



# EJ

# Environmental Justice

## Introduction to Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice Element seeks to reduce disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations in San Jacinto and promote equal distribution of resources. Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was signed into law by then Governor Jerry Brown, on September 24, 2016. It mandates that cities and counties with Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities (described below) adopt an EJ Element or integrate appropriate goals, objectives, and policies into other elements of their general plans, with the intent to create healthier places. The City of San Jacinto has chosen to prepare a separate element so that all EJ-related goals, policies, and actions are conveniently located in one document for easy reference.

### *Environmental Justice Communities*

EJ Communities are described by the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) as areas (i.e., census tracts) of a city or county that have environmental burdens and vulnerabilities than other areas. Based on data from CalEnviroScreen Version 3.0 (used in practice from 2018 to 2021) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Priority Populations Mapping Tool relied upon during preparation of the Envision San Jacinto 2040 General Plan Update, the City identified two census tracts (6065043517 and 6065043507) considered to be EJ Communities (Figure EJ-1). The methodology is described in more detail in the Existing Conditions Report, which was prepared in 2019. Subsequent to this analysis, CalEnviroScreen was updated to Version 4.0 (October 2021). Using Version 4.0, it appears that the environmental context of the two census tracts identified above is *improving*. This EJ Element supports continued improvements for areas identified as EJ Communities as well as neighborhoods throughout the City, as a whole.

### **Organization of Element**

The EJ Element will address each of the topics below as they relate to San Jacinto. The goals and policies of this element are organized around the following topics:

- Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
- Access to Public Facilities
- Healthy Food Access
- Safe and Sanitary Homes
- Physical Activity
- Civic Engagement
- Improvement and Programs

### **Contents:**

- + Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
- + Access to Public Facilities
- + Healthy Food Access
- + Safe and Sanitary Homes
- + Physical Activity
- + Civic Engagement
- + Improvement and Programs

## GOAL EJ-1 POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

Land use and development patterns that reduce pollution exposure and enhance air quality, especially in environmental justice communities.

Pollution exposure occurs when people come into direct contact with air, food, water, and soil contaminants and is often the result of incompatible land uses sited adjacent to each other. Sensitive populations (such as children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems) and sensitive land uses (such as schools, day cares and hospitals) are the most susceptible to pollution exposure. Environmental Justice Communities are often disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution exposure. Pollution can come from many sources including storage tanks leaking hazardous chemicals into soil and groundwater, agricultural land uses applying pesticides, mobile sources such as vehicles emitting exhaust, and stationary sources such as diesel engines emitting exhaust.

### EJ-1 Policies

- EJ-1.1 **Emission Sources.** Encourage existing sources of emissions to use feasible measures to minimize air quality impacts in Environmental Justice Communities and avoid new sources of significant emissions in these communities as feasible.
- EJ-1.2 **Green Industry.** Attract non-polluting industry and green technology companies to the City.

*Other Related Policies:*

ED-3.2	Higher Intensity Development	PS-6.2	Noise Mitigation
ED-4.3	Mixed-Use	PS-6.3	Acoustical Studies
LU-1.1	Land Use Pattern	PS-7.4	Air Pollution
LU-1.3	Balancing Jobs and Housing	PS-7.11	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
LU-2.2	Infill Development	RM-2.2	Groundwater Management
LU-3.3	Industrial Areas	RM-2.5	Stormwater
LU-3.4	Environmental Compatibility	RM-2.6	Septic Systems
LU-3.6	Agricultural Compatibility	RM-4.4	Transportation Options
LU-4.1	Use Configuration.	RM-4.6	Sustainable Development
M-1.4	Truck Routes	RM-4.7	Sensitive Receptors
M-6.1	Vehicle Miles Traveled	RM-4.8	Mitigation
M-6.4	New Development	RM-4.10	GHG Reduction
PS-4.2	Cleanup Sites	RM-5.1	San Jacinto Power
PS-4.4	Transportation	RM-5.3	Renewable Energy
PS-4.5	Household Hazardous Waste	RM-10.3	Hazardous Waste
PS-4.6	Proposed Facilities	RM-10.4	Source Reduction and Recycling Efforts
PS-4.7	Emergency Response		
PS-6.1	Noise Exposure		



## EJ-1 Actions

Goal EJ-1 is implemented through the following actions:

- LU-3a
- LU-3c
- LU-3d
- LU-3e
- PS-4a
- PS-4b
- PS-4c
- PS-4d
- PS-4e
- PS-4f
- PS-4g
- PS-6d
- RM-4b
- RM-4c
- RM-4n
- RM-4o
- RM-10a
- RM-10c

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## GOAL EJ-2 ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public facilities and services that are equitably distributed throughout the City of San Jacinto and are available to residents of Environmental Justice Communities.

