



City of Riverside

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

California Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice communities as:

- 1) Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; or areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment¹; or
- 2) Low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.”²

As defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin,

or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies. The need to promote environmental justice has come from a history of disproportionate environmental harm to low-income and minority populations. This is, in part, because of compounded exposure to environmental hazards that can lead to adverse health outcomes and compromised quality of life.

California Government Code Section 65302 requires that jurisdictions with environmental justice communities incorporate environmental justice policies into their General Plans. This can include developing a separate environmental justice element or integrating related goals, policies, and objectives into the other elements of the General Plan. These updates are required when a jurisdiction adopts the General Plan or revises two or more elements concurrently and they must address ways that environmental justice communities are protected from environmental and health hazards. Opportunities for community members to engage in decision-making that affects environmental quality and health outcomes must also be identified.

Environmental justice communities within the City of Riverside have been identified using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (“CalEnviroScreen”), a data tool

¹ California Code, Health and Safety Code – HSC Section 39711

² Gov. Code, § 65302, subdivision. (h)(4)(A).

developed by CalEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711 and other statutory requirements. CalEnviroScreen provides statewide data that can be used to identify communities disproportionately impacted by, or vulnerable to, environmental pollution and contaminants. The mapping tool contains 12 indicators related to pollution burden and 8 indicators that track population characteristics and other vulnerabilities.

To ensure compliance with California Senate Bill 1000, the City of Riverside General Plan 2025 includes environmental justice policies and actions that are integrated into the existing elements of the General Plan. The following environmental justice policies provide a framework for integrating environmental justice into the City's Phase 2 General Plan update.

SECTION 2:

POLICIES

LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

POLICY LU-EJ-1.0 HOUSING LOCATION:
ENSURE NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS
ADHERE TO LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL
REQUIREMENTS TO AVOID
DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

POLICY LU-EJ-2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:
ENSURE THE CITYWIDE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT POLICY PROVIDES
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH
OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN
DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEIR
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

CIRCULATION AND COMMUNITY MOBILITY ELEMENT

POLICY CCM-EJ-1.0 ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION: PROMOTE PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
TO ADDRESS NEGATIVE HEALTH

OUTCOMES, PARTICULARLY AMONG
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

POLICY CCM-EJ-2.0 TRANSPORTATION
OPTIONS: ENCOURAGE INCREASED PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION AND MULTI-MODAL
TRANSPORTATION CHOICES AS MEANS OF
REDUCING ROADWAY CONGESTION AND
ASSOCIATED AIR POLLUTION AND
PROMOTING OVERALL HEALTH

EDUCATION ELEMENT

POLICY ED-EJ-1.0 EDUCATION:
COORDINATE WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL
DISTRICTS, CHARTER AND PRIVATE K-12
SCHOOLS, AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES TO PROMOTE EQUITY IN
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY

NOISE ELEMENT

POLICY N-EJ-1.0 NOISE: WITH A
PARTICULAR FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE COMMUNITIES, REDUCE NOISE
POLLUTION BY ENFORCING NOISE
REDUCTION AND CONTROL MEASURES
WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO RESIDENTIAL
NEIGHBORHOODS

AIR QUALITY ELEMENT

POLICY AQ-EJ-1.0 AIR QUALITY: ENSURE THAT LAND USE DECISIONS, INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, ARE MADE IN AN EQUITABLE FASHION TO PROTECT RESIDENTS AND WORKERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES FROM THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

POLICY PR-EJ-1.0 PARKS AND RECREATION: DISTRIBUTE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EQUITABLY THROUGHOUT RIVERSIDE'S NEIGHBORHOODS

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT

POLICY FI-EJ-1.0 HEALTH CARE: COORDINATE WITH HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO EXPAND HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

ARTS AND CULTURE ELEMENT

POLICY AC-EJ-1.0 ARTS AND CULTURE: PROMOTE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF

ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES ACROSS THE CITY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

POLICY HP-EJ-1.0 HISTORIC PRESERVATION: ENCOURAGE IDENTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNITIES WHOSE HISTORIES AND HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT WELL DOCUMENTED