Why Plan for Environmental Justice?

The Planning for Healthy Communities Act

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016, mandating that cities and counties adopt an EJ Element or integrate EJ goals, objectives, and policies into other elements of their General Plans. The General Plan represents a community's long-term vision for growth related to land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety.

1 **EJ is a core part of local governments' duty** to ensure the health and well-being of the communities that they serve. Planning for EJ can undo harms resulting from poor and/or discriminatory planning, prevent future problems from happening, and promote community-serving investments.

2 **The American Institute of Certified Planners sets forth ethical standards** that emphasize meaningful involvement and planning for the needs of impacted communities to achieve social justice.

3 **Local land use planning must comply with State laws as well as adhere to federal mandates** that address EJ, such as the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and federal Fair Housing Act. SB 1000 can help to ensure that General Plan policies and programs, along with local jurisdictions themselves, achieve compliance and consistency with these laws.

4 **Intelligent planning creates healthy and vibrant communities while preventing harmful outcomes** that can be costly, not only to disadvantaged communities, but to the city or county as a whole due to compliance issues.

5 **Community engagement is a core part of planning for EJ** that can improve planning decisions and can allow jurisdictions to target programs and investments to those who need it most. By working with impacted residents, local governments can identify problems more accurately, improve public health, strengthen local economies, create healthier and safer environments, and can foster a greater sense of trust with the public.

6 **Planning for EJ can position a local jurisdiction to leverage additional federal, State, and philanthropic resources** for planning and implementation projects. EJ-based planning can also position a city or a county to receive grants from the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

7 **EJ and land use planning have always been connected.** SB 1000's EJ requirements identify housing as a necessary topic while relating closely to the statutory requirements for land use, circulation, and safety. The topic of social equity relates closely to the statutory requirements for all General Plan elements.

The *SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit* and associated fact sheets are intended to inspire local governments, planners, and community stakeholders to go above and beyond the basic requirements of SB 1000 to achieve the multiple benefits that can come with planning for EJ and addressing the health and well-being of disadvantaged communities.

A workshop on land use planning (CEJA).

California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)
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Full toolkit: **https://caleja.org/2017/09/sb-1000-toolkit-release/**

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

SB 1000: A Guiding Framework

SB 1000 encourages local jurisdictions and community stakeholders throughout California to proactively plan for and address EJ concerns by requiring that General Plans have an EJ Element or integrate EJ goals, objectives, and policies into other elements. Under SB 1000, the EJ Element or integrated EJ policies must reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by addressing at minimum the following topics:

Pollution Exposure and Air Quality

Policies to prevent and mitigate exposure to hazardous materials and air pollution, remove and restrict toxic pollutants, and protect sensitive populations.

Public Facilities

Policies to promote equitable access to facilities such as infrastructure, parks, community facilities, active transportation, roads and trails, and healthcare facilities.

Food Access

Policies to promote healthy food access for EJ communities through programs and projects, such as grocery supermarkets, farmers' markets, local agriculture, and mobile vending.

Safe and Sanitary Homes

Policies to ensure healthy and safe housing, such as remediating lead-based building materials and asbestos and increasing access to housing/affordable housing, by eliminating barriers to fair housing and preventing displacement.

Physical Activity

Policies to promote spaces for physical activity and ensure their access, connectivity, and equitable distribution, such as through pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly streetscape environments.

Health Equity

Policies to ensure that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

Social Determinants of Health

Policies to address the structural determinants and conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including factors such as race and ethnicity, income, educational attainment, employment, social support networks, and access to healthcare.

Community Engagement

Policies and best practices for promoting equitable, inclusive, and meaningful community engagement in local planning processes that benefit EJ communities.

Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities

Policies to identify and reverse systemic funding inequities by prioritizing resources, improvements, and programs for EJ communities.

Check out the full toolkit for more information: **https://caleja.org/2017/09/sb-1000-toolkit-release/**