The adequate provision of public facilities is a critical component to the current and future prosperity of a community. Under state law (SB 1000), “public facilities” is an umbrella term that includes “public improvements, public services, and community amenities”. This covers a wide spectrum of publicly provided uses and services including infrastructure, school facilities, parks, and transportation and emergency services. These amenities and services act to improve the health, safety, and well-being of a community by either enhancing the public sphere or providing services that are available to every resident.

Insufficient public facilities can have significant impacts to the health and quality of life of residents, and historically, EJ Communities have struggled with insufficient access to public facilities and substandard amenities more than other communities.

### EJ-2 Policies

- EJ-2.1 **Convenient Access.** Consider the ease of accessibility of public facilities in relation to Environmental Justice Communities during the review and evaluation of public facility expansion, replacement, and construction.
- EJ-2.2 **Prioritize Resources.** Apply resources to meet parks, recreation, and open space needs in underserved areas of the City that have a demonstrably greater need for these amenities.

#### *Other Related Policies:*

- |         |                                       |        |  |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------|--|
| LU-1.5  | Public Services for Quality of Life   | RM-7.2 | Service Area                             |
| LU-1.6  | Gathering Spaces                      | RM-7.3 | New Facilities                           |
| LU-2.1  | Plan for New Development              | RM-7.4 | Parkland Dedication                      |
| LU-5.4  | Gathering Places                      | RM-7.5 | Maintenance                              |
| M-2.4   | Public Transit                        | RM-7.6 | Safety                                   |
| PS-5.1  | Emergency Response Services           | RM-7.8 | Joint Use Facilities                     |
| PS-5.10 | CPTED                                 | RM-7.9 | Open Space in Nonresidential Development |
| RM-6.1  | Provision of Police and Fire Services | RM-9.3 | Fair Share                               |
| RM-7.1  | Regional Cooperation                  |        |  |



## EJ-2 Actions

Goal EJ-2 is implemented through the following actions:

- ED-2b
- ED-7b
- M-2d
- PS-5d
- PS-5e
- RM-6a
- RM-6f
- RM-7a
- RM-7c
- RM-7e
- RM-7f
- RM-7g
- RM-8c

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## GOAL EJ-3 HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Healthy food and nutritional choices are accessible for all community members.

Food plays a critical role in the health of a community. Therefore, it is essential that all residents have access to food that is healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate. EJ Communities may face constraints related to accessibility to nutritional food, and this lack of accessibility has a direct impact on personal health and well-being. Food access is not only associated with the physical accessibility of affordable and culturally appropriate food, but also with food security, defined as access by all people at all times to *enough* food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods as well as the ability to acquire foods.

### EJ-3 Policies

- EJ-3.1 **Incentivize Healthy Food Supply.** Encourage retailers to improve the quality and selection of healthy foods and nutritional information and to stock fresh and healthy food at affordable prices by providing incentive programs, technical assistance, or other services.
- EJ-3.2 **Access to Healthy Food.** Strive to locate healthy food establishments so that all residences are within walking distance (quarter to a half-mile) of a healthy food store or a store with healthy options, where feasible and appropriate.
- EJ-3.3 **Options for Healthy Food.** Prioritize healthy food supplies in economic development efforts and encourage the establishment and operation of farmers' markets, farm stands, ethnic markets, mobile health food markets, and convenience/corner stores that sell healthy foods including fresh produce.
- EJ-3.4 **Farmers Markets.** Support existing farmers markets and support the location of new farmers markets near Environmental Justice Communities wherever feasible.
- EJ-3.5 **Coordinate with Schools.** Work schools serving students of all ages to encourage healthy food options being available and more accessible than unhealthy food options.
- EJ-3.6 **Senior Meals Program.** Continue to support the senior meals program.

### EJ-3 Actions

Goal EJ-3 is implemented through the following actions:

- EJ-3a Set an example in City facilities and at City-sponsored events by providing healthy food and beverage options, which may include snack bars, vending machines, and food and beverages served at meetings and events.
- EJ-3b Coordinate with local markets, restaurants, and food recovery organizations to donate surplus food to residents in need.
- EJ-3c Prepare and distribute information on the benefits of healthy eating and on the availability of food assistance programs.
- EJ-3d Work with local organizations and community groups to provide free or reduced cost lunches after the school year ends.



