



# Environmental Justice and the General Plan

A Presentation to the AB 617 Consultation Group

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# Office of Planning & Research (OPR)

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- State Land Use Policy
- General Plan Guidelines
- CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines
- Military Liaison
- Technical Advisories
- Interagency Coordination
- Executive Initiatives
- Within OPR:
  - Strategic Growth Council
  - Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
    - Technical Advisory Council
    - Adaptation Clearinghouse
  - CEQA Clearinghouse

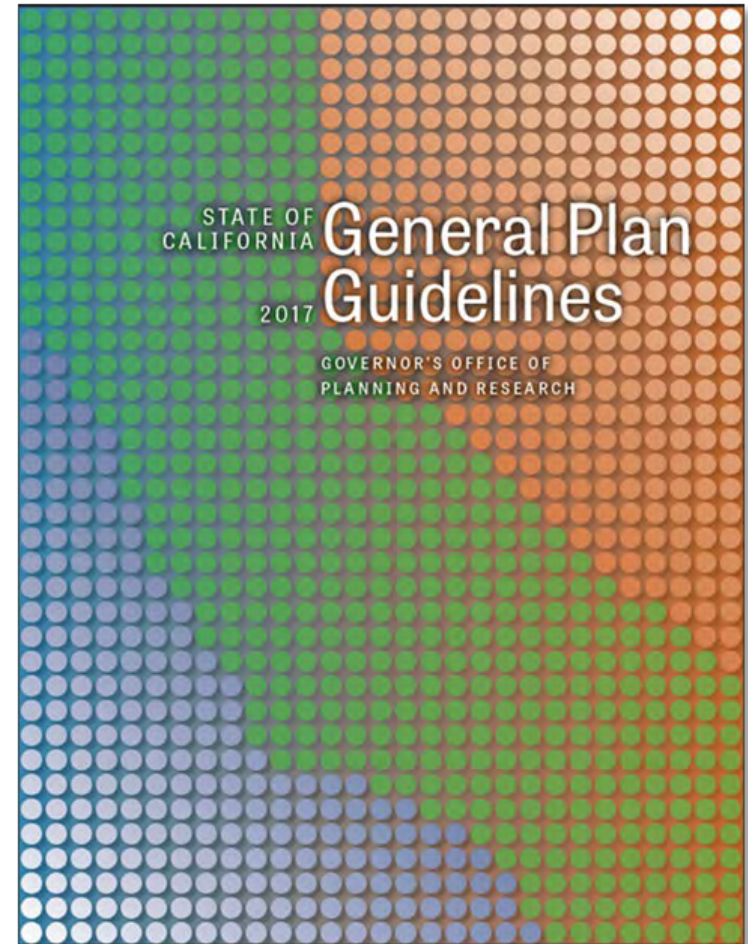




# What is a General Plan?

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- OPR provides General Plan Guidelines for cities and counties
  - ▣ 2017 was last comprehensive update
  - ▣ **Environmental Justice section update in progress, to be released in March 2020**
  
- Every city and county in California must have a General Plan - a long term vision for their future growth and development
  
- All plans, codes, etc. in a jurisdiction must be consistent with its General Plan





# General Plan Guidelines

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## Required Elements

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Conservation
- Open Space
- Noise
- Safety
- Air Quality\*
- **Environmental Justice\***

## Topical Guidance

- Engagement & Outreach
- Healthy Communities
- Climate Change
- Equity and Resilience
- Economic Development

\*required in jurisdictions that meet specific criteria



## SB 1000 (Leyva, 2016)

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- Requires cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to address environmental justice in their general plans
- Can be a separate element or integrated into other general plan elements
- Timing: upon adoption or revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018
- Codified in Government Code Section 65302(h)





# What must the EJ Element do?

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## Environmental Justice Element

### Introduction

Over 9 million Californians are exposed to and at risk from high pollution, according to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Cal EnviroScreen tool. In addition to examining environmental hazards, Cal EnviroScreen and other tools look at assets that help protect communities from poor health. Legislation adopted in 2016, Senate Bill 1000, now requires both cities and counties that have disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their general plans, either in a separate EJ element or by integrating related goals, policies, and objectives throughout the other elements. This update, or revision if the local government already has EJ goals, policies, and objectives, must happen "upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018."

