

Katherine Douglas

# Public Comment

**From:** River Webb <river@quailsprings.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:48 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Blaine Morris  
**Subject:** Suggested modifications for the Environmental Justice Element

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

Hello,

I'm writing on behalf of the Executive Team at Quail Springs to urge you to modify the draft Environmental Justice Element based on feedback from low-income rural and hyper-rural communities.

Quail Springs is based in the Cuyama Valley, an area which is 94% below the HUD-established low-income threshold. Our closest town site and one of our main areas of service is New Cuyama. Our Valley's high desert ecosystem is heavily impacted by water shortages, pollution, drilling, and other environmental hazards.

We so appreciate the effort that Santa Barbara County is putting in to make a difference in the environmental hazards across the County, including those impacting small communities like ours. To make sure the voices of our community are fully heard, we hope you will consider conducting additional on-the-ground outreach that allows the Cuyama and New Cuyama communities to speak up about their needs. We hope that with input from the most disenfranchised communities in Santa Barbara County, you will gain valuable information that will allow you to create concrete policies with measurable outcomes that will address all aspects of environmental concern.

Again, your efforts to make our County environmentally safe and progressive are incredibly valuable. We so appreciate your work, and we look forward to building a better Santa Barbara County together.

Warmly,

**River Webb** (*they/them*)

Executive Director

*People and Systems*

[Quail Springs](#)

[www.quailsprings.org/donate](http://www.quailsprings.org/donate)

Instagram: @quail\_springs

Facebook: @QuailSpringsPermaculture