## GOAL EJ-4 SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

Healthy living conditions for all residents, particularly those in Environmental Justice Communities.

The housing conditions of homes in a community have direct health implications for those who live in the homes. Many residents in EJ Communities live in dwellings that were built before standards and regulations were established to ensure that new homes are free from pollutants such as lead and asbestos. The proportion of older homes in EJ Communities are usually higher than in non-environmental justice areas and thus residents in EJ Communities are disproportionately exposed to these health threats. Older housing often has other problems such as poor ventilation, which leads to uncomfortable indoor temperatures and mold-producing moisture, and pest and vermin infestation.

Overcrowded housing is another issue that affects the safety and cleanliness of homes. Overcrowding is typically measured by determining the persons-per-room in a dwelling unit, with more than one person per room considered overcrowded.

Lastly, housing affordability also influences whether homes in a community are safe and sanitary. When a tenant or homeowner spends more than 30 percent of their income toward housing (including utilities), they are generally considered to be cost-burdened. When a household is cost-burdened, there is less money for housing maintenance or other needs such as healthcare and healthy food.

### EJ-4 Policies

- EJ-4.1 **Code Enforcement.** Focus code enforcement efforts in Environmental Justice Communities to improve unsafe and unsanitary conditions, focusing on overcrowding, illegal garage conversions, illegal home businesses, unpermitted plumbing and electrical, property maintenance, trash and dumping, and graffiti.
- EJ-4.2 **Lead-Based Paint.** Raise awareness about the risks associated with lead-based paint and other housing hazards, including by distributing information about remediation of lead and best practices to reduce and eliminate other housing hazards.
- EJ-4.3 **Indoor Air Quality.** Encourage measures to reduce indoor air quality impacts (e.g., air filtration systems, kitchen range hood exhaust fans, low-VOC paint and carpet) for new developments.
- EJ-4.4 **Absentee Owner Outreach.** Conduct periodic absentee owner outreach in Environmental Justice Communities to inform owners of their legal requirements to maintain and upkeep their rental properties.
- EJ-4.5 **Tenant Rights.** Distribute information with City newsletters and/or other periodical publications about protecting tenant rights, so they are not penalized for reporting or living in a dwelling unit that does not meet health and safety standards.



*Other Related Policies:*

- HP-1.1 Existing Housing Stock
- HP-1.2 Rehabilitating and Preservation
- HP-3.1 Affordable Housing
- HP-3.3 Attractive and Safe Housing
- LU-5.10 Property Maintenance
- LU-5.11 Older Neighborhoods and Businesses

**EJ-4 Actions**

Goal EJ-4 is implemented through the following actions:

- Housing Program 1
- Housing Program 2
- Housing Program 3
- Housing Program 4

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## GOAL EJ-5 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Land use and development patterns that encourage physical activity and improve multimodal access and connectivity to employment, shopping, services, schools, parks, and other destinations.

Physical activity is a large contributor to the physical and mental health of San Jacinto residents. Physically active people tend to live longer and have lower risk for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). Physical activity is promoted by the built-environment by providing places that encourage walking, biking, and other forms of exercise. These places include parks, open space, trails, urban green spaces, areas with robust tree canopies, and active transportation networks. If a community has facilities that promote physical activity, community members are more likely to be physically active within that community.

### EJ-5 Policies

- EJ-5.1 **Eliminate Barriers.** Update the Development Code to eliminate any barriers to facilitating the development of complete neighborhoods with access to retail and recreation resources within walking distance of homes.
- EJ-5.2 **Accessibility.** Endeavour to provide parks that are easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood and beyond, and are as barrier-free as possible, particularly for those with limited mobility.
- EJ-5.3 **Physical Activity.** Promote physical activity programs and education including, but not limited to, programs offered by the Landscape, Lighting and Park Districts and encourage residents to regularly participate in physical activity and active lifestyles.
- EJ-5.4 **Partnerships.** Form partnerships with non-profit organizations, healthcare organizations, and regional governmental agencies to foster and participate in efforts promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and positive health outcomes.

#### Other Related Policies:

ED-4.5	Walkable	M-3.2	Multimodal Facilities
LU-4.4	Pedestrian Design	M-3.3	Multimodal Connectivity
LU-5.8	Streetscapes	M-4.1	Trails Master Plan
M-1.5	Transportation Improvements for All Users	M-4.2	Active Transportation Network
M-1.7	Safe Routes to Schools	M-4.4	Trail Connectivity
M-3.1	Complete Streets	M-4.5	Support Facilities



## EJ-5 Actions

Goal EJ-5 is implemented through the following actions:

- M-1b
- M-1d
- M-3a
- M-3b
- M-3c
- M-4a
- M-4b
- M-4c
- M-4d
- RM-4i

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## GOAL EJ-6      CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Accessible and culturally appropriate opportunities for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income to engage in the decision-making process.

