

City of San Diego – Environmental Justice Element

Roundtable Meeting #1: “Overview of Requirements for the Environmental Justice Element and Scope of Work”

Meeting Summary Report

Aug. 9, 2023

Prepared by:

City Planning Department



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Background

Overview of the Environmental Justice Element

The General Plan guides future development across the City through citywide policies addressing land use, mobility, urban design, economic prosperity, recreation, conservation, noise, historic preservation, and public facilities, services and safety. Environmental Justice will be a new element added to the General Plan with the purpose of setting goals, policies and implementation measures focused on advancing environmental justice in our city.

The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element is to identify and reduce unique or compounded health risks in our city with a focus on disadvantaged communities. Priorities outlined in the Environmental Justice Element will be reflected in community plans, City Council policies, infrastructure priorities and facility improvement programs, as well as annual City budgets that work together with the General Plan to advance improvements in neighborhoods throughout San Diego.

The Environmental Justice Element will prioritize:

The infographic features a blue background with a yellow footer. At the top, a white box contains the text 'The Environmental Justice Element will prioritize:'. Below this, five dark blue vertical panels are arranged horizontally. Each panel contains a circular image at the top, a title in yellow, and a subtitle in white. From left to right: 1. 'Clean Air' with a photo of a park and the subtitle 'that affects our children's health.' 2. 'Access to Fresh Food' with a photo of a farm stand and the subtitle 'that nourishes our bodies.' 3. 'Safe and Healthy Homes' with a photo of a bridge and the subtitle 'where our families live.' 4. 'Enjoyable Spaces' with a photo of a child playing and the subtitle 'where our families can play.' 5. 'Communication' with a photo of people at a table and the subtitle 'between City Officials and San Diegans to inform decision-making.'

- Clean Air**
that affects our children's health.
- Access to Fresh Food**
that nourishes our bodies.
- Safe and Healthy Homes**
where our families live.
- Enjoyable Spaces**
where our families can play.
- Communication**
between City Officials and San Diegans to inform decision-making.

Purpose of Community-Based Engagement Roundtable

The City is working closely with five community-based organizations (CBOs) on outreach efforts and engagement activities to gather feedback on environmental justice topics, with the goal of reaching those most impacted by unique and compounded health risk. A variety of engagement tactics will be used to reach stakeholders to share and receive feedback on issues related to environmental justice. As part of this effort, Community-Based Engagement Team Roundtables will be held monthly.

Roundtables will provide the space to share updates on ongoing outreach and engagement activities and lessons learned, as well as to provide input on the development of environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives. CBOs will help ensure that the voices of people disproportionately experiencing pollution, low incomes, health, and environmental justice concerns are considered throughout the life of the project. The City will also share information about the General Plan, long-range planning and city decision-making processes, and State requirements for the Environmental Justice Element during these meetings to facilitate and ensure accurate information sharing when communicating with the public.

Selection Process

CBOs were selected through an equitable application and selection process. The application was widely advertised and made available throughout May and June of 2023 for CBOs interested in applying to be part of the project. In order to equitably review the applications that were received, a selection rubric was developed based on CEJA’s SB 1000, organization diversity, and service area.

Below is the list of the selected CBOs.

Community-Based Organization	Neighborhood
Bayside Community Center	Linda Vista
Bikes del Pueblo	Eastern, Barrio Logan, City Heights
Casa Familiar	San Ysidro
City Heights Community Development Corporation	City Heights
Urban Collaborative	Southeastern San Diego

Roundtable Meeting #1

Meeting Objectives and Agenda

- Convene the group to meet the project team and align on goals, objectives, and roles.
- Set expectations for the group: scope of work, timeline, commitment, creating a safe space, etc.
- Provide an overview of requirements for the Environmental Justice Element.

