

# City of San Diego – Environmental Justice Element

Roundtable Meeting #4: “Review and Discussion of Existing Policies - Pollution Exposure + Air Quality | Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure Prioritization”

Meeting Summary Report

Oct. 4, 2023

Prepared by:

City Planning Department



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## Roundtable Meeting #4

### Meeting Objectives and Agenda

- Share existing policies related to EJ topics.
- Discuss solutions and interventions.
- Identify needs for upcoming outreach and engagement events.

Agenda	
Time	Section
2:00 – 2:05 PM	Engagement Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming Events</li> </ul>
2:05 – 2:20 PM	Overview of Documents Informing EJ Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Previous Outreach &amp; Engagement Summary</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Land Use and Community Planning Element (Section I, Environmental Justice)</a></li> </ul>
2:30 – 3:25 PM	Review and Discussion of Existing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution Exposure + Air Quality</li> <li>• Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure Prioritization</li> </ul>
3:25 – 3:30 PM	Closing and Next Steps

### Project Team Present at the Meeting

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

Consultant Project Team: KDI

- Martin Gil, Community Coordinator

City Planning Department Project Team

- Sameera Rao, Assistant Deputy Director | Paola Boylan, Senior Planner | Christopher Carrillo, Associate Planner | America Aceves, Assistant Planner | Audrey Rains, Management Intern

## Community-Based Organizations

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

## Summary

### Engagement Check-In

Participants shared upcoming events, including:

- Pop-up at Southeastern's Live Well Center (10/14/23)
- Pop-up at Bike Workshop in City Heights (10/15/23)

### Overview of Documents Informing EJ Element

- [Previous Outreach & Engagement Summary](#)
- [Land Use and Community Planning Element \(Section I, Environmental Justice\)](#)

### Review and Discussion of Existing Policies

#### Pollution Exposure + Air Quality

Information gathered from previous outreach and engagement activities related to pollution exposure and air quality was shared with the group to serve as a launching point for the day's discussion. In addition, existing policies that can be built upon to strengthen policies around the topic were also shared with the group. To facilitate the discussion, participants were asked three questions:

1. Are there any industrial or environmental concerns where you live, could you share any health or quality of life concerns?
2. How do residents perceive and experience pollution exposure and air quality in their daily lives? What are the most pressing issues or challenges they face in this regard?
3. Are there differences amongst populations in your service area in their ability to access clean drinking water within your community? How does this affect different groups within the community, such as children, elderly, or low-income residents?

City Heights CDC shared that the organization was formed as a response to the 1-15 freeway. The organization has been advocating for improved transit and improved development throughout the community to mitigate impacts from the surrounding freeways. Representatives from the Bayside Community Center in Linda Vista stated that the community is surrounded by several freeways, including Hwy 163 and both the I-8 and I-5 freeways. Similar sentiments were shared by the Urban Collaborative Project, Casa Familiar, and Bikes del Pueblo. All organizations agreed that it was important to maintain green space in the long term and introduce more trees across communities to mitigate pollution. Suggestions included supporting buffer zones or green zones to reduce emissions from freeways as well as implementing mitigation measures at schools most impacted by pollution. Furthermore, trash accumulation was noted as an ongoing issue that can limit the cleanliness of an area

and lead to pollution. The group would like these issues to be highlighted throughout the Environmental Justice Element.

### Public Facilities, Parks, and Infrastructure Prioritization

Information gathered from previous outreach and engagement activities related to public facilities, parks and infrastructure prioritization was shared with the group to serve as a launching point for the day's discussion. In addition, existing policies that can be built upon to strengthen policies around the topic were also shared with the group. To facilitate the discussion, participants were asked the following questions:

1. Is there an equitable distribution of public facilities across communities in a jurisdiction?
2. Do residents in your community have access to public facilities?
3. Do the public facilities meet the needs of your community?
4. What type of public spaces do people use, want, need, and how can they be made safe and comfortable for different age groups and abilities?

Participants expressed that some parks lack amenities like restrooms and lighting which limits the usability of the space. Lack of lighting is especially difficult in the winter when the sun sets early and the number of hours that people can use parks is limited by daylight. There was also a desire for more trees and attractive features to activate public spaces. Furthermore, libraries were highlighted as important community resources that should be maintained and enhanced. Similarly, it was expressed that the city should continue to invest in bike infrastructure and improve facilities for all ages.

### **Closing and Next Steps**

The next roundtable meeting will focus on healthy food access and safe and healthy homes.

