



# GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY ELEMENTS STUDY SESSION

June 20, 2023



# STUDY SESSION PURPOSE

- **Review** the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Safety Elements and their regulatory context
- **Revisit** community outreach completed so far and common feedback received
- **Introduce** a recommended refinement framework
- **Receive** guidance/confirmation from the City Council and Planning Commission regarding the recommended refinement framework
- **Receive** community feedback







# GENERAL PLAN BACKGROUND



## GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS



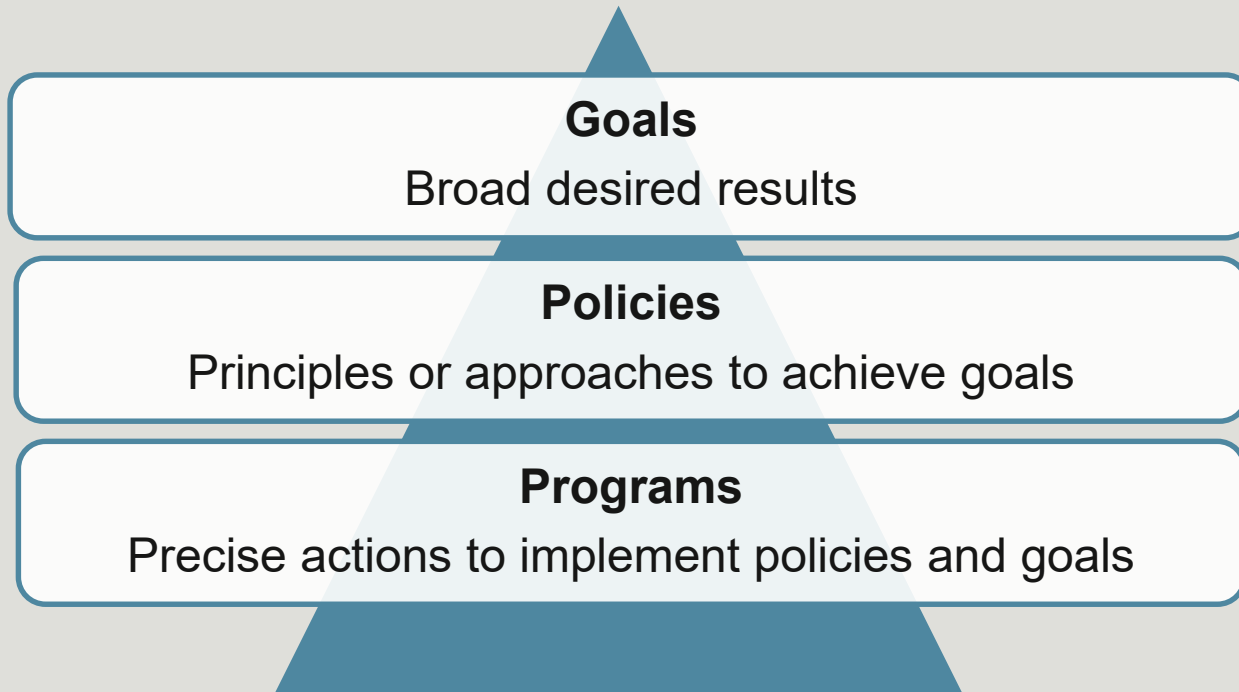
The General Plan guides planning decisions across the community

*\* Housing Element Update Project component*





# IMPLEMENTING GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS





## MAJOR MILESTONES

- Dec. 2022: Draft EJ and Safety Elements published
- Jan. 2023: Housing Element adopted and SEIR certified  
(Upcoming June 27 City Council meeting to review draft revisions to Housing Element)
- Feb. 2023: Two community meetings at Belle Haven Branch Library to introduce the draft EJ and Safety Elements
- **June 2023: Study Session 1**
- Fall 2023: Study Session 2 will present additional community feedback refinement results and recommended policies, programs, and prioritization with revised Draft EJ and Safety Elements





# OVERVIEW: SAFETY ELEMENT



## SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

- Element purpose: To identify and appraise risks in the community and provide high-level strategies for mitigating risks and ensuring the wellness of the community, city services, and infrastructure
- Last update: 2013
- Current update: Focused update to address new State-required topics
  - Climate change adaptation and resiliency
  - Wildfire hazards and risks
  - Identify residential developments without at least 2 emergency evacuation routes
- Aligned with:
  - San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021)
  - City's 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP)
  - San Mateo County's 2015 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)



## LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

- Collaborative effort:
  - 36 planning partners, including all 20 cities/townships in the county
- Community involvement:
  - Over 2,000 survey responses received
- Contents specific to Menlo Park:
  - Risk and vulnerability assessment
  - Mitigation actions to reduce injury and damage
  - Assessment of capability to implement mitigation actions
  - Hazards risk ranking: 1) flood, 2) earthquake, and 3) sea level rise/climate change



## SAFETY ELEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

**City Code Updates**

**Development  
Application Review**

**Coordination Across  
Organizations  
(e.g., Police, Fire)**

**Collaboration with  
County and State  
Agencies**



## SAFETY ELEMENT GOAL: ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

*Safety Element policies cover the topic areas listed below.  
Specific implementing programs are associated with these topics.*

- General Safety Policies
  - New Policy: Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Funding
- Geologic and Seismic Safety Policies
- Hazardous Materials Policies
- Flood Control, Tsunami and Dam Safety Policies
- Fire Safety Policies
- Public Safety and Emergency Response Policies
  - New Policies: Public Health; Heat Adaptation
  - New Programs: Senior Outreach; Public Communication; Public Heat Respite; Heat Island Minimization; Emergency Preparedness for Sensitive Populations





# OVERVIEW: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



## WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

*The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.*

- State of CA Assembly Bill No.1628 (2019)





## WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF PLANNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?



To foster well-being and eliminate unique, unequal, and unfair public health risks in the Menlo Park neighborhoods where those risks are concentrated.



## REGULATORY CONTEXT: SENATE BILL 1000 (SB 1000)

Local governments are required to analyze whether they have “**Disadvantaged Communities**” in their jurisdictions and develop an EJ Element if they are present.

Based on community outreach, these neighborhoods are being called “**Underserved Communities**” in Menlo Park.





## REGULATORY CONTEXT: GOVERNMENT CODE 65302(H)(1)



EJ Element required topic areas:

1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
4. Promote Food Access
5. Promote Safe and Sanitary Housing
6. Promote Physical Activity
7. Promote Civic Engagement



