

Environmental Justice Element

ACHCC HEALTHY COMMUNITIES BUCKET MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2022





This meeting will
be recorded

Agenda



Welcome and Introductions



EJ Element



- Summary of January meeting
- Purpose of today's meeting
- Overview of the six topic areas – the six “pillars of EJ”
- Topic area breakouts (25 mins) & report back
- Next steps



Any updates/ projects Healthy Communities Bucket members would like to share?

January meeting

- Provided overview of EJ and SB 1000 requirements, scope of the project (planning area – all of ASH, CH, HA, and parts of CV and SLZ), process timeline, initial findings
- We gave homework –
 - Which EJ topics align with your agency/ org?
 - Do you have policy docs/ strategic plan we should be aware of?
 - Ideas for engaging meaningfully with the community?
- Please complete [here](#) if you haven't already. Inputs from each month's homework will ensure a comprehensive EJ Element!

Today's meeting

- Broad overview of required topics for EJ Elements, summarized into the six “Pillars of EJ”
- “Mini-coalitions” proposal for getting input on topic areas going forward
- In breakout groups, provide input on topic area and report back

SB 1000 Topical Areas and Example Needs/Assets

Six “Pillars of EJ”

THESE COVER THE “EJ BINGO BOARD” FROM JANUARY’S MEETING

Pollution and Air Quality	Public Facilities	Food Access	Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods	Health and Physical Activity
air pollution	public transportation	grocery stores	housing habitability	asthma
soil pollution/spills	parks and green space	farmer’s markets	lead risks	cardiovascular disease
surface water pollution	community and cultural centers	community gardens	air conditioning/urban heat effects	diabetes
drinking water quality	libraries	food aid	housing cost burden	walkability
toxic releases	health care facilities	urban farming	renter services	parks and recreation
hazardous waste	schools	nutrition services	street lighting and sidewalks	safe routes to schools

Six “Pillars of EJ”



Pollution and air quality



Public Facilities



Food Access



Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods



Health and Physical Activity



Civic Engagement

Mini- Coalitions

- Monthly meetings for this bucket will be seeking your input on strategic items, e.g. data/ existing conditions, proposed community engagement approach, draft EJ Element etc.
- In-between monthly meetings we are proposing topic-specific “mini-coalitions” – 5 to 6 people whose work intersects with the topic to provide input
- Format TBC (Zoom, forms, 1-1’s), but will likely focus on one or two topic areas each month March through May, with reps from mini-coalitions reporting back at monthly meetings

Overview – Six Topic Areas

Topic requirement (SB1000) –
Objectives and policies to
reduce the unique or
compounded health risks in
disadvantaged communities...

Why is this topic important?



Pollution and air quality

- **Requirement:** The EJ Element must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by reducing pollution exposure, including the improvement of air, water and soil quality. The EJ Element should consider both indoor and outdoor air quality.
- **Why is this Important?**
- Diseases such as asthma, birth defects, cancer, heart disease, neurologic disorders, and reproductive disorders can be linked to pollution in the environment, and certain geographic areas experience a disproportionate share of pollution exposure.
- PHD has been gathering and assessing data to inform policy on this topic (i.e, asthma rates, cancer rates, air quality, water contaminants, hazard sites, etc.).



Public Facilities

- **Requirement:** The EJ Element must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by promoting public facilities. “Public facilities” include, but are not limited to, public improvements, public services, and community amenities.
- **Why is this Important?**
- Access to resources is an important component of a livable, vibrant community. Ensuring equitable access and connections to public services and community amenities such as community centers, libraries, public transit, parks and recreation facilities, and safe drinking water and wastewater services, are all important components of livable communities and neighborhoods. Additional public facilities and services could include active transportation infrastructure, flood control and water drainage, health care services such as hospitals and health clinics, broadband or internet access, and facilities and programs to improve disaster preparedness and recovery capacity.
- PHD has been gathering and assessing data to inform policies on this topic (i.e. location, distribution, and quality of public facilities and amenities such as parks, trails, sidewalks, public transit, libraries, or other infrastructure; food insecurity, etc.). We want to hear your perspectives to round out this quantitative analysis and get a full story.



