



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

Planning & Development

Department Number:

053

Agenda Date:

August 18, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:

N/A

Continued Item:

No

If Yes, date from:

N/A

Vote Required:

Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman

CONTACT: Alex Tuttle, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Environmental Justice Element of the Comprehensive Plan - Reporting

Concurrences:**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file this report on Environmental Justice Element reporting and stakeholder engagement.
- b) Determine that this report does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5).

Summary Text:

The Board heard and adopted the mandated Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) on March 10, 2026. The Element includes goals and action items that are required to be implemented in the short-, mid -, and long-term. As directed by the Board, the Department assessed various options for reporting back to the Board regarding the status of the actions and objectives which included incorporating the reporting as part of the One Climate Initiative Progress Report that is reported to the Board each year, or through the General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR). The department recommends using the APR for this purpose, as it already includes status updates on other elements of the County General Plan. The department also assessed options for the creation of a new stakeholder group to oversee the implementation of the element. It was determined that due to budget constraints a new group would be challenging to establish at this time. Alternatively, the department is recommending that the County rely on the existing departmental working group conducting planned outreach with community stakeholders when implementing several of the objectives and actions in the EJ Element.

Discussion:

The Department would include a status report on the implementation of the EJ Element in the required APR that is reported to the Board and provided to the State by April 1 of every year. The APR reports on the County's progress with respect to updating, maintaining, and implementing the General Plan, including our progress towards meeting our Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

The proposed reporting and outreach approaches will take advantage of an existing multi-department working group, planned outreach imbedded in the element, and an existing reporting mechanism. This approach strives to achieve the Board's goal to continue outreach efforts and provide the public with data on how the County is working to improve conditions for the Environmental Justice communities.

As part of the discussion on the EJ Element, the Board expressed an interest in developing a way for departments to receive feedback on significant program changes that could impact disadvantaged communities (e.g., funding loss impact Social Services and County Health). This would allow for discussion with interested stakeholders prior to public hearings on proposed program changes. In response to this request the Department, in collaboration with Community Services, convened meetings with Departments that may have program changes that would impact disadvantaged communities. The group developed the attached "Communication Protocols for Significant, Controversial, or High-Profile Programs or Actions" – See Attachment A. The goal is to provide guidance for all departments when they are considering if public outreach is needed prior to a hearing on an action or program change and provide standard steps that should be taken to ensure the outreach is successful.

Background:

The Board heard and adopted the mandated Environmental Justice Element on March 10, 2026. The Element includes nine policies, 39 objectives, and 100 actions with 15 different departments responsible for the implementation of them. Many of the actions are the continuation of existing County programs or resources, which already support and address Environmental Justice Community needs. The California Attorney General's Office's Environmental Justice Element Guidelines state that the policies, objectives and actions must be measurable and attainable according to a stated schedule. As a result, the Element's actions will be implemented in phases

(e.g. short, medium, or long-term timeframe) depending on several factors such as complexity and cost.

During the hearing, the Board asked the Department to identify a method for overseeing implementation and reporting on the status of these actions and objectives. The Board also requested that the department assess the potential for an ongoing Environmental Justice Community Engagement structure, including options for community and/or county led stakeholder group and potential funding sources. Implementation of the Environmental Justice Element would involve engagement with Environmental Justice Communities to implement its objectives and actions and continued collaboration among County departments through the Environmental Justice Working Group.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The recommended actions of reporting on the implementation status of the EJ Element through the APR and relying on the existing multi-department working group to oversee implementation of the EJ Element and conduct community outreach as appropriate would be accomplished using existing departmental resources and there is no impact to the General Fund.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A – Communication Protocols for Significant, Controversial, or High-Profile Programs or Actions

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