# HOW DO WE PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

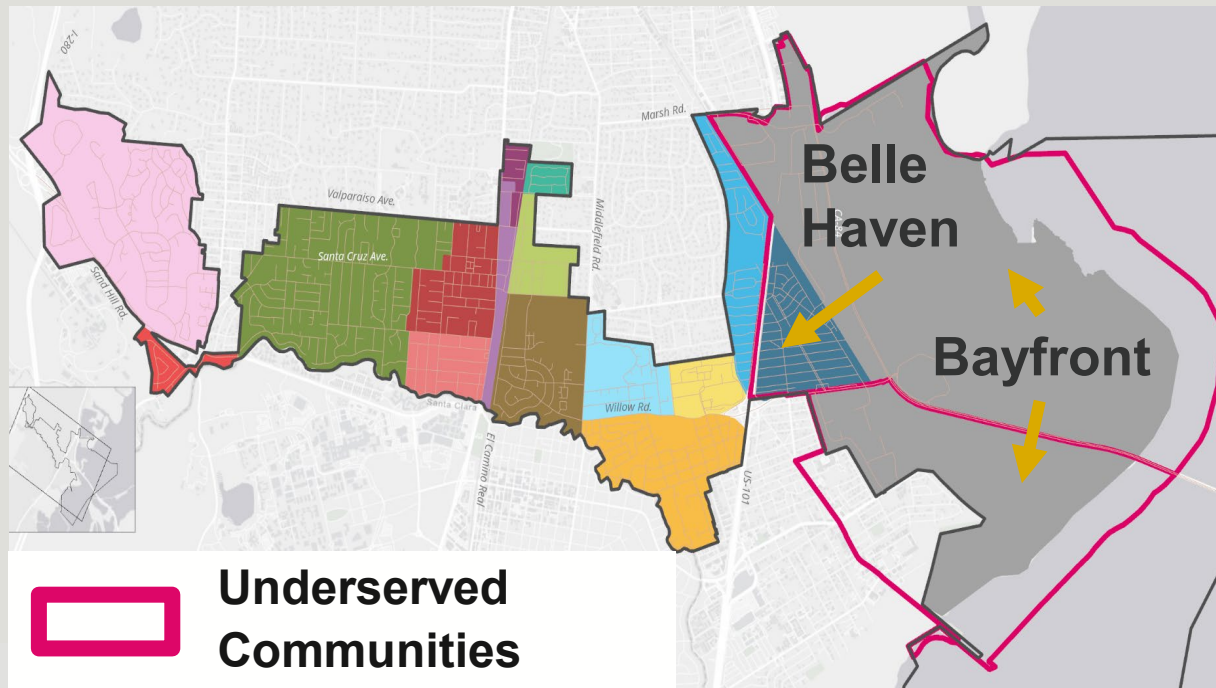


# Menlo Park Neighborhoods



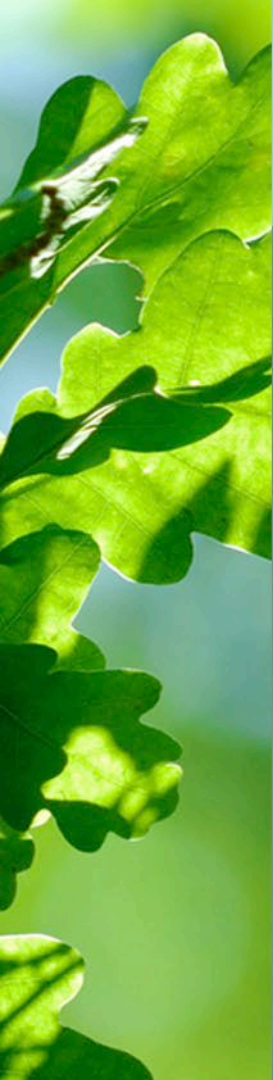
## 1. LOCATE COMMUNITIES THAT FACE UNIQUE, UNEQUAL, AND UNFAIR HEALTH RISKS

- 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)





## 2. TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE THOSE UNIQUE, UNEQUAL, AND UNFAIR HEALTH RISKS



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.

*\*EJ Element Goals align with State-required topic areas*





# OVERVIEW: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND FEEDBACK THEMES



# COMPLETED OUTREACH AND MILESTONES



March - June 2021  
**Countywide LHMP Outreach  
Events (12)**

June 2021  
**CRC LHMP Community  
Event**

July 2021  
**Housing Element Update  
Project Introduction Webinar**

August 2021  
**Community  
Housing Element Update  
Survey**

August 2021  
**Community Meeting:  
Housing Equity, Safety, and  
Environmental Justice**

August 2021  
**Pop-up Meetings:  
Downtown Farmers Market (2)  
Belle Haven Shopping Center  
Mi Tierra Linda**

April 2022  
**Neighborhood Profiles  
Released**

April 2022  
**Community Meeting:  
Introduction to Environmental  
Justice and Safety**

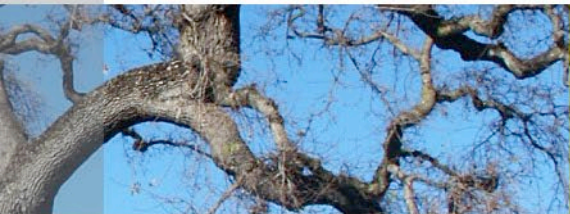
May 2022  
**CRC Outreach Meetings  
Belle Haven (3)**

May – July 2022  
**Menlo Park Environmental  
Justice and Safety Survey**

December 2022  
**Draft EJ and Safety  
Elements Released**

February 2023  
**Community meetings:  
Environmental Justice and  
Safety Elements (2)**





# SAFETY ELEMENT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES



- **General Safety**
  - Develop policies for and manage risks from life sciences and bio-tech industry
- **Geologic and Seismic Safety**
  - Acknowledge the presence and regulatory impact of earthquake-related maps prepared by the CA Geological Survey
  - Address concerns for the HayWired Scenario and its potential impacts
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**
  - Follow FEMA guidance for a Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management
  - Emphasize collaboration following evidence-based practices





## EJ ELEMENT GOAL 1: ADDRESS UNIQUE AND COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES**



- Asthma and other respiratory issues are community concerns due to the increase in construction
- Heat-related health issues are concerns that can be supported with increased access to air-conditioned public spaces
- Danger to pedestrians, particularly children, can be minimized with more school crossing guards





## EJ ELEMENT GOAL 2: REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND ELIMINATE ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUITIES COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES



- Rapid development in Belle Haven and Bayfront increases concerns for pollution and traffic congestion
- Address traffic congestion by increasing signage and reevaluating signal light timing
- Address illegal dumping and increase area security
- Noise pollution is a concern, particularly from speeding cars/Highway 101
- Address flooding and pothole issues in Belle Haven and Bayfront
- Interest in incentives and support for air purification tools