Food Access

- **Requirement:** The EJ Element must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by promoting food access.
- **Why is this Important?**
- People living in rural areas, low-income neighborhoods, and communities of color are more likely to have limited access to healthy and affordable foods. Access to healthy food has become a greater priority given that the percentage of obese adults and children has been increasing, particularly in low-income communities. New research shows the risk of developing diabetes during an average lifespan in the US population has increased to nearly 40 percent, further supporting the need to improve nutrition. Health conditions related to obesity, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, are also on the rise.
- Over-consumption of less nutritional food is a component of the problem and lack of access to healthy, fresh food compound this problem. Some areas struggle with “food deserts”, which are areas that do not have adequate physical access to nutritious healthy foods.



Food Access

- **Why is this Important? (Continued...)**
- Many Californians have experienced food insecurity, defined as a time when they could not afford enough food or had to forgo other basic life expenses to buy food. Food insecurity is broadly considered to have three pillars: 1) availability, 2) access, and 3) utilization. Although individuals make food choices, those choices are made within the context of what is accessible, affordable, or available.
- Food insecure households are often the same ones that struggle with obesity. Research shows that multi-pronged approaches are needed to support healthy food consumption and food security. Creating access without addressing affordability, for instance, will not necessarily help increase consumption of healthy food. Some jurisdictions have combined policies that address infrastructure and food access with community education and programming.
- PHD has been gathering and assessing data to inform policy on this topic (i.e, locations of food sources by type)



Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods

- **Requirement:** The EJ Element must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by promoting safe and sanitary homes.
- **Why is this Important?:**
- Housing location, quality, affordability, and stability have health implications. Often, individuals who experience unique or compounding health risks face multiple, interrelated barriers to accessing safe, stable, and affordable housing.
- PHD has been gathering and assessing data to inform policy on this topic (i.e, housing cost burden, household characteristics, age of housing stock, homelessness, quality of rental housing stock, etc.).



Health and Physical Activity

- **Requirement:** The general plan must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by promoting physical activity.
- **Why is this Important?:**
- Physical inactivity is one of the key contributors to chronic disease in California. Inactivity is linked to obesity, the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Obesity increases the risk for many chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, and many cancers.
- Increasing physical activity is one of the most important contributors to improved health; it helps control weight, reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, and some cancers as well as improving mental health and well-being. Only half of Californians meet the recommended daily physical activity level: about thirty minutes a day for adults and one hour for children.
- PHD has been gathering and assessing data to inform policy on this topic (i.e, obesity prevalence, secondary diseases from obesity, crash data involving pedestrians and bicycles, park and trail locations, percent of people that feel safe in their neighborhoods, etc.)



Civic Engagement


- **Requirement**
- **Why is this Important?**
- We will be addressing this topic in future discussions.

Breakouts - instructions


- We'll cover the first 5 of 6 topic areas – we'll work later on topic six (civic engagement)
- 20 to 25 mins
- Session will be facilitated by a “chair” who will be a member of this topic’s mini-coalition going forward
- Chair will provide their answers to some prompt questions then handover to the group for discussion
- You'll have an assigned note-taker in the group
- 2-minute report-back when we return to the main session



What/where are the main issues and opportunities from your perspective?



What are some key plans, programs or projects that are already happening in the community to address these issues?



What is your vision for the Eden Area in relation to this topic? (The EJ Element should be built on a vision of “where do we want to be in 10-20 years?”)

Breakouts -
questions



Report backs from breakouts

2-MINS PER GROUP

Next steps – EJ Element

- Establishing mini-coalitions – chairs, members, format
- Homework! (form [here](#))

With the benefit of today's brainstorming and discussions, request each member of the bucket submit answers to the questions from the breakouts

- ACHCC Bucket and Mini-Coalition Schedule
- Next meeting – Thursday March 17th, 9.30am



Updates/ projects to
share?