



# Environmental Justice and Safety Element

January 25, 2022



# Meeting Purpose

To provide an overview of the Environmental Justice Element and wildfire risk portion of the Safety Element and summarize community feedback.

Staff is requesting input on the proposed goals and approaches on environmental justice and wildfire risk.

This meeting is being translated in Spanish.



# Questions for the Commission and Committee



1. Do you have any comments on the Environmental Justice Goals and policy approaches?
2. Do you have comments on the format of the Environmental Justice Element?
3. Do you have any comments on the draft Wildfire Goal and associated policies?

The State of California defines environmental justice as

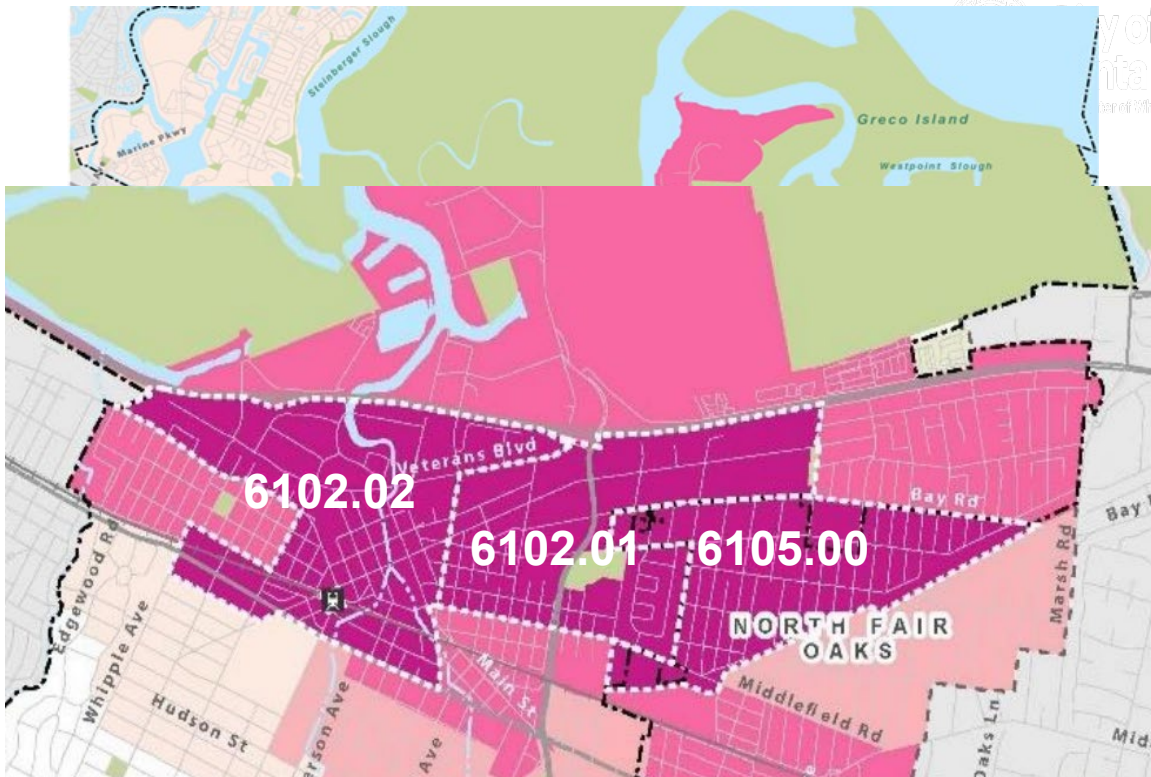
“the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”  
(Gov’t Code § 65040.12(e)).

# Environmental Justice and Safety Elements



Environmental Justice considers the following characteristics.

- ✓ Pollution burden,
- ✓ Socio-economic characteristics,
- ✓ Health and wellness,
- ✓ Food access,
- ✓ Physical activity/park access,
- ✓ Health and equity initiatives
- ✓ Public participation



# Key Takeaways from the Technical Analysis



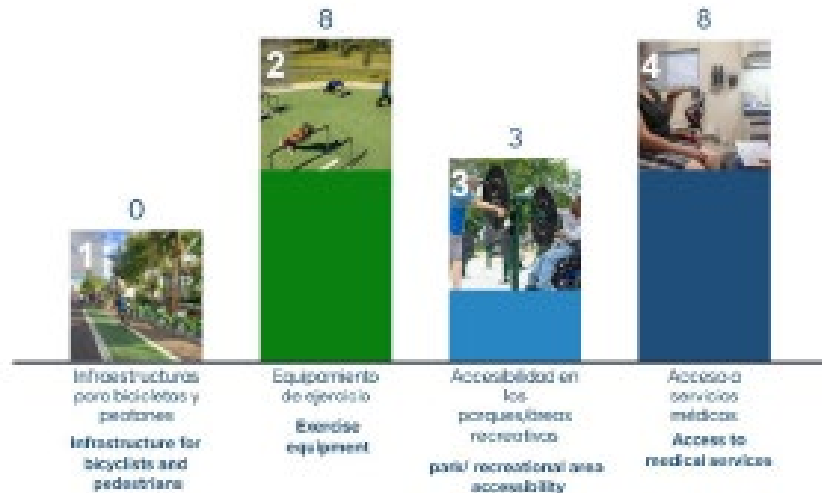
- Redwood City is doing well in terms of park access, healthy and fresh food access, and health insurance access.
- Redwood City experiences impacts from groundwater threats, hazardous waste, diesel PM, traffic density, cleanup sites and lead.
- The population characteristic indicators most prevalent are asthma, low birth weight, educational attainment, linguistic isolation and housing cost burden.

