

ATTACHMENT C: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL) RESOLUTION NO. 26 - 64
JUSTICE ELEMENT OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY)
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN) Case No.: 22GPA-00000-00003

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. WHEREAS, on December 20, 1980, by Resolution No. 80-566, the Board of Supervisors (Board) of the County of Santa Barbara (County) adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the County of Santa Barbara.
- B. Government Code Section 65302, subsection (h), requires all counties and cities with disadvantaged communities to adopt an environmental justice element or related goals, policies, and objectives into the Comprehensive Plan.
- C. County staff identified seven disadvantaged communities within the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.
- D. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65302 subsection (h), the Environmental Justice Element must (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 civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and (C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.
- E. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65302, subsection (h), each jurisdiction shall adopt or review the environmental justice element upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.
- F. In accordance with Government Code Section 65302 subsection (h), the proposed Environmental Justice Element includes goals, 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.

- G. In accordance with Government Code Section 65302 subsection (h), the proposed Environmental Justice Element also includes goals, objectives, and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.
- H. The County provided opportunities for the involvement of public agencies, California Native American Indian Tribes, civic, education, and other community groups, public utility companies, and citizens on said proposed amendments, and opportunities to advise the County Planning Commission on said proposed amendments in public hearings pursuant to Government Code Section 65351.
- I. The County contacted and offered to conduct consultations with California Native American tribes in compliance with Government Code Sections 65352.3 and 65352.4.
- J. The County Planning Commission held duly noticed public hearings, as required by Government Code Section 65353, on the proposed amendments, at which hearing the amendments were explained and comments invited from the persons in attendance.
- J. The County Planning Commission, after holding duly noticed public hearings on the above-described amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, endorsed and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors said recommended amendments by resolution in compliance with Government Code Section 65354.
- K. The Board of Supervisors received and considered the County Planning Commission's recommended actions and held a duly noticed public hearing, as required by Government Code Section 65353, on the proposed amendments, at which hearing the amendments were explained and comments invited from the persons in attendance.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The Board of Supervisors now finds, consistent with its authority in Government Code Section 65358, that it is in the public interest to provide orderly development of the county and important to the preservation of the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the county to approve and adopt the Environmental Justice Element, as shown in Exhibit 1.
3. The Chair and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors are hereby authorized and directed to sign and certify all maps, documents, and other materials in accordance with this resolution to reflect the above-described action.

Environmental Justice Element
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- 4. Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 65357, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized and directed to make the documents amending the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, including the text and maps, available to the public for inspection.
- 5. The Environmental Justice Element, as included as Exhibit 1, is adopted as an element of the Comprehensive Plan for the County of Santa Barbara.


PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 10th day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Lee, Capps, Hartmann, Nelson and Lavagnino

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Signed by:

 9DD6B7A21FC646A

BOB NELSON, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

Signed by:
 
 By 0B03E3DDE9EE4AA

Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By 
 Deputy County Counsel

Environmental Justice Element
Case No. 22GPA-00000-00003
Board of Supervisors
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Exhibit:

1. Environmental Justice Element
 - Appendix A: Implementation Matrix for EJE Policies and Objectives
 - Appendix B: Mapping Methodology
 - Appendix C: Engagement Summary

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE
ELEMENT**

January 2026



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



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Behavioral Wellness Department
Community Services Department
County Education Office
County Executive Office
County Health (*formerly Public Health*)
Fire Department
First Five
General Services Department
Office of Emergency Management
Public Works Department
Sheriff's Office
Social Services Department

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One County. One Future.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations for All EJE Documents

AAC	Agricultural Advisory Committee
ACS	American Community Survey
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADU	Accessory Dwelling Unit
APCD	Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
AQI	Air Quality Index
Board	Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
BSC	Blue Sky Center
CA	California
Cal/OSHA	California Division of Occupational Safety and Health
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CalGEM	State Geologic Energy Management Division
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CAUSE	Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCVA	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CDP	Census Designated Place
CEC	Community Environmental Council
CERS	California Environmental Reporting System
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
CIWQS	California Integrated Water Quality System
CSD	Community Service District
CYN	Canyon
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DBA	Doing Business As

DOC	California Department of Conservation
DoD	Department of Defense
DOGGR	Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
DPR	California Department of Pesticide Regulation
DSMOA	Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DUC	Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community
EA+OC	Equity Advisory and Outreach Committee
EIS	Emission Inventory System
EJ	Environmental Justice
EJC	Environmental Justice Community
EJE	Environmental Justice Element
ENVSTORCLN	EnviroStor Cleanup
ENVSTORHAZ	EnviroStor Hazardous Waste
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GS	General Services
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
HEU	Housing Element Update
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
HVAC	Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning
HWMF	Hazardous Waste Management Facilities
IV	Isla Vista
IVCSD	Isla Vista Community Service District
IVPRD	Isla Vista Parks and Recreation District
JUSD	Joint Unified School District

Acronyms and Abbreviations for All EJE Documents

LCI	State Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
LLC	Limited Liability Company
LQHWG	Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator
LUDC	Land Use and Development Code
MEHKO	Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations
MHI	Median Household Income
n.e.c.	Not Elsewhere Classified
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NOx	Oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OEHHA	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
PM	Particulate Matter
Promotores	Santa Barbara County Promotores Network
QS	Quail Springs
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROC	Reactive organic compounds
S.B.	Santa Barbara
SB 1000	Senate Bill 1000
SBCAG	Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
SBCO	County of Santa Barbara
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SMARTS	Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System
SWIS	Solid Waste and Recycle Sites
TBD	To Be Determined
TRI	Toxic Release Inventory
UCSB	University of California, Santa Barbara
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

UST	Underground Storage Tank
VAFB	(Former) Vandenberg Air Force Base
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1: Environmental Justice Element Requirements

Senate Bill 1000 (SB1000), adopted in 2016, amended California Government Code Section 65302(h) and requires local jurisdictions to incorporate environmental justice into local land use planning processes, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement. SB1000 requires local governments to address pollution and other hazards that disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color within their jurisdiction. The Government Code's requirements (Section 65302 (h)(1) through Section 65302 (h)(2)), are summarized below:

Identify objectives and policies to **promote**:

- **Public facilities** in disadvantaged communities
- **Food access** in disadvantaged communities
- **Safe and sanitary homes** in disadvantaged communities
- **Physical activity** in disadvantaged communities
- **Civic engagement** in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities

Identify objectives and policies to **reduce**:

- **Exposure to pollution**, including improving air quality in disadvantaged communities
- **Unique or compounded health risks** in disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above

Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Santa Barbara County's (County) Environmental Justice (EJ) Element focuses on the needs of disadvantaged communities, referred to as Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs) for purposes of the EJ Element. It is acknowledged that some of the important economic industries in the county contribute to unintended unique or compounded health risks and pollution burdens that are endured by EJCs.

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In order to reduce these impacts, the EJ Element (EJE) includes specific Objectives aimed at improving the quality of life in the EJs while maintaining a strong economy.

1.2: EJE Goals and Policies

The EJE is the latest County Comprehensive Plan element created under the “One County-One Future” guiding principles. The EJE fully embraces these principles with the following Goals:

Goal 1: Providing a comprehensive picture of County services within EJs,

Goal 2: Establishing a collaborative process for including EJs in County decision-making, and

Goal 3: Develop an equitable approach for addressing EJC needs through cost-efficient exceptional services so all can enjoy a safe, healthy, and prosperous life.



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The County, with guidance from the Santa Barbara County Climate Collaborative’s Equity Advisory and Outreach Committee (EA+OC), developed the following nine Policies for the EJE.

Policy 1: Promote public facilities in EJs.

Policy 2: Promote access to healthy and affordable food in EJs.

Policy 3: Promote physical activity for community members residing within EJs.

Policy 4: Improve air quality within EJs.

Policy 5: Reduce exposure to pollution within EJs.

Policy 6: Reduce unique or compounded health risks within EJs.

Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

Policy 8: Promote safe and sanitary homes within EJs.

Policy 9: Prioritize the needs of EJs.

Chapter 3 of the EJE includes a discussion on each of these Policies.

1.3: Relationship to Comprehensive Plan and Other Elements

State law requires that all cities and counties adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan with various mandated elements (Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, Safety, and most recently Environmental Justice¹) that outline the physical development of the county or city. The County’s Comprehensive Plan (general plan) addresses the broad range of issues associated

¹ Cities and counties that have identified disadvantaged communities must also address environmental justice in their general plans, including air quality (https://www.lci.ca.gov/docs/OPR_C4_final.pdf, pg. 39). Environmental Justice (if completed as a stand-alone element) must identify objectives and policies to reduce pollution exposure, improve air quality, promote public facilities, improve food access, advance access to housing, and increase physical activity in identified disadvantaged communities (https://lci.ca.gov/docs/OPR_COMPLETE_7.31.17.pdf, pg. 15).

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with development in the planning area (the unincorporated area outside of city boundaries). In addition to the mandated elements, the County has several additional elements. Currently, the Comprehensive Plan includes the Agricultural, Circulation, Coastal Land Use Plan, Conservation, Energy, Environmental Resource Management, Hazardous Waste, Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space, Scenic Highways, and Seismic Safety & Safety Elements. Ultimately, the Comprehensive Plan expresses the community's development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future public and private land uses. The EJE is closely linked to all elements of the Comprehensive Plan and is the next step in bringing equitable representation into the County's planning process. Several EJE Policies are directly interrelated with mandated topics in the Land Use, Housing, and Safety Elements. For example, the discussion of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) needs and deficiencies within the Land Use Element informed the discussion on public facilities within the EJE for the DUCs that are also EJs. The Housing Element includes programs and policies related to safe and sanitary homes, and the forthcoming Safety Element update is considering the safety concerns of the most vulnerable populations in the county, including EJs.

Within the EJE, while references to related Policies are provided where necessary and applicable, the Objectives in the EJE are tailored to address specific environmental justice and public health-related issues.

The implementation programs and Actions of the EJE are incorporated into the stand-alone Implementation Matrix (Appendix A) that will be updated periodically as needed and made available to the public. EJE implementation includes developing programs to monitor progress, completing priority programs and projects within EJs when funding is available, establishing additional cross-sector and multi-jurisdictional partnerships to address EJ issues, and other actions as appropriate.

1.4: Relationship to Other County Initiatives

The EJE is one of many County planning efforts coordinated through the County of Santa Barbara One Climate Initiative. The One Climate Initiative Vision Statement, which was adopted by the Board under the Climate Action Plan, states that:

“Through the One Climate Initiative, the County will:

Build Connections through physical improvements in the built environment, like bike routes and broadband, enabling communities to connect physically and virtually. Increase transit services, bike routes, and shared mobility vehicles and devices

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to enhance mobility. Make connections across economic sectors, public and private, north and south, rural and urban through partnerships and networks, implementing mutually beneficial initiatives to improve quality of life and community resilience. Invest in farms and ranches, and public lands to improve soil health, biodiversity, water use efficiency and quality, and local food access.

Increase Accessibility to safe and affordable housing that is in close proximity to jobs, schools, amenities, recreation, healthy foods and County services through collaborative ventures. Target incentives and programs to ensure equitable access to reliable public transportation, clean energy, medical care services, and a safe and healthy environment. Make community planning and government decision making processes more accessible through virtual meetings, interpretation services, and support for families to engage.

Address Equity through increasing resources directed to low-income communities and communities of color. Increase effectiveness and efficiency of daily services and utilities and bring greater value to the community. Prioritize and center populations once marginalized in planning and decision making, and give additional support to ensure meaningful engagement that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. Create processes and procedures to provide transparency and accountability, empowering communities to lead conversations and ensure outcomes are delivered as promised.

Improve Health both mental and physical, by ensuring accessibility and abundance of recreational facilities and opportunities, community and medical services, and healthy food. Improve air quality and comfort by investing in trees, green infrastructure, open spaces, and electrifying buildings and vehicles. Offer publicly available clean air rooms and facilities for easy breathing amidst wildfires and smoke impacts. Provide wrap around health care support services for under-served communities to mitigate and address mental and physical health impacts from climate change.

Enhance Resilience through planning, education and outreach, and community collaboration. Adapt built and natural infrastructure, buildings, and key community services to tolerate and respond to climate change impacts. Equip and train neighbors, utilities, critical facilities, and community centers to weather climate extremes, drought, power outages, and other emergencies while supporting each other. Better prepare communities to deal with the impacts with plans to prepare and

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manage disruptions and tools to aid recovery. Support local businesses and industries to be resilient and responsive to change and disruption.”

The EJE furthers the County’s Statement of Commitment to Equity and Inclusion in the community. The EJE is also consistent with the County’s pledge to support efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and efforts to improve public health disparities in the community (Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Santa Barbara County, April 6, 2021).

1.5: Structure of This Document

The EJE contains a policy that directly addresses each of the state-required components. Chapter 2 includes a discussion of EJs. Chapter 3, which contains Policies 1-9, includes a discussion of required EJ issue areas and EJ Policies. Chapter 4 discusses the implementation of the EJE.

