



San Francisco Environmental Justice Framework & General Plan Introduction



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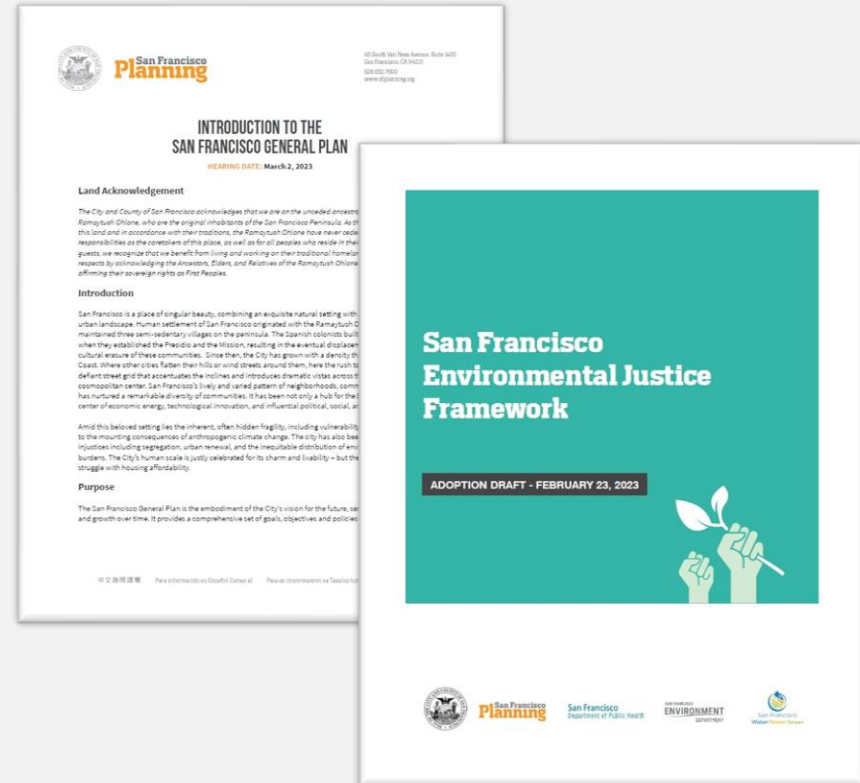
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Land Use & Transportation
Committee
April 24, 2023

AGENDA

1. Project Context
2. Environmental Justice Communities Map
3. Environmental Justice Framework
4. General Plan Introduction
5. Looking to the Future

Today's Recommended Action from the Planning Commission

- Updated **General Plan Introduction**
 - Refresh and modernize the “**front door**” to the General Plan
- New **Environmental Justice Framework**, incorporated by reference
 - Policies to address the unique or compounded health risks in **Environmental Justice Communities**



1

PROJECT CONTEXT

Why Plan for **Environmental Justice (EJ)** Now?



- **CA Senate Bill 1000 (SB1000)** requires:
 - Analyze data on **EJ Communities***
 - **Adopt policies in General Plan** to address “unique or compounded health risks” (standalone element or integrated throughout)
- **Planning & Historic Preservation Commissions** called for General Plan policies to address **racial & social equity**.

* Referred to as “Disadvantaged Communities” in SB1000

Environmental Justice & Racial and Social Equity in the City



20-30% of Black & Latinx pregnant women experience **food insecurity**



Black & Latinx high school students are 1.6-2.0x more likely to have **asthma** than white students



American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Latinx residents have the **highest rates of COVID-19 infections**



Life expectancy varies greatly by race and neighborhood
(ex: 10-15 years lower in lower-income vs. more affluent neighborhoods)

Data: SFHIP, US EPA; Images: Robyn Purchia (SF Examiner), Bebeto Matthews (AP Photo), Wikipedia

What **Policies** Can Address Environmental Justice & Racial Equity?