Agenda	
Time	Section
2:00 – 2:20 PM	KDI Intro & Icebreaker
2:20 – 2:30 PM	Environmental Justice Element Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and Policies • SB 1000 Requirements • DRAFT Environmental Justice Communities
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Team Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Studies
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Environmental Justice Scope of Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and Engagement Plans • DRAFT Project Timeline

Project Team Present at the Meeting

Facilitator: Christian Rodriguez, Senior Community Associate (Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI))

- Consultant Project Team: KDI

- Jorge Cañes, Planning Coordinator | Lauren Elachi, Senior Design Principal | Martin Gil, Community Coordinator | Robert Douglass, Senior Design Coordinator

- City Planning Department Project Team

- Sameera Rao, Assistant Deputy Director | Paola Boylan, Senior Planner

-Community-Based Organizations

- Kevin Renan, Bayside Community Center
- Kim Heinle, Bayside Community Center
- Bre P, Bikes del Pueblo
- Cynthia Tecson, Bikes del Pueblo
- Matthew Pendergraft, Bikes del Pueblo
- Alejandro Amador, Casa Familiar
- Jesse Ramirez, City Heights CDC
- Manny Rodriguez, City Heights CDC
- Brian Pollard, Urban Collaborative Project
- Carmina Paz, Urban Collaborative Project

Summary

KDI Intro & Icebreaker

Participants introduced themselves and shared information about their organization and role.

Environmental Justice Element Overview

The presentation provided a review of the purpose of the environmental justice element and the requirements set by SB 1000. The DRAFT Environmental Justice Community Map was also shared with the group.

Team Presentations

Each organization shared a project(s) they have worked on that has addressed environmental justice issues in their area of service. Case studies presented included:

- Revitalizing the Secret Stairs at Valencia Park
- Establishing the Linda Vista Community Garden
- Piloting the La Semilla Climate Resiliency Project
- Promoting and Running Bike Workshops
- Advocating for improved transportation and housing options

Environmental Justice Scope of Work

An overview of the Scope of Work was shared, and each organization committed to creating a four-month engagement plan. Each month will outline a series of events and activities that will be used to engage community members around the EJ Element priorities and inform the project timeline and final engagement plan.



North Shore Park Opening, Kounkuey Design Initiative, 2019

AGENDA

1. KDI Intro
2. Icebreaker
3. Environmental Justice Element Overview
4. Team Presentations
5. EJ Engagement Scope of Work



ABOUT KDI



ICEBREAKER

Instructions:

Introduce yourself, your organization and your position. Answer one of the questions to the right.

If your organization's team had a mascot, what would it be, and what qualities would it represent?

If your organization's mission had a theme song (contemporary song), what would it be, and why does it resonate with your culture?

EJ Element Overview

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

- Environmental Justice will be a new element in the City's General Plan.
- The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element is to address unique or compounded health risks in “disadvantaged communities.”