1.6: Application of This Document

The EJE, besides being a planning document, is also designed as a resource for County community members. It is intended to inform community members about County operations, structure, and resources. The EJE is not intended to produce additional regulations without additional public review and input and action by decision makers, nor is its purpose to regulate development activity. The EJE will assist the County in gaining a greater understanding of community needs to help identify opportunities for funding, programs, and projects to improve the conditions of underserved and underrepresented communities.



Photo of Brenton Kelly at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

The development of an Environmental Justice Element is a two-step process, following State requirements. The first step is identifying communities that are low-income and disproportionately burdened, and the second step is creating County goals, policies, and objectives that prioritize improvements and programs that address their needs.

2.1: EJC Mapping Requirements

The State Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) produces guidelines for general plans including EJ elements. Recommendations for EJC identification analysis² are provided by LCI that include mapping: 1) household median incomes at or below the statewide median income by census tract, 2) areas at or below the State of California Housing and Community Development (HCD)'s state income limits, 3) disproportionate environmental burdens, and 4) community-specific data for health risk factors and pollution. The LCI guidance also acknowledges that jurisdictions have discretion in identifying EJCs based on local knowledge and experience. The County completed a thorough screening analysis (Appendix B: Mapping Methodology) and determined that Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Sisquoc, ~~Garey~~, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista meet the state definition of EJCs. All of these EJCs were also identified during the DUC screening analysis update in 2022. Isla Vista does not meet the states criteria for a DUC because it is not rural, but does meet the criteria for an EJC. The boundary of each EJC shown on the Map of EJCs is consistent with the current boundaries for these communities in the County of Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan. The Census Designated Place (CDP) boundaries were used to delineate the EJC boundary for Cuyama, New Cuyama, Sisquoc, ~~Garey~~, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. For Ventucopa, the Existing Developed Rural Neighborhood (EDRN) boundary was used. The policies, objectives, and actions within the EJE are intended to support community members (EJC Members) residing within EJCs.

Disproportionate Environmental Burdens: Various data sources were used to substantiate the environmental burden criteria when identifying EJCs. These data sources, including CalEnviroScreen, the CalEPA Regulated Site Portal, and oil and gas wells provided by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), are not intended to prove environmental risk nor justify additional

² State Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), formerly State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, "General Plan Guidelines, Chapter 4: Required Elements," last modified June 1, 2020, 10, https://lci.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf.

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regulations. Instead, this data is intended to show potential sources of pollution that, along with other health risk factors, contribute to an environmental burden and substantiate the identification of these communities as EJs.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)'s CalEnviroScreen 4.0 mapping tool is the LCI standard tool for determining what census tracts have disproportionate environmental burdens compared to other census tracts in the state. This tool has three scores: the Pollution Burden score, the Population Characteristics score, and the overall score. The scores are a relative score compared to other census tracts in California.

- The Pollution Burden score identifies census tracts disproportionately affected by pollution exposure and other environmental effects.
- The Population Characteristics score identifies census tracts with higher concentrations of sensitive populations or socioeconomic factors that can result in increased vulnerability to pollution.
- These two scores are then multiplied to generate the combined score since socioeconomic and sensitive population factors multiply the risks posed by pollutants.

Since this data is at a census tract scale³, it does not necessarily represent the specific environmental burdens at the community level, but gives an overview of disproportionate burdens compared to other areas in the state. The LCI guidance is that a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 indicator or combined score of 75 or higher (75th percentile compared to the rest of the state), combined with low-income, indicates a disadvantaged community (EJC). Casmalia is the only EJC in Santa Barbara County with a combined score over 75. Each of the EJs in Santa Barbara County has multiple indicator scores over 75 as shown in Table 1 below.

³ Cuyama, New Cuyama and Ventucopa are all in the same census tract. ~~Garey and Sisquoc are both within the same census tract, and~~ Isla Vista is comprised of three census tracts.

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Table 1. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Combined Score and Indicator Scores Over 75% For Each EJC⁴

	Cuyama, New Cuyama, & Ventucopa	Garey & Sisquoc	Casmalia	Los Alamos	Isla Vista		
Combined Score			81				
Asthma			82				
Cleanup Sites		84					
Education			93				
Groundwater Threats	93	100	97	92			
Hazardous Waste		96					
Housing Burden					100	100	100
Impaired Waters		99	100	77			
Lead from Housing	87						
Linguistic Isolation	87		84				
Low Birth Weight			81		92		
Pesticides	81	97	98	81			
Poverty			78		99	100	100
Solid Waste	91	83	89	95			
Unemployment	83				96	89	84

2.2: EJ Terminology

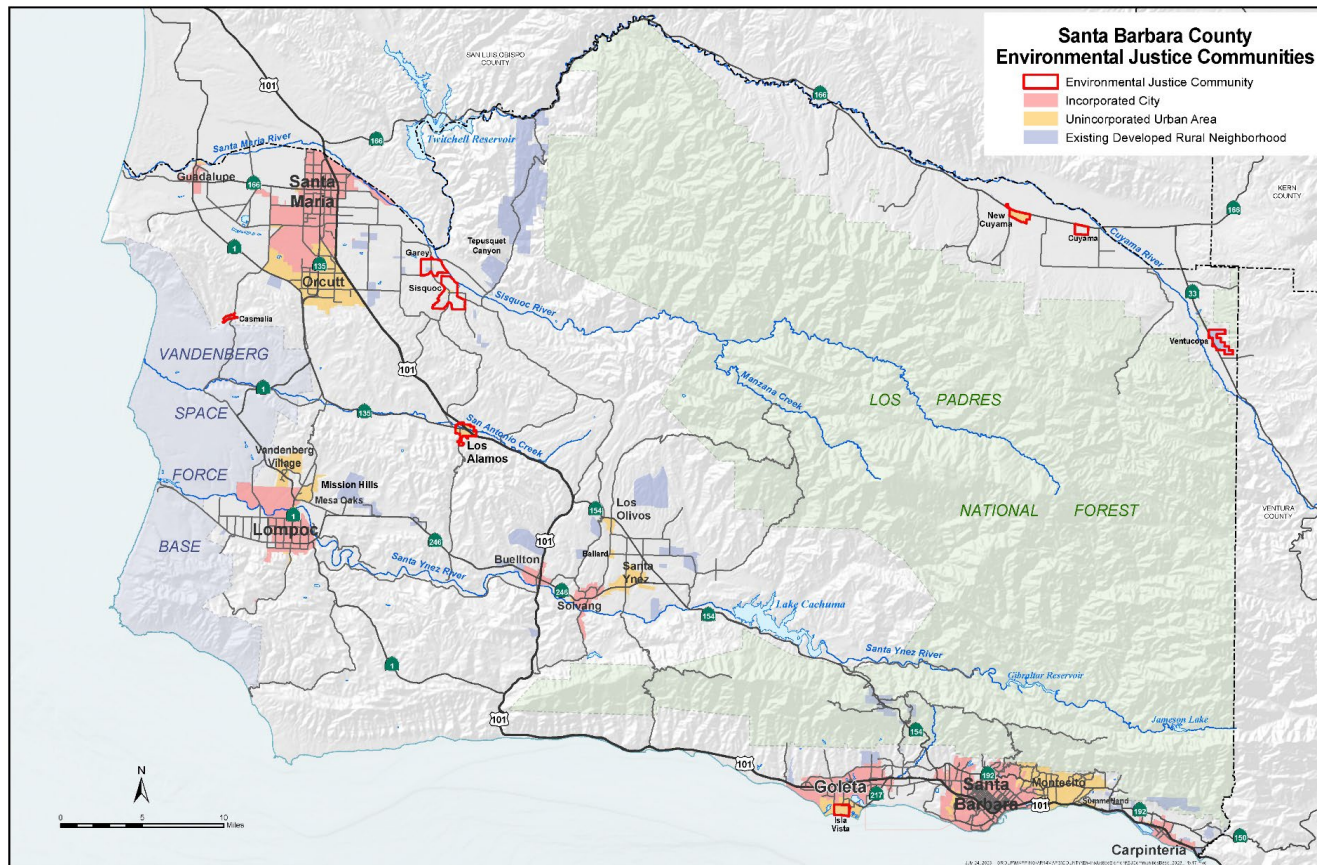
- **EJC:** a community that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

⁴ Cuyama, New Cuyama and Ventucopa are all in the same census tract. ~~Garey and Sisquoc are both within the same census tract, and~~ Isla Vista is comprised of three census tracts. Casmalia is the only EJC with a combined CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score over 75. LCI recommends using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to consider scores for individual indicators to characterize the pollution burden or population characteristic within each low-income community. A low-income community may be considered disproportionately burdened if it has a high (75 or higher) pollution burden, even when the overall CalEnviroScreen score is less than 75 percent.

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

- EJC Member: an individual or household who lives in an EJC and is low-income and disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

2.3: Map of EJs



2.4: Unmapped EJs

The County acknowledges that there are communities within the unincorporated area that may meet the definition of an EJC but were not mapped as EJs. For example, small low-income neighborhoods, unhoused community members, and small hyper-remote communities were challenging to map during the development of the EJE. The County further acknowledges that income data can change over time and the communities that meet the definition of an EJC may change over time. This EJE, including the Policies, applies to all communities within the County's jurisdiction that meet the definition of an EJC whether or not they have been mapped as an EJC.

2.5: EJC Descriptions

One EJC (Isla Vista) is considered urban and seven of the EJs (Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, Casmalia, and Los Alamos) are more rural and remote communities where many residents appreciate the small community size and minimal governmental presence. Strategies that address EJ issues in rural EJs are designed to account for the disproportionate burdens these communities face, while recognizing the limits that the rural nature of these communities create with respect to the provision of services more commonly associated with more densely populated urban areas.

The Cuyama Valley: The Cuyama Valley is comprised of Cuyama, New Cuyama, and Ventucopa. Because of the hyper-rural nature of these three EJs, the residents share resources and engage in planning and advocating for the unique needs within the Valley. The three communities share the same water source, the Cuyama Groundwater Basin, fire station, Family Resource Center, parks, library, clinic, and schools. Land use surrounding these three EJs is primarily agricultural lands that are a source of employment for residents. Residents within the Cuyama Valley organized in 2022 to create the Cuyama Valley Community Action Plan to identify the needs of the community and investment opportunities.

Cuyama is a small town with approximately 37 residents (Santa Barbara County Association of Government (SBCAG) Census 2020 Summary) in the Cuyama Valley, located along State Route 166. The Cuyama River is adjacent to the community to the north. Cuyama pre-dates the establishment of New Cuyama to the west. The predominant industry in the area is agriculture, with some oil and gas production. The community has a hardware store, a restaurant, and Cuyama Elementary School.

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New Cuyama is a small town with approximately 542 residents (SBCAG Census 2020 Summary) established in 1951 by ARCO after the discovery of oil and gas at the South Cuyama Oil Field. New Cuyama is larger than nearby Cuyama and Ventucopa. The predominant industry in the area is agriculture, although oil and gas production still occur locally. The community is located along State Route 166 with the Cuyama River adjacent to the community to the north. New Cuyama has a general store, two restaurants, a new County fire station (Station No. 27), a County Sheriff substation, a U.S. Forest Service substation, a branch library, a community center, a County park (Richardson County Park), a public pool (Joseph Centeno Aquatic Center), and a public high school (Cuyama Valley High School). The New Cuyama general store sells some groceries, produce, meat, and packaged foods. A portion of New Cuyama is within the 100-year Flood Hazard Overlay. Water treatment and delivery is provided by the Cuyama Community Services District.



Photo of the Cuyama Valley by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

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Ventucopa is a rural community with approximately 100 residents in the upper (eastern) Cuyama Valley, located along State Route 33 in the northeast portion of Santa Barbara County. The predominant industry for the community is agriculture. The community has a restaurant that is not currently open to the public on a daily basis. The community is served by a privately owned water system that is currently at capacity. Structural fire protection is provided by County Fire Station No. 27 in New Cuyama, 18 miles to the west.

Very good, people are great here

Tranquilo, pacífico. La comunidad se respalda cuando se necesita

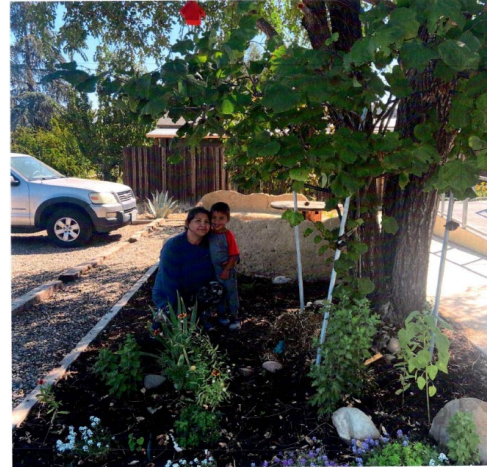
Nice, Quiet, Country, and Helpful people

It's very supportive, friendly, and they're welcoming

Small, friendly, caring

Small yet full of very kind people

Photos of The Cuyama Valley by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network



Chapter 2. EJ Communities

Garey is a small town with approximately 72 residents (SBCAG Census 2020 Summary) located about six miles east of Orcutt, located along Foxen Canyon Road between Santa Maria Mesa Road and Orcutt-Garey Road. The area is known for agriculture, including nearby vineyards. The community has a general store with a deli, snacks, and drinks. Garey and Sisquoc are adjacent communities that are about two miles apart from each other.



