




# GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY ELEMENTS – ADOPTION RECOMMENDATION

August 26, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting



## PRESENTATION AGENDA

- **Review** project milestones and community outreach
- **Highlight** Environmental Justice (EJ) and Safety Elements refinements
- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - Adopt resolutions recommending the City Council amend the General Plan to include an EJ Element and update the Safety Element
  - Determine actions are addressed in previously-certified subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)





# PROJECT MILESTONES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH





# GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS



The General Plan guides the future development and uses of land across the community.

*\* Housing Element Update Project component*

# ROAD TO ADOPTION DOCUMENT MILESTONES

**April 2022**

Neighborhood Profiles of  
Environmental Justice Considerations

**Dec. 2022**

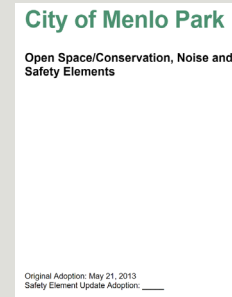
Initial Draft EJ and Safety Elements

**April 2024**

Revised Draft EJ and Safety Elements

**Aug. 2024**

Adoption Draft EJ and Safety Element



# ROAD TO ADOPTION

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Summer 2021

- Pop-up Meetings
- Community Meeting

*Apr. 2022 - Neighborhood Profiles released*

### Spring 2022

- Community Meeting
- Focus Groups
- Survey

*Dec. 2022 - Initial draft Elements released*

### February 2023

- Community Meetings

### February 2023

- Community Meetings

### June 2023

- Planning Commission and City Council Joint Study Session

*Apr. 2024 - Revised draft Elements released*

### May 2024

- Community Meetings

### June 2024

- Planning Commission and City Council Study Sessions

*Aug. 2024 - Adoption draft Elements released*

## COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- Priorities developed from community outreach and engagement in the Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods
- EJ Element identifies and elevates community priorities

**Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (*Goal EJ5*)

**Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (*Goal EJ4*)

**Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (*Goal EJ2*)







# ADOPTION DRAFT EJ AND SAFETY ELEMENTS



# ADOPTION DRAFT EJ AND SAFETY ELEMENTS



- Revisions to Elements
- EJ Element Action Guide and Community-Identified EJ Priorities
- Refined/Added EJ Programs



## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Menlo Park's objective of furthering environmental justice is an action-oriented process. The City will continually work toward environmental justice, with collective efforts and collaboration from Belle Haven and Bayfront residents, community leaders, and the greater Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Bay Area communities.

The goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element are developed from the issues and priorities identified in the data analysis and the community outreach and engagement findings and recommendations completed for Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. Below is a description of the goals, policies, and programs that make up the Environmental Justice Element.

- **Goals** – Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work towards environmental justice.
- **Policies** – Focused principles that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.
- **Programs** – Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in less resourced underserved communities. Prioritizing investments such as time, political energy, and capital in underserved communities will have net benefits and a high return on investment for Menlo Park as a whole.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community

# REVISIONS AND FEEDBACK LOGS

- Record feedback from study sessions
- Identify how comments were addressed in the revised EJ and Safety Elements

#	[EJ/Safety] Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
Identifier number	What section or item is at issue	Page within draft last reviewed in Study Sessions	Page within track changes document	Page within clean (no track changes) document	Subject of revision or feedback	Direction and/or feedback provided	Relevant notes and, where applicable, direct quotes of revisions made



# SAFETY ELEMENT REVISIONS



- Identify Senate Bill 272 (2023) requirement and efforts to collaboratively develop Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan
- Clarify Menlo Park's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as part of countywide Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Include more info. on soft story buildings
- Include more info. on sea level rise and climate change
- Include more info. on cooling centers and storm-related issues
- Include more info. on emergency preparedness

"Relationship to Other Plans" section. The MJLHMP provides several of the required maps for the Safety Element.

## **B** Safety Goal

**GOAL S1 — ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY**

Minimize risk to life and damage to the environment and property from natural and human-caused hazards, and assure community emergency and disaster preparedness and a high level of public safety services and facilities.

## **C** Safety Policies and Implementing Programs

**Goal S1**

**ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY**

### **Policies**

*General Safety Policies*

- S1.1 Location of Future Development.** Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated.
- S1.2 Location of Public Improvements.** Avoid locating public improvements and utilities in areas with identified flood, geologic and/or soil hazards to avoid any extraordinary maintenance and operating expenses. When the location of public improvements and utilities in such areas cannot be avoided, assure that effective mitigation measures will be implemented.
- S1.3 Hazard Data and Standards.** Integrate hazard data (flood, earthquake, sea level rise, etc.) and risk evaluations into the development review process and maintain, develop and adopt up-to-date FEMA standards to reduce the level of risk from natural and human-caused hazards for all land uses.
- S1.4 Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation.** Continue to improve inter-jurisdictional cooperation with regard to public safety concerns related to natural hazard disaster response and mitigation.
- S1.5 New Habitable Structures.** Require that all new habitable structures



# EJ ELEMENT REVISIONS

- Clarifying presentation of information
- Clarifying actions and accountability following adoption
- Emphasizing pollution reduction and air quality improvements
- Enhancing community outreach and collaboration with stakeholders
- Strengthening housing support

**Goals, Policies, and Programs**

**Goals**

In Menlo Park, as in many other places throughout California and beyond, areas with a higher concentration of low-income households are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, individuals in these areas experience higher rates of poor health outcomes. To reduce the disproportionate health risks that exist in these Menlo Park neighborhoods, this Environmental Justice Element has policies and programs organized into seven goals consistent with the requirements of SB 1000 and Gov. Code Section 45302(b) (see Table EJ-7).

