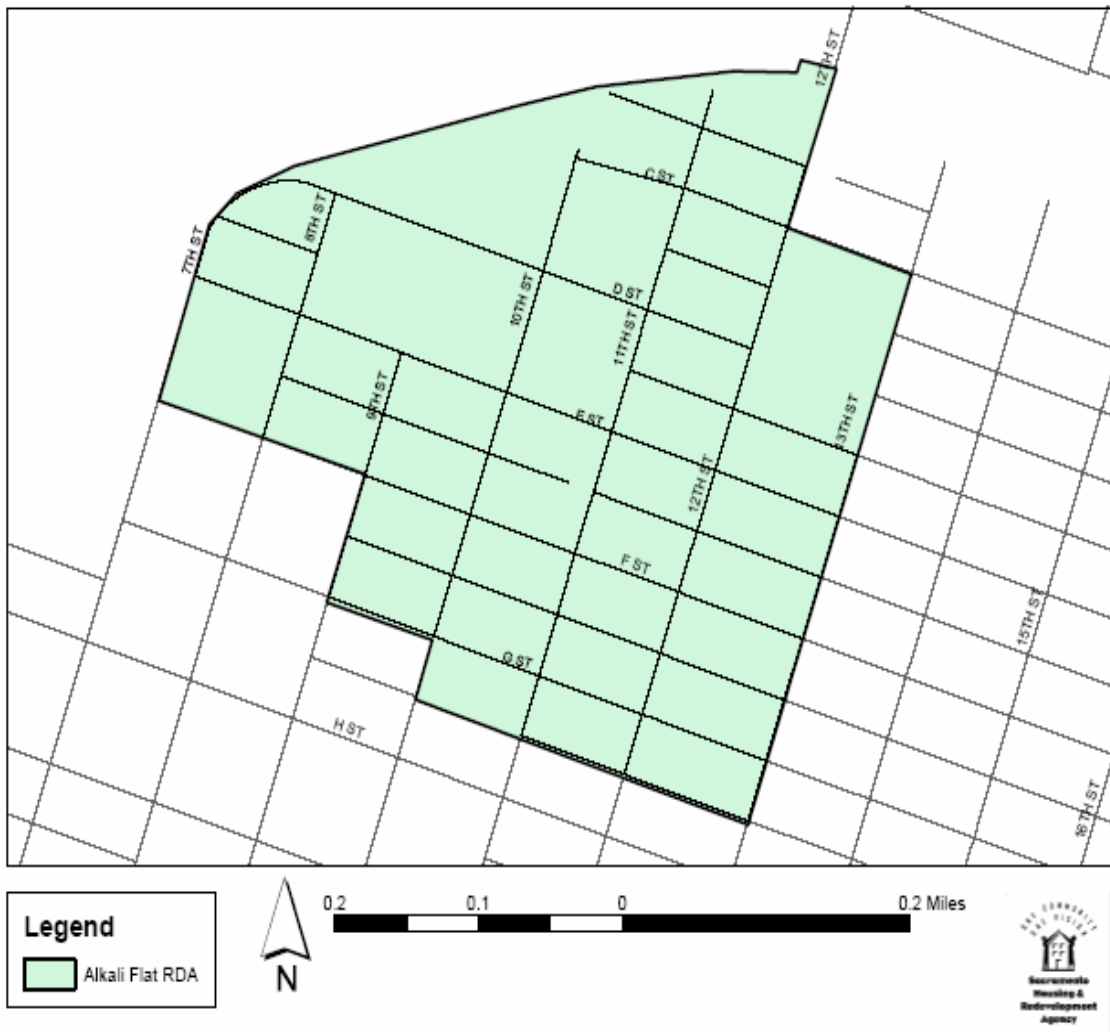
The Alkali Flat area has a relatively low number of “family households” (43% of all households) compared to the City at large (59%).

