

Sheila de la Guerra **Public Comment**

#4

From: IndivisibleSM <indivisiblesantamaria@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 4:51 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for Departmental Agenda item#4
Attachments: SBC Environmental Justice Element.pdf



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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please find our attached comment letter regarding the Draft Environmental Justice Element.

Sincerely,

Leadership Team



Stand Up! Speak Out!

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Dear Board of Supervisors:

Indivisible Santa Maria urges the Board to take the following steps before approving the Environmental Justice Element:

- **The County should conduct further community outreach to its Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs)** to gather feedback, insight, and recommendations on the EJ Element, any possible gaps in the policies, and to inform the development or modification of the Element with residents' lived experiences, concerns, and priorities.
 - The County should continue their outreach work by continuing to survey EJC residents and hold in-person meetings that are accessible to residents in each of the eight EJCs.
 - The County should explicitly consider demographic data such as race, language isolation, and employment patterns (for example, the presence of farmworker populations) in these low-income communities as part of the community outreach process to ensure efforts are accessible, diverse, inclusive and culturally relevant.

Several of our members live in Los Alamos and are directly impacted by the broad range of environmental risks, identified by the County, including exposure to pesticides, poor air quality, over-drafted water resources, lack of access to affordable and healthy food, decent quality affordable housing and the negative environmental impacts of over development. It is concerning that many of the residents of Los Alamos were unaware of the EJ Element and did not receive direct communication from the 4th District Supervisor's office regarding it's content and development. Their voices and lived experiences must be fully included in the EJ Element.

To address these inequities so that all Santa Barbara County residents may one day enjoy access to a healthy environment and the resources needed to thrive, we urge the County to take full advantage of this opportunity to develop a robust EJ Element that satisfies the requirements of SB 1000.

Sincerely,

Indivisible Santa Maria