

Environmental Justice



Presenter:

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Local Government Commission

Addressing Equity Through General Plan
and Zoning Codes



**Local
Government
Commission**

Leaders for Livable Communities

CA Definition of Environmental Justice



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.”

(Government Code 65040.12)

CA Definition of Environmental Justice (cont.)

“EJ includes but is not limited to:

- A. The availability of a **healthy environment** for all people.
- B. The **deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens** for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- C. Governmental entities **engaging and providing technical assistance** to populations and communities most impacted by pollution **to promote their meaningful participation** in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process.
- D. At a minimum, the **meaningful consideration of recommendations** from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.”

(Government Code 65040.12)

EJ Element Requirements per SB 1000

Step 1: Are there “disadvantaged communities” within your jurisdiction?

Are you updating two or more general plan elements concurrently?

Step 2: If so, update or develop and adopt new goals, policies and programs in an EJ element or equivalent to do the following:

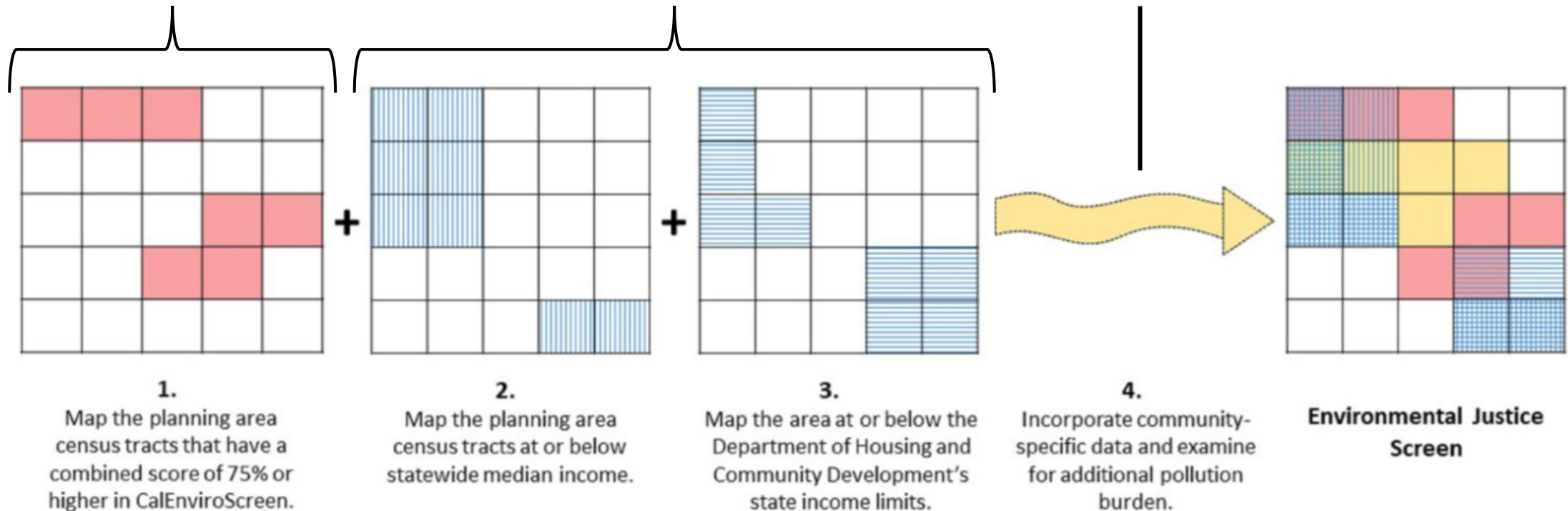
- Reduce Pollution Exposure
- Promote Public Facilities
- Promote Food Access
- Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes
- Promote Physical Activity
- Reduce Unique or Compounded Health Risks
- Promote Civic Engagement
- Prioritize Needs of Disadvantaged Communities