The following table below the age breakdown of the Alkali Flat SNAP population compared to the City as a whole:

Age Range	SNAP	Sac City
0- 24 yrs	11.7%	37.6%
25- 34 yrs	30.3%	15.6 %
35- 44 yrs	17.1%	15.1 %
45- 54 yrs	18.5%	12.8 %
55- 64 yrs	9.7%	7.4 %
65 or older	12.7%	11.5%

Source: 2000 Census

Alkali Flat Redevelopment Area



**Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats Strategic
Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP)
Process**

The Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats neighborhood is a long established yet still evolving neighborhood. This Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) was developed in partnership with neighborhood residents, City staff, and other agencies to identify actions to address neighborhood priorities.

Despite access to redevelopment funds, the development of Alkali Flat and Mansion Flats has lagged behind other downtown neighborhoods. City leaders including the Mayor and local Council Representatives have expressed concern about the health of the area and have a strong interest in the revitalizing this portion of the community.

In response to citizen concerns about conditions in the Alkali Flat and Mansion Flats areas, the City and Agency were directed to engage community members in a dialogue that identified problems in the neighborhood and solicited recommendations for solutions to identified concerns. This process became known as the Alkali Flat Vision Process. It was also hoped that the Vision process could re-engage community members not currently involved into the process of rebuilding the neighborhood. Due to the number of similar issues and concerns that the two neighborhoods share, the SNAP has been expanded to include both Alkali Flat and Mansion Flats, and is now known as the Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats SNAP.

Public meetings for the Vision Process took place between the Fall of 2004 and Spring of 2005. The method for obtaining the community feedback included:

- One large community meeting to introduce the process and identify staff working on the project.
- A detailed phone and door to door survey of area residents to help identify concerns.
- Second community meeting to report back to the community on survey findings.
- Four smaller focus group meetings to help identify solutions to problems.
- Final community meeting to close out the process and distribute a final report.

This SNAP is intended to complement and support City priorities and redevelopment activities in the area. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency's Five Year Implementation Plan is available upon request.

It is hoped that these efforts and a continued focus on the Alkali Flat and Mansion Flats neighborhoods will make these neighborhoods, which are located on a major gateway into the City of Sacramento, more attractive and enticing areas. More importantly, it is hoped that these efforts can continue to transform the neighborhoods into an excellent place for residents to live, work and play.

Area Vision and Action Plan Outline

Through the Visioning Process, a number of major area issues were identified and are listed in more detail on the following pages. The issues were consolidated into four topic areas: 1) Neighborhood Safety; 2) Parks and Recreation; 3) Economic and Community Development; and 4) Parking and Transportation. The following statements summarize the issues expressed by community members:

- ↳ By an overwhelming margin, residents consider safety to be the number one priority. Nearly 50 percent of those surveyed feel this is the top priority. They view improving safety as the key to the long-term health of the neighborhood. More than 75 percent of those surveyed feel that the number of homeless people in the neighborhood is a very important concern, and nearly 60 percent think that the concentration of social services needs to be addressed in order to improve safety in the long term.
- ↳ After safety, residents consider issues around parking and transportation to be the second most important priority. Nearly 13 percent of those surveyed feel this is the top priority. The use of residential parking places by Downtown workers was identified by 60 percent of those surveyed as a very important issue to be addressed.

- ↳ Addressing the condition of the parks – and developing vibrant recreation programs for youth and adults – was a very important concern. Nearly 8 percent thought it was the top concern in the neighborhood.
- ↳ More than 75 percent of those surveyed thought that preserving and restoring older buildings was very important. More than 50 percent felt that cleaning up dirty streets and sidewalks was very important. People also thought parking along 12th Street and improving the number and quality of retail stores along 12th Street were very important priorities.

Once these major issues were identified, the community meetings were designed to help focus on solutions to identified priority problem areas.

The priorities, along with implementation actions, are listed on the following pages. Some of the actions will require additional cooperation between the City and the community to determine appropriate timeframes and, if necessary, to locate funding. At the end of each section, issues of concern are listed that do not yet have identified implementation steps. Appendix A is a contact list of those City and SHRA staff identified in the document. Both City and SHRA staff will continue to work with the community to address these issues.

Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan Goals and Action Steps

I. Neighborhood Safety

By an overwhelming margin, residents consider safety to be the number one priority in the neighborhood. Nearly 50 percent of those surveyed feel this is the top priority. They view improving safety as the key to the long-term health of the neighborhood. More than 75 percent of those surveyed feel that the number of homeless people in the neighborhood is a very important concern, and nearly 60 percent think that the concentration of social services needs to be addressed in order to improve safety in the long term.

Goal 1.1: Form Neighborhood Association. A major short-term goal is to establish a forum in which safety issues can be addressed. This led to the decision to establish a neighborhood association where residents and businesses can come together to understand and address the needs of Alkali Flat, and communicate them to city departments and other groups.

Action steps:

- Set-up meeting with interested people to plan next steps (occurred on Dec. 8, 2004).
- Schedule combined meeting with Mansion Flats neighborhood association (scheduled for January 13, 2005).

Responsible Person(s):

- Area residents
- City Neighborhood Services Department

Timetable: ASAP

Status: Complete

Goal 1.2: Form Neighborhood Watch Group(s). The biggest and most pervasive safety concern, expressed by more than 90% of respondents, was drug dealing.

As a result of the community meetings, a proposal was made to organize the community into neighborhood watch groups. Sacramento Police Department officials report an increase in their ability to identify and arrest criminals when assisted by neighborhood watch groups.

Action steps:

- Establish neighborhood association.
- Set-up meeting with interested community members to plan watch groups.

Responsible Person(s):

- Area residents
- City Neighborhood Services Department, Larry Cyrus, Neighborhood Resources Coordinator
- City Police Department, Tawnya Zuckswert, Community Services Officer

Timetable: ASAP

Status: Pending

Goal 1.3: Join the Neighborhood Response Team. The Code Enforcement Division of the City of Sacramento Neighborhood Services Department seeks to identify and address the needs of neighborhoods through Neighborhood Response Teams (NRT). The Neighborhood Response Team generally works in concert with the neighborhood association and is comprised of community members and City employees. The NRT zone captains report the neighborhood priorities to the NRT. Often times, the zone captain is a member of the neighborhood association. The neighborhood association can also be the vehicle through which the priorities of the neighborhood to be reported to the NRT are decided upon.

Action steps:

- Form neighborhood association.
- Form a subcommittee within the neighborhood association that deals with NRT.

Responsible Person(s):

- Area Residents

Timetable: ASAP (concurrent with formation of neighborhood association)

Status: Pending

Goal 1.4: Attend Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG). Representatives of the neighborhood associations in Area One regularly meet together at Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG) meetings to discuss issues common to all neighborhoods. With the formation of the Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats Neighborhood Association, a representative from the neighborhood association should attend the meeting.

Action steps:

- Representatives of the Alkali Flat-Mansion Flats Neighborhood Association attend the meeting.

Responsible Person(s):

- Alkali Flat-Mansion Flats Neighborhood Association

Timetable:

- Subsequent meetings will be held the third Monday of every month 6:30 pm, Hart Senior Center (J and 27th Streets).

Goal 1.5: Install Public Toilets. A consistent problem identified by residents is the lack of public restroom facilities in the neighborhood. In an effort to mitigate this problem, Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) is planning to build a permanent bathroom at the La Valentina Light Rail station. In addition, Loaves & Fishes has offered to temporarily finance a port-a-potty as well.

Action steps:

- Identify location and deploy port a potty
- Support efforts to install bathroom at light rail station.

Responsible Person(s):

- Ray Tretheway, Council Member
- Tim Brown, Loaves and Fishes
- Mike Mattos, Regional Transit

Timetable: ASAP

Status:

- Porta-potty was installed in late January on a vacant lot owned by SHRA on 12th Street. The porta-potty and several days of cleaning per week are being paid for by Loaves & Fishes.

Goal 1.6: Utilize community prosecutor. In an effort to ensure that individuals who are arrested in Alkali Flat for criminal activity are prosecuted and jailed, it was suggested by law enforcement officials that Alkali Flat utilize the services of a community prosecutor to represent Alkali Flat in pursuing these cases. Susanna Wood, of the Sacramento City Attorney's Office, said she would devote resources to ensure cases in Alkali Flat are addressed.

Action steps:

- City Attorney's Office to devote resources and staff to Alkali Flat issues.
- Form neighborhood association to monitor and coordinate.