Photos of Garey by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

Beautiful place we enjoy living alone

Quiet Friendly



Chapter 2. EJ Communities

Sisquoc is a small town with approximately 191 residents (SBCAG Census 2020 Summary) located about six miles east of Orcutt, along Foxen Canyon Road at the intersection of Foxen Canyon Road and Palmer Road. A large portion of Sisquoc is within the 100-year Flood Hazard Overlay of the Sisquoc River. Sisquoc is in the Santa Maria Customer Service Area of the Golden State Water Company. The area is known for agriculture, including vineyards. The community has a County fire station (Station No. 23) and a public elementary school (Benjamin Foxen Elementary School).

Very nice and kind
Very quiet and feels safe **Peaceful**
Esta comunidad es muy tranquila y hay mucha paz
Perfect Me encanta **Good**
Es un pueblo chico, tranquilo

Photos of Sisquoc by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network





Photos of Casmalia by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

Casmalia is a small town with approximately 147 residents (SBCAG Census 2020 Summary) located about five miles southwest of Orcutt, located just outside the boundary of Vandenberg Space Force Base along Point Sal Road near the intersection of Point Sal Road and Black Road. A small portion of Casmalia is within the 100-year Flood Hazard Overlay from Shuman Canyon Creek. The Casmalia Community Services District provides water service for the community of Casmalia. Originally established as a railroad town, the Casmalia Oil Field drew Union Oil Company employees to the area. Oil and agricultural operations are active in the vicinity. Casmalia has a restaurant and a charter school (Orcutt Academy Charter School). The only superfund site in the County of Santa Barbara, the Casmalia Resources Superfund Site, is located in the hills northwest of the community.

Tranquilo, en libertad

Una ciudad muy tranquila. Tengo 3 años viviendo aquí



Chapter 2. EJ Communities



Los Alamos is located 10.5 miles north of the Santa Ynez Valley along State Routes 101 and 135 and was founded in 1879. The Pacific Coast Railway began service from Los Alamos to San Luis Obispo in 1882, continuing until 1940. In the early 1900s, oil was discovered in the Purisima Hills at Lompoc Oil Field, as well as in the Orcutt Oil Field. The community has approximately 1,839 residents (SBCAG Census 2020 Summary) and is known for agriculture, especially vineyards, in addition to ongoing oil and gas production. A portion of Los Alamos is within the 100-year Flood Hazard Overlay from San Antonio Creek, Cañada de las Calaveras, and Cañada de Santa Ynez. Water treatment and distribution is provided by the Los Alamos Community Services District. Los Alamos is comprised of very low-income and high-income households. The very low income residential areas meet the definition of a DUC and addressing infrastructure needs or deficiencies within these areas of the community is consistent with Government Code § 65302.10(c), and, by reference, Government Code § 65588. The main street in the community is State Route 135, also named Bell Street. Los Alamos has a small downtown area with businesses, restaurants, a County fire station (Station No. 24), a County park (Los Alamos County Park), and a public elementary school (Olga Reed Elementary School). There is a small market/grocery store in the downtown area that serves residents.

Photos of Los Alamos by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

Yo me siento muy seguro

Anteriormente, era más tranquilo y más seguro. Podíamos caminar en la calle

No hay tanta delincuencia

Antes, era más tranquilo. Ahora, los jóvenes manejan muy rápido y uno no sale a la calle tranquilo

Yo me siento muy segura en mi comunidad

Es mucho mejor aquí que en otros lugares

Pero ahora, hay mucha delincuencia, drogas y armas y no me siento segura

Mi comunidad es muy tranquila

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

Isla Vista is located approximately nine miles west of the City of Santa Barbara and two miles south of the City of Goleta on the coastal bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. A small portion of Isla Vista’s coastal bluffs are within the 100-year Flood Hazard Overlay. Water service is provided by the Goleta Water District. Isla Vista borders the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded on the other three sides by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). The community is 0.6 square miles and is densely populated with approximately 15,500 residents (SBCAG Census 2020 Summary), primarily students. Businesses cater to the student population and include restaurants, bars, retail stores, and markets. Isla Vista also has a sizable non-student, low-income resident population. The Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District, in addition to County Parks, maintains over 20 parks and trails in the community. The community is also served by the Isla Vista Community Services District and Isla Vista Elementary School. County Fire Station No. 17 serves this community and is on Mesa Road, approximately 0.4 miles from Isla Vista. Isla Vista is within the South Coast Flood Zone Benefit Assessment District.



Photos of Isla Vista by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

Hay mucho carros, muchos estudiantes

Pues, vivir aquí, en la comunidad de Isla Vista, tiene sus ventajas y desventajas

Si adquieren este, hay oportunidades para los estudiantes de diferentes países

Pero esto es una tranquilidad y no quisiera salir de mi sector de Isla, ¿y qué?

Una parte en toda la comunidad es esto, particularmente, estudiantes de posgrado

Mira, mi comunidad es hermosa

Mire, la comunidad se basa en estudiantes, tanto de la universidad como de colegios

Vivir aquí me da paz interna

Pues, es bonito en el sentido de que creo que los visitantes se llevan una buena imagen

Tenemos muy buena seguridad acá

Es toda la unidad rara. Es la familia que hay aquí, los familiares

2.6: Summary of Key Issues for each EJC

The key EJ issues within each of the EJs were identified by reviewing available environmental hazard data and meeting with County department staff with expertise on this data, meeting with County staff who provide critical services to EJs, and engaging directly with members of each EJ through surveys and community engagement events.

Community-Specific Environmental Hazard Data: The following table shows sites that are potential environmental hazards within one mile of each of the EJs. These sites were compiled from the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Regulated Sites Portal and the State Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) Well Finder as discussed in Appendix B: Mapping Methodology. Each site listed below has varying levels of potential risk to human health. Some sites may be known environmental hazards as a result of measured pollutants in the surrounding soil, water, or air, while some may not cause any health concerns for surrounding residents because they are properly controlled and maintained. Since a comprehensive health needs assessment is not available for each EJ, the following table is included to show the range of potential hazards within or near each of the EJs. Similar sites may also be present adjacent to more affluent communities throughout the county. However, EJs generally have a greater risk of exposure because lower-income community members have less access to information, advocacy, and financial resources to mitigate risk or relocate when sites present a risk to human health.

Table 2. Number of Regulated Sites from the CalEPA Regulated Sites Portal and CalGEM Well Finder within One Mile of Each EJ

	Cuyama	New Cuyama	Ventucopa	Sisquoc	Casmalia	Los Alamos	Isla Vista	Total Sites
Aboveground Petroleum Storage	1	1		1		1		6
Chemical Storage Facility	2	3		3		7	34	51
Cleanup Program Site				1	2	1	2	7
Hazardous Waste Generator	1	3		1		4	10	23
Industrial Facility Storm Water								2
Land Disposal Site				1				1

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Chapter 2. EJ Communities

	Cuyama	New Cuyama	Ventucopa	Sisquoc	Casmalia	Los Alamos	Isla Vista	Total Sites
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Site	1	2	1	1		7	9	21
Military Cleanup Site					1			1
Military Privatized Site							4	4
Military Underground Storage Tank Site							1	1
RCRA LQHWG ⁵							1	1
Tanks & Ground Water Clean Up					1			1
Underground Storage Tank		1				2		3
US EPA Air Emission Inventory System	6	3		5	2	3	5	28
Active Oil and Gas Wells				9				51
Total Sites	11	13	1	22	6	25	66	201

Note: There were no Hazardous Chemical Management or Hazardous Waste Onsite Treatment sites within one mile of the EJs.

Community Survey Results: The County worked with the Promotores Network to survey EJC members in each of the EJCs to better understand their EJ-related needs. The table below provides the top three issues identified by survey participants in each EJC. Participation in the survey was low in some EJCs, and the survey results may not reflect the needs and opinions of the entire community, but do provide some community context regarding the EJ related needs identified by EJC members. The complete survey results can be found in Appendix C: Community Engagement .

⁵ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator (LQHWG)

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Table 3. Community Survey Results: Top Three Needs Identified from Each EJC

	Cuyama	New Cuyama	Ventucopa	Sisquoc	Casmalia	Los Alamos	Isla Vista
Access to Clinics/Hospitals		X					
Air Quality (pollution and/or dust)	X		X	X			
Excessive Heat Exposure	X		X				
Excessive Noise							
Food Access						X	
Pesticide Exposure			X	X			
Poor Plumbing or Heating/Old Housing Stock		X				X	X
Recreational Opportunities					X	X	
Sanitation Issues							X
Street Lighting and Safety/Crime				X			X
Toxic or Unpleasant Smells					X		
Water Pollution	X	X			X		

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Local Knowledge: Staff from County departments have worked within the EJs and with EJ members for many years and have specialized knowledge of EJ needs including knowledge of historical pollution hazards and concerns voiced by individual residents regarding access to County services. The County convened the EJ Working Group, comprised of representatives from 15 County departments and affiliated agencies to discuss the issues identified by each EJ in addition to relevant state and local information about potential EJ issues. Staff from each department contributed their expertise from working within the EJs to bolster information on community needs and opportunities related to EJ issues. The feedback from the EJ Working Group was incorporated into the following discussion of key EJ issues that informed the EJ Policies, Objectives, and implementing Actions. Each of the 15 departments and affiliated agencies will have a role in implementing the Actions and achieving the EJ Objectives. The County recognizes that each EJ is unique; however, similar issues may affect certain EJs that are near one another. This is often the case in the Cuyama Valley (Cuyama, New Cuyama, and Ventucopa) and between Garey and Sisquoc. For this reason, these communities are grouped together in the discussion of key issues affecting EJs discussed below.

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

The Cuyama Valley Key Issue Summary:

Water Quality and Affordability: The Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin is critically overdrafted and the primary source of water for the EJs. Some residents are required to drill deeper wells or import water from an outside source due to a lack of sufficient groundwater quantity. The Cuyama Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has adopted a plan for sustainable groundwater management, but costs and availability of water are a primary concern for the Cuyama Valley. The presence of naturally occurring arsenic in the groundwater supply is also an issue. The Cuyama Community Service District (CSD), which only serves New Cuyama, operates an arsenic treatment plant that removes arsenic before delivering the community's drinking water supply. However, the cost of this process and Cuyama CSD infrastructure repairs are placed upon the water ratepayers, making the cost burden of municipal water high. The piping infrastructure is also old and the water is not tested at the tap, so many residents are still concerned about arsenic in the water and purchase bottled water for drinking, further increasing the household cost of water.

Underserved Community: The hyper-rural location of the Cuyama Valley creates a challenge in getting resources to the community. Residents have to drive more than 30 minutes west to Santa Maria or east to Taft for grocery stores and other supplies. There are not any affordable grocery stores within the Cuyama Valley. This issue is further highlighted by the numerous agricultural operations surrounding the community, but a noticeable lack of produce stores and farm stands to serve Cuyama residents.

Government Communications: The Cuyama Valley has a sizeable Spanish-speaking population who desire communications and meetings in Spanish. Currently, most County meetings, emails, and communications are only in English. Spanish-speaking community members would more easily hear about meetings and participate in them if they were aware that Spanish interpretation is available. In addition, many community members do not have access to computers or internet connections due to the lack of broadband infrastructure. Currently, most County communication is electronic and dependent on internet access.

Housing: There is an immediate need for new affordable housing in the Cuyama Valley. Many people who work in the Cuyama Valley commute from Taft. The housing stock is mostly old and renovations are more expensive because of the remote nature of the community.

Dust and Pesticides: Agriculture is an important economic driver for the Cuyama Valley. Frequent high winds across the valley bring dust from surrounding agricultural fields into the residential areas. Many of the agricultural operations are organic, reducing concerns of pesticide exposure. There are multiple vineyards and conventional farms located on the border of Ventucopa. Pesticides can pose

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

a health risk to those exposed; usually to those working in direct contact with them, or those living near the operation.⁶ State requirements enforce how and when pesticides can be applied in order to reduce exposure, and the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office enforces the state requirements.

⁶ Gloria D Coronado et al., "Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure and Residential Proximity to Nearby Fields: Evidence for the Drift Pathway," *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 53, no. 8 (2011): 7, https://journals.lww.com/joem/abstract/2011/08000/organophosphate_pesticide_exposure_and_residential.10.aspx; Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne et al., "Exposure to Agricultural Pesticides and Wheezing Among 5-12-year-old Children in the Imperial Valley, CA, USA," *Environmental Epidemiology* 8, no. 5 (2024): 6, https://journals.lww.com/environepidem/fulltext/2024/10000/exposure_to_agricultural_pesticides_and_wheezing.2.aspx.

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Garey and Sisquoc Key Issue Summary:

Underserved Community: The hyper-rural location of ~~Garey and~~ Sisquoc creates a challenge in getting resources to the community. Because the communities are so small, there are not any grocery stores, schools (besides an elementary school in Sisquoc), or parks. Residents commute to Orcutt or Santa Maria for key services, including schooling, grocery shopping, and healthcare.

