



**GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) AND
SAFETY ELEMENTS STUDY SESSION**
City Council - June 18





STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND STUDY SESSION PURPOSE

- **Overview** EJ and Safety Elements
- **Highlight** document revisions and community outreach
- **Introduce** EJ Action Guide (Implementation Guide)
- **Review** feedback from June 3 study session
- **Receive** City Council feedback/guidance and community feedback





MAJOR MILESTONES

- Community meetings
February 2023
- Study session with Planning Commission and City Council
June 2023
- Housing Element certified by State of California
March 2024
- Community workshops
May 2024
- Planning Commission study session
June 2024
- **City Council study session**
June 2024
- Adoption of elements
Fall 2024 (Tentative)

Tonight!



OVERVIEW: EJ ELEMENT

Menlo Park Neighborhoods

- Allied Arts - Stanford Park
- Bayfront
- Belle Haven
- Central Menlo
- Downtown
- El Camino Real Corridor
- Felton Gables
- Linfield Oaks
- Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio
- Sharon Heights
- South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks
- Stanford Hills
- Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle
- The Willows
- VA Medical District
- West Menlo
- City Boundary

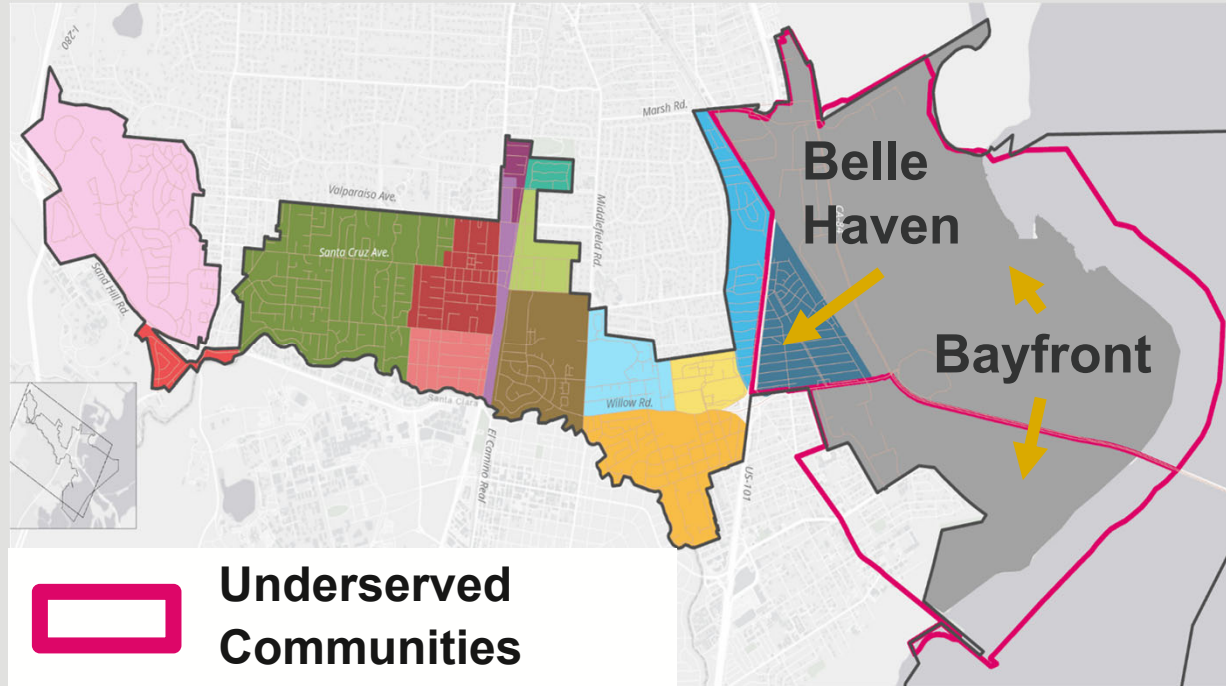


Projection: NAD83 StatePlane California III FIPS0403 (USFeet)

EJ ELEMENT OVERVIEW



Identify and focus on Underserved Communities





EJ ELEMENT OVERVIEW



1. Address unique and compounded health risks



2. **Reduce pollution exposure and eliminate environmental inequities***



3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities



4. **Promote access to affordable healthy and high-quality foods***



5. **Provide safe and sanitary homes for all residents***



6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation



7. Create equitable civic and community engagement

** Top priority goals*



OVERVIEW: SAFETY ELEMENT





SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

- Purpose: Identify how to reduce potential risks of injury, property damage, and economic and social disruptions resulting from natural and human-made hazards
- Focus: Addressing new State-required topics
 - Climate change adaptation and resiliency
 - Wildfire hazards and risks
 - Identify residential developments lacking 2+ emergency evacuation routes



REVISED DRAFT EJ ELEMENT





REVISED DRAFT EJ ELEMENT (APRIL 24, 2024)



- A** Modify certain statements about EJ context
- B** Make adjustments to the refinement framework matrix
- C** Continue performing and implementing robust outreach
- D** Think critically about funding needs and sources
- E** Consider actions with short-term results to demonstrate and communicate progress



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



Extensive community outreach and engagement

- “Meet people where they are” approach
 - April 13: Love Our Earth
 - April 18: CCCT meeting
 - May 2: Spanish language community workshop
 - May 9: English language community workshop
 - May 11: Housing Resource Fair
- Emails, flyers, social media, etc.





