
Overview

The City of Santee is developing its first policies on environmental justice. Environmental justice is defined by the State of California 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.”

Environmental justice will reflect the City’s commitment to reducing environmental burdens and ensuring all residents have the opportunity to access public goods and services that improve their quality of life.

Why is the City developing Environmental Justice Policies?

California State law requires every local jurisdiction to prepare and adopt a comprehensive and long-range general plan to guide its growth and physical development. The General Plan provides a consistent framework for land use and development decisions consistent with an established community vision. In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000)—the Planning for Healthy Communities Act—requiring cities and counties to address environmental justice within their general plans. Legislation also requires an update to the Safety Element of the General Plan; therefore, the City of Santee Department of Development Services is updating the Safety Element and integrating environmental justice.

What will the City's Safety and Environmental Justice Element include?

The environmental justice portion of the Safety and Environmental Justice Element will include objectives and policies that aim to:

- Reduce pollution exposure
- Improve access to public facilities
- Promote food access
- Promote safe and sanitary housing
- Promote physical activity
- Promote civic engagement
- Prioritize improvements and programs to address the needs of disadvantaged communities

Disadvantaged communities refer to the areas that are disproportionately impacted by, or vulnerable to, environmental pollution. Following [State guidance](#), the City will use the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (**CalEnviroScreen**) among other screening methods to identify disadvantaged communities. **The City will then** conduct an assessment of the City’s disadvantaged communities in order to better understand the drivers of inequality. The findings of the assessment will influence the types of objectives and policies the City will prioritize in the Environmental Justice Element.

Contact Information

For more information or to request informational materials please contact:

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