CARE

Community Action for a Renewed Environment

PRIORITIZATION OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS

CARE Level I Community

Purpose of Project: Reduce Risks to Environment and Health in the Evergreen, Town & Country, Country Club Estates, and West Town Neighborhoods

Community Concerns/Issues By Category	Action(s)			Community Prioritization Process and Outcome	
	Current Status	Inputs/Resources	Follow- up	Probability of Success (costly, doable, complex, health impact) Voting Scale 1= Low 2= Moderate 3=High	PRIORITY
WATER					
Drinking water of poor quality	■ Residential water testing to include lead levels (residents would like to test their own water) Note: Lead level testing can be costly	 Need home lead testing kits. This can be costly Test a random sample of homes in the target communities Define number of homes that are pre-1972 	■ EPA will have to address the issue if any of the levels are over the limit ■ Will EPA allow CARE group to purchase water testing kits for individual homes with PHASE II funds?	SCORE = 17 Community thought this issue could be resolved easily with the appropriate resources. The level of complexity was deemed low Community members also felt this issue was not a health threat because the WG&L report/officials says the drinking water is excellent in the community	#7 Low
 Standing water after heavy rain 	■ This has been reported to WG&L officials for action There is a poor drainage system in community. Problem areas were filled in at one time years ago. No current plans to redo the sites	 CARE wants the city to fix the problem by filling in the holes and not continue to pump the drains when they fill up after heavy rain 	The Steering Committee will meet with city to address this issue	SCORE = 13 Filling in standing water areas is easily fixed by city officials with push from community Pumping the drains will be a longer and more complex issue to work through with the city Health impact is overall low for the	#8 Low

ENVIRONMENT	 Overall the standing water is only in one area of a community -not widespread 			community. Mostly a community nuisance	
 Fumes/toxins and spills generated by two petroleum sites in area with huge storage tanks Buried gas pipelines run near homes in Country Club Estates Lack of evacuation plan in case of a tank explosion 	 Reports revealed cleanup was immediate and met all environmental standards Kinder Morgan and MAGELLAM will be contacted regarding a detailed evacuation plan in the event of an explosion 	 Clean up environment first then health outcomes will improve Research city logs and regulations on site 	 Write a letter to the city EMA asking if there is an evacuation plan for the site The Board and steering committee will contact the companies regarding the safety of the pipelines 	SCORE = 30 The community thought this could be a win-win issue. They felt that if they cleaned up the environment first then good health will follow Should not take a lot of time to implement Low cost Health impact is great because lives can be saved with an evacuation plan Residents live very close to pipelines and assurance of safety is first	#3 High
 MacGregor site-closed golf manufacturing industry with toxins (high levels of Chromium, Hexavalent and Nickel at the site Residents feel there is no accountability for MacGregor owners The site is on the Hazardous Site Inventory list for Georgia 	■ The group has the latest EPA assessment on the site	 Find out w ho is responsible for site Is there any additional remediation to be conducted at the site Who will clean up the site and should the site be added to the superfund site list & what is the process? 	■ Write a letter to city public works department to address issues (accountability) ■ Write a letter to the state and articulate threat to community and ask what are the plans for the site ■ Contact local commissioners ■ Discuss the current site report with officials to find out level of health impact to the community	■ Long-term and could be a complex task (work with government and legal actions may be necessary) ■ Will fall back on CARE group to accomplish and push for actions and results ■ This issue is very big concern for the community. Residents do not want to wait on follow-up and action ■ Appropriate actions could fix the issue ■ Health impact can be high and have long term effects	#2 High

 Old dump-site on Alice Coachman Elementary School site Pollutants from nearby tank farms affecting the school Accumulated waste/pollutants and lack of clean- up from auto shops near school and residential area 	■ Testing of air and ground water at school were not at a level of concern ■ The Phase I assessment was just a walk-thru of the school site. Phase II funding is needed to search for dump site pollutants ■ School officials are satisfied with Phase I results ■ CARE has no physical evidence that tanks were buried on the site. This issue is based on historical recollections of several residents of the community	 Push for Phase II site evaluation and complete testing/assessme nt Geo-map auto shops, determine when they closed and types of suspected toxins, and define health threat 	■ Board and Steering Committee will review the Phase I asses sment and send a letter to appropriate official s for follow-up of community concerns	SCORE = 25 ■ Very complex issue that could become political for the community since the school site was approved by the commissioners and other officials ■ Could be costly ■ If found to be true, the health impact is great ■ Members of the community feel strongly about this issue because they believe the dumpsite pollutants were there in the past.	#4 High
Airport noise and fumes in residential community and near Alice Coachman Elementary School	Airport officials have not been contacted yet to talk about this community issue	■ Write a letter to Yvette Aehle, Airport Director to setup a meeting with CARE group to discuss noise level, toxins emitted by planes, and airport expansion (Evergreen and Town & Country residents). Money has been allocated for airport expansion ■ Assess community for any effects from the airport, i.e., hearing loss	 Can noise meters be installed near the airport? What are the details of the expansion? Need to follow-up fast 	■ Doable ■ CARE responsibility is relatively easy ■ Low cost ■ Responsibility will become complex if there is resistance from city ■ There is a health impact to the community	#5 Moderate
 Runoff of pesticides from former pecan farm in residential area 	■ Community knows the land was a pecan farm and now is a residential area. There is concern of the potential harmful effects of pesticides used in the past	 Collect air quality samples when pecan trees are sprayed Soil testing of area is needed 	 Conduct soil testing Research history of area Was the area sprayed with biodegrada ble 	SCORE = 19 The process of testing the soil and air quality will require experts and can be costly, complex and take a long time The task is doable	#6 Moderate

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HEALTH					
■ Too many cancer cases in young and old on every street in community	■ Public Health worked with the community in 1998 on a cancer study that revealed excess cancer but no cancer clusters ■ The steering committee received new cancer and chronic conditions data from the State Public Health Planning Office ■ The statistics revealed that the	 Work with Public Health to design and implement a new cancer study Utilize the health professionals on the board and partners to implement a new investigation into cancer and health 	■ Set a time- frame to secure buy-in from Public Health and other partners to start the research design and for completion of the study ■ CARE will need the assistance of residents, steering	■ The issue is overall complex and will take a considerable amount of time and expertise to execute ■ Costly ■ This issue is on the hearts and minds of residents. Community members almost unanimously felt a new study/investigation by Public Health and partners is the most important issue for the community ■ Residents felt a new study would	#1 High Community voted on and prioritized these issues as one health concern for follow-up
 Chronic health conditions-asthma (respiratory illnesses) and diabetes Genetic disorders 	 Review EPA toolkits/program s and incorporate in communities and use as Incorporate in 	 Investigate the CARE community's risk factors and statistics in cancer study Complete cancer 		accomplish the research needed for all the chronic health issues and concerns in the community	
in children reared in neighborhoods Rare brain tumors in adults and children	 Incorporate in cancer study 	Complete cancer study			