**DRAFT Eastern Coachella Valley’s Updated Webpage on** [**www.calendow.org**](http://www.calendow.org)

1. **Background**

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) is a comprehensive community initiative that is creating a revolution in the way Californians think about and support health in their communities. Residents and partners in the City of Coachella and the unincorporated communities of Mecca, Thermal and North Shore are proving that they can make health happen in their neighborhoods, schools and with prevention—and in doing so, they are creating a brighter future for their children.  
  
Residents, youth, businesses and organizations are leading the Building Healthy Communities (BHC) Eastern Coachella Valley’s effort to positively change the health of our communities through the creation, implementation and strategic action which is guided by the BHC Community Action Plan. Our work is carried out by our Schools, Neighborhoods, and Prevention Action Teams. To read more about each Action Team’s priorities, see the “current focus” section below.

Although creating real change can be difficult, children in the Eastern Coachella Valley deserve clean water, healthy food, safe places to learn and play, and access to health care so they can live long, healthy lives.   Residents in the City of Coachella and the unincorporated communities of Mecca, Thermal and North Shore are proving that we have the power to make health happen in our communities!

1. **Quick Facts**

* The Eastern Coachella Valley is a major hub for agricultural production in Riverside County and California as a whole, representing $526 million in gross agricultural value. Agricultural workers represent the main local labor force. They contribute approximately 430 million dollars a year to the region.
* Through BHC coordinated GOTV campaigns, partner agencies and residents were able to increase voter turnout by 18% to an all-time high of 30% - greater than the county and state average.

1. **Current Focus**

Residents and partners in Eastern Coachella Valley BHC are driving change across many systems and issues. The map below gives a snapshot of the breadth of their actions, followed by more information on our top four priorities for the coming year.

[The current content map will go here – people will be able to click on boxes to pull up information about all of issues.]

* **Prevention Action Team: The** BHCECV Prevention Action Team prioritized the following issues: Health Care Access, Health Education, and Sexual Health. The Prevention Action Team’s objective is to increase community awareness and involvement so that every Eastern Coachella Valley resident has quality and accessible health care, regardless of your resident status or zip code.  Our mission is to build people power to push community leaders, elected, and system leaders to become champions for affordable and accessible Health Care for All ECV residents.
* **Neighborhood Action Team:** The BHCECV Neighborhood Actions Team prioritized the following issues: Food Access, Housing and Infrastructure, Recreation and Community Services, and Transportation. The Neighborhood Action Team is working toward healthy communities by focusing on aspects of the environment that seriously impact health: housing, infrastructure, transportation, recreation, and food access.  The Team has chosen to specifically focus on campaigns related to infrastructure and transportation, in which they are seeking to secure infrastructure master plan and a mobility master plan through a series of strategic actions on various levels over time.
* **Schools Action Team:** The Schools Action Team prioritized youth development, Boys and Men of Color/Girls and Women of Color, and Parental Engagement. The schools team is establishing positive school climate initiatives as their long-term target. The Local Control Funding Formula has established advocacy opportunities for parents and students to flex their civic engagement muscle by building their capacity on budgetary processes and health equity for schools in the Coachella Valley Unified School District.

1. **Learn More**

* Fact Sheets:
  + The Health Statues of Residents of the Eastern Coachella Valley. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\ecv_population_health_status_villarejo-kresge-wadsworth_2013.pdf) (doc.8)
  + Coachella Environmental. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\coachella_environment.pdf) (doc.9)
  + Mecca Environmental. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\mecca_environment.pdf) (doc.10)
  + North Shore Environmental. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\north_shore_environment.pdf) (doc.11)
  + Oasis Environmental. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\oasis_environment.pdf) (doc.12)
  + Thermal Environmental. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\thermal_environment.pdf) (doc.13)
* Policy Briefs:
  + Air Monitoring. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\air_monitoring_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.14)
  + Health Care Access. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\healthcare_access_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.15)
  + Housing Policy Brief. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\housing_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.16)
  + Ozone Policy Brief. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\ozone_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.17)
  + Park Recreation Policy Brief. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\parks_recreation_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.18)
  + Political Policy Brief. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\political_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.19)
  + Transportation Policy Brief. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\transportation_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.20)
  + Water Policy Brief. [PDF](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\water_policy_brief_final.pdf) (doc.21)
* Revealing the Invisible Coachella Valley:
  + [English](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\Revealing%20the%20Invisible%20Coachella%20Valley.pdf) (doc.6)
  + [Spanish](file:///C:\Users\ADesautels\Downloads\SPANISH%20Coachella%20Valley%20Report%20-%20Print%20version.pdf) (doc.7)
* Case study on improving housing conditions in ECV. [link to pdf]
* For more background information on ECV, please link to this BHC fact sheet. [link to BHC fact sheet on existing ECV page on existing TCE website]

1. **Contact info**

* Website: [www.bhcecv.org](http://www.bhcecv.org)
* Facebook: Eastern Coachella Valley Building Healthy Communities (BHC)
* Twitter: BHCECV (@ BHCcoachella)
* Youtube: Building Healthy Communities in East Coachella
* For more information please contact Sahara Huazano at [shuazanobhc@gmail.com](mailto:shuazanobhc@gmail.com) or (760) 972-4628

1. **Read This**

*Youth Present ECV Projects at American Planning Association Conference*

<http://coachellaunincorporated.org/2014/10/09/youth-present-at-american-planning-association/>

*Group: CVUSD must reduce suspension rate*

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/education/2014/06/21/group-cvusd-suspension-rates/11205775/>

*‘Willful defiance’ suspensions are unfair*

[*http://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/07/12/coachella-valley-schools-suspensions/12587249/*](http://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/07/12/coachella-valley-schools-suspensions/12587249/)

*Comprehensive health survey to focus on east valley*

[*http://www.desertsun.com/story/life/wellness/2014/05/01/health-survey-east-valley/8550451/*](http://www.desertsun.com/story/life/wellness/2014/05/01/health-survey-east-valley/8550451/)