



MEMO TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

HEARING DATE: October 7, 2021

Case Number: 2018-017026CWP
Project Name: San Francisco Environmental Justice Framework and General Plan Policies
Staff Contact: Lisa Chen, Senior Community Development Specialist
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Reviewed by: Claudia Flores, Racial & Social Equity Plan Manager
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Recommendation: None (Informational)

Background

The Planning Department, in collaboration with other City agencies, is developing an Environmental Justice (EJ) Framework and accompanying policies in the San Francisco General Plan. These updates are intended to meet the requirements of California Senate Bill 1000. They will also help implement provisions of the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission resolutions centering the Department's work on racial and social equity¹, which call for commensurate amendments to the San Francisco General Plan.

This proposed addition of Environmental Justice policies into the General Plan is one component in a series of proposed amendments to the General Plan, intended to modernize the City's central land use policy document. Other updates underway include updates to the Community Safety Element to add climate resilience; a holistic update of the Housing Element, consistent with state-mandated timing requirements; and, a holistic update to the Transportation Element, as part of the ConnectSF project. An informational overview of these changes to the General Plan has been tentatively scheduled for the November 4, 2021 hearing.

State & Local Mandates

California Senate Bill 1000 ("SB1000") adopted in 2016 requires that cities and counties that have one or more census tracts defined as "Disadvantaged Communities" adopt policies in their General Plan to address environmental justice. ["Disadvantaged Communities" are defined as areas that are low-income and face disproportionate exposure to environmental pollution and other health hazards as shown on CalEnviroScreen, a mapping tool created by California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) & California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) that provides tract-level data on demographics, sources of

¹ Planning Commission Resolution No. 20738 (June 11, 2020) and Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 1127 (July 15, 2020).

pollution, and other health risk factors.]² Substantial progress on these updates must be underway when a jurisdiction amends two or more Elements of its General Plan after 2018.

Recognizing that environmental justice burdens fall disproportionately on Indigenous, Black, and other People of Color communities due to a long legacy of institutional and environmental racism, the Department has aligned this project with its ongoing work on the Racial & Social Equity Action Plan. In addition to implementing provisions of the Commission's resolution centering the Department's work on racial and social equity, the EJ Framework process will also yield feedback and recommendations that will help inform the upcoming Phase 2 Action Plan, anticipated in 2022 (pending Office of Racial Equity direction).

Environmental Justice Framework & General Plan Policies

In response to these mandates, the Department is working with other City agencies (including the San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco Department of the Environment, and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, among others) to develop an Environmental Justice Framework ("EJ Framework") to identify key EJ-related goals and priorities. The EJ Framework will include policy recommendations in the following topic areas, adapted from SB1000 requirements:

- Clean and Healthy Environments (Pollution Reduction³)
- Healthy Food Access
- Physical Activity
- Safe, Healthy and Affordable Housing (Safe & Sanitary Homes⁴)
- Healthy Public Facilities
- Empowered Neighborhoods (Civic Engagement and Prioritizing EJ Communities⁵)
- Climate Resilience & Justice⁶
- Equitable and Green Jobs⁷

The Environmental Justice Framework will outline a vision and policy priorities to be incorporated throughout the Elements of the City's General Plan. The first set of policies will be found in the Housing, Transportation, and Safety & Resilience Elements, which are currently undergoing updates. Subsequent phases of work will address updates to other Elements not currently scheduled for comprehensive revisions.

Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities Map

The CA Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) issued guidance to jurisdictions on implementing SB1000 as part of its recent updates to State General Plan Guidelines.⁸ The guidelines specify that jurisdictions may rely solely on a state mapping tool (CalEnviroScreen) when making their determination of where "Disadvantaged

² "Disadvantaged Communities" are defined as census tracts that score in the top 25% percentile of environmental burdens and demographic characteristics in CalEnviroScreen.

³ Title in parenthesis indicates the text from SB1000 legislation.

⁴ Title in parenthesis indicates the text from SB1000 legislation.

⁵ Title in parenthesis indicates the text from SB1000 legislation.

⁶ Policy topic added locally (not required by SB1000).

