

Executive Summary: Todos Santos Community Assessment July – October 2021

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METHODOLOGY. In 2020, the Mexican government undertook its census process, and with that, the CSU Todos Santos team set out to refresh the 2015 Community Needs Assessment information. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the current process incorporates information from one-on-one video interviews as well as socially distanced in person conversations. The team talked with more than 50 individuals from Todos Santos, El Pescadero, and surrounding areas representing the following stakeholder groups: women, educators, public servants, expatriates, farmers, fishermen, people interested in the environment, and entrepreneurs.

Concurrently, the team gathered current data around socio-economic, demographic, geographic, environmental, health and agricultural factors. This information can be matched with the areas identified by the communities as priorities to better understand the current situation and help guide further collaborative research and educational programming. For additional information, please refer to the previously published 2015 community needs assessment reports (“Todos Santos Community Assessment 2015,” and the “Todos Santos and El Pescadero Socio-Demographic and Environmental Overview”) as well as the updated “2020 Todos Santos and El Pescadero Socio-Demographic and Environmental Overview.”

SIGNIFICANT LEARNINGS. Our conversations validated the continued importance of the community priorities as identified in 2015, including:

- Valuing the environment, particularly Waste Management and Water
- Sustainable and responsible development
- Language classes (English)
- Education and youth engagement
- Public health
- Business training and alternative models

As well, interviewees expressed interest in greater collaboration among community members in engaging the above areas of priority, reflecting that one challenge of long-term initiatives are cohesion and sustained momentum. Short-term initiatives make an impact on immediate challenges. For example, the Alianza Comunitaria addressed food insecurity during the pandemic and alleviated food insecurity as triggered by the pandemic, the sudden closure of tourism, and loss of livelihood for many families. The CSU Center was involved in Alianza Comunitaria efforts and continues with involvement in the Zero Waste Initiative.

PRIMARY COMMUNITY PRIORITIES. While there is a wide range of hopes and visions for the future by community members, several reoccurring themes appeared through our conversations with residents, as captured below, in no specific order of priority.

Valuing the environment, particularly Waste Management and Water	Waste Management: No sanitary landfill, waste collection system, lack of treatment for hazardous materials, and accumulation of agro-plastics. Water: Concern about the quantity and quality of the water supply, infrastructural challenges, conservation and future growth.
Sustainable and responsible development	Growth is happening quickly and often without following a development plan. The population of the Todos Santos and El Pescadero regions increased by 50% from 2010 to 2020 (7,751 to 11,635). Current and future development have social, cultural, environmental, economic and infrastructural impacts.
Language classes (English)	English language has become an increasing need for young people entering the work force. Opportunity for advanced/profession oriented English courses.
Education and youth engagement	Desire to create options for youth to help them succeed in the future and to keep them engaged now. Challenges in continuity education resulting from the pandemic and limited internet and computer access.
Public health	Primary health concerns include acute respiratory infections, intestinal infections, diabetes and obesity, Dengue, Rickettsia, cancer, kidney issues, STDs and teen pregnancy, and covid-19.
Business training and alternative models	Concern over lack of preparation within the native resident workforce to meet the needs of tourism industry. Desire for increased training in trades, small business management and entrepreneurship.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted public outreach and the 2020 census count.