Vamos Nomar Street Activation,
Kounkuey Design Initiative, 2022

OBJECTIVES & POLICIES



Pollution exposure and air quality



Public facilities, parks and infrastructure



Healthy food access



Physical Activity



Safe and healthy homes



Health risks



Civic engagement



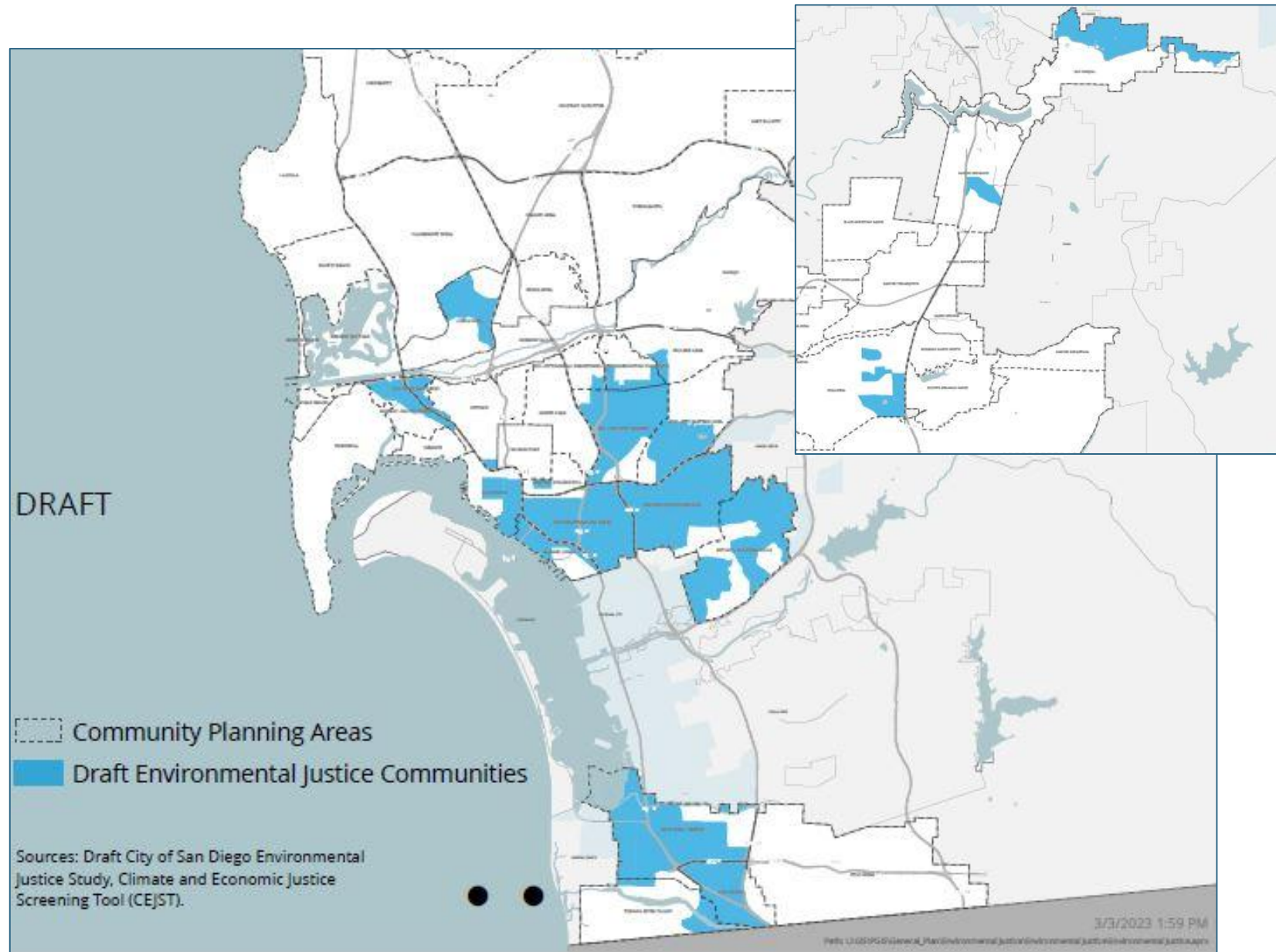
Prioritization of improvements and programs

DRAFT EJ Communities

for discussion and further input.

Data sources:

- CalEnvironScreen Tool 4.0
- The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool 1.0
- Food Apartheid
- Climate and Resilience



OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

Must Address:

- Pollution exposure and air quality.
- Public facilities, parks and infrastructure.
- Healthy food access.
- Safe and healthy homes.
- Physical activity.
- Health risks.
- Civic engagement.
- Prioritization of improvements and programs.