**Healthy &
Resilient
Environments**



**Physical
Activity &
Healthy Public
Facilities**



**Healthy
Food
Access**



**Safe,
Healthy, &
Affordable
Homes**



**Equitable &
Green Jobs**



**Empowered
Neighborhoods**

The first General Plan updates to center EJ & RSE

INTRODUCTION



NEW: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



SAFETY & RESILIENCE



HOUSING



TRANSPORTATION



State mandated

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



URBAN DESIGN



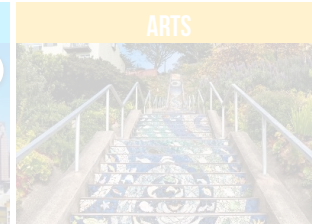
COMMUNITY FACILITIES



AIR QUALITY



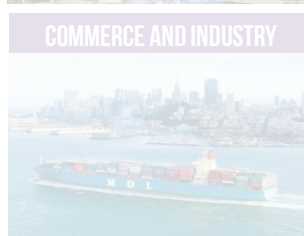
ARTS



NEW: HERITAGE CONSERVATION



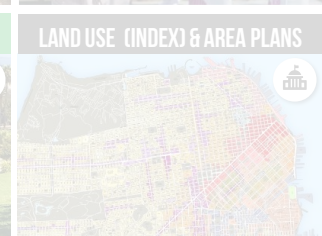
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE



LAND USE (INDEX) & AREA PLANS



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES MAP

How the State Defines EJ Communities*

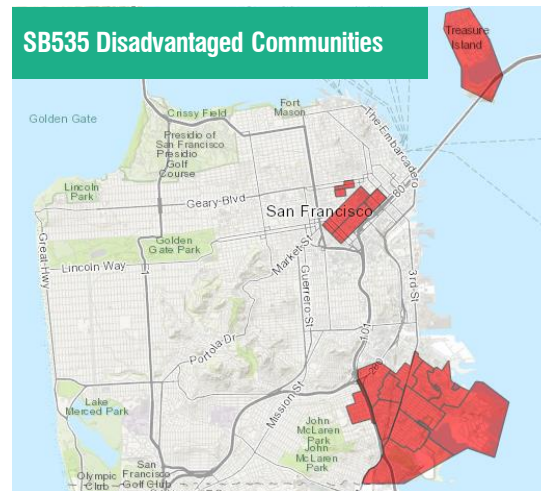
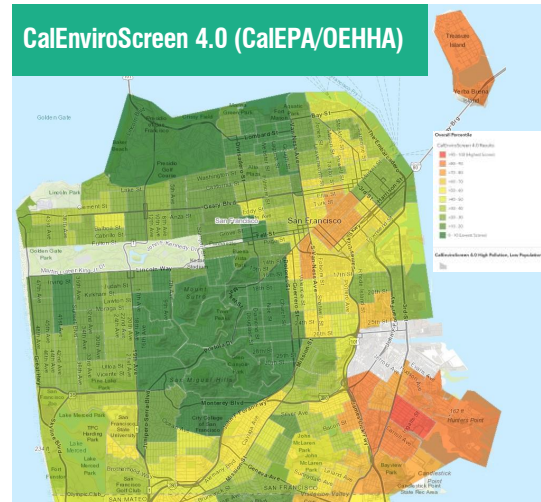
SB1000 cites CalEnviroScreen

- 20 pollution, health, and socioeconomic indicators
- Used for state programs (ex: cap & trade fund)
- **Critique:** excludes many sensitive neighborhoods in SF

