

Revitalization Plan

Team One: Chris Piña, Chan Lee, Michelle Nguyen

Goal 1: A community with effective circulation.

Trona has the basic foundation for a walkable and bikeable community with its small blocks and small scale design, but a lack of streetscape and maintenance has discouraged residents from fully utilizing these public right of ways. Public transportation is lacking in Trona and residents rely heavily on personal automobiles for transportation.

Strategic Objectives

1.1 Create a Walkable Community

1.1.1 Add sidewalks throughout the community.

1.1.2 Install ADA accessible curbs.

1.1.3 Apply for funding through Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program.

The program seeks to improve the safety of pedestrian and bicycle routes to/from schools and provides funding for the installation of bicycle facilities. More information can be found at

www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms

1.1.4 Apply for funding through SB 821 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program
<http://www.rctc.org/downloads/current/8N.JE.RCTC.SB%20821%20Recommended%20Funding%20FY%202012.pdf>

1.1.5 Apply for funding through Section 5317 to make the community ADA accessible

1.2 Install Class II Bicycle Facilities

1.2.1 Apply for funding through Safe Routes to School (SR2S). More information can be found at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms

1.2.2 Apply for funding through SB 821 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program.
<http://www.rctc.org/downloads/current/8N.JE.RCTC.SB%20821%20Recommended%20Funding%20FY%202012.pdf>

1.2.3 Obtain Community Based Transportation Planning Demonstration Grant through San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG).

The grant is a key method by which many California communities plan for closer connection between transportation and land use. More information at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/cbtp.html>

1.3 Create a Shuttle for Residents and Especially for Senior Citizens

1.3.1 Through Caltrans apply for the Section 5311 program.

This program provides funding for transportation systems in non-urbanized areas. More information at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5311.html>

1.3.2 Through Caltrans apply for the Section 5310

This program is used to fund transportation services and projects to aid the elderly and disabled persons. More information at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5310.html>

1.4 Improve Infrastructure

1.4.1 Improve and repave roads

1.4.2 Apply for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Information at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/STIP.htm>

1.5 Prepare for Future Parking Needs

1.5.1 Create ample parking around newly proposed Central Business District (CBD).

Goal 2: Trona is a place of investment and economic development and an attractive destination

Trona is a gateway community to Death Valley and is an ideal location for growth and economic development. With assistance from local and federal funding sources and an aggressive approach for retaining old businesses and attracting new businesses, Trona will be able to boost its tax base and move towards self-sufficiency and prosperity. By making Trona a tourist destination and retirement community it can become a thriving community.

Strategic Objectives

2.1 Promote Tourism

2.1.1 Promote the community as a gateway to the way to Death Valley

2.1.2 Develop eco-tourism funded by applying for the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Grant .

The grant helps funds the development of conservation efforts such as trail and wildlife restoration projects. Information at

http://parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21361

2.1.3 Promote Trona as an off-road and all terrain vehicle (ATV) destination.

2.2 Attract Baby-Boomers

2.2.1 Market Trona as a retirement community

2.3 Implement Traffic Calming Measures to Capture Vehicular Traffic

2.3.1 Reducing speed limit on Trona Road

2.3.2 Install a traffic light on Trona Road

- 2.3.3 Apply for the National Highway System (NHS) program to improve Trona Road by deeming it as an important corridor to Death Valley. Information at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/nhs.htm>

2.4 Promote Business growth

- 2.4.1 Attract diverse employment opportunities
- 2.4.2 Attract complimentary businesses
- 2.4.3 Apply for the Economic Development Assistance Program through San Bernardino County to be used for infrastructure and business assistance. <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=48106>

2.5 Create a Central Business District (CBD)

- 2.5.1 Build retail buildings along Trona Road.

2.6 Create Trona's Identity through Branding

- 2.6.1 Create a website promoting Trona as a gateway to Death Valley, tourist destination, and retirement community
- 2.6.2 Create printable and digital brochures promoting Trona
- 2.6.3 Create a media package to attract businesses

Goal 3: Comprehensive guidelines and programs for design and safety

In order to achieve this goal, the whole community of Trona will have design standards for its Central Business District and Residential districts. Included in the design goal, is the implementation of a Historic District. These actions will create a more cohesive community and will regulate housing and safety standards. The ability to create safety codes in regards to housing will ensure that all residential structures provide sound environmental and structural protection. The geographic isolation of Trona merits that strategies are undertaken to bring services so residents, especially the elderly and very young do not have to travel a long way for crucial services.