EJ Case Studies

EJ Engagement Cohort Presentations



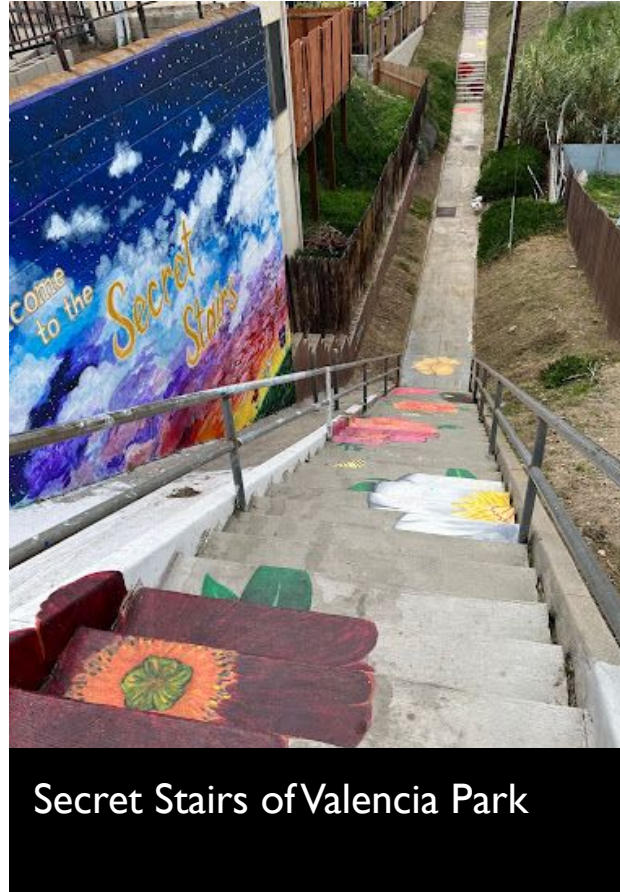
Urban Collaborative Project CDC

Creating enjoyable spaces where our families can recreate.

- Placemaking and community gathering places.



Lincoln Park
Community Gathering Place



Secret Stairs of Valencia Park



Four Corners of Life
Community Pop-Ups @ Brooks Huffman Plaza



**Next goal/
project:**

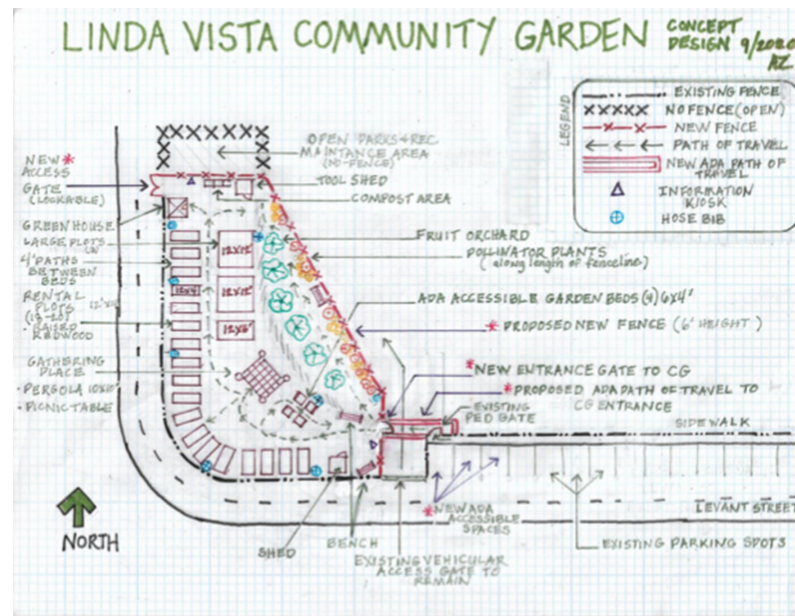
Create a
Community
Gathering Place
@ 47th & Castana

Bayside Community Center: Linda Vista Community Garden



Original Linda Vista Community Garden that was uprooted in 2017 as part of a building renovation