Responsible Person(s):

- Susanna Wood, City Attorney's Office

Timetable: ongoing

Goal 1.7: Expand shuttle bus service. An extension of the current RT bus route 33 was proposed to reduce the amount of pedestrian traffic and loitering by individuals who use the 12th street corridor to access social services. To alleviate the flow of such traffic, it was suggested that the shuttle be extended to K Street and free shuttle passes be expanded.

Action steps:

- Task force to meet and work with RT to investigate the feasibility of the shuttle bus extension and free shuttle passes.

Responsible Person(s):

- Tim Brown, Loaves and Fishes
- Mike Mattos, Regional Transit
- Wendy Carter (resident)

Timetable: Summer 2005

Status: pending

Goal 1.8: Exercise canine units in J. Neely Johnson Park. In the past, canine units have been exercised in the park. This acted as a deterrent to criminal and drug activity in the area. It has been requested that this activity be brought back to the park.

Action steps:

- Police Department to include J. Neely Johnson Park as a location for this activity.

Responsible Person(s):

- Police Department Canine Unit

Timetable: 2005

Status: pending

Goal 1.9: Call on park rangers to help address crime in parks. Park rangers are a resource that can be used to curtail criminal activity in Sacramento City parks. Park Safety Patrol representative Greg Narramore said that when crime or drug activity occurs in the parks, residents should call the non-emergency police dispatch number and request that the nearest Park Safety Unit be dispatched.

Action steps:

- Build neighborhood awareness through distribution of resource list.
- Call non-emergency dispatch and request response from Park Safety Unit when criminal or drug activity appears to be occurring in the park. Non-Emergency Police Dispatch: 264-5471

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents

Timetable: ongoing

Safety issues identified in the survey not included in this document that need additional follow up include:

Pedestrian safety

Drug dealing in and around the La Valentina Light Rail Station

Prostitution, burglary and theft

Chronic use of the neighborhood by the homeless

II. Parks and Recreation

A majority of those surveyed thought that addressing the condition of the parks – and developing vibrant recreation programs for youth and adults – was a very important concern. Nearly 8 percent thought it was the top concern in the neighborhood.

Goal 2.1: Utilize J. Neely-Johnson Park, Zapata Park and Muir Park for more recreation activities. Residents suggested that holding more events in the parks would deter criminal activity. Recreation officials confirmed that the parks are currently on the list of available parks for recreation activities. Residents requested that new and displaced classes and recreational activities be diverted to Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats neighborhood parks so that the parks will be used more frequently.

Action steps:

- Parks and Recreation Dept. to bring more activities to the parks where feasible.
- Parks and Recreation Dept. to designate the parks as high priority location for newly established classes.
- Develop walking program for seniors in the neighborhood.
- Develop low impact, lunchtime recreation programs for adults.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents and business owners/workers in Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats
- City Parks and Recreation Department

Timetable: Ongoing

Goal 2.2: Develop a community garden. Plans are currently in progress for the development of a community garden in Neely Park.

Action steps:

- Parks and Recreation Department to construct Community Garden in J. Neely Park.

Responsible Person(s):

- Parks and Recreation Department

Timetable: Summer 2005

Status: Construction on improvements to park is underway. Expected to be complete by September 2005.

Parks and recreation issues identified in the survey, which are not included in this document and need additional follow up include:

Need for additional park facilities
Trash and litter in the parks

III. Economic and Community Development

More than 75 percent of those surveyed thought that preserving and restoring older buildings was very valuable. More than 50 percent felt that cleaning up dirty streets and sidewalks was needed. People also thought parking along 12th Street and improving the number and quality of retail stores along 12th Street were very important priorities.

Goal 3.1: Increase awareness of construction standards in historic area. In order for Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats property owners, tenants and developers to be educated about construction requirements in a historic neighborhood, Roberta Deering suggested individuals attend a public training on standards for historic infill and new construction projects.

Action steps:

- Attend training

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents

Timetable: Initial Training offered January 26, 2005

Other trainings to be determined

Goal 3.2: Increase level of maintenance and cleanup on 12th Street. Residents would like to find out why the trash cans along 12th Street were removed and possibly have them replaced.

