ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK & GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

OVERVIEW | JANUARY 2020

Source: SF Conservation Corps & Literacy for Environmental Justice (February 2018)
LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the **Ramaytush Ohlone** who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.
WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE? (US EPA Definition)

“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 environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”
WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE? (Our working definition)

Environmental justice is the **equitable** distribution of environmental benefits and **burdens** to promote **healthy communities** where all San Franciscans can thrive.

Government can foster environmental justice through processes that **amend past injustices** while creating **proactive, community-led solutions for the future**.

*See also: [EJ Principles](#) from the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991*
WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM?

*Environmental racism* recognizes that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities have **borne the brunt of environmental hazards** and have been **denied access to communities of opportunity** through intentional and systemically racist policies and actions.

Source: SF Chronicle
“One thing that COVID-19 has done, it has made a lot of populations we made invisible, visible. Nursing home populations. The meatpacking industry. Prisons. Communities impacted by environmental injustice. These are communities that we’ve thrown away.”

-- Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Univ. of Maryland
WHY IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT NOW?

“One thing that COVID-19 has done, it has made a lot of populations we made invisible, visible. Nursing home populations. The meatpacking industry. Prisons. Communities impacted by environmental injustice. These are communities that we’ve thrown away.”

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Source: Peoplesclimate.org
WHY ARE WE PLANNING FOR **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE? WHY NOW?**

CA Senate Bill 1000 requires that we:

- Adopt a map of *Environmental Justice Communities*\(^*\)

- Develop environmental justice policies in the General Plan to address **“unique or compounded health risks”**

The Planning & Historic Preservation Commissions have called for General Plan amendments to address **racial & social equity.**

* Referred to as “Disadvantaged Communities” in SB1000
SAN FRANCISCO APPROACH: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

- Environmental Justice Framework will set vision & goals

- EJ will be incorporated across General Plan Elements (starting with Housing, Transportation, & Safety)

- Work is integrated with the Planning Department’s Racial & Social Equity Plan

Source: City of Seattle, Environment & Equity Initiative

Seattle’s “Equity & Environment Agenda” is a good example of a community-led EJ policy platform
WHAT POLICIES CAN ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

CLEAN & HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

HEALTHY PUBLIC FACILITIES

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

SAFE, HEALTHY & AFFORDABLE HOMES

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

EQUITABLE & GREEN JOBS

EMPOWERED NEIGHBORHOODS

CLIMATE RESILIENCE & JUSTICE

Source: Pxfuel, NextCity, Next Republic Bank, Vivien Kim Thorp, Archityreview, RWJF, SF Environment, SFGate
WHERE ARE **EJ COMMUNITIES LOCATED?**

- SB1000 points to *CalEnviroScreen (CalEPA/OEHHA)* but communities may identify additional data
  - Combines 20 pollution, health & demographic indicators
  - Used by state agencies to prioritize grants and funding
- Our *San Francisco EJ Communities Map (draft)* includes additional local data on pollution and demographics
- We are creating an online map tool with data on other relevant EJ topics
# Environmental Justice Framework & General Plan Policies

## Timeline (December 2020 Draft)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Project Milestones</th>
<th>Winter 2021</th>
<th>Spring 2021</th>
<th>Summer 2021</th>
<th>Fall 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EJ Communities Map &amp; Story Map</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Youth Engagement: Balboa HS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Open House</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Listening sessions &amp; surveys</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EJ Framework &amp; Policies</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Policy Adoption</strong></td>
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Citywide but focused on **EJ Communities**

- Launching an EJ Working Group (with community & City EJ experts)
- Broader outreach events (Open House, focus groups, surveys)
- Utilizing youth engagement opportunities
- Stipends for some participants

*Source: Planning Department*