## **EJ ELEMENT GOAL 3: EQUITABLY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES**

### **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES**



- Increase the tree canopy in and around Belle Haven and the Bayfront area
- Menlo Park Community Campus (MPCC) should prioritize affordable educational classes and training programs for the community
- Encourage local hiring for MPCC
- Desire for a health clinic, pharmacy, bank, and an affordable grocery store
- Concerns for less school-access opportunity for Belle Haven students
- Provide animal waste disposal stations, enhanced street cleaning, and more stop signs





## EJ ELEMENT GOAL 4: PROMOTE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTHY AND HIGH-QUALITY FOODS

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES



- Interest for a subsidized farmer's market – near MPCC is desirable
- The relatively high cost and low-quality food provided at schools is a concern
- Stores and services geared toward persons of color and seniors are desirable





**EJ ELEMENT GOAL 5:  
PROVIDE SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES  
FOR ALL RESIDENTS**  
**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES**



- Build new housing sensibly and spread-out higher density housing citywide
- Interest in accessory dwelling units (ADUs) but concern about lengthy, complicated, and expensive process
- City should help with pest management
- Concern for the unhoused
- City should explore rent control and/or tax breaks
- City should prioritize anti-displacement measures and affordable housing





## EJ ELEMENT GOAL 6: ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES



- Repair sidewalks and potholes and increase accessibility
- Increase lighting along streets and at parks (especially important for kids and seniors)
- Increase bike lanes and safe walkways





## EJ ELEMENT GOAL 7: CREATE EQUITABLE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES



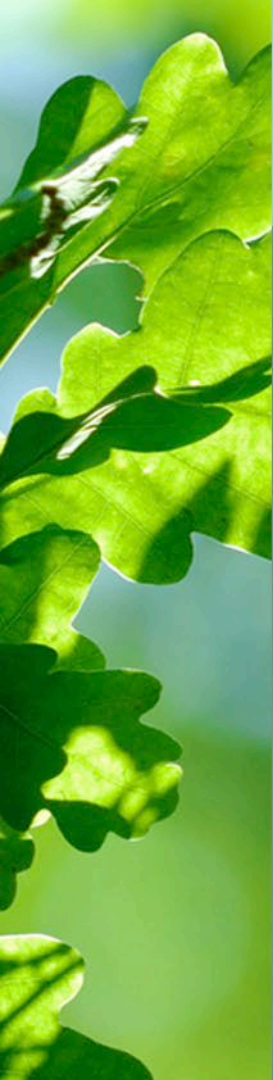
- Prioritize resources/information for low-income individuals, especially important for persons living with disabilities
- A desire for greater communication by the City regarding upcoming construction projects and their potential impacts
- A desire for greater programs and services to help the communities engage/participate, especially those north of Highway 101
- Hold more public meetings in Belle Haven





# **EJ ELEMENT: RECOMMENDED REFINEMENT FRAMEWORK**

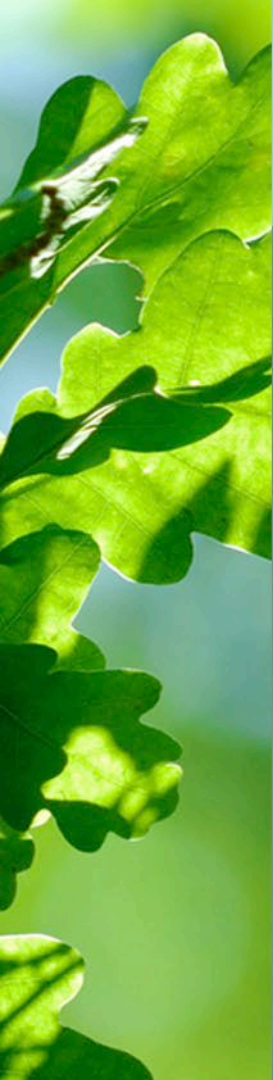




## **EJ ELEMENT REFINEMENT FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Translate community feedback into a list of actionable policies and programs that reflect:**
  - Robust community input**
  - City resources, capacity, and authority**
- 2. Practice transparent decision-making**
- 3. Establish accountability processes for EJ Element implementation and tracking over time**