#### Government Code Section 65302(b)

- (1) An environmental justice element, or related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, that identifies disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan of the city, county, or city and county, if the city, county, or city and county has a disadvantaged community. The environmental justice element, or related environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, shall do all of the following:
  - (A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
  - (B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decisionmaking process.
  - (C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.
- (2) A city, county, or city and county subject to this subdivision shall adopt or review the environmental justice element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements, upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.
- (3) By adding this subdivision, the Legislature does not intend to require a city, county, or city and county to take any action prohibited by the United States Constitution or the California Constitution.

- **Identify disadvantaged communities** using one or more definitions
- **Address and reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by:**
  - Reducing pollution exposure, including improving air quality
  - Promoting public facilities
  - Promoting food access
  - Promoting safe and sanitary homes
  - Promoting physical activity
- **Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process**
- **Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities**



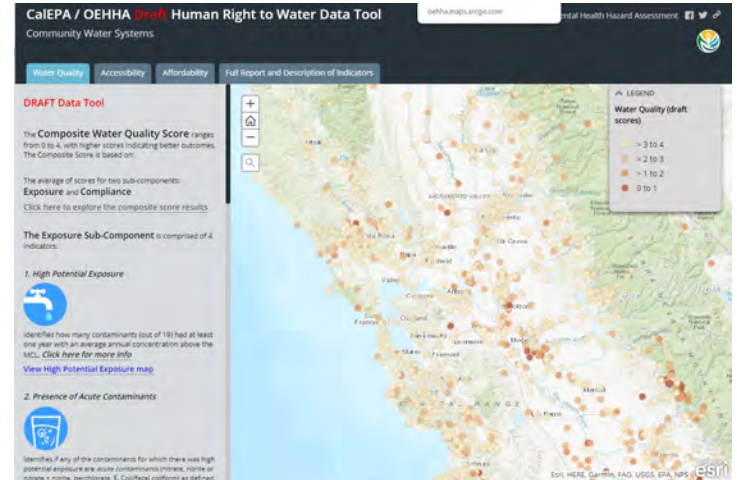
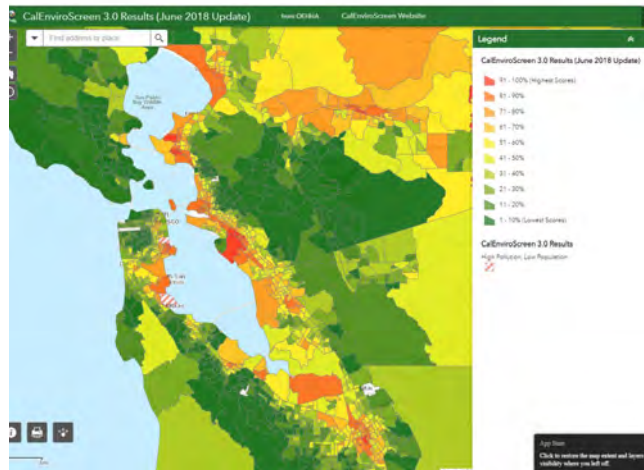
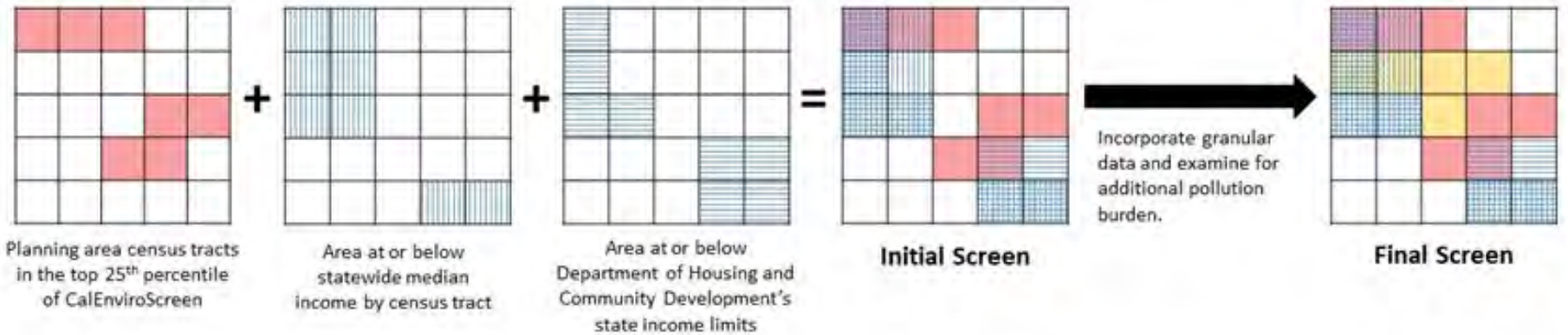
# Identifying Disadvantaged Communities