Action steps:

- Explore why the public trash cans on 12th Street were removed.

Responsible Person(s):

- City/SHRA Staff

Timetable: 2005

Status: Pending

Goal 3.3: Improve parking on 12th Street. The possibility of adding parking to 12th Street on the side of the street opposite the Regional Transit tracks was discussed as an option for decreasing traffic flow on 12th Street. A study to examine the feasibility and impacts of installing parking should be conducted to establish whether parking is a feasible option on 12th Street should be conducted.

Action steps:

- Facilitate meeting with Department of Transportation to discuss feasibility of added parking.

Responsible Person(s):

- Department of Transportation, Engineering Services Division
- SHRA

Timetable: 2005

Status: Pending

Goal 3.4: Hold more frequent neighborhood clean-up events. The Neighborhood Services Department sponsored a day-long clean-up in Alkali Flat on December 16th 2004. A representative of the Neighborhood Services Department said that it would be possible to organize more clean-ups if the neighborhood was interested. Residents feel that a more beautified Alkali Flat/Mansion Flats will help improve the area's image and ultimately lead to increased economic development.

Action steps:

- Neighborhood Services to employ large scale cleanup efforts in the area on a more frequent basis.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents to initiate
- Neighborhood Services Department to assist in organizing

Timetable: Ongoing

Status: A clean up was held in March of 2005. Neighborhood Services Department to facilitate periodic clean up events in neighborhood.

Goal 3.5: Address Trash Caused by 12th Street Business Patrons. Residents complained that the customers of some businesses on 12th Street throw trash on the ground. Domino's Pizza was cited specifically as having large amounts of their product packaging strewn around the exterior of the store. Residents expressed a desire to make these businesses clean up the mess made by their patrons.

Action steps:

- Communicate issue with business owners and encourage regular cleaning.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents
- City Code Enforcement (as needed)

Timetable: 2005

Status: Pending

Goal 3.6: Attend Gateway Master Plan meetings. Alkali Flat borders the area under discussion for the Gateway Master Plan and will be impacted by any development generated as a result of the plan. Residents feel it will be important to voice their opinions regarding the plans being made for the area.

Action steps:

- Provide residents with applicable meeting dates and times.
- Residents attend meetings to give input regarding the plan.

Responsible Person(s):

- SHRA responsible for providing updates of meeting dates and times.
- Residents responsible for attending meetings to provide input.

Timetable: Meetings to be held over the next few months. SHRA staff will keep residents updated.

Goal 3.7: Show public support for Globe Mills project. The plans for the renovation of Globe Mills will go before the Design Review and Preservation Board and the City Council in the next two months for final approval. SHRA Staff expressed the importance of community support for the project if it is to pass through these groups. Residents were encouraged to attend and show support for the project as it is believed that the project will foster economic development in Alkali Flat.

Action steps:

- Residents attend Design Review and Preservation Board Meeting.
- Residents attend Project Area Committee Meeting.
- Residents attend City Council meeting at which the project plans are presented for approval.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents

Timetable:

- Design Review and Preservation Board Meeting: January 5th 2005, 5:30 pm
Location: Planning Commission Board Room
- City Council meeting: Early February
- Other meetings to be determined

Status: Project and funding approved. Construction to begin late summer 2005.

Community and economic development issues identified in the survey not addressed in this document that may require additional follow up include:

Need retail in the neighborhood

Parking for retail

More office space and mixed use development

More market rate housing and affordable housing

Preservation of older historic buildings

IV. Parking and Transportation

After safety, residents consider issues around parking and transportation to be the second most important priority. Nearly 13 percent of those surveyed feel this is the top priority. The use of residential parking places by Downtown workers was identified by 60 percent of those surveyed as a very important issue to be addressed.

Goal 4.1: Re-designation of permit areas. Many residents feel that the current permit areas and corresponding restrictions make it not feasible for permit-holding residents to park in Alkali Flat without receiving tickets.

