



# Environmental Justice

June 17, 2022



# Meeting Purpose

To provide an overview of the Environmental Justice Element and summarize community feedback.

Staff is requesting input on the proposed vision statement and measurements of progress.



**Welcome Home,  
Redwood City**

THE REDWOOD CITY HOUSING ELEMENT

The State of California defines environmental justice as

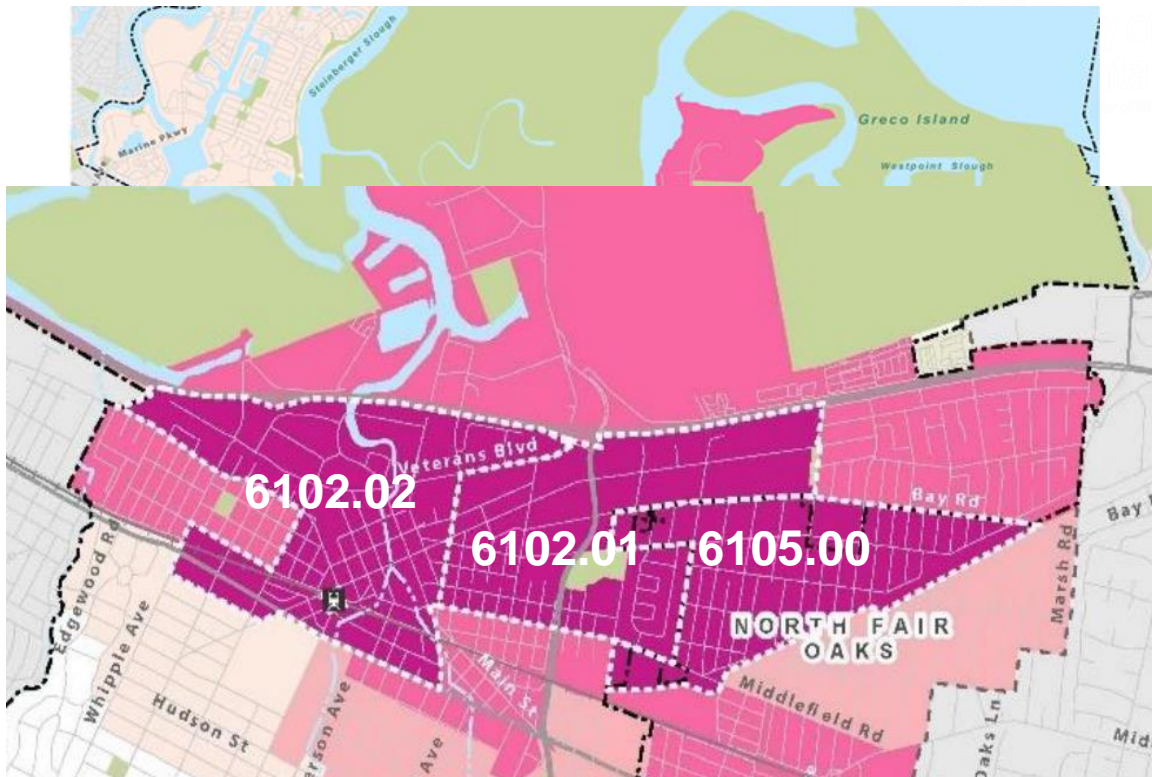
“the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”  
(Gov’t Code § 65040.12(e)).