Disadvantaged Communities Screening Process

CalEnviroScreen Analysis

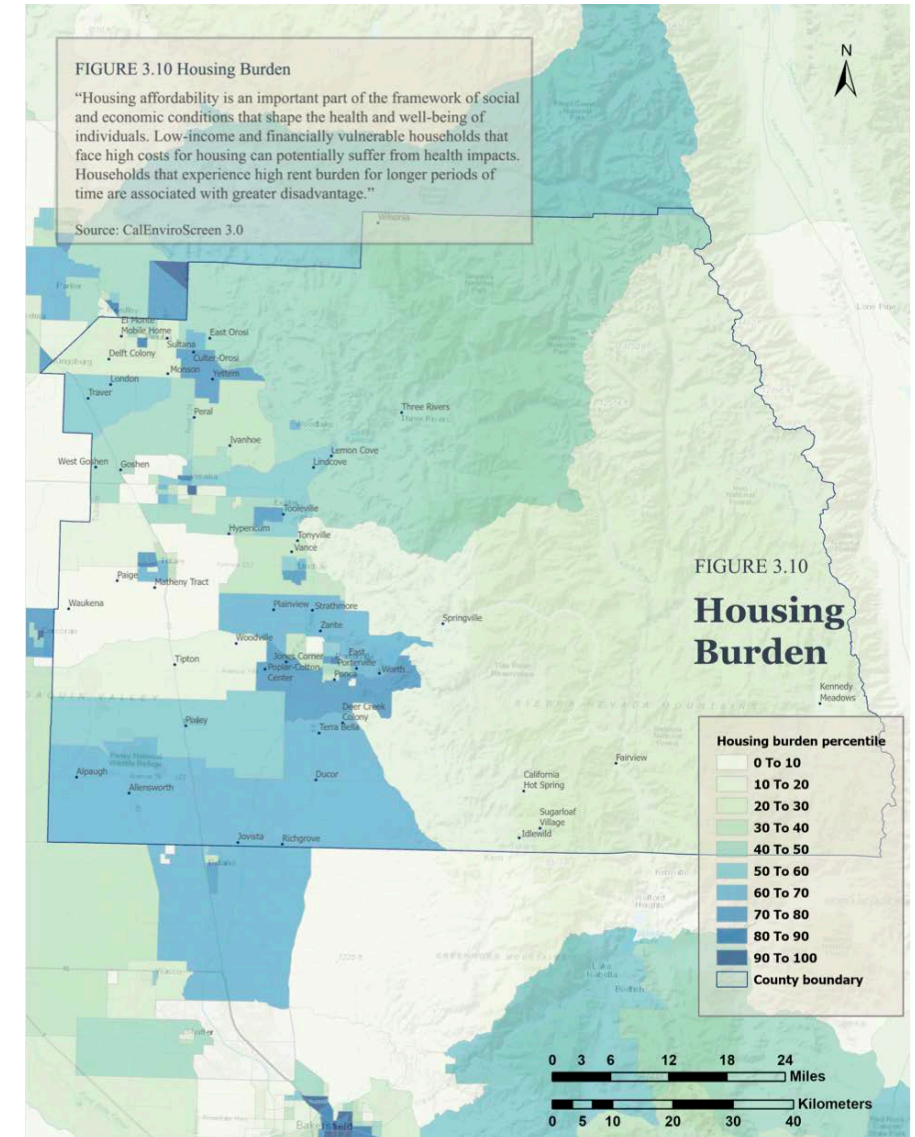
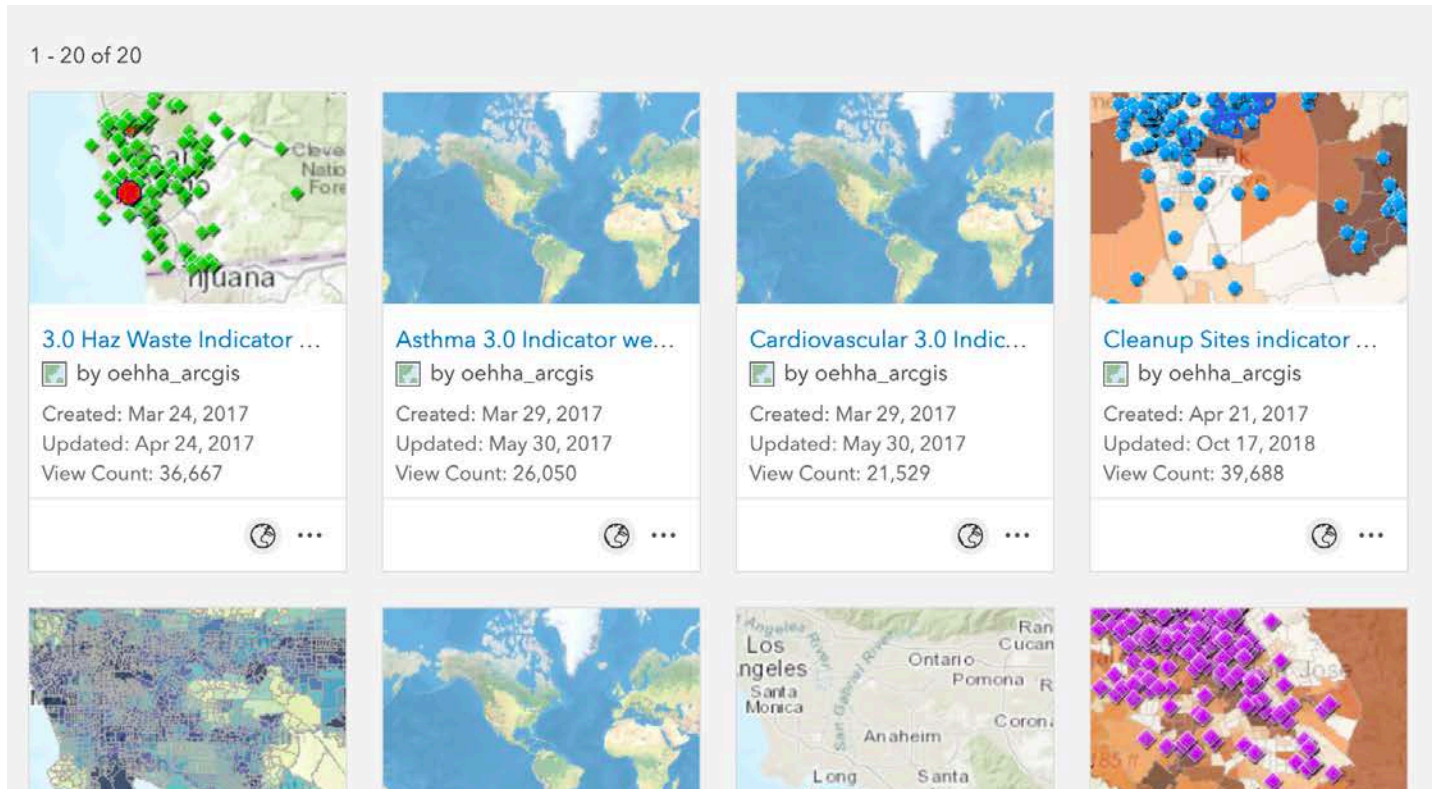
Mapping of low-income areas