Pesticides and Industrial Operations: ~~Garey and~~ Sisquoc has ~~ve~~ a strong agricultural sector with row crops directly adjacent to homes. Many of these agricultural operations are conventional and use pesticides. Pesticides can pose a health risk to those exposed; usually to those working in direct contact with them, or those living near the operation. As noted above, there are state requirements that regulate how and when pesticides can be applied, and the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office enforces the state requirements designed to reduce exposure. There are many productive oil and gas wells in and adjacent to these EJs. ~~Garey also has other industrial facilities within the EJC. These operations are also monitored and regulated at the state and local levels.~~

Casmalia Key Issue Summary:

Superfund Site: The Casmalia Resources hazardous waste facility is a former 252-acre landfill site that had 5.6 billion pounds of hazardous waste materials disposed into it over 17 years.⁷ The landfill stopped operating in 1991, but over 300 chemicals have been detected in contaminated underground aquifers, surface water, and the soil. The federal government under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing the site cleanup. In 2018, EPA finalized its cleanup plan for the site.⁸ EPA's final remedy includes removal of contaminated liquids and soils, engineered capping of waste disposal areas, design and construction of upgraded groundwater collection and treatment systems, natural breakdown of groundwater contaminants at some locations, long-term surface water management, source reduction, land use controls, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance to ensure onsite containment. Annual operations and maintenance costs of the cleanup are estimated at \$4.1 million per year.⁹ Cleanup construction has begun including containment of contaminated materials and ongoing treatment and removal of liquids. EPA will conduct the required five-

⁷ Mike Hodgson, "EPA Settles on Final Casmalia Toxic Dump Cleanup Plan; Public Comment Sought," *Santa Maria Times*, last modified December 4, 2017, https://santamariatimes.com/news/local/epa-settles-on-final-casmalia-toxic-dump-cleanup-plan-public-comment-sought/article_3263e7ff-5432-5764-963e-45c0668e22b3.html.

⁸ Hodgson, "EPA Settles on Final Casmalia Toxic Dump Cleanup Plan."

⁹ United States Environmental Protection Agency, "EPA Finalizes Cleanup Plan for Casmalia Resources Superfund Site in Santa Barbara County," last modified June 28, 2018, <https://www.epa.gov/archive/epa/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-cleanup-plan-casmalia-resources-superfund-site-santa-barbara-county.html>.

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

year review, which includes seeking input from the community, in 2025.¹⁰ The Five-Year Review Report is scheduled to be completed no later than September 30, 2025.

Underserved Community: Casmalia is a small remote community that is geographically constrained with limited opportunity for new development and infrastructure, including water and waste management. Food access, recreational facilities, and housing were identified by Casmalia residents as the key EJ issues. Casmalia also lacks other public facilities including medical care, sewer services, schools, grocery stores, and public transportation. Residents commute 10 miles to Orcutt or Santa Maria for key services, including shopping and healthcare.

Los Alamos Key Issue Summary:

Underserved Community: Los Alamos, like many of the other EJs, is an underserved community. However, the community can be divided into two distinct and separate socioeconomic groups: low-income and high-income residents. Low-income residents are disproportionately impacted by Los Alamos being an underserved community, as they are forced to commute elsewhere for many of their basic needs and services. The County recognized a trend of developing high-end visitor-serving commercial uses and enacted a policy to guide these developments to also support residents and their needs in the Los Alamos Community Plan, adopted in February 2011: “Goal LUC-LA-1 to Encourage New Commercial Development Which Is Oriented Towards Serving The Needs Of Local Residents. Visitor-Serving Commercial Uses Shall Also Be Supported To The Extent That They Also Provide Services To Residents.”

Pesticides: Los Alamos has a strong agricultural sector surrounding the community. There are multiple vineyards, farms, and ranches located on the outskirts of Los Alamos. Many of these agricultural operations use pesticides. Pesticides can pose a health risk to those exposed; usually to those working in direct contact with them, or those living near the operation. As noted above, there are state requirements that set forth how and when pesticides can be applied, and the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office enforces the state requirements designed to minimize exposure to pesticides.

Housing: Housing quality and quantity is a concern for EJC residents in Los Alamos. Many properties are old, in disrepair, and do not meet modern safety codes. Low-income and affordable housing are in short supply and housing developments in Los Alamos are

¹⁰ United States Environmental Protection Agency, “EPA Open House Casmalia Resources Superfund Site Cleanup,” last modified October 22, 2024, <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100038638.pdf>.

Chapter 2. EJ Communities

designed primarily for above moderate households. Increasing the quantity of low-income housing could avoid pricing out current residents.

Government Communications: Los Alamos has a sizeable Spanish-speaking population. Most County meetings, emails, facilities, services, and communications are only in English. Spanish-speaking community members identified language as a barrier to accessing government services and information.

Isla Vista Key Issue Summary:

Housing: Housing affordability in Isla Vista is the most pressing issue in the community. The proximity of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) to Isla Vista makes it a desirable community for student housing. Students and long-term residents occupy housing at higher density than other areas of the County, resulting in overcrowding. Much of Isla Vista's housing stock needs updating and serious repairs. Overcrowding can increase sanitation and safety concerns, particularly within older homes. In addition, renovations have resulted in the displacement of low-income residents and higher rents.

Safety and Crime: Some community members also voiced safety concerns related to the student population, substance abuse, and unhoused community members.

Government Communications: Isla Vista has a sizeable Spanish-speaking population. Spanish-speaking community members would more easily hear about meetings and participate in them if they were aware that Spanish interpretation is available.

Chapter 3: Environmental Justice Policies

The following nine Policies achieve the goals of the EJE. This chapter includes a discussion of each Policy as well as Objectives. Implementing Actions have been identified to achieve the Policies and Objectives. Appendix A, the Implementation Matrix, includes each Action along with the timeframe for implementation.

Policy 1: Promote public facilities in EJs.

Policy 2: Promote access to healthy and affordable food in EJs.

Policy 3: Promote physical activity for community members residing within EJs.

Policy 4: Improve air quality within EJs.

Policy 5: Reduce exposure to pollution within EJs.

Policy 6: Reduce unique or compounded health risks within EJs.

Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

Policy 8: Promote safe and sanitary homes within EJs.

Policy 9: Prioritize the needs of EJs.

Objectives and implementing Actions were developed for each of the nine EJ Policies. The County reviewed the example EJ Policies in the LCI guidance, reviewed the subsequently adopted EJs, and reviewed the California Department of Justice Best Practices for Implementing SB 1000. Example policies were selected and modified based on the EJC needs as identified in the survey data and EJ Working Group and vetted and refined through the EJ Working Group.

Policy 1. Promote Public Facilities in EJCs

Public Facilities

EJCs may lack adequate access to public facilities necessary to promote a healthy quality of life. SB 1000 (Government Code Section 66000(d)) refers to public facilities as “public improvements, public services, and community amenities.” Public facilities include a variety of public spaces, such as community centers, schools, parks, open space, and emergency shelters. Increasing access to public facilities does not necessarily require new physical development. Public facilities also include amenities and services that enhance community resilience, health, and well-being.

Public Facilities Access and Needs in EJCs

Public facilities that the County is responsible for in EJCs include libraries, parks, aquatic centers, sidewalks, emergency services, and more. Some public facilities within EJCs are not accessible to some community members due to physical access barriers (e.g. Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility for facilities constructed before the ADA requirements), language access barriers, and/or limited hours of operation. Many remote EJCs in the county do not have a large enough population to support new physical facilities and have trouble retaining staff for schools and other public facilities. As such, there are limits that the rural nature of these communities create with respect to the provision of services more commonly associated with more densely populated urban areas. For example, the aquatic center in New Cuyama is a popular public resource, but is limited in hours of operation due to staffing availability.

Objectives to Promote Public Facilities in EJCs

The following Objectives are intended to promote access to public facilities within EJCs:

EJ 1.1 Improve Access to Existing Facilities for EJCs. Work with EJC members to understand barriers to accessing existing facilities and explore additional uses of County property for EJCs.

EJ 1.2 Community Siting and Improvement Priorities. When considering new or improved public facilities within EJCs, prioritize siting, provision of County services, infrastructure, and amenities based on community feedback (e.g., community centers,

Policy 1. Promote Public Facilities in EJC

schools, parks, and open space, and emergency services, and improvements for transportation infrastructure, such as EV charging, road maintenance, bike, and pedestrian facilities, including ADA accessibility).

EJ 1.3 Funding and Financing Mechanisms. Support funding and financing mechanisms to provide and enhance community-desired public facilities and services in EJC.

EJ 1.4 Built Environment Barriers. Identify and eliminate, where feasible, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, unsuitable design for persons with disabilities, excessive speeding, and insufficient lighting.

EJ 1.5 Pedestrian Amenities Improvements. Support collaboration with private and agency partners to enhance pedestrian amenities, such as lighting, shade, benches, trash and recycling receptacles, bathrooms, hand sanitizing stations, and water fountains in EJC.

EJ 1.6 Improve Emergency Response. Work with EJC to understand emergency response needs and improve emergency response services for EJC.

Policy 2. Promote Access to Healthy and Affordable Food in EJs

Food Access

Access to healthy and affordable food sources is essential to the health, economy, and well-being of a community. Some EJs are food deserts, which are defined as areas that do not have adequate physical access to nutritious healthy foods. In addition, some of these communities may have experienced food insecurity, defined as a time when residents could not afford enough food or had to forgo other basic life expenses to buy food. The disparity in access to healthy and affordable food often leads to economic and public health challenges, including malnutrition, obesity, and behavioral and mental health issues.

Food Access Programs and Needs in EJs

Several EJs are surrounded by agriculture but do not have access to fresh local produce. Many EJ families rely on charitable food distribution and free and reduced lunch programs. Community members in Casmalia, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, Los Alamos, and the Cuyama Valley travel to Orcutt or Santa Maria to access grocery stores. Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs) are a creative way to increase food access in these communities. MEHKOs allow community members to cook and sell food out of their residence. On May 14, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a temporary waiver of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation County Health Department fees for EJs for the period of June 30, 2024 to May 31, 2025.¹¹ This was done by the Board of Supervisors to spur the development of MEHKOs in EJs to increase food options and support local small businesses.

Objectives to Promote Food Access in EJs

The following Objectives are intended to promote access to healthy and affordable food within EJs:

¹¹ County of Santa Barbara, "BOARD OF SUPERVISORS on 2024-05-14 9:00 AM," Granicus video, from televised meeting May 14, 2024, posted by the County of Santa Barbara, https://sbcounty.granicus.com/player/clip/4737?view_id=3&redirect=true.

Policy 2. Promote Access to Healthy and Affordable Food in EJs

EJ 2.1 Connect Local Farmers to EJs. Support the expansion and the accessibility of farmers markets, mobile farmers markets, community-supported agriculture, and other direct farm-to-consumer models in EJs to increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food, including fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products.

EJ 2.2 Diet-Related Illness Prevention and Education. Expand partnerships with community-based organizations and EJC residents to amplify efforts of current programs as well as develop additional programs and resources for prevention and education about diet-related illnesses in EJs.

EJ 2.3 Everyone has the right to access affordable and nutritious food. Increase healthy food options and relieve economic burdens for healthy food providers in EJs.



Photo of Quail Springs Staff Working in the Community Garden Space at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center

Policy 3. Promote Physical Activity for Community Members Residing within EJs

Relationship Between the Built Environment and Physical Activity

The built environment influences how community members access physical activity opportunities like active transportation and exercise. Some communities have fewer opportunities for exercise and recreation, due to a lack of parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, bike paths, and pedestrian connectivity networks. Building an environment that promotes convenient and safe access to these places can have a direct correlation to increased exercise and physical activity. In addition, parks, green space, and recreation centers and programs further promote mental health, wellness, contribute to social cohesion, and improve air and water quality. Promoting active transportation can mean less time spent in vehicles and increase physical activity, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

Physical Activity and Associated Needs within EJs

Physical activity has a direct impact on the long-term health and well-being of residents within EJs. Increasing physical activity can reduce rates of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and other health-related illnesses. Expanding access to opportunities for physical activity includes increasing access for residents of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and abilities.

Objectives to Promote Physical Activity within EJs

The following Objectives are intended to promote physical activity within EJs:

EJ 3.1 Increase Culturally Relevant Opportunities for Physical Activity. Collaborate with community groups or partners that work with low-income members of EJs to envision, design, implement, support, fund, and bring awareness to programs and projects that increase physical activity.

EJ 3.2 Increase Access to Parks. Partner with schools, places of worship, state and federal lands, and businesses to expand access to green spaces and recreation areas, especially in EJs with less accessibility to green spaces and recreation areas.

Policy 3. Promote Physical Activity for Community Members Residing within EJCs

EJ 3.3 Increase Maintenance and Safety. Support and coordinate local community organizations and volunteer groups in their efforts to improve or maintain local parks, trails, and other public spaces in EJCs. Address safety concerns that may create barriers to physical activity by assessing adequate lighting and street visibility in new and existing parks and recreation facilities.