# 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.

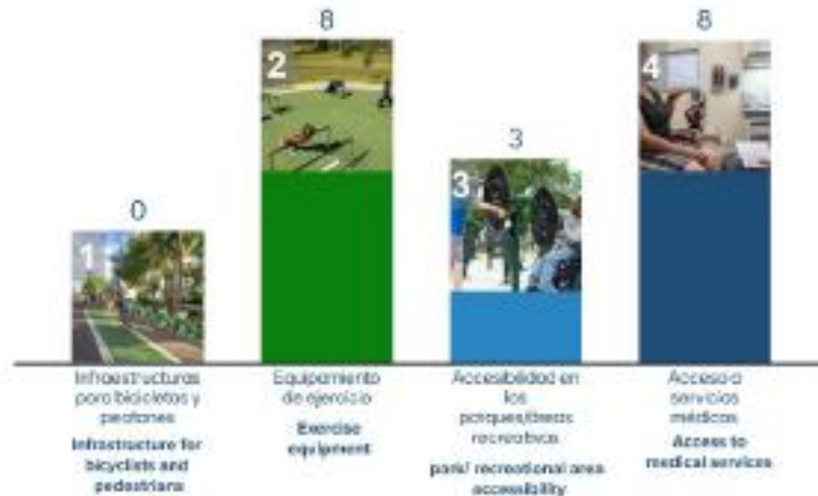


# Spanish Language Focus Group – December 8



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

# Environmental Justice Vision Statement

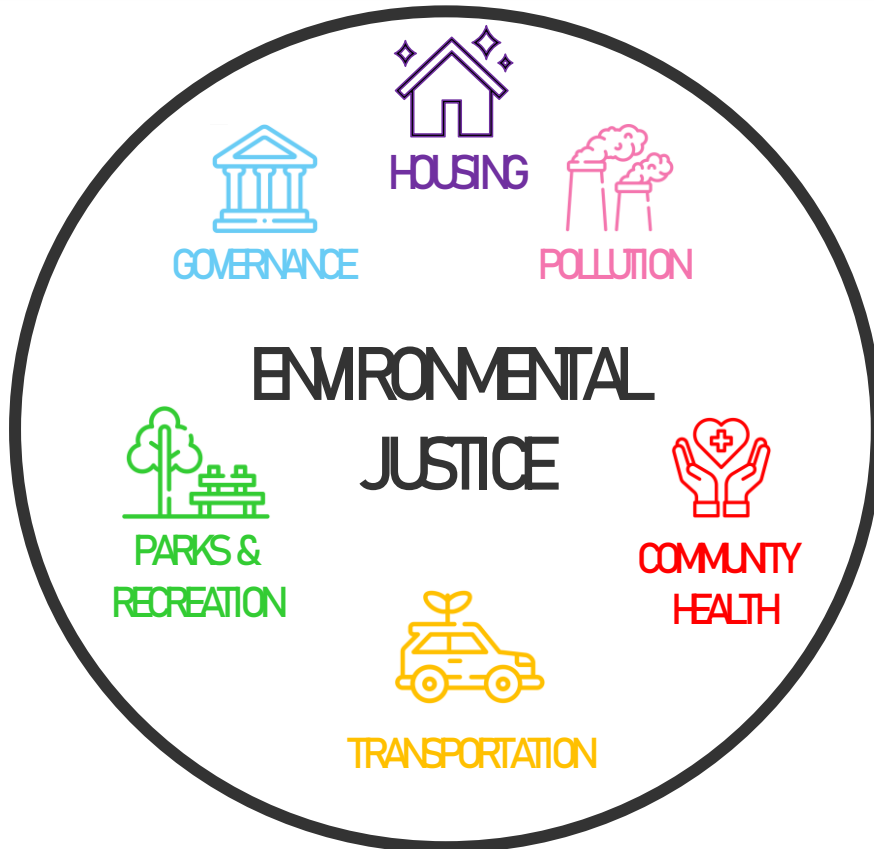


Redwood City provides an environment where all residents regardless of race, color, national origin, or income are treated fairly and receive equal protection from environmental health hazards.

We partner with community organizations to improve community health and ensure inclusion of affected communities.

Redwood City actively works to lessen pollution burdens and improve population characteristics such as health conditions, unemployment and poverty to sustain and provide healthy living opportunities.

# Format of Environmental Justice Element



HOUSING



POLLUTION



COMMUNITY  
HEALTH



TRANSPORTATION



PARKS &  
RECREATION



GOVERNANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE

# Measuring Success - Metrics



As part of a successful program to address these issues, staff will be proposing a series of metrics to measure progress in EJ communities.

- Bike Lanes – Additional miles of bike lanes provided
- Housing Burden – Number of affordable housing units approved (currently done with Housing Element reporting)
- Air Pollution – Number of trees planted, number of new TAC-producing facilities in Redwood City
- Park Improvements – Dollar amount of improvements
- Other Pollution – Staff is investigating data sources for meaningful tracking

# Questions for the Commission and Committee



1. Do you have any comments or questions about the vision statement?
2. Do you have any comments on potential metrics for measuring progress in meeting environmental justice goals?