# Spanish Language Focus Group – December 8



Hosted in partnership with United through Education –  
Familias Unidas.

## 14. ¿Cual es su estrategia preferida para mejorar la salud?







## Key Concerns Expressed by the Group:

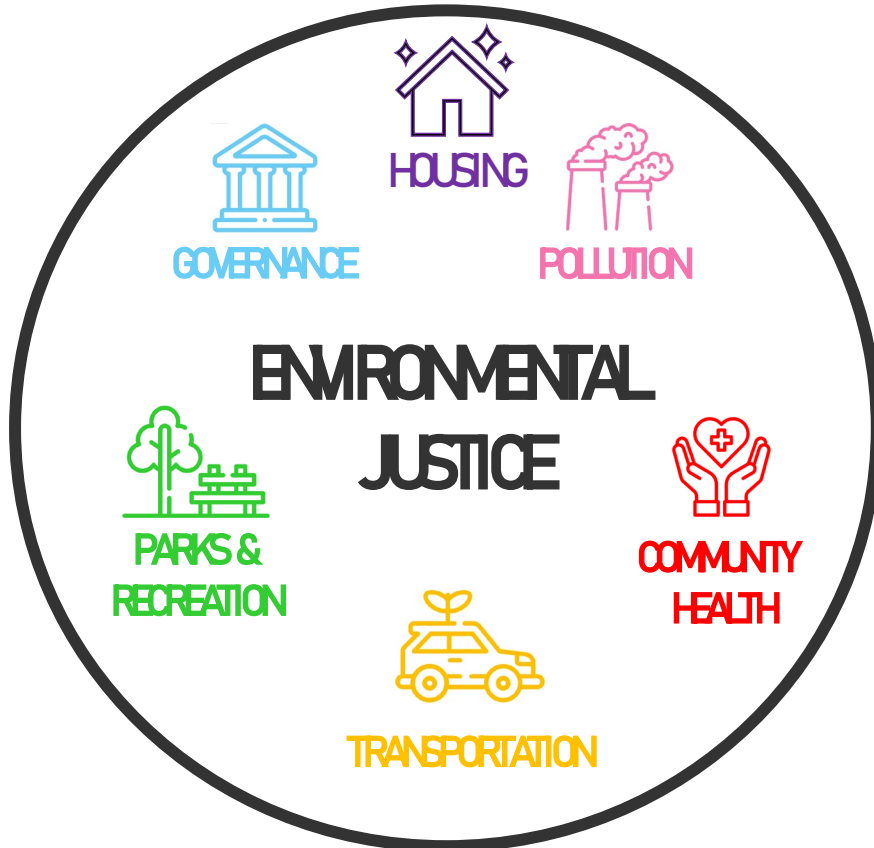
- Lack of affordable housing
- Too much pollution
- Long wait times for scheduling medical care
- Desire for more trees and green infrastructure
- Desire for more housing assistance programs, nutritional assistance programs, and partnerships with local organizations

# Environmental Justice Goals



1. Minimize public health and environmental impacts of hazardous or solid waste and groundwater threats
2. Reduce traffic density, and improve air quality and safety
3. Promote and facilitate physical activity
4. Produce and preserve affordable housing and protect renters
5. Partner with County Health organizations to improve health outcomes
6. Promote civic engagement in public decision-making processes that affect environmental justice communities

# Format of Environmental Justice Element



# Safety Element - Wildfire Goal and Policies



Wildfire Safety Goal: Prevent the loss of life and mitigate the potential damage to structures by creating fire adaptive communities.

- Addressing construction and replacement construction in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- Ensuring additional capacity for infrastructure to respond to wildfire.
- Fuel management
- Providing shelter from smoke events.

# Next Steps



- **Draft the Goals, Policies and Objectives for Environmental Justice as well as wildfire risk based on these comments.**
- **Return to Planning Commission and HHCC on February 15, 2022** with discussion of Housing Element goals, policies, and programs.
- **Conduct additional public outreach** on the draft environmental justice policies.
- **Staff will provide further updates in early summer** on the status of these efforts.

# For More Information



- See our website at [www.welcomerwc.org](http://www.welcomerwc.org)
- Sign up for updates at [housingupdate@redwoodcity.org](mailto:housingupdate@redwoodcity.org)



**Welcome Home,  
Redwood City**

THE REDWOOD CITY HOUSING ELEMENT

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# POCKET SLIDES