Photo of Artwork by Meiya Sidney

Policy 4. Improve Air Quality within EJs

Air Quality and Emissions

Air pollution can disproportionately impact vulnerable populations (children, older adults, low-income families, people with chronic health conditions, etc.) and sensitive land uses (schools, housing, parks, medical facilities, senior living, childcare, etc.). The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) monitors air quality and regulates emissions within the county. Countywide, the pollutants of most concern are ground-level ozone, the principal component of smog, fine particles in the air known as Particulate Matter (PM) such as those in smoke and dust, and air toxics chemicals in the air that can cause cancer and other health problems.¹² Vehicle emissions from freeways can include oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from fuel combustion, reactive organic compounds (ROC) from incomplete combustion and evaporative emissions and particulate matter emissions from entrained road dust, tire wear, brake wear, and diesel engine exhaust. The California Air Resources Board Recommended policy is that sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, day care centers, playgrounds and medical facilities should not be sited within 500 feet of a freeway, urban roadway with 100,000 or more vehicles per day or rural roads with 50,000 or more vehicles per day.¹³ Air toxics, such as those found in pesticides, are also a concern in Santa Barbara County because exposure can be challenging to monitor and prevent. An *Environmental Epidemiology* study found an association between high exposure to pesticides within 400 meters of children’s residences with higher prevalence of wheeze symptoms.¹⁴

Emission Sources and Air Quality within EJs

Air quality monitoring is not widely conducted at a community level, so there is no data available regarding differences in air quality within EJs versus other communities in the county. EJC members have fewer resources to avoid poor air quality and are therefore disproportionately burdened by air pollutants. Many of the lowest income residents in Los Alamos are within 500 feet of U.S. Hwy 101. Cuyama and New Cuyama schools and residences are also within 500 feet of State Route 166. Dust (particulate matter) and

¹² Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, “Air Pollution and Health,” accessed June 12, 2024, <https://www.ourair.org/apcd/air-pollutants-and-health/>.

¹³ Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, “Public Health and High Traffic Roadways,” accessed October 15, 2024, <https://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/pub-health-and-hi-traf-roadways.pdf>.

¹⁴ Ornelas Van Horne et al., “Exposure to Agricultural Pesticides and Wheezing Among 5-12-year-old Children,” 2024, 6.

Policy 4. Improve Air Quality within EJC

pesticides/herbicides can be a concern for EJCs adjacent to agricultural operations. Smoke from wildfires may also disproportionately impact residents of EJCs that may not have resources to relocate, work indoors, or otherwise protect themselves from smoke exposure. Residents within EJCs can also be disproportionately exposed to poor indoor air quality due to the combination of proximity to pollution sources and older housing without renovations such as weatherization to improve indoor air quality.

Objectives to Improve Air Quality in EJCs

The following Objectives are intended to improve air quality within EJCs:

EJ 4.1 Point Source Emissions. Collaborate with Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to continue to identify and reduce point source emissions (Ozone, Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, Diesel PM) in EJCs in compliance with applicable existing standards and monitor the environmental and health impacts on populations in EJCs to track progress and outcomes.

EJ 4.2 Reduce Wildfire Smoke Exposure within EJCs. Provide education and resources, including air quality information, to reduce wildfire smoke exposure for low-income EJC residents who cannot relocate and outdoor workers.

EJ 4.3 Everyone Has a Right to Clean, Breathable Air. Support grant funding and other similar initiatives to improve indoor and outdoor air quality and access to clean air within EJCs.

EJ 4.4 Industrial Business Operations and Practices. Collaborate with the industrial businesses within or adjacent to EJCs to improve outdoor air quality through enhanced operations and other pollution reduction practices, including permit inspection, incentives, and collaboration to obtain grants, where possible.

EJ 4.5 Community Engagement for Monitoring. Support and promote ongoing community engagement and participation in air quality monitoring programs and incentives.

Policy 5. Reduce Exposure to Pollution within EJCs

Pollution Sources

Pollution exposure occurs when people interact with contaminants in the air, food, water, and soil. Air pollution is discussed under Policy 4. The proximity of certain land uses such as commercial, industrial, and agricultural lands where pesticides are applied can result in exposure to pollution for adjacent vulnerable populations (e.g. children, older adults, low-income families, people with chronic health conditions, etc.) and sensitive land uses (e.g. schools, housing, parks, medical facilities, senior living, childcare, etc.). Pollution exposure can also occur from historical land uses and naturally occurring groundwater contaminants.

Pollution Sources and Exposure within EJCs

Pollution sources related to groundwater contamination, and toxic or hazardous materials are a primary concern within EJCs as discussed in Section 2.6. Individuals and families within EJCs may also experience compounded health effects from exposure to pollutants at home and work.

Objectives to Reduce Pollution Exposure in EJCs

The following Objectives are intended to reduce pollution exposure within EJCs:

EJ 5.1 Monitor and Enforce Industrial Land Uses in Proximity to EJCs. Monitor, evaluate, and take steps to address the immediate and long-term health and environmental impacts of industrial land use in and around EJCs.

EJ 5.2 Limit New Toxic and Hazardous Waste Facilities. Limit siting and construction of new large-scale hazardous waste facilities on or near sensitive land uses in and around EJCs.

EJ 5.3 Conflicting Land Uses. Consistent with the Land Use Element, avoid land use conflicts by requiring that sensitive land uses are adequately set back from heavy industrial uses and other facilities that may pose a threat to human health. Minimize pesticide use near schools and other sensitive receptors by enforcing compliance with state regulations, as necessary.

Policy 5. Reduce Exposure to Pollution within EJs

EJ 5.4 Pollution Reduction Incentives. Support incentives and grants that reduce air quality emissions within or adjacent to EJs.

EJ 5.5 Existing Sensitive Land Uses. Consistent with the Land Use Element, promote policies, programs, and incentives (such as buffers, monitoring requirements, permit inspection, etc.) to minimize health, noise, and environmental impacts from surrounding land uses on existing homes, schools, childcare, and eldercare facilities, parks and recreation, and healthcare facilities within EJs.

EJ 5.6 Increase Access to Clean Water (Drinking and Water Quality). Everyone has the right to clean water. Support programs and projects to improve water quality and reduce the cost burden of water in the EJs.

Policy 6. Reduce Unique or Compounded Health Risks within EJC

Unique or Compounded Health Risks

Many EJC members face unique or compounded health risks because they are low-income and do not have the resources to avoid or mitigate environmental hazards. Addressing the needs of EJCs requires an understanding of the unique health risks within each EJC. Compounded risks result from exposure to multiple hazards or exposure both at work and at home. Exposure to hazards can also lead to compounded health risks within EJCs where there are fewer resources for healthy lifestyles and healthcare. This section details specific Objectives for one, a few, or all EJCs. Unique or compounded health risks were indicated in the survey results where multiple EJ issue areas were identified. For example, a community that identified air quality concerns as well as soil or water pollution exposure could be indicative of compounded health risks. In addition, excessive heat exposure, when combined with other EJ issues could result in compounded health risks.

Discussion of Unique or Compounded Health Risks within EJCs

Climate change will likely increase negative health effects and may cause displacement as a result of an increased frequency or severity of hazards like flooding, drought, wildfire, extreme heat, and other impacts. The combination of existing environmental burdens such as pollution along with climate stressors such as increased frequency of extreme heat can produce unique and compounded health risks. Many EJC members lack the resources, financial and others, to fully mitigate these risks. Additionally, factors that qualify a community to be an EJC may also contribute to their designation as a frontline community: a group of people who experience the impacts of climate change earlier and/or to a disproportionately severe degree than others in the unincorporated county and are least able to access resources to cope. See the County and Subregional Profiles section of the Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment dated November 2021 for a full discussion of frontline communities.

One example of compounded health risks is that some residents live in sub-standard mobile homes in Los Alamos. These homes are directly adjacent to the freeway where they are exposed to high emissions and may have increased exposure indoors due to poor insulation and poor indoor air quality. ~~Another example is the compounding health effects in Garey of potential exposure to air pollutants from both nearby oil and gas wells and potential pollution from adjacent industrial operations and agricultural fields where pesticides are applied.~~ Farmworkers can also face unique or compounded health risks if they live near agricultural operations that

Policy 6. Reduce Unique or Compounded Health Risks within EJs

apply pesticides or other sources of pollution; they can be exposed to environmental hazards at home as well as at work if pesticides are not applied correctly. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) houses detailed information on the effects of pesticides on human health, which can inform both farmworkers and residents concerned about pesticide drift exposure. DPR “conducts human health risk assessment to evaluate the risk to human health associated with pesticide use. If specific pesticide uses of concern are identified, DPR adopts mitigation measures that reduce the risk of pesticide exposure and thereby the risk of adverse human health effects.”¹⁵ DPR provides an overview, risk assessment, risk management directives, mitigation documents, outreach materials, and additional resources for each active ingredient in a pesticide, as applicable. This online index of active ingredients allows the public to quickly find information about the pesticides to which they may be exposed. The County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office requires specific mitigation measures for certain types of pesticide applications, such as requiring the use of Totally Impermeable Film (TIF) tarp coverings over certain field fumigations, or establishing buffer zones, to mitigate the risk of pesticide exposure. The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office also conducts hundreds of pesticide use monitoring inspections in Santa Barbara County each year to ensure that pesticide applications are made following applicable laws and regulations, and that pesticide applicators follow worker health and safety requirements and regulations regarding pesticide drift.

Objectives to Reduce Unique or Compounded Health Risks within EJs

In addition to the Objectives that address health risks under other Policies, the following Objectives are intended to reduce unique or compounded health risks within EJs:

EJ 6.1 Prioritize the Needs of EJs. Should any Policies, Objectives, or Actions within the EJE appear to conflict with others within the County Comprehensive Plan, the needs of the EJs should be considered the priority. For current programs, projects, and planning documents, prioritize the needs of EJs when possible and, if not feasible, at least do not increase harm in EJs directly or indirectly.

¹⁵ California Department of Pesticide Regulation, “Human Health Risk Assessment and Mitigation By Active Ingredient,” accessed December 31, 2024, https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/active_ingredient/index.htm.

Policy 6. Reduce Unique or Compounded Health Risks within EJs

EJ 6.2 Limit Pesticide Exposure to Farmworkers. Support education and awareness about current requirements for spraying and pesticide application to limit farmworker exposure to pesticides, recognizing the compounded impact of farmworkers who may be exposed to pesticides at work and home.

EJ 6.3 Continue Advocating for Superfund Site Clean-up. Work with residents of Casmalia to reduce potential health impacts associated with the existing Superfund site.

EJ 6.4 Implement Adaptation Strategies in Rural EJs. Support climate adaptation strategies that account for the hyper-rural nature and unique risks in Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama, and Ventucopa.

Policy 7. Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-making Process among EJC Residents

The County Public Decision-Making Process and Opportunities for Civic Engagement

The County Board of Supervisors (Board) is the decision-making authority for the County. The Board is comprised of five Supervisors, each representing a district within the County. The Cuyama Valley is within District 1, Isla Vista is within District 2, and Casmalia, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, and Los Alamos are within District 4. Each Supervisor is elected by the residents within their District to serve a four-year term. The Chair of the Board rotates annually among the five Supervisors. Board hearings are held within the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Maria with options to participate virtually.

Barriers to Participation in the Decision-Making Process for Residents within EJCs

Barriers to participation include language barriers, distrust of government, conflict of meeting times with employment hours, lack of time to participate, lack of internet services, and lack of childcare. Some community members are not aware of the decision-making process or opportunities to participate in decision-making. Within EJCs, there is a need to be more intentional in integrating community members into the planning and decision-making process by meeting community members where they are and developing long-term relationships where community members can see tangible change in their community as a result of their participation. Some examples of this are working with the Promotores Network to leverage existing connections, utilizing existing community meetings and meeting spaces, and providing live interpretation.

Objectives To Promote Participation in the Decision-Making Process for Residents within EJCs

The following Objectives are intended to promote civic engagement within EJCs:

EJ 7.1 Culturally Relevant Engagement. Partner with appropriate organizations (e.g., community-based, faith-based, advocacy, and service) that have built relationships, trust, and cultural competency within EJCs and with youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, and immigrants to conduct meaningful outreach for relevant initiatives and EJ issues.

Policy 7. Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-making Process among EJC Residents

EJ 7.2 Community-Led Initiatives. Support community-driven initiatives, within the County’s resources, in EJCs to address priorities and needs through technical assistance, funding, data sources, meeting spaces, meeting facilitation, support services, and other staff resources.

EJ 7.3 Translation and Interpretation. Improve vital County communications, including translation, interpretation, and accessibility for the EJC Members. This includes printed and online materials, meetings and workshops, and other announcements and notices. When possible, also provide translation for non-vital County communication with the public.

EJ 7.4 Educational Outreach. Partner with school districts, community colleges, trade schools, and continuing education institutions to promote civic engagement opportunities.

EJ 7.5 Capacity Building and Support. Support and expand opportunities to build and sustain capacity among residents to advocate and engage for community and systems improvements, develop their skill sets as community leaders, and advance their roles as trusted messengers.