Goals of SF-specific analysis

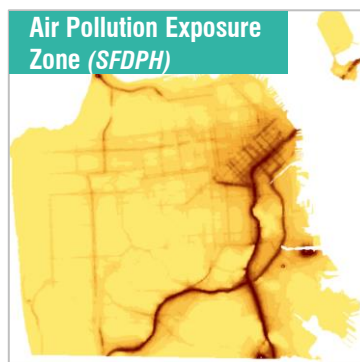
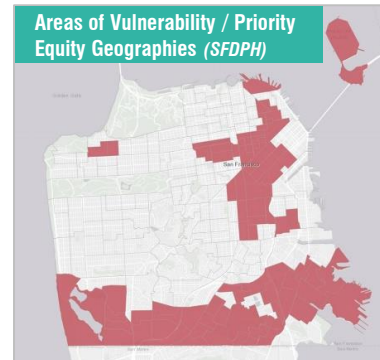
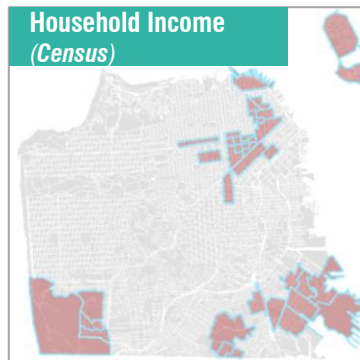
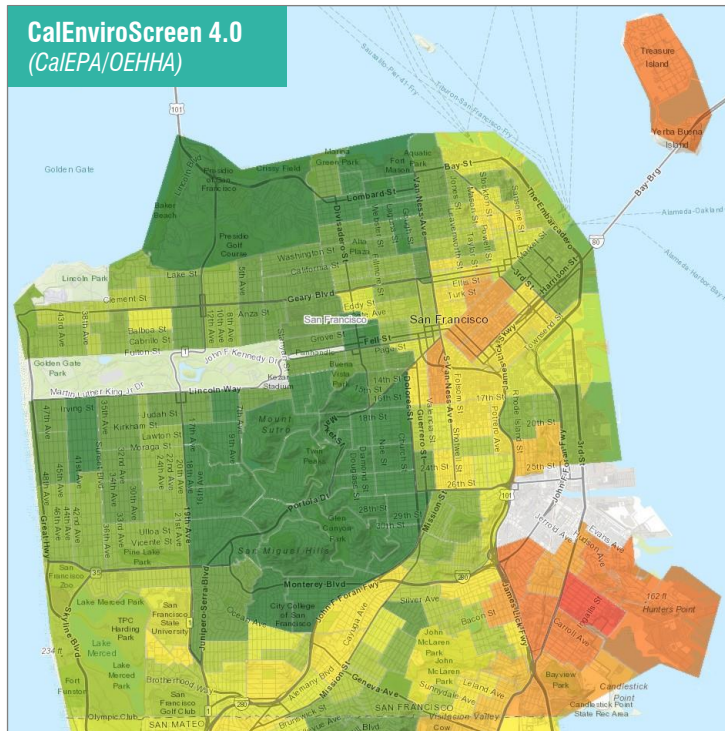
- Refine CalEnviroScreen with local data & create an easily replicable analysis
- Better align with maps by MTC, SFDPH, Rec & Park, etc.
- Reflect community feedback on areas of high need