Strategic Objectives

3.1 Create design guidelines for CBD and Residential District

- 3.1.1 Façade follows style of "Hipped Tronan" and Moorish Style
- 3.1.2 Create signage guidelines with assistance of design consultants
- 3.1.3 Have business stakeholders and residents work with consultants on creating more in-depth design guidelines

3.2 Reduce physical and environmental hazards

- 3.2.1 Asbestos abatement, dilapidated structures and abandoned property improvement

The neighborhood empowerment group, Community Action Group of San Bernardino (CAGSB) offers many services to low income residents in San Bernardino County such lead abatement to structures built prior to 1978. To be eligible for the free lead abatement program, owners or renters, must have low to moderate

income (See appendix Table A) and children under 6 years of age. Lead Abatement Services can be contacted at (909)723-1620. CAGSB also provides weatherization services for all residents of San Bernardino County that meet the income threshold (See appendix Table A). CAGSB determines the extent of services and repair for each household. They range from insulation, installation of efficient devices, door replacement and window replacement. A Weatherization Specialist can be contacted at (909)723-1620 and online at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/csd/eeswx.html>.

- 3.2.2 Utilize Housing rehabilitation loans through the county
The county of San Bernardino offers Single Family Loan Improvement (SFLI) and Senior Home Repair Program (SHRP). SFLI provides loans to income eligible homeowners in properties at least 8 years old with one or more years ownership. It covers a variety of home repairs such as paint and stucco, roofing, septic systems, etc... The county offers low interest rates with a flexible payment schedule. For homeowners, 60 or above, the SFLI provides a grant for repairs to code violations and/or health and safety problems at no cost. Both programs require applicants meet income criteria based on household size (see appendix Table B) and does not exceed the county median income. Information and applications can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.sbcountyadvantage.com/Housing-Assistance.aspx> or requested at (909)388-0925.
- 3.2.3 Utilize county code enforcement for illegal dumping in Trona or abandoned properties. San Bernardino Code Enforcement (909) 387-4044

3.3 Create database for contact information of abandoned homes

- 3.3.1 Make a prioritized list of neighborhood and infrastructural projects

3.4 Community clean-ups

- 3.4.1 Continue clean up with Trona Care and other community groups

3.5 Create Historic District

- 3.5.1 Hire Historic Preservation consultation firm to survey and identify historic structures
- 3.5.2 Consultants speak with residents regarding possible Historic District

3.6 Crime Prevention

- 3.6.1 Implement Neighborhood Watch in cooperation with SBSD
- 3.6.2 Add more street lights to residential streets

3.7 Add health amenities and services

- 3.7.1 Apply for various health grants to bring health services
There are various grant opportunities that need to be applied for. They will help fill the void of lacking health services in Trona. There are many small scale opportunities from federal, local and private organizations that require little startup time. The Department of Public Health offers a grant for a nursing stipend for towns under 5,000 people <http://www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub> Federally, there

are two grants for locations with aging demographics. Aging and Disability Resource Ctr. (ADRC), offers \$800,000 over three years for resource center. It provides funds for maintaining senior resource center and other program cost

(http://www.aging.ca.gov/federal_grants/default.asp).The

Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant provides \$ 325,0000 to pay for competent services to individuals and families dealing with

Alzheimer's such has 24-hour

care.(http://www.aging.ca.gov/federal_grants/default.asp)

3.7.2 Local Health Services

The San Bernardino Public Health Department offers free preventative health examinations to eligible children under the Child Health & Disability Prevention 1(800)723-3777 (180 locations in SB). They also provide mini-grants through the Desert Sierra Health Network (\$5000 dollars) for any health or nutrition outreach program. Example of outreach programs are senior exercise classes, after school sports program and nutritional classes. Applications can be downloaded at

http://www.sbcounty.gov/eatwell/desert_sierra_health_network/ds_mini_grant_receive_prop.htm or contact Theresa Warren at