EJ 7.6 Environmental Justice and Health Profiles and Trends. Support the accessibility of EJE data indicators, including CalEnviroScreen and California Healthy Places Index, that provide countywide and census tract-level profiles and data. This is to encourage community-level participation and a greater understanding of environmental and health-related issues and trends.

EJ 7.7 Data Mapping and Visualization. Ensure data mapping and visualization tools are easily accessible and comprehensible to the general public.

EJ 7.8 Digital Access & Literacy. Increase availability and accessibility of digital resources including information, hardware, and software.

EJ 7.9 Government Accountability, Transparency, and Access. Establish new and improved opportunities for engagement with EJCs that provide equitable access, transparency, and accountability.



Photo of community members in New Cuyama providing feedback on community needs and adaptation strategies.

Policy 8. Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes within EJC

Safe and Sanitary Homes

The condition, quality, and affordability of housing have significant impacts on the health, safety, and well-being of residents. Several factors can lead to severe and negative health outcomes, such as hazardous building materials, exposure to excessive heat or cold, poor indoor air quality and filtration, and moisture and mold from flooding or inadequate building maintenance.

Unsafe and Unsanitary Conditions in EJC

Some residents within EJC live in housing units that were built before regulations prohibited lead paint, asbestos, and other hazardous building materials. Lead exposure can lead to profound and permanent health effects in the brain and nervous system.¹⁶ In addition, some residents face overcrowding, which may worsen unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions.

The Santa Barbara County Housing Element contains housing policies and programs based on state requirements. The EJE was developed during the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update (HEU) and it includes objectives that promote safe and sanitary homes within EJC.



Photo of Artwork by Andrew Thill

¹⁶ World Health Organization, "Inorganic Lead," *Environmental Health Criteria 165*, (1995): 18-20, <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/37241/9241571659-eng.pdf?sequence/u003d1>

Policy 8. Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes within EJC

Objectives To Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes in EJC

The following Objectives are intended to promote safe and sanitary homes within EJC:

- EJ 8.1.** Encourage the rehabilitation of substandard conditions and preservation of affordability for dwellings owned/occupied by lower-income households in EJC. [Consistent with HEU Policy 1.1]
- EJ 8.2** Encourage housing that meets the needs of EJC. [Consistent with HEU Policy 2.1]
- EJ 8.3** Provide resources within EJC to improve the safety of homes and prevent resident displacement. [Consistent with HEU Policy 4.1]

Policy 9: Prioritize the Needs of EJs

Summary of the Needs of the EJs

An essential component of the EJE is prioritizing projects, programs, and investments that directly serve and benefit residents within EJs. Due to historical, geographic, and procedural inequities, EJs have specialized needs and priorities that require intentional actions to improve existing conditions and to ensure negative impacts are not exacerbated. Effective prioritization requires coordination and alignment across County departments, external agencies, and shared jurisdictional partners along with consistent and sustained engagement with EJ Members.

Objectives to Address Specific Needs of EJs

Section 2.6 discusses a summary of key issues for each of the EJs including disproportionate environmental burden as compared to other areas of the state, community specific environmental hazard data, and the primary issues for each EJ based on survey data. Some of the needs identified by EJs, including new schools and businesses are generally supported by the County, but not within the County's purview. The following priorities were identified by one or more of the EJs (through survey data and community meetings) and/or the EJ Working Group and are included here to highlight the needs and corresponding EJ Objectives and Actions (See Appendix C: Engagement Summary for full survey data and results):

Recreational Facilities. Increasing access to recreational facilities through the improvement and construction of facilities was a need identified in Cuyama, New Cuyama, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. Objectives **EJ 1.1** and **EJ 1.2** include Actions to increase access to recreational facilities. All EJs identified increasing access to recreational facilities as a need, and this priority is reflected in Objective **EJ 3.1** to increase culturally relevant opportunities for physical activity.

Street Lighting and Safety. Lighting and safety improvements were identified as a need in Cuyama, New Cuyama, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. Actions to improve street lighting and safety are included for Objective **EJ 1.4**.

Substance Abuse Education and Intervention. Implementing programs to reduce adverse health impacts and death from substance abuse is a priority in Isla Vista. Objective **EJ 1.6** includes Actions to increase substance abuse education and intervention.

Policy 9: Prioritize the Needs of EJs

Access to Clean Energy Technologies and Broadband Internet. Objectives **EJ 1.6** and **EJ 7.8** prioritize EJs, and especially target the Cuyama Valley, to receive resources and benefits available to the community for the development and expansion of clean energy technologies and broadband Internet. Increased access to clean energy technologies and broadband internet was a need identified in New Cuyama, Sisquoc, Casmalia (EJC members identified the need for improved phone service), and Los Alamos.

Food Access. Everyone has the right to affordable and nutritious food. Improving access to healthy and affordable foods was identified as a need in New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. Objectives **EJ 2.2** and **EJ 2.3** include Actions to increase access to healthy and affordable food.

Water Quality and Contamination. Improving water quality in Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista were identified as a need and reflected in Objective **EJ 5.6**.

Improve Air Quality. Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista all identified air pollution as an issue in their community. Reducing dust from agricultural operations is an issue in Cuyama and New Cuyama, and are addressed by Objectives **EJ 4.1** and **4.3**. Pesticide exposure is a priority in Ventucopa, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, and Los Alamos. Objective **EJ 6.2** includes Actions to reduce pesticide exposure.

Community-Specific Communication Plans. Adjusting communication strategies to meet the needs of each EJC was a need identified in New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista and is reflected in Objectives **EJ 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3**.

Housing Maintenance and Affordability. Providing short-term and long-term resources for housing maintenance and affordability was identified as a need in Cuyama, New Cuyama, ~~Garey~~, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. The HEU includes the latest information and resources on housing maintenance and affordability. The EJ Implementation Matrix also includes the development of a housing resource guide under Objective **EJ 8.3**.

Access to Decision-Making Process. Improving accessibility of meetings and the decision-making process was identified as a need in New Cuyama, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. Objectives **EJ 7.3** and **EJ 7.9** include Actions to increase access to County decision-making processes.

Policy 9: Prioritize the Needs of EJs

Economic Development Planning & Programs. Developing and supporting plans to increase economic opportunities within EJs was a need identified in New Cuyama, Sisquoc, and Isla Vista and is reflected in Objectives **EJ 7.4** and **EJ 7.5**.

Financing. Identifying funding and financing mechanisms to provide and enhance public facilities and services will support many of the EJC-identified priorities and is reflected in Objective **EJ 1.3**.

Chapter 4. Implementation

4.1: EJE Implementation Strategy

Implementation of the EJ Policies requires engagement from fifteen County departments and affiliate agencies, community members from eight EJs, and numerous key EJ members and community service providers. Maintaining strong relationships with EJs and facilitating ongoing inter-departmental coordination and regular progress reporting is an important part of implementing the EJE. The implementation phase of the EJE will build on the engagement initiated in the EJE planning process as discussed in Appendix C: Engagement Summary, including utilization of the EJ Working Group in.

4.2: EJE Implementation Plan

The LCI guidance recommends that jurisdictions continue community engagement during implementation activities after adoption. The State's guidance document strongly recommends creating implementation programs: "The general plan should also identify mechanisms for monitoring EJ policies and implementation programs. Performance indicators and metrics may serve as a useful tool to help track implementation outcomes in EJ communities as general plan policies and programs are implemented over time."¹⁷ The following implementation plan is designed to meet the state requirements and build on the "One County-One Future" guiding principles for the implementation phase of the EJE after adoption.

4.2.1: Managing EJ Implementation

Because implementation requires the involvement of fifteen County departments and affiliate agencies in coordination with EJs and other external partners, it is important that implementation is coordinated closely amongst the various County departments and with the County Executive Office to ensure consistency with related existing and future Board initiatives. Management of EJ implementation will include the following:

- Tracking the progress of programs and projects that implement EJ Objectives and Actions and completing EJ progress reports,

¹⁷ State Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, "General Plan Guidelines," 37.

Chapter 4. Implementation

- Advocating for the needs of EJs at the local, state, and federal level including contributing towards the County’s legislative platform,
- Developing programs, policies, and projects to address changing and emerging EJ needs in the County, and
- Supporting integration of EJ Policies, Objectives, and Actions into future Board initiatives and planning efforts, as applicable.

4.2.2: Funding EJ Implementation

The EJE is a new policy document for the County and may shift County priorities in developing work plans, securing financing, and allocating funding. Successful implementation of the EJE will require advocacy for the needs of EJs including securing funding for priority programs and projects at the local, state, and federal level. Where possible, EJ implementation should include the following:

- Coordinating with County Departments to incorporate EJ priorities into departmental budgets, where possible,
- Advocating for funds to address the needs of EJs at the local, state, and federal levels,
- Researching and applying for grant funding and administering grant funds for programs and projects within EJs, and
- Overseeing successful implementation of funded projects in EJs.

4.2.3: Facilitating EJ Collaboration

EJC members voiced a need for regular communication from the County with the EJs about the status of EJ Objectives and Actions within EJs. Historically, County staff have engaged with communities regarding planning efforts or projects within EJs, but there has not been ongoing coordinated engagement that provides EJC members with an understanding of County programs, projects, and planning efforts within each EJ. The EJE is unique in that it is a community-based and community-driven approach to understanding and addressing needs. Continued coordination will be important for understanding and communicating county projects, programs, and services tailored to the EJ including the following:

- Coordinating amongst fifteen County departments and affiliate agencies on the implementation of EJ Policies, Objectives, and Actions,

Chapter 4. Implementation

- Facilitating inter-departmental meetings to discuss EJ priorities, programs and projects,
- Providing transparency in the government decision-making process of planning and prioritizing the needs of EJC,
- Working with EJC members to understand ongoing and emerging EJC needs and advocating for the needs of EJC,
- Traveling to EJC and meeting with EJC members to foster open and transparent communication to better understand short-term and long-term community needs,
- Meeting with community service providers, special districts, and other key organizations to identify opportunities to partner on EJ implementation,
- Collaborating with cities that have EJC or EJ issues to implement joint efforts or initiatives as appropriate, and
- Working with EJC to understand and update as needed best practices for engaging EJC members in the decision-making process.

Chapter 4. Implementation

4.3: Matrix of Policies, Objectives, and Actions

The County intends for the EJ Actions to change over time as departments complete short-term Objectives and gain a deeper understanding of EJC needs and opportunities to achieve EJ Policies. The Implementation Matrix will be updated periodically, and the current version will be made available to the public. The Implementation Matrix included in Appendix A contains initial Actions for EJE implementation.



Photo of Artwork by Michael Long

Appendix A: Implementation Matrix

Appendix B: Mapping Methodology

Appendix C: Community Engagement

Appendix D: Bibliography

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Appendix A: Implementation Matrix for EJE Policies and Objectives


The Implementation Matrix is designed as the basis for the post-adoption and crucial implementation phase of the Environmental Justice Element (EJE). It is intended to be used as a transparent, guiding action list for the County to track progress and provide accountability. ~~After adoption, the EJE matrix will be updated as needed by staff from each department and made available to the public.~~

In this appendix, each action item is assigned a timeframe (I, II, or III):


- I = Short-term timeframe
- II = Mid-term timeframe
- III = Long-term timeframe
-  = Existing actions

Each action also identifies one or more departments responsible for implementation. The far-right column of the matrix includes a department/district abbreviation (DA) for each department or district that has some role in implementing that action either as a champion, leading the effort, or as a supporting partner. The Champion department(s) are indicated with a bold font abbreviation. The County department abbreviations are listed below.






Department/District Abbreviations (the Champion is shown in Bold): Agricultural Commissioner’s Office = AC, Air Pollution Control District = APCD, Behavioral Wellness = BW, County Executive Office = CEO, County Health = CH, Community Services = CS, County Education Office = ED, County Fire Department = FD, First Five = FF, General Services = GS, Human Resources = HR, County Information and Technology Department = IT, Office of Emergency Management = OEM, Planning and Development = PD, Public Works = PW, County Sheriff’s Office = SO, Social Services = SS.