* Referred to as “Disadvantaged Communities” in SB1000

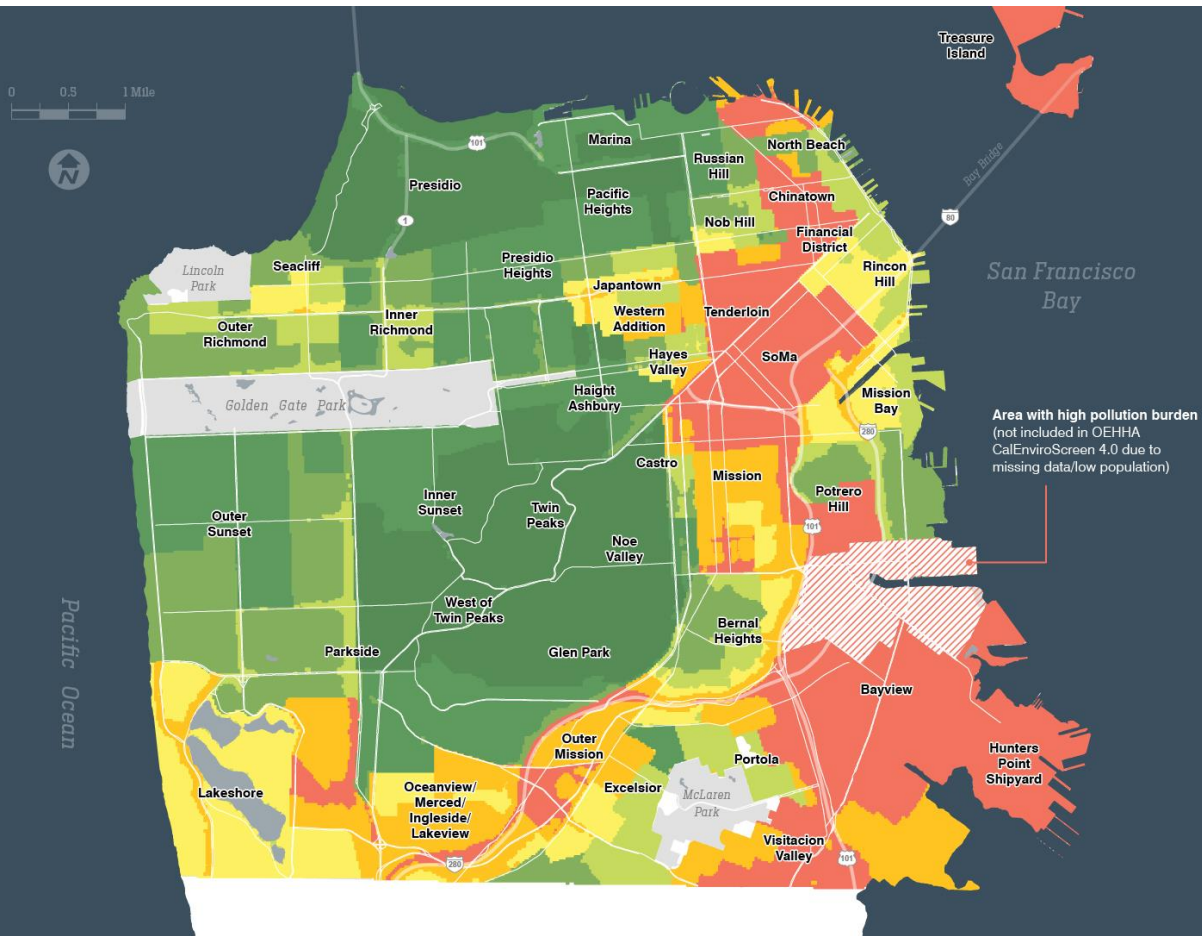


EJ Communities Map **Datasets**

State encourages cities to refine CalEnviroScreen with **local data on pollution burden and health risk factors**



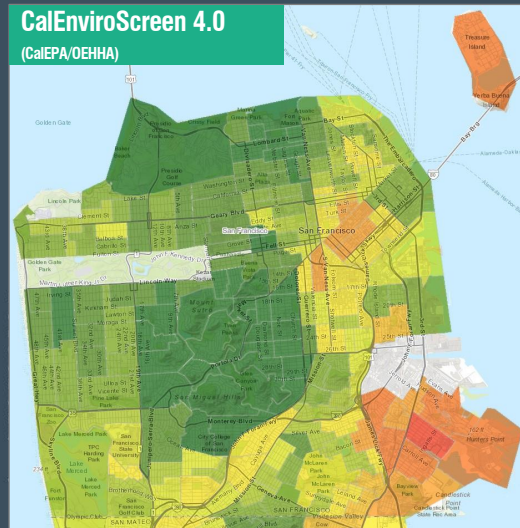
San Francisco Environmental Justice Communities Map



Environmental Justice Burden



CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (CalEPA/OEHHA)



How the EJ Communities Map is Intended to be Used

Implementation Goals:

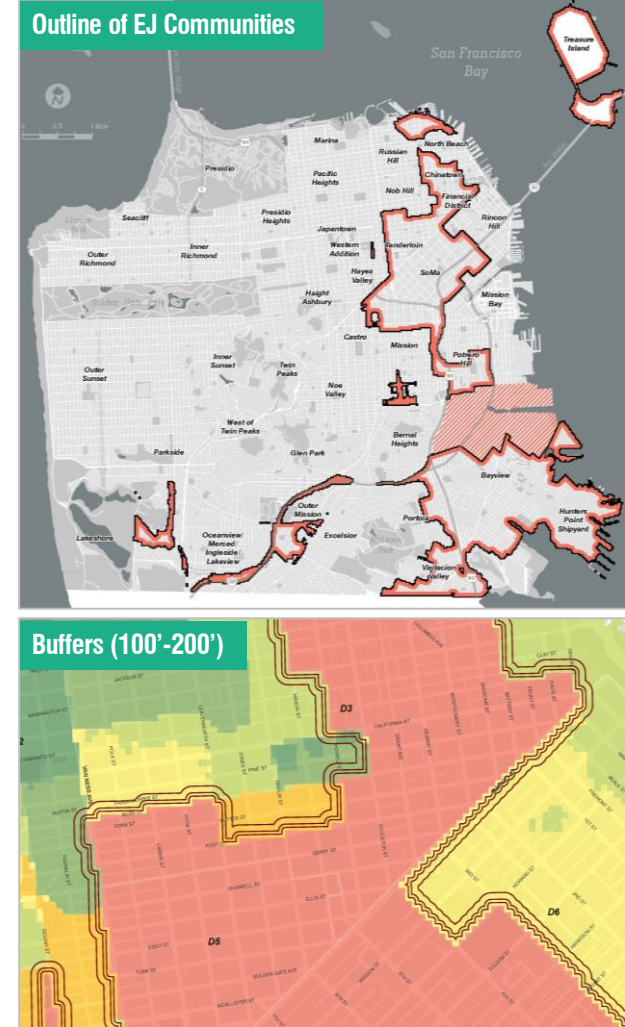
- Provide a **base for decision-making**; agencies should be transparent about unique considerations
- Identify areas where **additional policies and resources** can be invested to advance health & equity
- Guide community engagement to ensure **equity needs and priorities** are being met