⁷ Policy topic added locally (not required by SB1000).

⁸ Available at: <https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>

Communities” are located. However, it notes that jurisdictions may expand upon the protective intent of SB1000 by conducting further data analysis and mapping to specify additional areas impacted by environmental justice.

The Department developed the draft Environmental Justice Communities Map (“EJ Communities Map”), due to feedback from other City agencies and community members that CalEnviroScreen does not adequately reflect the range of San Francisco neighborhoods that face environmental burdens and other health disparities. This draft EJ Communities Map is based on CalEnviroScreen 3.0⁹ with additional local data on pollution and demographics, and it will be refined based on public feedback during the community engagement process. The Department is also developing an online Story Map that will include additional data on related topics, and information from interviews with people living and working in EJ Communities.

Community Engagement Plan & Timeline

A key principle of environmental justice is that the communities which are most impacted must have a central role in identifying needs and potential solutions. Therefore, the community engagement plan focuses primarily on partnering with community members and organizations in the neighborhoods identified in the Draft EJ Communities Map. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, all activities are being conducted virtually until further notice. The figures below describe the planned community engagement activities and general timeline of events.

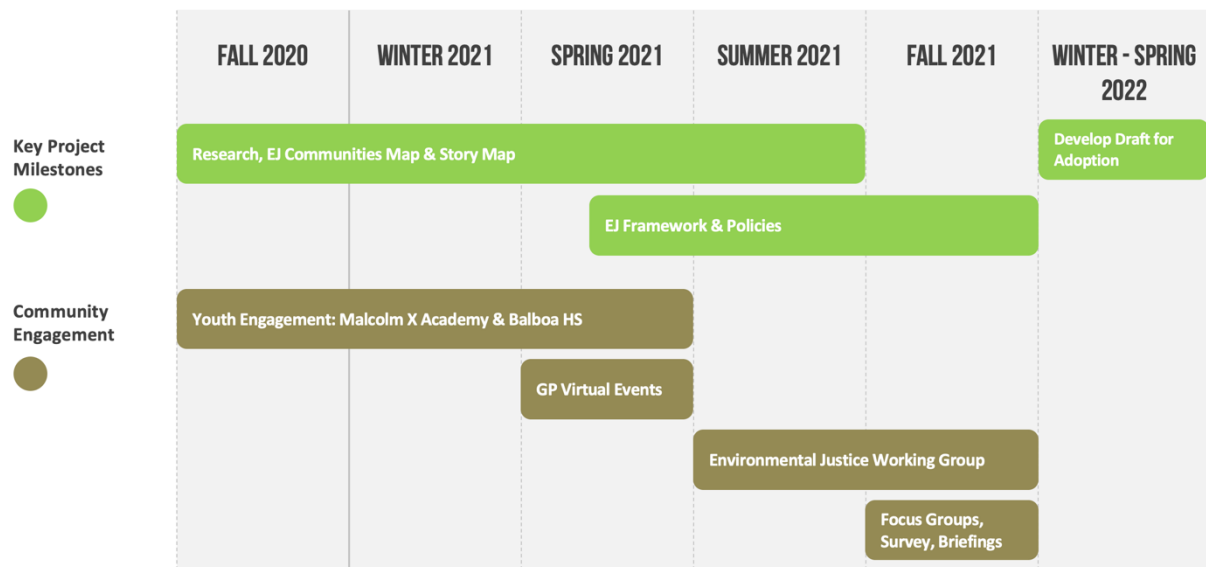
EJ Framework Community Engagement: Completed & Planned Activities