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

Roundtable Meeting 4  
October 4, 2023



# AGENDA

1. Engagement Check-In
2. EJ Element Draft
3. Chapter Roundtable
4. Closing

Appendix A  
**ENGAGEMENT CHECK-IN**

1. Engagement Plans
2. Pending needs and/or questions



# EJ ELEMENT DRAFT



## EJ ELEMENT DRAFT STARTED

- Based on years of data collection and advocacy
- Background/Content
  - [Land Use and Community Planning Element](#) (EJ section)
  - [Engagement Summary Report](#)



Vamos Nomar Street Activation,  
Kounkuey Design Initiative, 2022

# CHAPTER ROUNDTABLE

Appendix A



## POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

### Overview

- To address pollution and **enhance air quality**,
- Recommendations include increasing **urban greenery**, **reducing vehicular travel**, **managing truck routes**, **engaging small businesses** for emission reductions, establishing health-monitoring baselines, and **expanding the use of electric vehicles and alternate transit options**, all under consideration for future Environmental Justice development.

# POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

## Community Requests

- To safeguard and prioritize communities heavily impacted by pollution, strategies include:
  - Ensuring no increase in emissions
  - Minimizing emission sources near sensitive populations,
  - Providing financial aid through community-focused, priority-aligned funding programs,
  - Engaging communities to align preferences and grant funding

## Transportation Mitigation Efforts

- Addressing traffic and transportation pollution by:
  - Reducing freeway dependence,
  - Encouraging localized work opportunities,
  - Managing and rerouting truck traffic away from residential areas,
  - Investing in electric vehicle transition programs, enhancing bike usage,
  - Expanding and electrifying public transportation
  - Supporting the piloting of novel energy technologies.

## POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

### Increase Greenery

- Increasing tree canopies for multifaceted benefits
- Establishing vegetative buffers for particulate matter protection
- Introducing green streets and public spaces
- Planning comprehensive green infrastructure
- Amplifying actions targeting carbon sequestration in San Diego

### Community Amenities

- Facilitating access to local amenities and
- Creating climate-resilient community hubs are strategies aimed at
  - Reducing vehicle mileage and
  - Providing safe, accessible areas for refuge from extreme heat and poor air quality.

## POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

### Wildfires

- Address impacts of air quality caused by wildfires

### Business Owners

- Providing incentives and resources for small businesses to lower emissions
- Eliminating heavy industrial use for pollution reduction and housing space expansion
- Considering the enhancement of remote work options to minimize vehicle miles traveled (VMTs).

## POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

### Implementation Actions

- Prioritizing air monitoring and community information,
- Establishing rigorous criteria for data-driven decisions,
- Ensuring a scientifically robust approach to targeting major emission sources,
- Emphasizing regulatory focus through new rule development, including a health-centric approach, and
- Advocating for emission reduction strategies like frequent remote work constitute a comprehensive approach to community air quality and health improvement.



# POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY - POLICIES

Topic	Policy
<p>Water Pollution</p>	<p>CE-C.6: Implement watershed management practices designed to reduce runoff and improve the quality of runoff discharged into coastal waters.</p> <p>CE-E.1: Continue to <b>develop and implement public education programs</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involve the public in addressing runoff problems associated with development and raising awareness of how an individual's activities contribute to runoff pollution.</li> <li>- Work with local businesses and developers to provide information and incentives for the implementation of Best Management Practices for pollution prevention and control.</li> <li>- Implement watershed awareness and water quality educational programs for City staff, community planning groups, the general public, and other appropriate groups.</li> </ul> <p>CE-E.6: Continue to encourage "Pollution Control" measures to promote the proper collection and disposal of pollutants at the source, rather than allowing them to enter the storm drain system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the provision of used oil recycling and/or hazardous waste recycling facilities and drop-off locations.</li> <li>- Review plans for new development and redevelopment for connections to the storm drain system.</li> <li>- Follow up on complaints of illegal discharges and accidental spills to storm drains, waterways, and canyons.</li> </ul>
<p>Air Pollution</p>	<p>CE.F.1: Develop and adopt a fuel efficiency policy to reduce fossil fuel use by City departments and support community outreach efforts to achieve similar goals in the community.</p> <p>CE.F.4: Preserve and plant trees and vegetation that are consistent with habitat and water conservation policies and that absorb carbon dioxide and pollutants.</p> <p>CE.F.6: Encourage and provide incentives for the use of alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use, including using public transit, carpooling, vanpooling, teleworking, bicycling, and walking. Continue to implement programs to provide City employees with incentives for the use of alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.</p> <p>CE-F.9: Prohibit the idling of motive equipment (vehicles and equipment using fossil fuels) that is owned or leased by the City, and operated by City employees unless mission necessary.</p>

# POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY - POLICIES

Topic	Policy
Ground/Soil Pollution	<p>CE-M.3c: Continue to support intergovernmental collaboration and participate in initiatives, programs and task forces at all three levels of government, in the U.S. and Mexico, to protect the environment, conserve resources, and protect public health in the California-Baja California border region. Areas of concern include but are not limited to those listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stop trash, waste tires, and silt from crossing the border and polluting the Tijuana River Valley.</li> </ul> <p>CE-M.5: Collaborate with U.S. and Mexican authorities to protect the residents of border communities from harmful environmental impacts from projects on both sides of the San Diego-Baja California border.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognize that border-area residents are disproportionately at risk from environmental pollutants and take steps to reduce those risks.</li> <li>- Promote the participation of local residents and stakeholders in developing solutions to environmental problems.</li> <li>- Work with appropriate organizations to establish a trans-border environmental impact assessment process.</li> <li>- Encourage participation in and development of mutually beneficial educational outreach projects on issues of common concern such as illegal tire disposal.</li> </ul>

## POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY - NEEDS

### NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

#### Questions:

- Are there any industrial or environmental concerns near where you live, and if so, could you share any health or quality of life concerns this brings up for your communities?
- How do residents perceive and experience pollution exposure and air quality in their daily lives? What are the most pressing issues or challenges they face in this regard?
- Are there differences amongst populations in your service area in their ability to access clean drinking water within your community? How does this affect different groups within the community, such as children, elderly, or low-income residents?

Appendix A



# PUBLIC FACILITIES, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

## Overview

- Community feedback highlighted a robust **desire for enhancing and expanding recreational spaces and parks**, with a specific emphasis on **amplifying usability** through additional programming and acquiring more spaces, especially in under-resourced areas. Notably, there was a strong inclination for **improving connections to job centers via pathways and roads**, alongside a call for safe and universally accessible public spaces, inputs that will be pivotal in shaping the Environmental Justice Element.

# PUBLIC FACILITIES, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

## Public and Active Transportation

- Encouraging low-carbon transportation methods and crafting a more interconnected transportation infrastructure that directly links Communities of Concern to job centers and amenities.
- Defining and championing pedestrian and cycling pathways
- Creating pedestrian-friendly streets with the implementation of sidewalks and protected bike lanes
- Ensuring that safe and easily accessible active transportation options are prevalent.

# PUBLIC FACILITIES, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

## Parks and Recreation

- Emphasis is placed on enhancing connectivity to natural water bodies, supporting wetland and habitat restoration in San Diego, and backing climate action to augment natural spaces, along with
- Increasing various types of parks and public spaces, ensuring parks cater to all age demographics and facilitate recreational, fitness, and wellness activities.
- Strategic investments in facilities and programs spotlight a range of recreational offerings, with a particular focus on accessibility, safety, and multifunctionality, while also prioritizing green, clean, and safe public spaces,
- Improved lighting, and the integration of more trees and shaded areas to foster outdoor activity and intergenerational interactions across urban and suburban areas.

# PUBLIC FACILITIES, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

Topic	Section	Policy
Public Spaces	PF-A.2: Plan for public spaces such as libraries, public markets and parks that will be attractive to families with children. PF-A.5: Identify a variety of facilities required to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of diverse communities.	
	PF-B.2: Invest in citywide public facilities that meet the current and future needs of the growing population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize investments in projects that improve connectivity between communities and enable safe access to citywide infrastructure.</li> <li>- Prioritize investments in projects that connect communities and positively influence the life of all San Diegans.</li> </ul> PF-B.3 : Address current and future public facility needs by pursuing, adopting, implementing, and maintaining a diverse funding and management strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure effective management and optimal allocation of all financial resources for both capital and operational needs.</li> <li>- Maximize operational and capital efficiencies.</li> <li>- Continue to develop, evaluate, and apply innovative public infrastructure and facility financing mechanisms and strategies. Employ a public infrastructure financing strategy that includes a variety of financing mechanisms.</li> </ul>	
Libraries	PF-J.3: Plan for larger library facilities that can serve multiple communities and accommodate sufficient space to serve the larger service area and maximize operational and capital efficiencies.	



## PUBLIC FACILITIES, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

- Needs:
  - Is there an equitable distribution of public facilities across communities in a jurisdiction?
  - Do residents in your community have access (vehicular, public transit, or pedestrian/bicycle) to public facilities?
  - Do the public facilities meet the needs of your community?
  - What type of public spaces do people use, want, need, and how can they be made safe and comfortable for different age groups and abilities?

# CLOSING / NEXT STEPS

## Roundtable Calendar

Roundtable 4	Roundtable 5	Roundtable 6
<b>Pollution Exposure + Air Quality</b>	<b>Healthy Food Access</b>	<b>Civic Engagement</b>
<b>Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure</b>	<b>Safe and Healthy Home</b>	*physical activity
		*programs and improvements to address the needs of disadvantaged communities