**Table EJ-7: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element**

Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	Goal EJ1: Address unique and compounded health risks
Reduce Pollution Exposure	Goal EJ2: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
Improve Access to Public Facilities	Goal EJ3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities
Promote Food Access	Goal EJ4: Promote access to high quality and affordable food
Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes	Goal EJ5: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes
Promote Physical Activity	Goal EJ6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation
Promote Civic Engagement	Goal EJ7: Create equitable civic and community engagement

There is natural overlap between the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. A strong Environmental Justice Element provides framework for a cohesive and complementary set of goals, policies, and programs.

The Environmental Justice Element was developed simultaneously with the 2022-2031 Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 2022-2031 Housing Element support the Environmental Justice Element's goal to provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes for all residents. Rather than duplicate this language in both elements, the Environmental Justice Element instead references the language in the Housing Element that is reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and subject to annual reporting requirements.

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are below in Table EJ-8. Complementary action items are separately contained within the Action Guide. Policies, programs, and action items are organized by the seven overarching Environmental Justice Element goals and include descriptive information about current progress (if applicable), responsible parties, potential funding sources, and delivery timeframe.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

The City of Menlo Park is committed to an inclusive and equitable planning process. An inclusive and equitable planning process allows community members, especially residents of underserved communities, to provide input and contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice Element. The City of Menlo Park conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnering with a community-based organization that was intentionally focused and specialized in outreach and engagement efforts for underserved communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to “meet people where they are” to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community.

This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 20, 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and

### COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Through the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element, the community-identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized:

- Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

June 18 (City Council), 2023, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2023. Community-identified

# EJ ELEMENT ACTION GUIDE AND COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES



- Separate, complementary document outside of the General Plan itself
- Tool to manage and coordinate City efforts to address EJ goals, policies, and programs
- Responds to:
  - Changing community needs
  - Funding opportunities
  - Ongoing community outreach

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
EJ5.A	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table E-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ5.B	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.C	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

## REFINED/ADDED EJ PROGRAMS

### Program EJ7.J (Refined)

Clarify EJ Element Action guide has annual reporting including provision to the City Council and availability on City's website

### Program EJ7.K (New)

Clarify EJ Element Action Guide progress updates and revision process with outreach to underserved communities

### Program EJ7.L (New)

City Council consideration of community-identified EJ priorities during annual priority and goal setting workshop





## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Adopt resolutions recommending City Council amend General Plan to include EJ Element and update Safety Element
- Determine actions addressed in certified SEIR under CEQA

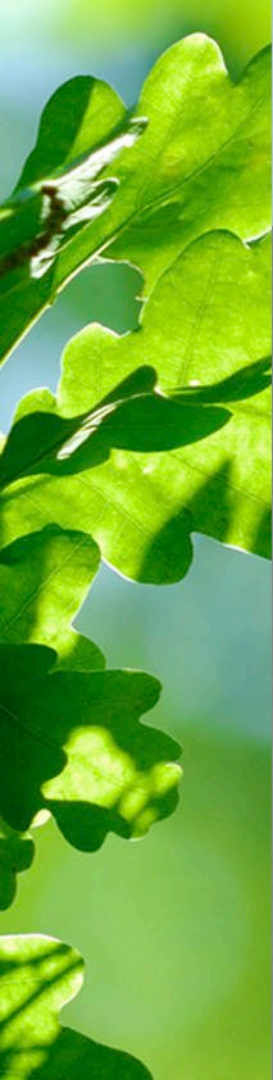
### Staff Report Attachments

#### A – Draft Commission Resolution recommending EJ Element adoption

- Exhibit A: EJ Element
- Exhibit B: Draft Council Resolution adopting EJ Element

#### B – Draft Commission Resolution recommending Safety Element update adoption

- Exhibit A: Safety Element update
- Exhibit B: Draft Council Resolution adopting Safety Element update



## NEXT STEPS

- Planning Commission feedback and recommendations forwarded to City Council
- Tentative Sept. 24, 2024 City Council public meeting to consider adoption

The screenshot shows the City of Menlo Park website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the city logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home / Government / Departments / Community Development / Planning Division / Comprehensive planning / Housing Element / **2023-2031 Housing Element Update**. The main heading is "2023-2031 Housing Element Update". The text below reads: "The City of Menlo Park is implementing its certified 2023-2031 General Plan Housing Element, updating the Safety Element and preparing a new Environmental Justice Element. Collectively, these are referred to as the 'Housing Element Update.'" There are three links: "Click here to view the HCD certified City of Menlo Park Sixth Cycle 2023-2031 Housing Element", "Click here to view the adoption draft Environmental Justice Element (August 21, 2024)", and "Click here to view the adoption draft Safety Element (August 21, 2024)". Below this is a section titled "Join the Planning Commission meeting to provide input on the City's first Environmental Justice Element and Safety Element update". It provides the date (Monday, Aug. 26), time (7 PM), and location (Belle Haven Community Campus). It also provides online access via Zoom and phone, and a link to the meeting agenda. A note states: "Spanish interpretation will be available during the meeting." At the bottom, there is a "Latest news" section with a sub-heading "Adoption of Environmental Justice Element and Safety Element Update" and a small photo of a group of people.



Visit [menlopark.gov/housingelement](https://menlopark.gov/housingelement) for project updates and to sign up for email list



**THANK YOU**