What it will NOT do:

- **Will not result in lower housing production** or diminishing resources in these areas
- **Will not replace statewide map** (CalEnviroScreen) for purposes of state programs

EJ Communities Map **Other Tips for Usage**

- **User Guide** and **Technical Documentation** provide context on map development & use
- Encourage agencies & policymakers to **build flexibility** into processes (ex: add buffers; use in tandem with other maps)
- **Example applications:**
 - SFPUC Green Infrastructure grant program
 - Housing Element policies & EJ analysis
 - RPD Equity Zones



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

Starting with Community-Led Solutions

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

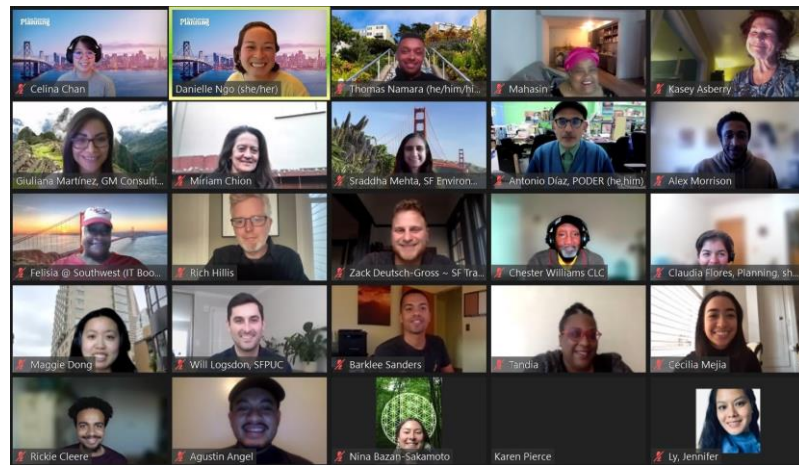
- Malcolm X Academy
- Balboa High School
- SF State University

FOCUS GROUPS

- Promotoras Activas San Francisco
- Carnaval San Francisco
- Booker T. Washington Community Service Center
- Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
- City of Dreams
- Wu Yee Children's Services

EJ WORKING GROUP

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • American Indian Cultural District | • Fillmore Media Systems & Services Co. | • San Francisco Parks Alliance |
| • Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates | • Japantown Cultural District | • San Francisco Transit Riders |
| • Brightline Defense | • PODER | • Sistah Music Snax Entertainment |
| • Chinatown Community Development Center | • Potrero Hill Neighborhood House | • Southwest Community Corporation |
| • Code Tenderloin | • Residents Supporting Community On Treasure Island | • St. Andrew Missionary Baptist Church |
| • Demonstration Gardens - Tenderloin Peoples Congress | • San Francisco African American Faith Base Coalition | |



Environmental Justice Framework



The 2017 People's Climate March heightened activism at the local level for environmental justice, and it was one of the most diverse showings of any environmental event in U.S. history.

Photo Credit: Becker1999 / Flickr

Healthy & Resilient Environments

WHY IT MATTERS

San Francisco has a long history of policy and land use decisions that have disproportionately exposed communities to environmental pollutants that impact quality of life and often result in adverse health outcomes, such as increased rates of asthma, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses. For example, residents in Bayview Hunter's Point grapple with the impacts of industrial contamination at the Hunter's Point Shipyard, air pollution from the U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280 freeways, and other environmental violations. The impacts of the climate crisis, which include poor and hazardous air quality, extreme weather events, and sea level rise, are predicted to exacerbate these health disparities.