(909)387-6600. The Well of Healing is a mobile medical clinic that goes to rural areas in San Bernardino once a month providing immunization, vision testing. All services are free of charge. Contact Carla Crow, Program Coordinator, at (909)268-1086 or go to

[http://www.co.san-](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/sbkids/programs/Water_of_Life.aspx)

[bernardino.ca.us/sbkids/programs/Water_of_Life.aspx](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/sbkids/programs/Water_of_Life.aspx). There are various support services for San Bernardino County Services. They are: Family Caregiver Support through San Bernardino (1-800-510-2020), In-Home Supportive Services (1-800-800-6560), Nutrition Services (909-387-6320) and Senior Information & Assistance Program (1-800-510-2020)

Goal 4: Interior and Exterior communication

It is important to facilitate and coordinate communication between the activities of Trona and other County departments, local community groups, grant opportunities and neighborhood residents. Therefore, it is a priority to appoint a contact person in the County of San Bernardino to assist in the neighborhood's capacity to advocate for its needs and to work with and manage the Neighborhood Oversight Committee. This effort may require several working sessions where leaders from each organization gather to discuss their strengths, weaknesses, and goals, and how those might be combined most effectively to benefit the residents of Trona. The use of communication from resident groups requires dedicated committees that work to receive grants for economic opportunities and health and safety services.

Strategic Objectives

4.1 Appoint County Planner to guide and provide information about Planning/Revitalization process to Trona residents

4.1.1 Develop a central process for voicing concerns and questions to the County. A carpooling schedule needs to be created to transport residents to and from San Bernardino County for legislative matters.

4.1.2 Engage residents and business owners in revitalization process through community workshops, meetings, and charettes.

4.2 Form neighborhood committees to develop and oversee revitalization strategy

4.2.1 Establish committee solely dedicated to procuring grants and implementing funding

4.3 Create agreement of different roles of community groups

4.4 Apply for grant opportunities

4.4.1 Transportation Grants (see Transportation Section)

4.4.2 Health Grants (see Design and Safety Section)

4.5 Create more localized control and efficient government body

4.5.1 Establish a Community Service District in conjunction with Searles Valley Mine Contact Arzell Hale of the Searles Valley Mine ,(760)-372-2139 and establish oversight committee to monitor the CSD and increase local governance of Trona.

4.6 Increase Community Involvement

4.6.1 Community Workshops with various groups led by CSD oversight committee

4.6.2 Consolidate various groups to make information symmetrical and more accessible

Goal 5: A community with a sustainable lifestyle that is sensitive to Trona's natural resources.

The lack of streetscape and maintenance in Trona has discouraged residents from fully utilizing public right of ways and discouraged visitors to explore the beauty that Trona truly possesses. By incorporating the use of native and drought tolerant plants, Trona residents can practice water efficient methods of gardening and sustainable landscaping. Preserving Trona's natural resources are a priority to Trona's residents and can be achieved through renewable energy initiatives. The use of photovoltaic panels on residential and commercial rooftops can decrease energy consumption, and implementation of water conservations initiatives can help promote a more sustainable lifestyle for Trona residents, while producing a short and long-term cost savings.

Strategic Objectives

5.1 Encourage Trona residents to be water-wise

5.1.1 Incorporate the use of native or drought tolerant plants for Trona's landscape.

Refer to San Bernardino County's Plant Database at <http://www.mswnc.com/MSWNmasterplantlist%20Z.htm>, the Alliance for Water Awareness (AWAC) Recommended High-Desert Plants, appropriate for the Mojave Desert Region, at <http://www.specialdistricts.org/2/water/conservation/plant%20list%20-%20revised%20Jan.%2008%202004.pdf>, or the *Plant Catalogue* from the Background Report.

5.1.2 Utilize xeriscaping to minimize water consumption

CalRecycle defines xeriscaping as a landscape that is designed from the beginning to reduce the amount of resources needed to maintain it and the amount of waste it produces. By designing a landscape in an appropriate manner, selecting compatible plants, and installing efficient irrigation systems, a balance can be achieved that fits both the aesthetic needs of Trona, and the resource availability of the region. Refer to CalRecycle's Xeriscaping information at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/Xeriscaping/> or through Colorado WaterWise at <http://coloradowaterwise.org/Default.aspx?pageId=645743>.