Activity	Description & Status
Environmental Justice Working Group	The Environmental Justice Working Group is a six-month effort (June-November 2021) to bring together community and City agency leaders to co-develop recommendations for the draft EJ Framework. The 18 community leaders in the group were selected after a public recruitment process in Spring 2021, focused on representation of people living and working in the EJ Communities. (See Attachment B for membership roster; <i>Status: Ongoing</i>)
Youth Engagement	Staff conducted youth engagement with 4th graders at Malcolm X Academy in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood (in partnership with Y-PLAN) in Fall 2020, and with juniors and seniors at Balboa High School in the Excelsior neighborhood in Spring 2021. This included capacity-building activities where students identified strengths, challenges, and opportunities for advancing EJ in their neighborhoods. The youth delivered a presentation on their policy recommendations to staff from various City agencies. (<i>Status: Completed</i>)
General Plan Virtual Events	The Department hosted a two-week series of virtual events in March 2021 showcasing its current and upcoming work to update key Elements of the SF General Plan. The EJ Framework was featured at two online workshops, which provided an overview of the project and solicited feedback on EJ challenges and opportunities in various neighborhoods. The events also included an overview of the Racial & Social Equity Action Plan and solicited feedback on the definitions of equity and ideas for addressing disparities. (<i>Status: Completed</i>)

⁹ CalEnviroScreen 3.0 is the most recent version adopted by CalEPA and OEHHA. These state agencies have published a draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0 map and conducted a public comment period in Spring 2021. The Planning Department intends to update the Draft EJ Communities map if CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is finalized prior to the adoption of the EJ Framework.

Other Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Groups • Interviews • Online Survey • Briefings 	These activities are one-time events intended to solicit feedback from a broader range of residents, workers, and organizations located in the EJ Communities. The Focus Groups and Interviews will allow us to get in-depth, qualitative feedback on how people are impacted by environmental justice, while the Online Survey and Briefings are intended to get higher-level feedback on EJ priorities. <i>(Status: Ongoing)</i>
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EJ Framework Timeline



Next steps

Staff will publish a draft of the EJ Framework for adoption in late Spring or early Summer 2022, and subsequently return to the Planning Commission for approval action. The General Plan elements currently undergoing updates will integrate EJ policies through their adoption processes.

