

Snuggly situated among the rolling hills of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) open space lands along the Carquinez Strait, Port Costa is a small town of approximately 200 people. Originally founded in 1879 as a deep-water shipping port, the community had an important role on the transcontinental railroad for wheat production. Upon the construction of a railroad bridge to Martinez in 1930, Port Costa diminished in size and regional significance. The small community now prides itself on its rich heritage and natural surroundings, preserving a small historic downtown and rolling hills rife with hiking trails and cattle. The community is close knit and enjoys a friendly, engaged dynamic.

Port Costa is fairly isolated, with only two narrow, winding access roads: Carquinez Scenic Drive connects to Interstate 80 and Crockett to the west, and McEwen Road connects to Highway 4 and Martinez to the south. The land is primarily used for single-family housing with a small downtown area consisting of a few businesses and a post office near the water and railroad. The railroad is in active use today, which inhibits public access to the waterfront, a major concern among residents. Residents are generally content to travel outside the community for daily goods and services, preferring to preserve the small-town charm of Port Costa, but there is some interest in modest business growth to support the economic vitality of existing businesses.

Residents act as stewards of the historic assets in Port Costa and the surrounding open space, and are passionate about preserving a healthy watershed to ensure a long, sustainable future. Residents are also interested in establishing a bike trail connection from Port Costa to Crockett.



Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2020.

## WHO LIVES IN PORT COSTA?

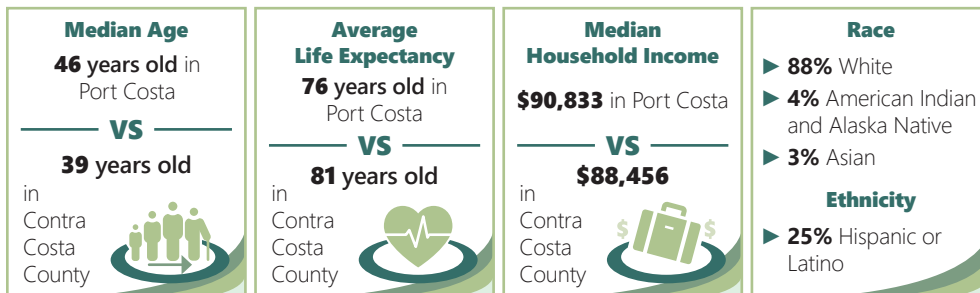












Photo by Deidra Dingman.

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## Hazards

-  Coastal flooding
-  Drought
-  Extreme heat
-  Flooding
-  Human health hazards
-  Landslides
-  Sea level rise
-  Seismic hazards
-  Severe storms
-  Wildfire

## Major Vulnerabilities

Low-income households, households in poverty, and cost-burdened households are vulnerable to unhealthy living conditions or destruction of homes from coastal flooding, flooding, landslides, seismic hazards, severe storms, and wildfire.

Persons with chronic illnesses and low-income households may have less financial stability to pay for medical costs or increased housing costs due to drought, extreme heat, flooding, human health hazards, and wildfire smoke.

The entire built environment is vulnerable to coastal flooding, flooding, landslides, sea level rise, and wildfire, especially the residents and businesses along Canyon Lake Drive and Prospect Avenue.

Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park and outdoor recreation that support the economy are vulnerable to coastal flooding, extreme heat, flooding, landslides, severe storms, and wildfire.









The Union Pacific Railway, Port Costa Schoolhouse, and the US Post Office are vulnerable to coastal flooding, flooding, and sea level rise.

The information on this page presents a summary of hazards and vulnerabilities in Port Costa based on the Contra Costa County Vulnerability Assessment; please see the [online Vulnerability Assessment](#) for a full description of these hazards and vulnerabilities.