5.1.3 Utilize landscaping and gardening methods provided by the Mojave Water Agency & Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District's Desert Adaptive Demonstration Garden.

The ultimate goal of this project is to provide homeowners with the tools and information necessary to make informed decisions on creating their own beautiful desert adaptive landscapes and gardens. By combining the right irrigation method with desert adaptive plants, homeowners will be able to achieve an attractive, low cost, low maintenance landscape that can be appreciated for years to come. For more information, please visit <http://www.mojavewater.org/home/partners/documents/demogardenbook.pdf>.

5.1.4 Incorporate educational programs for water and energy conservation in Trona Joint Unified School District.

5.1.4.1 *A Child's Place in Environment* (refer to 6.2.2)

5.1.4.2 *The Edison Challenge* (refer to 6.2.3)

5.1.5 Educate residents and provide outreach on water conservation initiatives and tips provided by San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, which can be accessed by visiting <http://www.sbvwcddst.ca.us/conservation/index-cons.html>.

5.2 Enhance and encourage energy conservation, renewable energy, energy exploration and production.

5.2.1 Implement the Flex Your Power program

It is California's statewide energy efficiency marketing and outreach campaign. Initiated in 2001, Flex Your Power is a partnership of California's utilities, residents, businesses, institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working to save energy. The

campaign includes retail promotions, a comprehensive website, an electronic newsletter, educational materials and advertising. Flex Your Power has received national and international recognition, including an ENERGY STAR Award for excellence. Trona residents can incorporate these materials as part of an outreach program to promote energy conservation. For more information, please visit <http://www.fypower.org>.

5.2.2 Install photovoltaic panels

5.2.2.1 Resources for information and rebates on installation of solar panels and solar initiative programs are available at

<http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org> , or

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/greencountysb/rebates/rebates.aspx>, which include:

- *Go Solar, California! - California Solar Initiative (CSI)* As part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$3.3 billion, Million Solar Roofs Program, California has set a goal to create 3,000 megawatts of new, solar-produced electricity by 2017 - moving the state toward a cleaner energy future while helping to lower the cost of "going solar." You can support renewable energy and help save the environment when you take advantage of financial incentives for installing eligible photovoltaic systems, as part of the California Solar Initiative. In addition, you will play an important role helping the state move toward a cleaner energy future. For more information, please visit <http://www.sce.com/solarleadership/gosolar/go-solar.htm>.
- *Go Solar, California! - Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH)* – administered through Southern California Edison, this program offers incentives for installing eligible photovoltaic (PV) systems for qualifying multifamily affordable housing. It is designed to subsidize PV systems in multifamily housing which will offset electricity loads and provide economic benefits for housing property owners and managers as well as building tenants. For more information, please visit <http://www.sce.com/solarleadership/gosolar/mash/mash.htm>.
- *GRID Alternatives' Solar Affordable Housing Program (SASH)* provides installation of solar panels on homes for low-income families. Applicants must receive electrical service from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), or San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). In addition, resident must own home and live in it and have a household income of 80% or below of the area median income. For more information, please go to <http://www.gridalternatives.org/>.

5.2.2.2 2011 Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency can be accessed by visiting

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index.

5.2.3 Install Wind and Fuel Cell Renewable Energy Electric-Generating Systems

The Emerging Renewables Program (ERP) - The California Energy Commission's Emerging Renewables Program provides rebates to consumers who install qualifying renewable energy systems (small wind turbines with a rated output of 50 kilowatts (kW) or less, or

fuel cell electricity systems, which are devices that use a chemical process to convert renewable fuels into electricity) on their property. The financial incentive may vary according to the system size, technology, and installation method. The goal of the ERP is to increase the installation of small wind systems and fuel cells using renewable fuels, by reducing the net cost of on-site renewable energy systems. For more information, please visit <http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/>.

Goal 6: A community with educational and professional development and opportunities for residents.

