

Fact Sheet: Benefits of an EJ Element in Jurupa Valley

Background: The City of Jurupa Valley's Environmental Justice (EJ) element was adopted November 6, 2014. The overarching goal of the EJ Element is to create: *"An open and transparent public process that improves the quality of life relative to a cleaner and healthier environment and at-risk populations"*.

The EJ Element of the City of Jurupa Valley *"...seeks to address environmental justice through a set of comprehensive objectives and policies aimed at increasing the influence of target populations in the public decision making process and reducing the exposure to environmental hazards."* According to California General Plan Guidelines, environmental justice can be addressed either through integration into the seven mandatory elements of the plan, or as an optional element. The City *"has elected to emphasize the importance of ensuring environmental equity for disadvantaged person in Jurupa Valley through adopted of a separate Environmental Justice Element"*. *"The EJ Element has the same weight as the other mandatory elements of the general plan."*

Benefits: Multiple benefits have accumulated in Jurupa Valley since the very recent adoption of the EJ element. The benefits can be categorized the following ways: Recognition of areas that are disproportionately impacted by planning and land use decisions; Improved Investments in EJ Communities; Improved Public Process; Improved Mitigation Measures Benefiting EJ Communities and; Regional, Statewide and National Recognition.

Identification of EJ communities within the city

- The element provides a mechanism to identify areas of the city that are disproportionately impacted and lack appropriate levels of services and amenities
- Using CalEnviroScreen and the Environmental Justice Screening Model (EJSM) the city maintains a current map of environmental justice communities in Jurupa Valley.
- By identifying these areas, the City can work to mitigate existing adverse conditions and ensure that new development does not unduly impact vulnerable populations.
- Recognized equity and access to decisions made by the city.

Reduction in disproportionate environmental burdens affecting low-income and minority populations.

- The City of Jurupa Valley identified Mira Loma Village as an EJ community due to its low economic status, high Latino population, and the heavy pollution impacts from historic land use decisions that have resulted in a 103 homes being in close proximity to industrial warehouses.
- The City is instituting a mitigation measure by developing a Restricted truck route that will remove 800 trucks an hour off the street less than 30 feet of homes.
- The City participated in the Installation of High Performance Air Filtration systems in homes of the targeted area resulting in a 90% reduction of exposure to diesel pollution.
- Requires that proposals for new sensitive land uses incorporate adequate setbacks, barriers, landscaping or other measures as necessary (such as high performance air filters) to minimize air quality impacts; and are located adequate distances from freeways and major roadways based on analysis of physical and meteorological conditions. At least four housing developments have recently been built recognizing these requirements.

Improved Health in EJ Communities

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- According to a USC Health Study the Mira Loma area children had the slowest lung growth and weakest lung capacity of all children in southern California due to diesel pollution. Prioritizing investments that mitigate negative environmental impacts providing multiple co-benefits to residents, such as improved health outcomes and access to opportunity.
- Converting the all but two of the 24 proposed warehouse sites to commercial/business park, all of which will improve air quality due to a reduction in heavy freight traffic and increase economic activity in the adjacent community resulting from increase in the variety of businesses and employees.
- Additional code enforcement office to enforce truck anti-idling compliance.
- Set back from homes, reduction of height from building roofs. And added 150 trees as vegetative barriers along the boundaries of homes.

Improved Public Process

- Public processes and new developments must undergo an extensive outreach and notification periods; residents have been appropriately and adequately notified in both English and Spanish.
- Provide translation and interpretation services at public meetings ensuring that translation time should not be taken from the person's time limit for comments.
- Community Meetings/Outreach meetings have been held in accessible meeting locations and at times convenient to impacted residents.
- Utilize culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement such as engagement activities can include cultural fairs, festivals, and community specific events.
- As a result, two Townhall events in selected locations resulted in participation by more than 500 people.

Increased Mobility and accessibility for all residents

- Plan for equitable distribution of public facilities and services prioritizing new facilities in traditionally underserved areas.
- Glen Avon Heritage Park has been developed in an EJ community providing 13-acres of community park and recreation facilities.
- Planning for development around the Pedley Metro link station is underway to provide medium and high density housing near jobs, transit, shopping, schools and other needed facilities.
- The City has developed a series of program to provide health food, increase walking and bicycling and working with the school district to provide the joint use of school properties for neighborhood parks and recreation centers.

Local, Regional, Statewide and National Recognition

- Received a Regional award from the American Planning Association (APA) for regional best practices.
- The California Chapter of the American Planning Association selected the Environmental Justice Element for its 2015 *Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award of Merit* to address the needs of underserved populations.
- The City of Jurupa Valley has been nominated at the APA National level.