## FLOOD ZONES

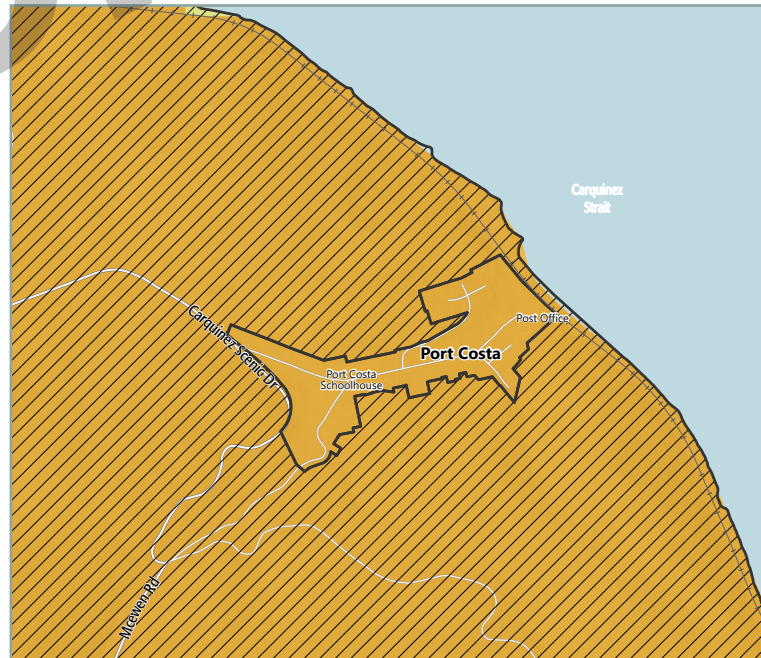
### Flood Hazard Areas

-  100-Year Flood Zone
-  500-Year Flood Zone
-  Areas of Undetermined but Possible Flood Hazard
-  Water
-  Unincorporated Areas
-  Urban Limit Line
-  Outside Urban Limit Line
-  Railroads

A 100-year flood zone represents a 1% chance of flooding in any given year.








A 500-year flood zone represents a 0.2% chance of flooding in any given year.

Source: FEMA, 2019; Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2020.



## WILDFIRE

### Wildfire Severity Zones

-  Very High
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Unincorporated Areas
-  Urban Limit Line
-  Outside Urban Limit Line
-  Railroads



Source: CAL FIRE, 2007; Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2020.

## PLANNED LAND USE

Section to be completed concurrently with Land Use Map.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles articulate the values, priorities, and aspirations for the future shared by Port Costa community members:

1. Port Costa should be a resilient community, one that has planned for and is safe from sea level rise impacts, wildfire hazards, and the acute and long-term risks of nearby industrial uses.
2. The rich history and unique heritage of Port Costa and its residents should be celebrated and cultivated for future generations.
3. Port Costa should remain an affordable place to find a home relative to the region.
4. Public facilities and amenities in Port Costa, including regional parkland, community parks and open spaces, and schools, should be preserved and enhanced. Open spaces should be inviting and clear of trash and debris.
5. Port Costa residents should enjoy convenient access to the shoreline.

## POLICIES

1. Maintain Port Costa's unique character while supporting economic vitality, emergency preparedness and safety, and improvement of the housing stock.
2. Maintain the safety of life and property through a high level of emergency preparedness, and reduce potential impacts of natural hazards, such as wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.
3. Support the establishment of a regional recreation area in the vicinity of Port Costa which is oriented towards pedestrian use and day use. (3-127)
4. Limit commercial development to small shops that are on the scale of small specialty and neighborhood retail shops and that avoid automobile-oriented uses. (3-129)
5. Encourage the preservation, sensitive rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of Port Costa's older buildings, particularly those that have been identified as local historic places, and recognize Port Costa's authentic character and inventory of historic buildings as assets and amenities to attract businesses, visitors, and local investment to the community.

## ACTIONS

1. Assess the adequacy of emergency response plans and systems for warning and notification, particularly as they relate to wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters, and implement any necessary improvements.
2. Develop design guidelines for Port Costa that are tailored to the unique setting, historic fabric, lot patterns, design character, and mix of uses in the community.
3. Update historic building inventories to add structures that may not have been considered historic at the time of the last inventory.
4. Improve waterfront access, including access to the shoreline from Port Costa and lateral access along the shoreline itself. Work with the State Lands Commission to provide new amenities along the shoreline, mitigate the limitations on access from the railroad tracks, and encourage water-oriented business and commercial activities that enhance Port Costa's identity as a waterfront community.
5. Establish a scenic waterway designation along the shoreline that protects and preserves its scenic quality, and encourage access for fishing, boating, hiking, cycling, and other recreational activities. (3-142)