Trona residents expressed concerns for educational and higher learning opportunities for their students. Implementing a program for a summer institute will bring attention to Trona and will also enable Trona students to experience educational curriculum on a University campus. Incorporating programs into the existing curriculum that are designed to further educate Trona students on a variety of topics, including environment and health, will broaden their knowledge and promote a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle from an early age.

Strategic Objectives

6.1 Launch the Trona Explore Program

- 6.1.1 Establish Advisory Board
- 6.1.2 Establish partnership between Trona Joint Unified School District and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- 6.1.3 Promote and market Trona Explore Program to attract potential students and funding
- 6.1.4 Funding sources – National Heritage Foundation; National Science Foundation; National Institute of Health; Board of Education; Cal Poly Pomona’s Kellogg Foundation; Cal Poly Pomona’s Summer College of Extended
- 6.1.5 Provide a 10-week summer institute
 - 6.1.5.1 Phase I – guide potential students through application process; students are accepted and are provided on-campus housing at Cal Poly; students receive instruction and training
 - 6.1.5.2 Phase II – Faculty, Cal Poly Pomona students, and Trona students will travel and stay in Trona; parties will undertake theme for project/course
 - 6.1.5.3 Phase III – All parties return to Cal Poly Pomona where students will present their final reports

6.2 Incorporate programs for school-aged children

- 6.2.1 A Garden in Every School

Nutrition is an essential building block for student success. Healthy, active, and well-nourished children are more likely to attend school and are more prepared and motivated to learn. While the primary responsibility of schools is to foster academic achievement, schools have an exceptional opportunity to guide children toward healthier lifestyles by creating a healthy nutrition environment. (More information on Healthy Eating & Nutrition can be obtained at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/>)

6.2.2 A Child's Place in Environment

This is a series of six environmental education curriculum guides for elementary school teachers that integrates science, English-language arts, and selected children's literature, and culminates with student projects which enhance the environment. The lessons in each unit have been correlated to California's content standards in science and English-language arts. The goal of *A Child's Place in the Environment* is to encourage students to become environmentally literate and active. These students would value their environment, respect all life forms, understand the basic ecological principles that support our planet, and live an ecologically responsible life-style. Each grade-level unit is designed around four major themes: (1) valuing the environment: providing opportunities for students to develop a feeling of appreciation and respect for the environment, (2) systems and interactions: enabling students to acquire an understanding of the ecological concepts as they practice thinking and problem-solving processes, (3) patterns of change: challenging students to recognize the ways their environment changes, and (4) conservation: encouraging students to act responsibly toward the environment through school and community enhancement projects and personal action. (More information regarding Environmental Education Curriculum Resources, please visit the California Department of Education website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/oeeresources.asp>)

6.2.3 The Edison Challenge

Offering a hands-on approach to improving science education, the Edison Challenge provided students from our region with an opportunity to compete in creativity and scientific rigor, while providing their teachers with tools and resources to improve environmental science education in the classroom. Student-teacher teams developed original science projects related to issues surrounding energy and the environment. The Challenge was co-sponsored by Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, and the University of Southern California (USC) (For more information, please visit

<http://www.sce.com/CommunityandRecreation/Education/EdisonChallenge/edison-challenge.htm>.

6.3 Explore opportunities for grants and scholarships for students in the Trona Joint Unified School District

6.3.1 Southern California Edison's Green Jobs Initiative

This initiative helps students pursue education in green jobs fields. Edison's commitment of \$1 million provides grants of \$100,000 each to 10 California community colleges that offer green jobs training programs. To qualify, students must live in the [Edison service territory \(PDF\)](#), demonstrate financial need, and be enrolled in green-jobs fields of study such as renewable energy generation, transportation and alternative fuels, green building and energy efficiency, or biofuels production. This program is funded by Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, and not by utility customers.

6.3.2 California State Polytechnic University, Pomona's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships can assist with finding scholarships and financial aid that are available to prospective and continuing students. (For more information, please visit http://dsa.csupomona.edu/financial_aid/scholarship.asp)

6.3.3 Federal Student Aid Gateway

Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded financial assistance for education beyond high school. It is a source for free information, guidance and tools for federal student assistance. This will help Trona students with their research on schools and funding in anticipation for college. For more information, please visit <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov>.