Action steps:

- Create a list of permit areas and parking spaces to be considered for re-designation. Send to Department of Transportation, Parking Services Division.
- Create a list of currently restricted permit areas and parking spaces. Send to Parking Services Department.
- Identify which blocks are best for residential permits.

Responsible Person(s):

- Bruce Monighan (lists)
- City Department of Transportation, Parking Services Division

Timetable: 2005

Goal 4.2: Provide input for Parking Master Plan. The City of Sacramento, Department of Transportation has initiated the Parking Master Plan, a project which will review the current parking situation in the Downtown area and make a proposal for improvements. As Alkali Flat lies in the area under review, residents expressed an interest in attending the community meetings to be held in the near future and giving input as to current problems and proposing solutions.

Action steps:

- Attend community meetings for Parking Master Plan. Dates to be determined.

Responsible Person(s):

- Alkali Flat residents
- Fran Halbakken, Department of Transportation

Timetable: 2005

Goal 4.3: Adjust street cleaning schedule to allow for more daytime parking. Residents cited the frequency and schedule of street cleaning in Alkali Flat as partly responsible for the lack of parking spaces for residents. It was estimated that on any given day, nearly 25 percent of all parking spaces in the area are unavailable as a result of street cleaning.

Action steps:

- Contact Solid Waste to establish feasibility of moving some street cleaning to weekends.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents
- City General Services Department, Solid Waste Division

Status: pending

Goal 4.4: Change two hour parking areas to one hour parking. Residents cited office workers of local businesses and large government agencies as parking in these areas and “shuffling” their cars every two hours. It is felt that by shortening the time limit on these parking spaces, workers will be inclined to seek out parking alternatives, thus alleviating to some degree the lack of daytime parking in Alkali Flat.

Action steps:

- Submit petition requesting the above change signed by residents along with a letter of purpose to Parking Services. At this meeting on January 6th 2005, a petition was initiated and 11 signatures were collected.

Responsible Person(s):

- Neighborhood Association (residents)
- Dennis Kubo, Department of Transportation, Parking Services Division

Timetable: 2005

Goal 4.5: Address traffic concerns around 11th & G Street intersection. This intersection was identified by residents as particularly problematic in regards to collisions and speeding. Bucky Perez from Traffic Engineering was at the meeting and suggested some actionable steps to address these concerns.

Action steps:

- Review collision history at 11th & G Street intersection (Bucky Perez).
- Residents to request radar speed signs to be placed near intersection.
- Lobby for the implementation of City identified solutions to traffic problems.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents
- Bucky Perez, Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering Division

Update (as of 2.1.05)

- Traffic Engineering has scheduled the radar board for the following Alkali Flat locations:
 - E Street near 9th Street
 - E Street near 11th Street... The radar board has already been deployed to this location.

- G Street near 11th Street
- The radar board for the others areas is currently under repair but will be deployed to the other areas when available.

Goal 4.6: Reduce traffic congestion on 12th Street. Residents voiced concerns that the current signal timing on 12th Street leads to increased traffic congestion and hinders the flow of traffic. It was suggested that the signal timing be reviewed. Mike Mattos of Regional Transit mentioned that pre-emption exists for RT trains and suggested this might further complicate the signal timing.

Action steps:

- Review signal timing on 12th Street (Bucky Perez).
- Review RT train settings for pre-emption process (Mike Mattos).

Responsible Person(s):

- Mike Mattos, RT
- Bucky Perez, Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering Division

Update (as of 2.1.05):

- Traffic Engineering reviewed the 12th Street signal timing and found that it was operating on schedule and as planned for efficient traffic flow. The signal timing on 12th Street between North B Street and I Street is currently being checked on a daily basis. Traffic Engineering noted that the light rail train will “pre-empt” the signals as it passes through but signal timing returns to normal as soon as the train has passed.

Goal 4.7: Initiate Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP). Bucky Perez suggested that the neighborhood association representing Alkali Flat request NTMP to give greater voice to their traffic concerns and to strive for resolution. It was mentioned that Mansion Flats had gone through the process and achieved notable results, including traffic calming.