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## Step 1: Check CalEnviroScreen

## Step 2: Analyze local low-income population characteristics

## Step 3: Analyze Local Pollution & Health Data + Engage with the Community





# Air Quality, Health, and EJ

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## □ Land Use

- Compatibility issues in disadvantaged communities
- Project siting and mitigation for sensitive land uses near pollution sources
- Mixed use: complete and healthy neighborhoods

## □ Circulation

- Reducing vehicle trips and VMT on roadway networks
- Freight and goods movement: local truck routes and land uses
- Low- and zero-emissions technology
- Active transportation and complete streets
- Mobility and accessibility





# Who Governs Air Quality?

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*CARB generally has primary authority over:*

- Mobile sources (vehicles & equipment unless preempted by Federal or International entities)
- Fuels
- Consumer products
- Emissions reporting
- Greenhouse gas sources
- Toxic air contaminant sources

*Mechanisms: Statewide regulations, suggested control measures, air quality incentives*

*Air districts generally have primary authority over:*

- Stationary sources
  - Industrial
  - Commercial
- Area-wide / Residential emissions sources
- Indirect sources (mobile source traffic and congestion)

*Mechanisms: Local regulations, air quality permits, air quality incentives*

**CARB**

**Cities and Counties**

*Cities/Counties generally have primary authority over:*

- Land use
- Development standards (e.g., setbacks, buffers, barriers)
- Local traffic routes
- Urban greening
- Local infrastructure

*Mechanisms: General plans, community plans, zoning codes, planning permits, local ordinances, local spending, local taxes*

**Air Districts**

**Transportation Agencies**

*Transportation agencies generally have primary authority over:*

- Transportation planning and funding decisions
- Regional traffic and roadway infrastructure
- Regional transit development

*Mechanisms: Regional transportation plans, sustainable community strategies, transportation programming*



# AB 617 and SB 1000 Alignment

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- Community Air Protection Program can align with General Plan Environmental Justice Element
  - ▣ Both identify existing impacted and disadvantaged communities
  - ▣ Both include a community-driven process and civic engagement
  - ▣ Both must address and reduce air pollution in impacted communities
  - ▣ AB 617 Program and CERP's will be more detailed, can help inform General Plan's EJ and AQ policies and provide a framework for implementation





# EJ Case Studies

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## Land Use Planning Awareness Project

Riverside public health teams with Coachella Valley youth for the land use planning awareness project

Key Themes | Environmental Exposures, Healthily Homes, Social Connections & Safety



## Parks After Dark

Lighting the Way for Prevention and Intervention

Key Themes | Social Connection & Safety



## Fresno's Active Transportation Plan

Residents achieve win to create greater equity in Fresno's Active Transportation Plan

Key Themes | Active Transportation, Health & Climate Change, Social Connection & Safety



## Food to Share as a Healthy Community and Environmental Justice Case Study

A community food partnership that provides unique opportunities to address both food insecurity and environmental solutions

Key Themes | Food Access & Healthy Food Systems, Health & Climate Change



# Contact Info

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