VISION

We envision a City where everyone lives and works in a healthy and resilient environment. This means limiting exposure to pollution harmful to human health from both acute (e.g., toxic materials from an individual business) and widespread sources (e.g., air pollution from freeways). The City would be resilient to the climate crisis and other hazards, such as earthquakes, extreme heat, inland flooding, sea level rise, and poor air quality. Mitigation and adaptation strategies would prioritize communities that have historically faced disproportionate exposure to environmental burdens, and our most vulnerable communities at risk of health consequences and safety hazards, such as youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

PRIORITIES



Limit and protect against pollution exposure

Protect communities from all sources of pollution, including air, soil, water, and noise pollution. Limit exposure from temporary sources of pollution (for example, construction activities), ongoing sources (for example, freeways and polluting businesses), as well as future risks (for example, accidental release of hazardous materials).



Prepare for seismic hazards, other natural disasters, and the climate crisis

Implement hazard and climate mitigation and adaptation measures to prepare the City for the climate crisis and protect those who are most vulnerable. Build robust partnerships between the City, communities, and other groups to ensure adequate capacity for emergency preparedness in the event of a disaster (for example, disaster supplies, lifeline supplies, and neighborhood activation).



Expand nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, and urban greening

Restore natural habitats and the ecological function of the City by developing neighborhood-specific targets and stewardship programs for watersheds, tree canopy cover, green infrastructure, urban greening, and other biodiversity targets. Align these mitigation and adaptation measures to protect areas of high climate vulnerability.



Invest in resilient public utility systems and affirm access to water, power, and sanitation as a human right

Ensure that all residents and workers have access to safe, clean, affordable, accessible, and low-carbon sources of clean drinking water, electricity, wastewater services, broadband internet, and other utilities. Invest resources and promote actions that support the human right to water, power, and sanitation, particularly low-income households and people experiencing homelessness.



Ensure public access to data & information

Provide public access to reliable and up-to-date information on neighborhood environmental conditions, climate vulnerabilities, and public health concerns. Include references to government resources and community-led studies and programs.



Empower community planning for climate resilience and justice

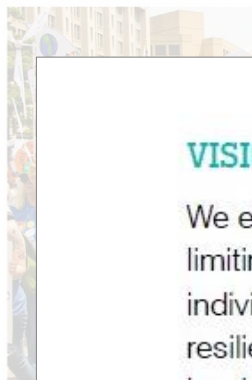
Build community-based planning processes for San Franciscans to engage in local decision-making on healthy and resilient environments, including neighborhood investments, emergency resources, and other community needs.

Example Strategies

The following strategies are examples of successful work being done in the community related to environmental justice. They include City-led initiatives, community-led initiatives, and partnerships between the City and community.

- CleanPowerSF (SFPUC)
- Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan (ORCP)
- Heat and Air Quality Resilience Project (ORCP)
- Islais Creek Southeast Mobility and Adaptation Strategy (SF Planning, SFMTA, and Port of San Francisco)
- San Francisco Climate Action Plan (Mayor's Office, SF Environment)
- San Francisco Urban Forest Plan (Public Works, Urban Forest Council, and Friends of the Urban Forest)
- Urban Risk Lab (Neighborhood Empowerment Network)
- Waterfront Resilience Program (Port of San Francisco)

Environmental Justice Framework: Vision



The 2017 People's Climate March highlighted activism at the local level for environmental justice, and it was one of

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Environmental Justice Framework: Priorities



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greening

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Environmental Justice Framework: **Example Strategies**



Healthy & Resilient

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Healthy and Resilient Environments



Source: Becker1999 / Flickr

PRIORITIES

- Limit and protect against **pollution exposure**
- Prepare for seismic hazards, other **natural disasters**, and the climate crisis
- Expand **nature-based solutions**, green infrastructure, & urban greening
- Invest in **resilient public utility systems** and affirm access **to water, power, and sanitation as a human right**
- Ensure **public access** to data & information
- Empower **community planning** for climate resilience and justice

Physical Activity and Healthy Public Facilities



PRIORITIES

- Distribute public facilities **equitably**
- Ensure **public facilities** are accessible and safe for all
- Offer **diverse, flexible, and inclusive programming** in public facilities
- Support **environmental education** programs
- Ensure robust **transportation connectivity**
- Ensure **streets and transit** are accessible and safe for all