Action steps:

- Contact Bill Beermann (Sacramento Police Dept., Traffic Enforcement, 916-277-6069) to request increased enforcement for a period of time.
- Contact Traffic Engineering for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

Responsible Person(s):

- Neighborhood Association

Update (as of 2.1.05):

- Traffic Engineering faxed an enforcement request to the Traffic Division of the Sacramento Police Department for enforcement of speeding on G Street and E Street and also for running stop signs on E Street.

- Bucky Perez mailed a community action request (CAR) form for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) to Wendy LaBarge, an Alkali Flat resident who has been involved in the Vision Project and is now involved in the neighborhood association.

Goal 4.8: Show support for new RT station. Mike Mattos revisited the issues of a new light rail station being installed in Alkali Flat. He urged residents to show support for the new station by attending public meetings and by sending letters of support for the project to RT.

Action steps:

- Write letters of support to Regional Transit requesting a new station and showing support for the current proposal.
- Attend any public meetings relating to construction of the new station.

Responsible Person(s):

- Residents

Timetable: 2005

Traffic and parking issues identified in the survey not discussed in this report that may require additional follow up include:

Downtown workers using residential parking places

Parking in alleys

Cars using the alleys to cut between streets

Trucks traveling on neighborhood streets

Traffic cutting over on F Street

Traffic on 7th Street

Street cleaning

Appendix A Contact List

Sacramento City Council

Ray Tretheway	Council District 1	808-7001	rtretheway@cityofsacramento.org
Karen Pardieck	Council District 1	808-7339	kpardieck@cityofsacramento.org
Steve Cohn	Council District 3	808-7003	scohn@cityofsacramento.org
Sue Brown	Council District 3	808-7235	sbrown@cityofsacramento.org

<u>City of Sacramento</u>	City Operator	264-5011	
City Attorney's Office		808-5346	
Susanna Wood	Deputy City Attorney	808-5346	

Department of Transportation

Parking Division	Off-Street Parking	808-5110	
Residential Parking Permits	On-Street Parking	808-5354	
John "Bucky" Perez	Traffic Investigator	808-7607	japerez@cityofsacramento.org
Fran Halbakken	Planning and Policy Manager	808-7194	fhalbakken@cityofsacramento.org
Dennis Kubo	Program Manager	808-8577	dkubo@cityofsacramento.org

Development Services Department

Jeanne Corcoran	Senior Planner	808-5317	jcorcoran@cityofsacramento.org
Roberta Deering	Preservation Director	808-8259	rdeering@cityofsacramento.org
Celia Yniguez	Senior Planner	808-1969	cyniguez@cityofsacramento.org

Neighborhood Services Department – Area 1

Larry Cyrus	Neighborhood Resources Coordinator	808-8193	lcyrus@cityofsacramento.org
Max Fernandez	Neighborhood Services	808-7940	mfernandez@cityofsacramento.org
Yvonne Riedlinger	Program Analyst	808-7859	yriedlin@cityofsacramento.org
Bob Rose	Chief of Code Enforcement	808-5947	rose@cityofsacramento.org
Julie Sontag	Administrative Analyst	808-5691	jsontag@cityofsacramento.org

Parks & Recreation Department

		264-5200	
Bob Fleming	Parks Manager	433-6301	bfleming@cityofsacramento.org
Ralph Pettingell	Recreation Manager	808-6173	rpet@cityofsacramento.org

Police Department (non-emergency) 264-5471
Tawnya Zuckswert Community Service Officer 566-6418
Bill Beerman Officer 277-6069

Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency 440-1322

Lisa Bates Director, City Community Development lbates@shra.org
Vickie Smith Program Manager vsmith@shra.org

Loaves and Fishes 446-0874
Tim Brown

Regional Transit 321-2800
Mike Mattos Chief of Facilities & Business Support Services 321-2800

Reference and Related Planning Documents

Copies of the following documents may be obtained by calling SHRA at 440-1322, or by visiting 600 I Street, #250.

1. Alkali Flat Five Year Implementation Plan 2005-2009.
2. Alkali Flat Redevelopment Plan.
3. Marois, Deb, "An Economic History of Alkali Flat".
4. Survey of Alkali Flat Residents and Businesses 11/2004, Leading Resources, Inc. and JD Franz Research, Inc.