Civic or community engagement is an important goal across all local planning and decision-making processes. It can help foster a strong sense of place within a neighborhood and can deepen the investment of stakeholders in working toward neighborhood improvements. Environmental Justice issues will be more effectively identified and resolved if accessible and culturally appropriate opportunities to engage in local decision-making are created for low-income, minority, and linguistically isolated stakeholders. Effective civic engagement not only provides the City with an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the community, but provides for sound investment in better decision-making by ensuring decisions are informed by community needs and aspirations.

### EJ-6 Policies

- EJ-6.1      **Equitable Civic Engagement.** Support an equitable and comprehensive approach to civic engagement and public outreach on all aspects of City governance and delivery of services.
- EJ-6.2      **Community Events.** Promote, sponsor, and support a variety of community events to strengthen social cohesion and the overall identity of the City.
- EJ-6.3      **City Information.** Distribute City information in Environmental Justice Communities, such as numbers to call for code enforcement, programs offered through the City, housing needs, and general City information.
- EJ-6.4      **Partnerships.** Partner with and support the efforts of any community-based organizations or non-profits that focus on programs and activities for the Environmental Justice Communities.

#### *Other Related Policies:*

- RM-4.12      Public Engagement
- RM-7.11      Community Support



## EJ-6 Actions

Goal EJ-6 is implemented through the following actions:

- EJ-6a Promote meaningful cross-cultural participation in local planning and decision-making processes by:
- a. Providing City-sponsored material in multiple languages.
  - b. Organizing outreach events and conducting surveys directly to specific demographic groups.
  - c. Partnering with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust, and cultural competency with target communities to conduct outreach for local initiatives and issues.
  - d. Tailoring activities and the venues where they take place to accommodate the cultural preferences of different racial/ethnic groups.
- EJ-6b Make meetings and other public engagement forums accessible to a wide range of residents and encourage greater attendance by:
- a. Ensuring any materials are distributed far enough in advance of meetings to allow sufficient time for review and comment.
  - b. Using communication methods that convey complex or technical information in an easily understandable manner.
  - c. Facilitating meetings using diverse methods that can engage all participants and can appeal to multiple styles of learning.
  - d. Focusing on methods to effectively engage younger residents.



## GOAL EJ-7 IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS

Improvements and programs address the needs of environmental justice communities.

An important feature of the Environmental Justice Element is that it prioritizes projects and investments that directly benefit EJ Communities. Environmental justice communities typically have special needs that arise from past geographic and procedural inequities. This requires taking special actions that will improve existing conditions in EJ Communities. Many of these actions will not be applicable across the entire Planning Area, but will be applicable only to EJ communities due to their special circumstances.

### EJ-7 Policies

- EJ-7.1 **Prioritize Spending.** Where possible, prioritize spending of funds for air quality and other environmental improvements, public infrastructure improvements, recreation, and community programming in Environmental Justice Communities, and make fiscal decisions based on this priority.
- EJ-7.2 **Grant Funding.** Seek grants that will specifically help with the issues in Environmental Justice Communities such as safe housing, air quality and environmental concerns, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, and other issues.
- EJ-7.3 **Coordination.** Coordinate with relevant utility providers to provide adequate and appropriate levels of service and promote the maintenance of water, sewer, stormwater, and electrical facilities serving Environmental Justice Communities.

#### Other Related Policies:

- |        |                                    |         |                       |
|--------|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| ED-1.2 | Incentives and Services            | M-7.2   | New Developments      |
| ED-1.3 | Business Investment                | M-7.4   | Regional Funding      |
| ED-7.5 | Funding                            | RM-7.10 | Parkland Funding      |
| HP-1.4 | Continued and New Investments      | RM-9.1  | Public Facility Plans |
| HP-3.4 | Incentives For Housing Development | RM-9.2  | Capital Improvements  |
| LU-5.9 | Public and Private Investment      | RM-9.4  | Prioritization        |
| M-7.1  | Funding Sources                    |         |                       |



## EJ-7 Actions

Goal EJ-7 is implemented through the following actions:

- ED-3b
- ED-3c
- Housing Program 10
- Housing Program 12
- LU-5e
- M-7a
- RM-7d
- RM-9a
- RM-9b

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Figure EJ-1 Environmental Justice Communities in San Jacinto

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