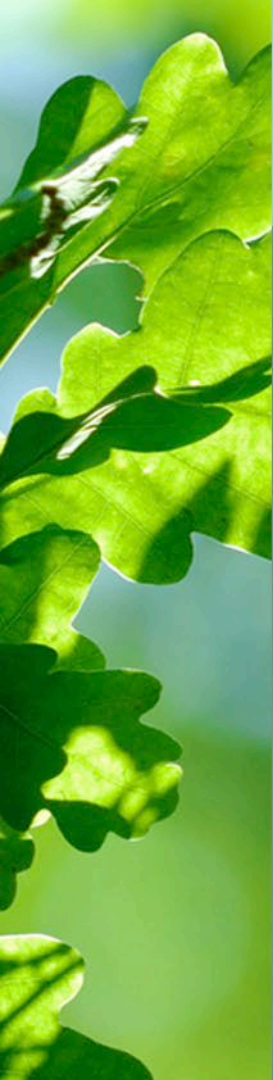


# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal	Proposed Policy or Program
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**Cross-reference  
across other elements  
to omit duplicates**





# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

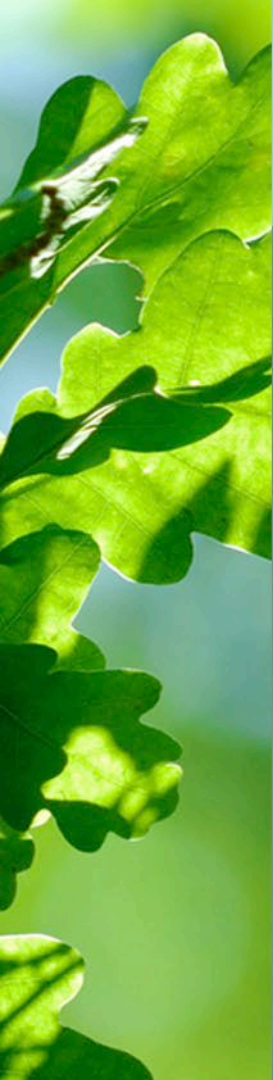
Goal	Proposed Policy or Program	Theme
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**Group proposed policies/programs  
by theme/topic**

**Put programs in logical order for  
implementation**

*\*See sample matrix in staff report for more detail*





# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

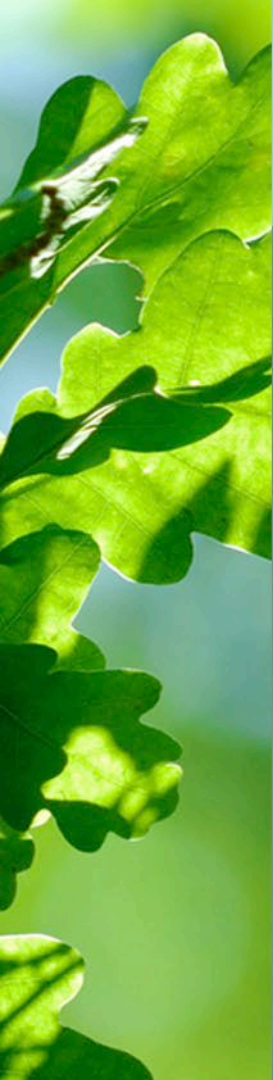
Goal	Proposed Policy or Program	Theme
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## **Example: Tree Canopy**

- 1. Map tree canopy gaps in underserved areas**
- 2. Require preservation of mature trees**
- 3. Proactively coordinate with developers to help preserve, replace, and/or transplant trees**
- 4. Focus efforts for planting street trees in Underserved Communities**
- 5. Create an Urban Forest Master Plan**

*\*See sample matrix in staff report for more detail*





# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal	Proposed Policy or Program	Theme	Timeframe
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**1. Short Term**