Policy 1: Promote public facilities in EJCs.				
No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-1.1	Improve Access to Existing Facilities for EJCs. Work with Environmental Justice Community (EJC) members to understand barriers to	<u>A.</u> Continue to conduct needs assessments as funding is available to determine which public facilities are lacking, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, or difficult to access in each EJC.	II 	CS, GS, PW







Policy 1: Promote public facilities in EJCs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
	accessing existing facilities and explore additional uses of County property for EJCs.	<u>B.</u> Explore the feasibility of converting County-owned vacant lots or underutilized public right-of-way into small parks, community gardens, or open spaces in EJCs.	II	CS, GS , PD
		<u>C.</u> Bring County departments together to understand existing County-led efforts to use County-owned property as resources for the community.	I	CS, GS , PW
		<u>D.</u> Make facilities (e.g. Joseph Centeno Aquatics Center Cuyama Pool) low or no cost and remove barriers to these facilities. Facilitate access to County facilities. For example, expand hours of operation.	III	CS , PW
EJ-1.2	Community Siting and Improvement Priorities. When considering new or improved public facilities within EJCs, prioritize siting, provision of County services, infrastructure, and amenities based on community feedback (e.g., community centers, schools, parks, and open space, and emergency services, and improvements for transportation infrastructure, such as EV charging, road maintenance, bike, and pedestrian facilities, including ADA accessibility).	<u>A.</u> Conduct engagement to get feedback on recreational facilities from the community. Ensure consistent maintenance of existing recreational facilities. Prioritize identifying funding mechanisms, including grants and partners, for new recreational facilities (e.g., parks, open space, trails) in underserved EJCs.	II	CS
EJ-1.3	Funding and Financing Mechanisms. Support funding and financing mechanisms to provide and enhance community-desired public facilities and services in EJCs.	<u>A.</u> Continue to research, advocate, and work with community members to apply for grant funding (state/federal) for public facilities and services within EJCs.	II 	CS , PD
		<u>B.</u> When identified, add EJ funding priorities to the County legislative platform, as appropriate.	I	CEO
		<u>C.</u> Form partnerships with special districts and community-based organizations that provide services and resources.	I	CS







Policy 1: Promote public facilities in EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<u>D.</u> Continue to support local service providers in securing funding for programs and facilities including potential Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) funding.	III 	CS
EJ-1.4	Built Environment Barriers. Identify and eliminate, where feasible, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, unsuitable design for persons with disabilities, excessive speeding, and insufficient lighting.	<u>A.</u> Continue to identify and implement projects in EJs that achieve Action 3-5 of the County Active Transportation Plan (pg. 13): Improve street crossings and close gaps in the transportation network through development review and capital improvement projects.	III 	PW
		<u>B.</u> Continue to identify and implement projects within EJs that achieve Action 3-3 in the County Active Transportation Plan (pg. 13): Prioritize projects that directly benefit communities that have historically seen less infrastructure investment.	III 	PW
		<u>C.</u> Continue to install new streetlights, and ensure current ones are well maintained within EJs as applicable, recognizing the County does not currently maintain lighting in all EJs. Inform the communities about the County Active Transportation Plan.	III 	PW
EJ-1.5	Pedestrian Amenities Improvements. Support collaboration with private and agency partners to enhance pedestrian amenities, such as lighting, shade, benches, trash and recycling receptacles, bathrooms, hand sanitizing stations, and water fountains in EJs.	<u>A.</u> Identify and implement projects in EJs that achieve Actions 4-4 and 4-5 of the County Active Transportation Plan (pg. 13): Action 4-4 - Strive to increase the number of secure, convenient and attractive bicycle parking facilities at key destinations and transit stops. Action 4-5 - Coordinate with local transit operators to upgrade resources, such as shelters and seating, at existing and future transit stops.	II	PW
EJ-1.6	Improve Emergency Response. Work with EJs to understand emergency response needs and improve emergency response services for EJs.	<u>A.</u> Support the creation of resilience hubs that utilize renewable energy and backup energy systems, prioritizing frontline communities.	II 	CS, OEM


Policy 1: Promote public facilities in EJCs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<u>B.</u> Continue to track the Mitigation Measures in the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.	II 	AC, CEO, CH, CS, FD, GS, OEM, PD, PW, SO
		<u>C.</u> Continue to support long-term and year-round funding (general fund and grant opportunities) for warming and cooling centers in EJCs.	III 	CEO, CS, OEM, SS
		<u>D.</u> Continue to strengthen partnerships between emergency services and clinics serving Isla Vista and Cuyama Valley (e.g. in Cuyama Valley, residents go to the fire station when the clinic is closed).	I 	BW, CH, FD, SO, SS
		<u>E.</u> Continue to increase drug overdose intervention training.	I 	BW, CH, FD, SO, SS
		<u>F.</u> Continue to provide information about Narcan vending machine(s) to address overdose problems in Isla Vista.	I 	BW, CH, SO
		<u>G.</u> Continue to deploy clean energy technologies to EJCs during disaster response when available.	II 	CS, FD, OEM, PW



Policy 2: Promote access to healthy and affordable food in EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-2.1	Connect Local Farmers to EJs. Support the expansion and the accessibility of farmers markets, mobile farmers markets, community-supported agriculture, and other direct farm-to-consumer models in EJs to increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food, including fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products.	<u>A.</u> Seek grant funding and other initiatives to increase farm-to-consumer opportunities in EJs.	I	CH, CS, PD
		<u>B.</u> Continue to promote statewide efforts to expand usage of food assistance benefits (e.g., CalFresh, WIC, and Market Match) at farm-to-consumer sources to help increase the purchasing power of low-income residents.	III 	CH, SS
		<u>C.</u> Support farm-to-consumer businesses in EJs, including streamlining permitting processes.	I	PD
		<u>D.</u> Support school districts and schools interested in gardens and farmers market programs.	III	ED
		<u>E.</u> Support increased access to local fresh food consistent with the Climate Action Plan (CAP).	III	CS
EJ-2.2	Diet-Related Illness Prevention and Education. Expand partnerships with community-based organizations and EJC residents to amplify efforts of current programs as well as develop additional programs and resources for prevention and education about diet-related illnesses in EJs.	<u>A.</u> Continue to support and expand focused educational awareness campaigns to promote healthy eating habits and food choices.	II 	CH, ED, FF
		<u>B.</u> Continue to support opportunities to increase access to health and nutrition resources.	II 	CH, ED, FF
		<u>C.</u> Continue to enhance access to healthy foods, particularly in schools, to reduce rates of diabetes, obesity, and diet-related illnesses.	III 	CH, ED
		<u>D.</u> Continue to respect people's cultural backgrounds when promoting healthy eating and focusing on additive nutrition.	I 	CH, ED, FF
EJ-2.3	Everyone has the right to access affordable and nutritious food. Increase healthy food options	<u>A.</u> Continue to review funding options to waive or reduce permit and plan check fees for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs) in EJs.	I 	CH


Policy 2: Promote access to healthy and affordable food in EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
	and relieve economic burdens for healthy food providers in EJs.	<u>B.</u> Continue to partner with Santa Barbara Food Bank and other food providers to increase food provision services.	I 	CEO



Policy 3: Promote physical activity for community members residing within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-3.1	Increase Culturally Relevant Opportunities for Physical Activity. Collaborate with community groups or partners that work with low-income members of EJs to envision, design, implement, support, fund, and bring awareness to programs and projects that increase physical activity.	<u>A.</u> Continue to partner with community-based organizations to seek community involvement and feedback to create appropriate and relevant programming and to support improvements to natural and built environment designs to promote physical activity and recreation. For example, active transportation projects.	I 	CS, PD, PW
		<u>B.</u> Continue to promote culturally relevant education resources and affordable, low or no-cost programs that raise awareness about the importance of healthy lifestyle behaviors and healthy eating, and encourage residents to participate regularly in physical activity for the overall well-being of all ages. Collaborate with agencies who work with children up to 18.	II 	BW, CH, FF, SS
		<u>C.</u> Increase opportunities for cultural arts programs and events that promote movement, dancing, music, theater, and other types of visual and performative arts that increase physical activity and social cohesion.	I	CS
EJ-3.2	Increase Access to Parks. Partner with schools, places of worship, state and federal lands, and businesses to expand access to green spaces and recreation areas, especially in EJs with less	<u>A.</u> Support activities and events where community members build relationships with green spaces and recreation areas (e.g., parks, open space, trails) to expand access within EJs.	I	CS
		<u>B.</u> Increase education and outreach with community partners to increase access to parks in EJs.	II	CS






Policy 3: Promote physical activity for community members residing within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
	accessibility to green spaces and recreation areas.	<u>C.</u> Increase access to affordable and nutritious food by supporting community gardens.	III	CS
EJ-3.3	Increase Maintenance and Safety. Support and coordinate local community organizations and volunteer groups in their efforts to improve or maintain local parks, trails, and other public spaces in EJs. Address safety concerns that may create barriers to physical activity by assessing adequate lighting and street visibility in new and existing parks and recreation facilities.	<u>A.</u> Increase resources that provide respite from extreme heat (e.g., shade structures and plantings) in EJs.	III	CS, PW
		<u>B.</u> Increase maintenance on County-owned parks in EJs.	III	CS
		<u>C.</u> Continue to increase street lighting in EJs where appropriate.	III 	PW




Policy 4: Improve air quality within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-4.1	Point Source Emissions. Collaborate with Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to continue to identify and reduce point source emissions (Ozone, Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, Diesel PM) in EJs in compliance with applicable existing standards and monitor the environmental and health impacts on populations in EJs to track progress and outcomes.	<u>A.</u> Continue to review and recommend updates to County regulations and/or requirements, based on health data, improved technology, and new rules and regulations if necessary to reduce pollution exposure and protect public health. Identify trends and patterns of non-compliance and make this information available to EJs if not already available.	II 	APCD, CH, PD
EJ-4.2	Reduce Wildfire Smoke Exposure within EJs. Provide education and resources, including air quality information, to reduce wildfire smoke	<u>A.</u> Continue to coordinate distribution (when funding allows) and awareness of air filtration devices, with a focus on underserved communities; and continue to provide awareness about air quality information and N-95 masks as a protection tool for agricultural	III 	AC, APCD, CH, FD, OEM


Policy 4: Improve air quality within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
	exposure for low-income EJC residents who cannot relocate and outdoor workers.	workers and other outdoor workers when significant wildfire-induced air quality concerns exist.		
		<u>B.</u> Continue to provide education and resources for vegetation fuel reduction efforts (e.g., prescribed burns, prescribed herbivory, mechanical treatments, thinning and reduction with hand crews, etc.) that minimize wildland fire ignitions and the potential for large wildfires.	I 	APCD, FD , OEM
EJ-4.3	Everyone Has a Right to Clean, Breathable Air. Support grant funding and other similar initiatives to improve indoor and outdoor air quality and access to clean air within EJs.	<u>A.</u> Apply for and/or administer grants for additional air quality monitoring for the residents of EJs.	III	APCD , CS, PD
		<u>B.</u> Continue to pursue and administer CA Climate Investments and CALFIRE prevention grants to minimize wildland fire ignitions and the potential for large wildfires.	III 	APCD, CS, FD , OEM
		<u>C.</u> Continue to pursue and administer grants to reduce mobile sources of emissions, such as medium and heavy-duty trucks and off-road vehicles.	I 	CS
		<u>D.</u> Continue to apply for grants that assist residents with getting indoor air filters.	I 	APCD
EJ-4.4	Industrial Business Operations and Practices. Collaborate with the industrial businesses within or adjacent to EJs to improve outdoor air quality through enhanced operations and other pollution reduction practices, including permit inspection, incentives, and collaboration to obtain grants, where possible.	<u>A.</u> Continue to regulate and monitor industrial uses in proximity to EJs including enforcement of the following code requirements found in LUDC 35.25.050.A: <i>2a. M-1 zone. No offensive odors or fumes, noxious gases, or liquids, heat, glare, or radiation generated by or resulting from any use on any lot, other than motor vehicles or lighting fixtures, shall be detectable at any point along the property line of, or outside of the lot where the use is located.</i>	II 	APCD, PD


Policy 4: Improve air quality within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<p><i>2b. M-2 zone. Any generation of offensive odors or fumes, noxious gases or liquids, heat, glare, or radiation, and all activities shall be conducted in such a manner so as not to be injurious to the health, safety, or welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood by reason of danger to life or property.</i></p> <p><i>3. Public health, safety and welfare - M-1, M-2 and M-RP zones. All activities shall be conducted in such a manner so as not to be injurious to the health, safety, or welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood by reason of danger to life or property.</i></p> <p><i>4. Smoke or dust - M-RP and M-1 zones. No smoke or dust shall be generated on a site by or resulting from any use, except for that associated with heating buildings, and motor vehicles.</i></p>		
		<p><u>B.</u> Continue to promote awareness within EJs of APCD's permitted facilities map. Share with EJC members APCD's complaint response system for reporting air pollution complaints.</p>	<p>II</p> 	<p>APCD</p>
<p>EJ-4.5</p>	<p>Community Engagement for Monitoring. Support and promote ongoing community engagement and participation in air quality monitoring programs and incentives.</p>	<p><u>A.</u> Continue APCD air quality monitoring projects and community engagement projects, such as the Air Quality Index (AQI), Airpointer, PurpleAir low-cost sensor network, Annual Network Monitoring Plan, Clean Air Ambassador education program, Clean Air Rooms pilot program, and more.</p>	<p>II</p> 	<p>APCD, CH</p>
		<p><u>B.</u> Continue to promote air quality alerts in EJs.</p>	<p>II</p> 	<p>APCD, CH</p>




Policy 4: Improve air quality within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<u>C.</u> Continue to support the Department of Pesticide Regulation’s maintenance of an Air Monitoring Network station in Santa Maria to monitor for pesticides in ambient air.	II 	AC