TOP EJ PRIORITIES FROM MAY WORKSHOPS



#1 - Providing safe, sanitary, *and stable* homes

EJ Element Goal 5

#2 - Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality

EJ Element Goal 2

#3 - Promoting access to high quality and affordable food

EJ Element Goal 4



COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISED DRAFT EJ ELEMENT



Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements on EJ Element Programs and Policies

Ensure "Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing" is used in Goal 5 language and throughout the document, replacing "Safe and Sanitary Homes"

Strengthen program and policy language throughout the EJ Element, for example by changing encourage to ensure or could to should/shall

Elevate Anti-Displacement Actions into the EJ Element, accelerate timelines for creation and implement interim steps as soon as possible.



FUNDING NEEDS AND SOURCES



- The EJ Element includes listing of potential funding sources
- Additional considerations regarding programs and actions:
 - Infrastructure enhancements
 - Specific sites
 - Potentially eligible for funding through special funds
- June 11: City Council expressed support for use of the Bayfront Mitigation Fund to support EJ Element programs



**ACTION GUIDE
(IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE)**



ACTION GUIDE



- Action Guide includes action items to implement certain EJ programs
- Dual-document approach allows for more frequent updating of action items to respond to changes in:
 - *Community needs*
 - *Funding opportunities*
 - *Ongoing community outreach, particularly from Menlo Park's Underserved Communities*
- A comprehensive, re-formatted version of the Action Guide will be maintained on the City's website to improve accountability and tracking of efforts to advance EJ
 - *Simplified presentation*
 - *Background information (grey columns) removed*
 - *Inclusive of all EJ programs and action items*



REVISED DRAFT SAFETY ELEMENT





REVISED DRAFT SAFETY ELEMENT (APRIL 15, 2024)



Policies/ programs revised to include community feedback

- Revised Policy S1.35 – **Disaster Preparedness Planning**
 - Multilingual and multimodal outreach in Underserved Communities
- Revised Policy S1.36 – **Community Preparedness**
 - Support countywide preparedness, response and protection services
- New Program S1.M – **Sea Level Rise Planning**
 - Collaborate with other agencies to develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan
- No changes to Open Space/Conservation and Noise Elements



**JUNE 3
PLANNING COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION**



PUBLIC FEEDBACK



- A** Enhance action items text to indicate City commitment and accountability
- B** Explore financial and programmatic incentives to assist Menlo Park residents
- C** Revise documents for easier comprehension
- D** Improve documentation, transparency, and monitor progress
- E** Update the Safety Element to respond to additional topics beyond state requirements



PLANNING COMMISSION FEEDBACK



- F** Focus impactful and feasible actions to advance EJ on the top three priorities identified through May 2024 workshops
- G** Explore opportunities in the document to strengthen the City's commitment and accountability to advance EJ
- H** Enhance civic engagement
- I** Clarify how EJ Element and Action Guide work together and ensure the public remains involved and informed
- J** Update the Safety Element to respond to additional topics beyond state requirements



SUMMARY OF UPCOMING ELEMENTS REVISIONS



- Revise per staff recommendations within EJ Element Table EJ-8 (EJ Element Goals, Policies, and Programs) and Action Guide
- Revise per May 2024 community workshops recommendations
- Revise per June 3 study session feedback themes from the public and Planning Commission
- Revise per June 18 study session feedback/guidance from the City Council



EJ AND SAFETY ELEMENTS STUDY SESSION FEEDBACK PROMPTS



Did the process over the past year result in appropriate refinements to the EJ Element?

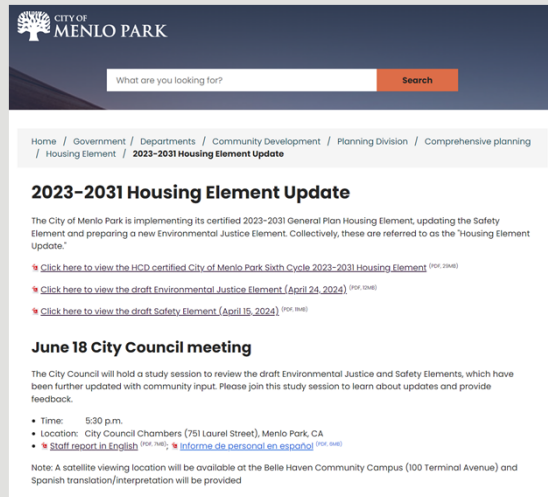
Does the Action Guide serve as a good implementation tool to advance EJ?

Staff intends to update the EJ and Safety Elements based on feedback received and as noted in the staff report. Are there other items for consideration or inclusion?



NEXT STEPS

- Project team will revise EJ and Safety Elements per study session feedback
- Prepare for adoption hearings (tentatively fall 2024)



Visit menlopark.gov/housingelement for project updates and to sign up for email list



THANK YOU