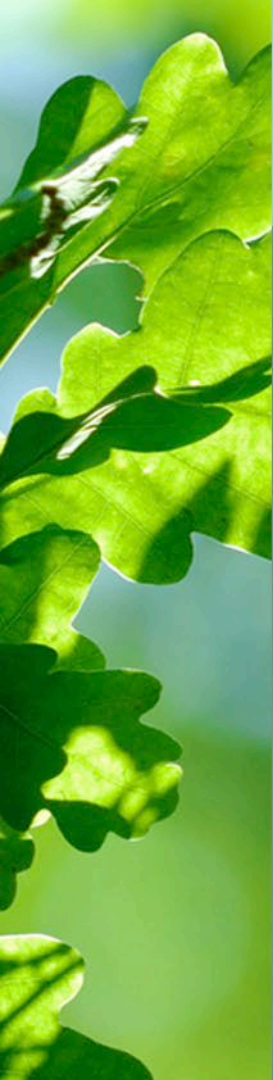
**2. Medium term**

**3. Long Term**

***Include specific time horizons***

*\*See sample matrix in staff report for more detail*





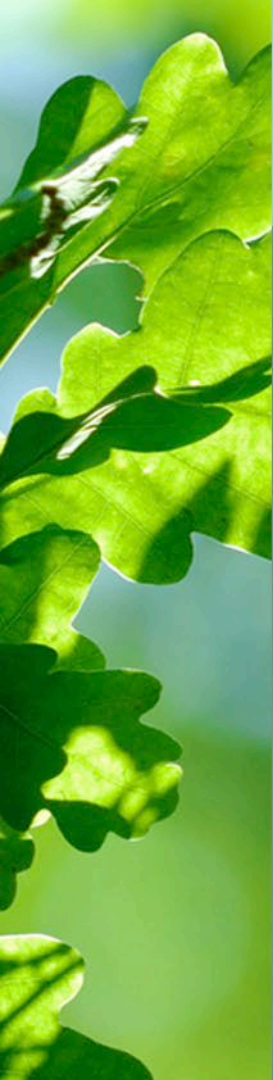
# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal	Proposed Policy or Program	Theme	Timeframe	Urgency	
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**Score programs**

***Including community-identified  
needs/levels of urgency***



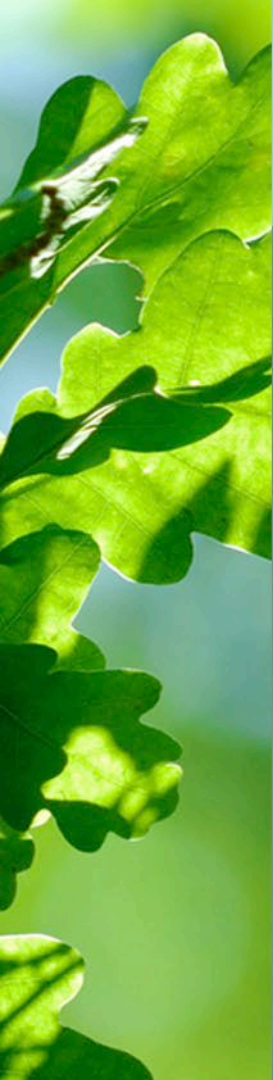


# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal	Proposed Policy or Program	Theme	Timeframe	Urgency	Effort/Cost	
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**Score programs**





# INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INTO EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal	Proposed Policy or Program	Theme	Timeframe	Urgency	Effort/Cost	Impact
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**Score programs**

***Highest priorities =***  
*high need*  
*low cost*  
*high impact*

*\*See sample matrix in staff report for more detail*



## REFINEMENT FRAMEWORK CONSIDERATIONS

- Prioritize policies/programs that directly shape City decision-making processes to ensure Underserved Communities in Menlo Park are being prioritized in program implementation and across City functions
- Policies/programs with highest urgency and/or that require less effort or less funds should be prioritized as short-term
- Long-term and/or high-cost policies/programs can be a high priority if they are high impact. These programs may require phased implementation
- Some community-identified needs may require long term policies/programs to allow time for the thinking, collaboration, and outreach that is needed to determine how to best address those needs through actionable programs



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN MAY INCLUDE:

- Departments Responsible for Implementation
- Potential Partners
- Funding Sources
- Metrics for Tracking Progress
- Reporting Processes





## EJ AND SAFETY ELEMENTS STUDY SESSION FEEDBACK PROMPTS



Is the recommended refinement framework for the EJ Element appropriate?

What community feedback themes, topic areas, or policies and programs have the greatest urgency/highest prioritization?



## NEXT STEPS

- Study Session 1 feedback will help inform the revision of the draft EJ and Safety Elements
- Study Session 2 (tentatively fall 2023)
  - Present revised draft EJ and Safety Elements, which would further incorporate the community, City Council, and Planning Commission feedback, including recommended policies and programs and prioritization
  - Following Study Session 2, additional refinements, as needed, would be made to the EJ and Safety Elements
- Planning Commission recommendation and City Council action (tentatively winter 2023/2024)
  - Planning Commission would make a recommendation regarding adoption of the elements to the City Council and the City Council would be the final reviewing/approving body





THANK YOU