Healthy Food Access



PRIORITIES

- Affirm **healthy food as a human right**
- Empower **workers** and community members
- Leverage the food system as a means of **strengthening communities**
- Foster **climate resilience and innovation** in the food system
- Increase **nature-based food opportunities**

Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Homes

PRIORITIES



- Work to **undo past harms**
- Build **accountability & oversight** in the housing systems
- Address **housing affordability & availability**
- Protect **vulnerable tenants**
- Expand **housing choices** citywide
- Ensure that housing supports **public health**

Equitable and Green Jobs



PRIORITIES

- Provide **living wages** for all
- Foster a robust network of **work & entrepreneurship**
- Promote pathways for **workers' empowerment and self-determination**
- Facilitate **the just transition** of the city's economy and workforce

Empowered Neighborhoods

PRIORITIES



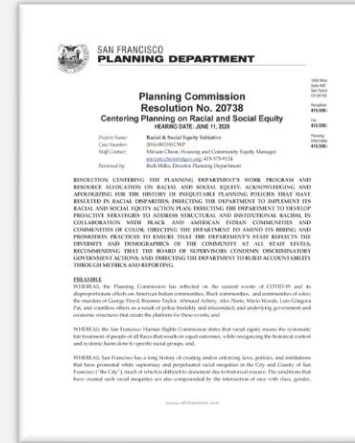
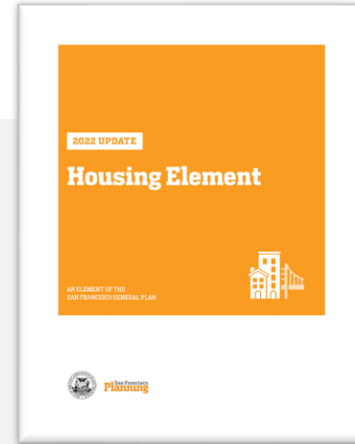
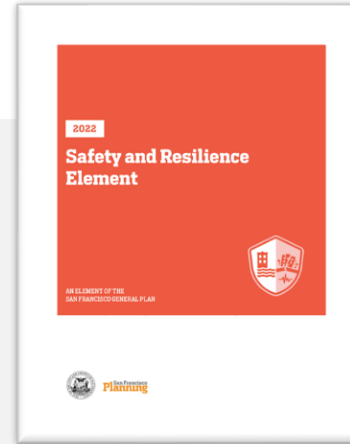
- Prioritize **participation of EJ Communities** in decision-making processes
- Build **capacity** for diverse voices to engage
- Center environmental justice efforts in collaboration with **American Indian communities** and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Foster a culture of **transparency and communication**
- Develop **community partnerships** to expand city's reach
- Address **community safety**

4

GENERAL PLAN INTRODUCTION

General Plan Introduction Update

- Added **land acknowledgement**
- Updated **historical and physical context** & related strengths and challenges
- Updated **legal and policy context**, including:
 - Resolution centering Planning on racial and social equity
 - Acknowledgement and apology for the history of inequitable planning policies and actions
- Incorporates the **Environmental Justice Framework** by reference



General Plan Introduction **Update**



- Updated **City vision** distilled from recent community engagement:
 - **Equitable**
 - **Inclusive**
 - **Safe, livable, and sustainable**
 - **Economically vital**
 - **With accountable governance and engaged communities**
- Removes duplicate recitation of Planning Code Section 101.1 Priority Policies. Priority Policies remain in the Planning Code and remain fully effective.

5

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Continued Growth & Opportunities

■ General Plan Updates Phase 2

- Incorporating EJ throughout other General Plan Elements (e.g., Environmental Protection, Air Quality, Commerce & Industry, etc.)

■ Interagency Coordination

- Inform City agencies' work on environmental justice and Racial & Social Equity Action Plans
- Identify opportunities for other collaboration (such as grants, projects, legislation)

“We didn’t produce a perfect work, but we had significant victories. The Environmental Justice Communities Map is brilliant...The inclusion [of community] in building the Environmental Justice Framework is exactly correct.

We need to treat this as a working, living document. I encourage [the City] to think in terms of, **‘How do we build ongoing, living participation? How do we institutionalize this from the community?’**

Let’s keep it going, now that we got it going.”

- Community Advocate from EJ Working Group





THANK YOU

Learn more & sign up for email updates at:
<https://sfplanning.org/project/ej-framework>



San Francisco
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