

Case Study: Jurupa Valley's Environmental Justice Element



Why Jurupa Valley Planned for Environmental Justice

Jurupa Valley created the state's second EJ Element to address the severe pollution and poor air quality that resulted from intense industrial and manufacturing activity in the region, especially warehousing. For decades, the City allowed industrial uses to be sited adjacent to homes and schools in Mira Loma Village. As the result of a legal settlement between the City and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) in 2013, the *Jurupa Valley Environmental Justice Element (JVEJE)* was developed to protect public health and promote environmental and social equity.

Community Engagement Process

The community engagement process was led by a team that included a consultant, non-profit organization (CCA EJ), and City staff. The team held several meetings in affected neighborhoods, with translation services and child care provided by the City. During these community meetings, local residents identified environmental health priorities and developed strategies to address the main EJ issue, including areas to target future public investments, such as community parks, and the best solutions and areas to prioritize for mitigation measures, such as a restricted freight route in Mira Loma Village.

Outcome

Since its approval in 2014, the JVEJE has played an integral role in local land use decisions to promote a healthy environment for all residents. The JVEJE covers all of the EJ topics targeted by SB 1000.

The JVEJE maintains the following benefits as a standalone element:

- A comprehensive and accessible set of performance metrics is included to measure the City's progress on achieving its EJ goals.
- Strategies for institutionalizing interdisciplinary partnerships are promoted to address EJ challenges and implementation strategies are clearly articulated.
- EJ goals that may not have been suitable to include other General Plan elements are given space in the EJ Element and prominence.
- Topics such as public facilities and services, which otherwise would be discussed in other elements of a General Plan, can be oriented with an EJ focus to ensure they benefit disadvantaged communities in the EJ Element.



Key Lessons

Implementation of the JVEJE has resulted in multiple benefits in Jurupa Valley. The City has installed high-performance air-filtration units in homes throughout the Mira Loma area while also creating vegetative barriers to reduce exposure to air pollution. The City is also developing a restrictive truck route to prevent diesel trucks from traveling in close proximity to homes.

The JVEJE planning process offers the following lessons:

- In addition to the legal settlement, the EJ Element was funded in part by a supplemental environmental project through the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.
- The planning process engaged community leaders and empowered them to shape investments in their community. This process helped the City identify and prioritize the most effective projects to address EJ concerns in each area.
- City staff used both CalEnviroScreen and the Environmental Justice Screening Method to identify disadvantaged communities in Jurupa Valley and currently maintain a map of this data as a result of the planning process.
- Following completion of the JVEJE, the City adopted a strategy of voting by district to encourage election of decision makers who live in disadvantaged communities and will help establish a more equitable decision-making body.
- The Element exceeded State requirements for addressing EJ in General Plans at the time. In 2015, the Element earned awards from the Inland Empire Section and California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Case Study Summary: Jurupa Valley

Location	Inland Empire
Community Type	Urban
Population Size	95,005
Geographic Area	43.68 sq. mi.
EJ Issue(s) Addressed	Air quality
Community Engagement Process	Partnership with community-based organizations, fundraising
Community-Based Organization Actively Engaged	Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)
Outcome	EJ Element
Adopted	November 2014

