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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Group 2*

From: Villalobos, David
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 4:57 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Moore, Danielle
Subject: FW: Public Comment for Environmental Justice Element

-----Original Message-----

From: Vicky Blum <blumvicky@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 4:13 PM
To: Villalobos, David <dvillalo@countyofsb.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Environmental Justice Element

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

We don't believe SB County's Environmental Justice Element goes far enough to ensure that pollution and other environmental risks are reduced in disadvantaged communities. Senate Bill 1000 requires local governments to ensure that The EJ Element protects low income communities, especially communities of color.

It'd be helpful for the county to conduct further community outreach to its Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs) to get feedback and recommendations regarding the EJ Element. We urge you to continue to survey EJCs and to consider demographic data such as race, language, isolation, and employment patterns.

The County should strengthen the Element by revising the policies so they're measurable and binding. They should ensure that the policies address groundwater pollution and surface water pollution in EJCs.

To ensure that the EJ Element results in measurable improvements for the EJCs, the County should also consider establishing an Environmental Justice Oversight Committee that includes EJC residents and community organizations. This committee could strengthen implementation and improve outcomes. It could also help to build trust with EJC residents, which would be invaluable.

Thanks for your consideration,
Vicky Blum and David Lebell

Katherine Douglas

From: jim yarbrough <jyarbro2003@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 8:05 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Environmental Justice Element

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding the Environmental Justice Element, I endorse the following:

- **Before approving the Environmental Justice Element please:**
 - o Include binding and trackable objectives and implementation actions that require the County to take action to reduce the environmental burdens in environmental justice communities instead of maintaining the status quo;
 - o Add objectives and implementation actions to reduce the groundwater contamination that disproportionately impacts many of the County's disadvantaged communities.
 - o Identify in the Element which County policies, rules, and regulations already promote environmental justice in the County.
 - o Conduct more community engagement with residents of the environmental justice communities that the Element is designed to benefit. This includes mailing surveys and holding multiple workshops accessible to all of the County's Environmental Justice Communities.
- Thanks for considering my comment. Jim Yarbrough Ojai, CA 93023

Katherine Douglas

From: Leiah Johnson <johnsonleiah@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 8:43 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comments on Environmental Justice Element

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

My name is Leiah Johnson and I am a California resident. I am emailing in advance of the cutoff date for comments regarding the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission's proposal to strengthen the Environmental Justice Element on March 6th.

I wanted to urge the Commission and the Board to look at and complete these items before approving the Environmental Justice Element:

DO identify in the Element what the County is already doing policy, rule and regulatory wise to promote environmental justice in the County as a starting point.

DO conduct more community engagement with environmental justice community residents through holding surveys and accessible and informational workshops to gather more data on these communities.

DO include trackable objectives and implementation actions that are binding as these would require the County to adjust and furthermore adapt their actions to specific environmental justice communities to ensure that that communities needs are being equitably met.

DO add objectives and action items for implementation to reduce groundwater contamination in disproportionately impacted communities.

As someone who lived on the East Coast in Louisiana and studied as well as experienced the effects along the Baton Rouge and New Orleans stretch in an area nicknamed "Cancer Alley"- it is crucial that Environmental Justice initiatives are included in the County's draft in a way that all communities receive equitable resources and in turn, streamlines the implementation process.

Thank you for your time and openness to comments.

Best regards,

Leiah Johnson

Katherine Douglas

From: Brigitta Van Der Raay <bvanderraay@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 12:25 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Input for Environmental Justice Element consideration at BOS meeting March 10, 2026

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Most people living in low income communities or communities of color provide crucial services to all residents and businesses of this county and they deserve to be treated with respect and the same level of environmental safety and quality of life that residents of more affluent neighborhoods enjoy. Policies that merely avoid additional pollution in these communities only maintain the status quo, which we all know, is not what affluent communities would find acceptable. We additionally hope that as wise, forward looking supervisors, you will ensure an Environmental Justice Element that anticipates and seeks fair solutions to environmental changes that are already becoming evident due to global warming.

Please ensure that the final Environmental Justice Element has strong and enforceable objectives and guidelines that will actually protect communities and improve their health and wellbeing. Your careful consideration of input from affected residents and environmental experts will ensure relevancy. Please ensure effective pollution monitoring programs, threshold levels for safety, incentives for pollution reductions, and yearly assessments of efficacy that will result in safe living conditions for all. This should include air, soil, chemical, and water safety, as well as protection from smells, light, and noise pollution.

Please also ensure the final document contains strong objectives and implementation actions to reduce groundwater contamination, as this affects all county residents, through the safety and supply of water for agriculture and our consumption.

Thank you for all you have already done towards this goal, and for this opportunity to participate in your future considerations for our wellbeing.

Sincerely,
Brigitta Van Der Raay

Katherine Douglas

From: Ellen harvey <fishfood2@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 1:25 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Environmental justice element

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, my name is Ellen Bougher-Harvey and I'm a native California. I'm writing to you because I'm concerned about the EJ element not being thorough enough right now. Please before approving the EJ element make sure you have a trackable and binding objectives that require the county to take action to reduce the environmental burdens in EJ communities instead of maintaining the status quo. Please make sure you implement actions to reduce ground water contamination in all communities! It's important to identify all communities equally and responsibly. Right now the EJ element has fallen short of state guidelines and has not sought impact from all affected community members. Therefore, the environmental burdens of these communities needs to be addressed! EJ element does not do enough to improve the environmental hazards of the burdening lower income communities. EJ element needs to reach out more and engage with the communities it is designed to benefit , this includes emails , surveys and multiple workshops accessible to all the counties in the environmental justice communities! Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue!

Katherine Douglas

From: Joanna Tang <jtang24@ucsbalum.com>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 4:23 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Modify EJ Element Public Comment

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am a Goleta resident and would like to provide public comment on the EJ Element. Thank you for considering community feedback in the draft EJ Element and working with residents to address all environmental burdens facing vulnerable communities. EJ is a crucial part of our community, especially as we have many special environmental resources that require careful stewardship because of how intertwined environmental health is with human health in our community.

I urge you to strengthen the draft Environmental Justice Element with enforceable policies that reduce pollution and protect vulnerable communities. Listening to residents and addressing all environmental burdens is essential to safeguard health, equity, and community well-being. Low-income communities and communities of color often bear the brunt of the climate crisis. Strengthening the EJ Element helps protect them from environmental and health risks.

All environmental burdens must be addressed, ensuring the EJ Element tackles every source of pollution and hazard affecting residents' daily lives.

Community engagement must be expanded, incorporating feedback from residents of more vulnerable communities the Element is designed to benefit.

Policies must be enforceable and trackable, so they produce real reductions in environmental burdens rather than letting conditions remain the same.

The County must be held accountable, guaranteeing that environmental justice communities receive the protections and resources they are entitled to, with measurable progress monitored over time.

Thank you for supporting a healthy, thriving community and for looking out for the safety of all of our community members.

Sincerely,
Joanna Tang, PhD
She/her
University of California, Santa Barbara