Proposed
Community
Garden

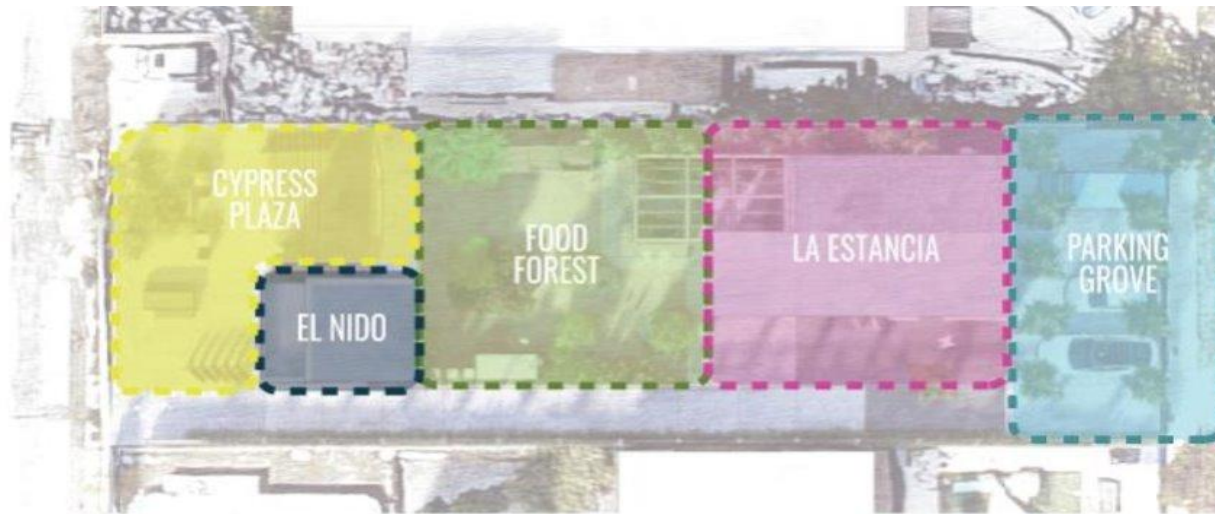


Casa Familiar

La Semilla Climate Resiliency Pilot Project

This project aims to address:

- Air pollution prevention and remediation
- Provide relief to residents during extreme heat events
- Make the transition to low and zero-emission technologies accessible
- Food access & education



Bikes del Pueblo: educational bike co-op

Timeline: 2007-present; always in City Heights

Scope:

- teach bicycle maintenance & safety
- provide access to bicycles, tools & parts
- be a community space for community building

Prioritizes: empowering under-supported communities

By supporting cycling & cyclists we support:

- cleaner air & *less greenhouse gas emissions*
- safer & healthier *neighborhoods*
- *a way for families to enjoy spaces & recreate*

Learnings & takeaways:

- community support & mutual aid works!



City Heights CDC

Overview of City Heights CDC

Mission:

The mission of the City Heights Community Development Corporation is to enhance the quality of life in City Heights by working with the community to create and sustain affordable housing, livable neighborhoods, and economic self-sufficiency.

Programs:

- Affordable Housing
- Resident Services
- Urban & Economic Development
- Transportation & Planning

Transportation & Planning Program Strategic Goal:
Popularize planning and facilitate the implementation of policy/systems/environmental change to achieve livable neighborhoods



CITY HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Engagement Scope of Work



DRAFT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE & CONTRACTING



City of Coachella Parks
Engagement, Kounkuey Design
Initiative, 2022



SCOPE OUTLINE

- I. Administration and Reporting
- II. Community Engagement and Outreach
- III. Project Engagement Review
- IV. Roundtable Meetings
- V. Public Hearing Outreach

Engagement Team Timeline

August

- 2 roundtable meetings
 - Meeting 1 - kick-off
 - Meeting 2 - Engagement work plan

September

- Engagement Plan Implementation
 - 1 roundtable meeting
 - 1 public workshop

October

- Engagement Plan Implementation
 - 1 roundtable meeting
 - 1 public workshop

November

- Engagement Plan Implementation
 - 1 roundtable meeting
 - 1 public workshop

December

- Engagement Plan Implementation
 - 1 roundtable meeting
 - 1 public workshop

Thank you!!



City of Coachella Engagement, Kounkuey Design Initiative, 2018