Policy 5: Reduce exposure to pollution within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-5.1	Monitor and Enforce Industrial Land Uses in Proximity to EJs. Monitor, evaluate, and take steps to address the immediate and long-term health and environmental impacts of industrial land use in and around EJs.	<u>A.</u> Monitor existing industrial land uses to ensure they meet current health and safety mandates.	II	APCD, PD
		<u>B.</u> Recommend amendments to the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) if necessary based on the results of the community health needs assessment (EJ-5.5) to avoid health impacts to residents of EJs from future industrial land uses. Population demographics (such as lower population numbers) cannot be used to justify industrial location siting in EJs.	III	PD
EJ-5.2	Limit New Toxic and Hazardous Waste Facilities. Limit siting and construction of new large-scale hazardous waste facilities on or near sensitive land uses in and around EJs.	<u>A.</u> Review the Zoning Codes and Hazardous Waste Element to identify opportunities to limit new Hazardous Waste Management Facilities (HWMF) within or adjacent to EJs if necessary.	III	PD
EJ-5.3	Conflicting Land Uses. Consistent with the Land Use Element, avoid land use conflicts by requiring that sensitive land uses are adequately set back from heavy industrial uses and other facilities that may pose a threat to human health. Minimize pesticide use near schools and other sensitive receptors by enforcing compliance with state regulations, as necessary.	<u>A.</u> Continue conducting pesticide use monitoring inspections and surveillance around schools and other sensitive sites to ensure pesticide applicators remain in compliance with state regulations.	I 	AC
		<u>B.</u> Review the Zoning Code to identify opportunities to recommend, where necessary, adjustments to setback requirements for new heavy industrial uses to protect sensitive land uses (e.g., schools and residences) within EJs.	III	PD

Policy 5: Reduce exposure to pollution within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-5.4	Pollution Reduction Incentives. Support incentives and grants that reduce air quality emissions within or adjacent to EJs.	<u>A.</u> Encourage and incentivize the replacement of old, high-polluting equipment with newer, cleaner equipment earlier than required by regulation or through normal attrition in order to reduce emissions that could have potential impacts on air quality.	III	APCD
EJ-5.5	Existing Sensitive Land Uses. Consistent with the Land Use Element, promote policies, programs, and incentives (such as buffers, monitoring requirements, permit inspection, etc.) to minimize health, noise, and environmental impacts from surrounding land uses on existing homes, schools, childcare, and eldercare facilities, parks and recreation, and healthcare facilities within EJs.	<u>A.</u> Seek funding to complete a community health needs assessment for each EJC including surveys, data collection, and land use analysis. Recommend updates to regulations based on the results of the health needs assessment if needed to reduce exposure of people living within EJs to pollution.	III	CH, PD
EJ-5.6	Increase Access to Clean Water (Drinking and Water Quality). Everyone has the right to clean water. Support programs and projects to improve water quality and reduce the cost burden of water in the EJs.	<u>A.</u> Green Infrastructure Projects: Continue to support green infrastructure projects that rely on natural processes for stormwater drainage, groundwater recharge, and flood management when feasible.	II 	CS, PW
		<u>B.</u> Safe Drinking Water: Continue to support and coordinate with local and regional agencies to continue treatment efforts for contaminated water in affected EJs to ensure safe drinking water supplies.	I 	CH, PW
		<u>C.</u> Water Restoration Funding Sources: Continue supporting collaborative efforts with water purveyors and other community partners. Seek state and federal funding that assists with water quality improvement and the reduction of contamination where practicable.	II 	CH, PW



Policy 5: Reduce exposure to pollution within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<u>D.</u> Support opportunities to improve water quality and reduce water costs for residents of EJs. Collaborate with water purveyors and community service districts on creative, long-term solutions that improve water quality and reduce contamination.	II	PW
		<u>E.</u> Continue to provide education and support to communities for finding funding sources and actions that can be taken on a local level to improve water quality and water conservation efforts. Provide the public with water quality and water conservation education and information about things they can do themselves, such as rain gardens, safe disposal of harmful substances, integrated pest management, picking up litter in storm drains, etc. Prioritize rebates and programs that subsidize the cost for residents.	II 	PW


Policy 6: Reduce unique or compounded health risks within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-6.1	Prioritize the Needs of EJs. Should any Policies, Objectives, or Actions within the EJE appear to conflict with others within the County Comprehensive Plan, the needs of the EJs should be considered the priority. For current programs, projects, and planning documents, prioritize the needs of EJs when possible and, if not feasible, at least do not increase harm in EJs directly or indirectly.	<u>A.</u> Harmonize future updates of the County Comprehensive Plan with the EJE.	III	PD


Policy 6: Reduce unique or compounded health risks within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-6.2	Limit Pesticide Exposure to Farmworkers. Support education and awareness about current requirements for spraying and pesticide application to limit farmworker exposure to pesticides, recognizing the compounded impact of farmworkers who may be exposed to pesticides at work and home.	<u>A.</u> Continue to provide training for, and conduct outreach to, pesticide applicators and fieldworkers in English, Spanish, and Indigenous languages. Investigate reported exposure incidents.	I 	AC
EJ-6.3	Continue Advocating for Superfund Site Cleanup. Work with residents of Casmalia to reduce potential health impacts associated with the existing Superfund site.	<u>A.</u> Establish a communication channel between the County and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to monitor the progress of the Casmalia Superfund site cleanup and communicate the status to residents of Casmalia.	III	CEO
EJ-6.4	Implement Adaptation Strategies in Rural EJs. Support climate adaptation strategies that account for the hyper-rural nature and unique risks in Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama, and Ventucopa.	<u>A.</u> Continue to work with the community to identify and secure funding for projects that improve resilience in Casmalia and the Cuyama Valley.	II 	CS, OEM, PD



Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-7.1	Culturally Relevant Engagement. Partner with appropriate organizations (e.g., community-based, faith-based, advocacy, and service) that have built relationships, trust, and cultural competency within EJs and with youth, seniors,	<u>A.</u> Continue to coordinate inter-departmental communication strategies for all projects that impact EJs, including culturally relevant engagement opportunities and best practices established by previous projects. For example, working with community-based groups and the Promotores Network.	III 	BW, CEO, CS, FF, PD




Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
	persons with disabilities, and immigrants to conduct meaningful outreach for relevant initiatives and EJ issues.	<u>B.</u> Prepare a communication strategy for each EJC with a specific emphasis on engaging community members who do not speak English and use that strategy for all future project outreach. The County shall continue to share public information across a variety of media, technological, and traditional platforms, and languages based on the demographics of the community.	II	CEO, CS, FF, PD
EJ-7.2	Community-Led Initiatives. Support community-driven initiatives, within the County’s resources, in EJCs to address priorities and needs through technical assistance, funding, data sources, meeting spaces, meeting facilitation, support services, and other staff resources.	<u>A.</u> Work on community-led initiatives within EJCs, connecting community members to County projects and decision-making processes.	I	BW, CS, FF
		<u>B.</u> Develop and maintain a list of all County projects and programs in EJCs. Facilitate inter-departmental coordination and collaboration on multi-benefit projects supporting EJCs.	I	AC, BW, CEO, CH, CS, FD, FF, GS, HR, IT, OEM, PD, PW, SO, SS
EJ-7.3	Translation and Interpretation. Improve vital County communications, including translation, interpretation, and accessibility for the EJC Members. This includes printed and online materials, meetings and workshops, and other announcements and notices. When possible, also provide translation for non-vital County communication with the public.	<u>A.</u> Review existing County language access plans and provide coordinated support for Departments to develop and implement language access plans.	II	BW, CEO, CH, CS, GS, HR, IT
		<u>B.</u> Continue to make translation and interpretation services available to all County Departments through a centralized contract with the County Executive Office. Encourage translation of non-vital communication, such as social media posts and websites.	II 	CEO, GS, IT

Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-7.4	Educational Outreach. Partner with school districts, community colleges, trade schools, and continuing education institutions to promote civic engagement opportunities.	A. Support a plan to identify Cradle-to-Career programs and projects that would provide supportive services and economic opportunities for youth and students within their communities.	I	ED, FF
		B. Volunteer coordination in schools including a speaker bureau through Partners in Education.	I	ED
EJ-7.5	Capacity Building and Support. Support and expand opportunities to build and sustain capacity among residents to advocate and engage for community and systems improvements, develop their skill sets as community leaders, and advance their roles as trusted messengers.	A. Support plans developed by EJCs to increase economic opportunities, as appropriate.	II	CS
		B. Continue to work with the Promotores Network and community-based groups on supporting community leaders. Increase capacity-building in EJCs. Support the community empowering itself.	II 	CH, CS, FF, PD, PW, SS
EJ-7.6	Environmental Justice and Health Profiles and Trends. Support the accessibility of EJE data indicators, including CalEnviroScreen and California Healthy Places Index, that provide countywide and census tract-level profiles and data. This is to encourage community-level participation and a greater understanding of environmental and health-related issues and trends.	A. Make a tool or website that shows in one place community environmental profiles. Ensure this tool/website is accessible to the public.	I	CH, PD
EJ-7.7	Data Mapping and Visualization. Ensure data mapping and visualization tools are easily accessible and comprehensible to the general public.	A. Work with the GIS team on increasing map accessibility to the public.	I	IT, PD
EJ-7.8	Digital Access & Literacy. Increase availability and accessibility of digital resources including information, hardware, and software.	A. Broadband Infrastructure: Continue to identify funding and partners to provide wired or wireless broadband connections to EJCs.	I 	CEO, IT, PD, PW





Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<u>B.</u> Broadband Access: Continue to identify funding and partners to provide computers, laptops, hardware, and software, including ADA accessibility software, to meet EJC residents' needs. Continue the Computers (and training) for Families program through Partners in Education.	I 	CEO, ED, IT, SS
		<u>C.</u> Broadband Literacy: Continue to support/partner on training programs and services in multiple languages to enhance digital literacy. Support smart-technology investments that enhance EJC residents' health and well-being.	I 	CEO, ED, IT, SS
		<u>D.</u> Broadband Affordability: Continue to inform residents of low-cost internet access options and support advocacy for internet access subsidies and affordable internet programs.	I 	CEO, SS
EJ-7.9	Government Accountability, Transparency, and Access. Establish new and improved opportunities for engagement with EJCs that provide equitable access, transparency, and accountability.	<u>A.</u> Establish a strategy for Environmental Justice Element implementation, including coordinating with EJCs and County departments, advocating for their needs, and facilitating access to County plans, policies, programs, and projects.	I	CEO
		<u>B.</u> Explore financing options for projects and programs within EJCs.	I	CEO
		<u>C.</u> Provide information to EJCs about who makes decisions, and how they are made, and create conditions that are conducive to EJC residents becoming part of government and community bodies that make decisions.	III	CEO, CS, PD
		<u>D.</u> Provide community trainings and workshops on County government processes and civic engagement opportunities.	I	CEO, CS, PD






Policy 7: Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process among EJC residents.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
		<u>E.</u> Departments should develop and maintain long-term relationships with community members and groups in EJCs to gain direct feedback in advance of decisions impacting EJCs.	III	AC, BW, CEO, CH, CS, FD, FF, GS, HR, IT, OEM, PD, PW, SO, SS

Policy 8: Promote safe and sanitary homes within EJCs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-8.1	Encourage the rehabilitation of substandard conditions and preservation of affordability for dwellings owned/occupied by lower-income households in EJCs. [Consistent with HEU Policy 1.1]	<u>A.</u> Continue to support and promote programs including weatherization, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), air filtration, mold and mildew prevention, electrification, leak repair, smoke detectors, fire protection systems, defensible space, and other improvements.	III 	CS, FD, PD
		<u>B.</u> Continue to work with development partners to increase the supply of residential units for very-low and low-income households.	II 	CS, PD
		<u>C.</u> Continue to educate tenants and landlords on rights and opportunities related to home improvement resources.	I 	CS
EJ-8.2	Encourage housing that meets the needs of EJCs. [Consistent with HEU Policy 2.1]	<u>A.</u> Continue to support and prioritize the development of affordable housing for different income levels. Support the development of nontraditional housing types, such as ADUs.	III 	CS, PD

Policy 8: Promote safe and sanitary homes within EJs.

No.	Objective	Action	Timing	DA
EJ-8.3	Provide resources within EJs to improve the safety of homes and prevent resident displacement. [Consistent with HEU 4.1]	<u>A.</u> Provide housing resource guides for EJs. Connect Building and Safety inspection information to the communities and provide housing repair resources.	III	CS, PD
		<u>B.</u> Monitor the status of and pursue funding to preserve affordable units at risk of conversion to market rate, including units in mobile home parks (HEU Program 18).	III	CS, PD
		<u>C.</u> Continue to promote affordable options, accessible resources, and supportive services for tenants and homeowners, including connections to landlord-tenant mediation services.	III 	CS, PD
		<u>D.</u> Continue to publicize and promote emergency preparedness educational campaigns in EJs.	II 	FD, OEM
		<u>E.</u> Continue to engage with agencies, non-profit organizations, landlords, property owners, and tenants in EJs to educate about indoor mold and lead hazards, fire prevention, and substandard housing conditions, and identify methods or resources for reduction and prevention.	III 	CH, CS, FD, PD
		<u>F.</u> Continue to conduct outreach and prioritize funding for infrastructure projects in EJs (HEU Program 25).	III 	CS, PW
		<u>G.</u> Continue to enforce Just Cause for Residential Evictions (Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 44, Article IV).	III 	CS