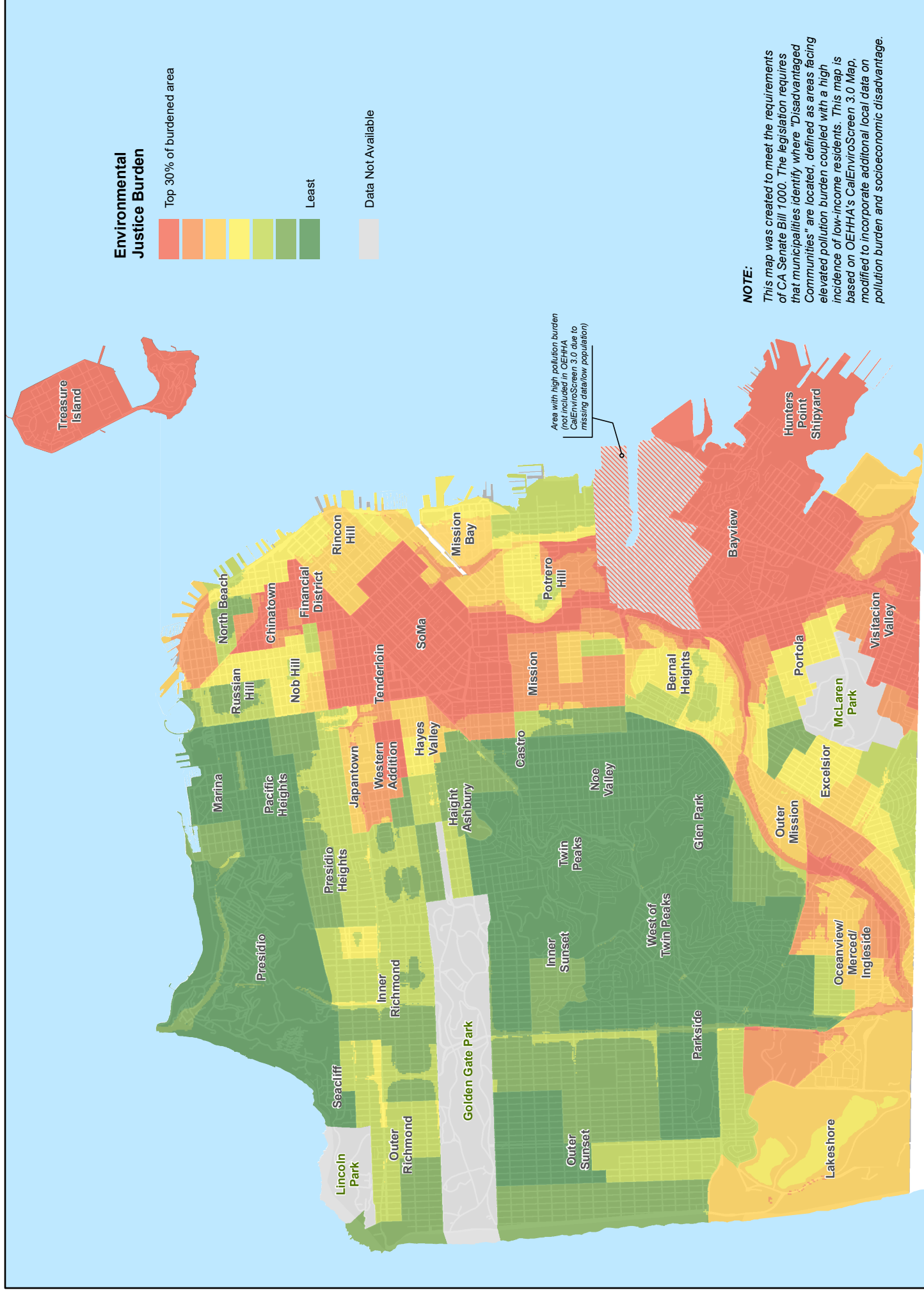
Required Commission Action

No action by the Commission is requested at this time.

Recommendation: None (Informational)

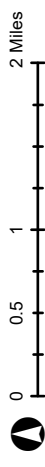
Attachments:

Exhibit A: Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities Map
Exhibit B: Environmental Justice (EJ) Working Group – Membership Roster



NOTE:

This map was created to meet the requirements of CA Senate Bill 1000. The legislation requires that municipalities identify where "Disadvantaged Communities" are located, defined as areas facing elevated pollution burden coupled with a high incidence of low-income residents. This map is based on OEHHA's CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Map, modified to incorporate additional local data on pollution burden and socioeconomic disadvantage.



San Francisco Environmental Justice Working Group

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER (September 2021)

Community Members

ORGANIZATION	NAME
American Indian Cultural District	Sharaya Souza
Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates	Agustin Angel
Brightline Defense	Cecilia Mejia
Chinatown Community Development Center	Maggie Dong
Code Tenderloin	Donna Hilliard
Demonstration Gardens - Tenderloin Peoples Congress	Kasey Rios Asberry
Fillmore Media Systems & Services Co.	Chester Kyle Williams
Japantown Task Force	Nina Bazan-Sakamoto
PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights)	Antonio Díaz
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House	Edward Hatter
Residents Supporting Community On Treasure Island	Barklee Sanders
San Francisco African American Faith Base Coalition	Irene Mahasin Thomas-Jacks
San Francisco Transit Riders	Mark Cordes
SF Parks Alliance	Thomas Namara
Sistah Music Snax Entertainment	Tandia O'Neal
Southwest Community Corporation	Felisia Thibodeaux
St Andrew Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Ishmael Burch Jr
Stand in Peace International	Shervon Hunter

City Agency Members

ORGANIZATION	NAME
SF Planning Department (project team)	Lisa Chen, Claudia Flores, Danielle Ngo, Celina Chan, Leslie Valencia
SF Department of the Environment	Sraddha Mehta
SF Public Utilities Commission	Will Logsdon
SF Department of Public Health	Karen Pierce
SF Office of Racial Equity	Sarah Tseng
SF Municipal Transportation Agency	Keith Tanner
SF Office of Resilience & Capital Planning	Alex Morrison
SF Recreation & Parks Department	Taylor Emerson
SF Public Works	Jon Swae

Meeting Facilitation & Community Engagement Strategy/Support

ORGANIZATION	NAME
GM Consulting Group	Giuliana Martinez