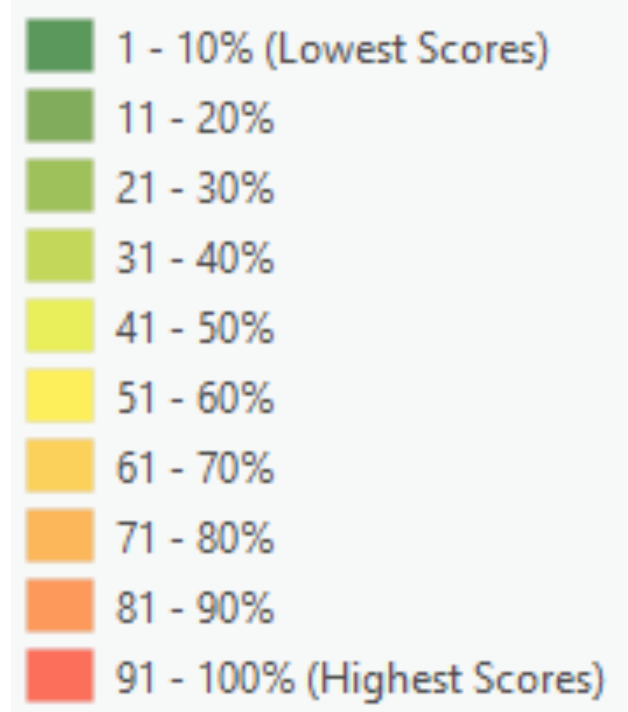
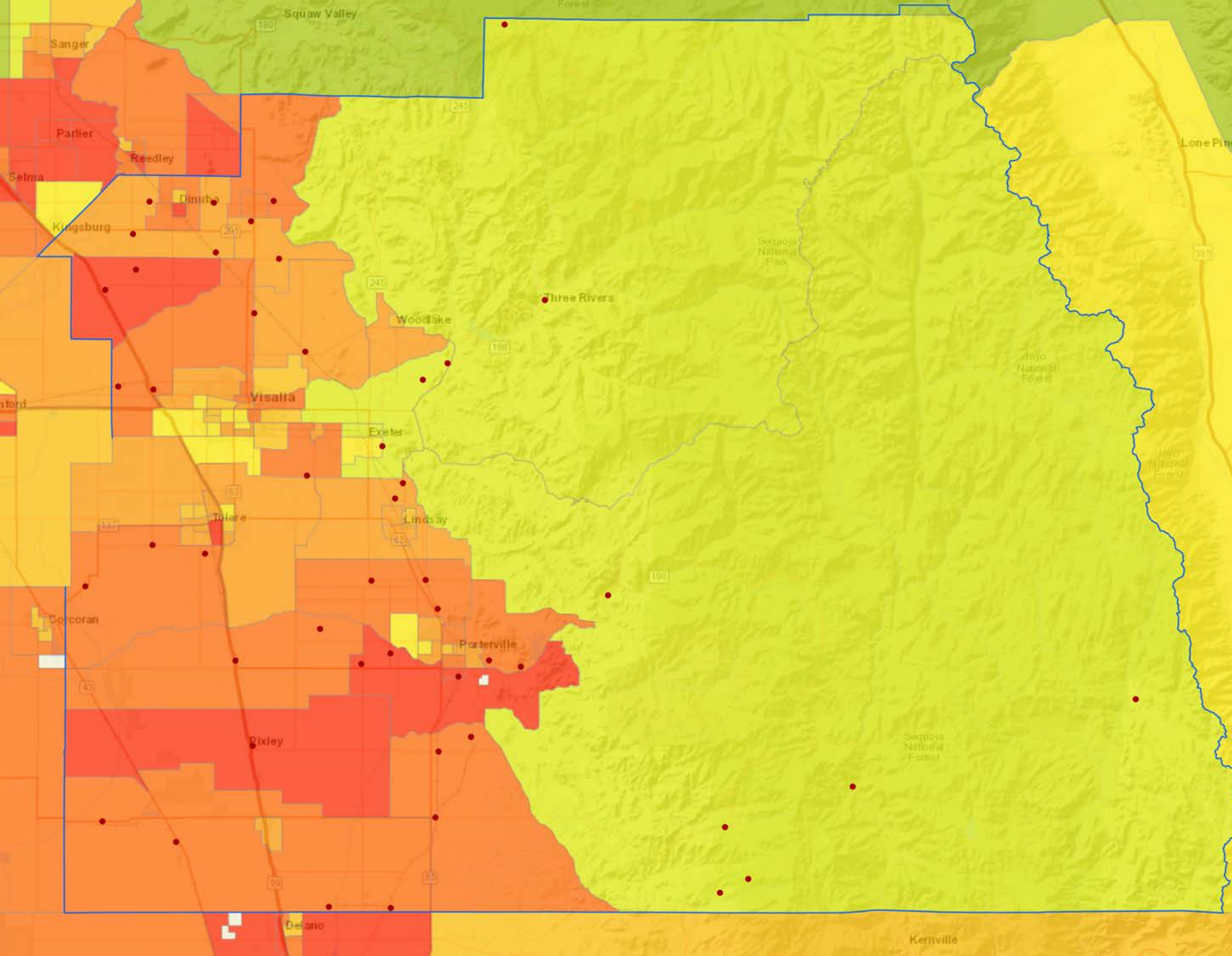
Local context +
Community engagement



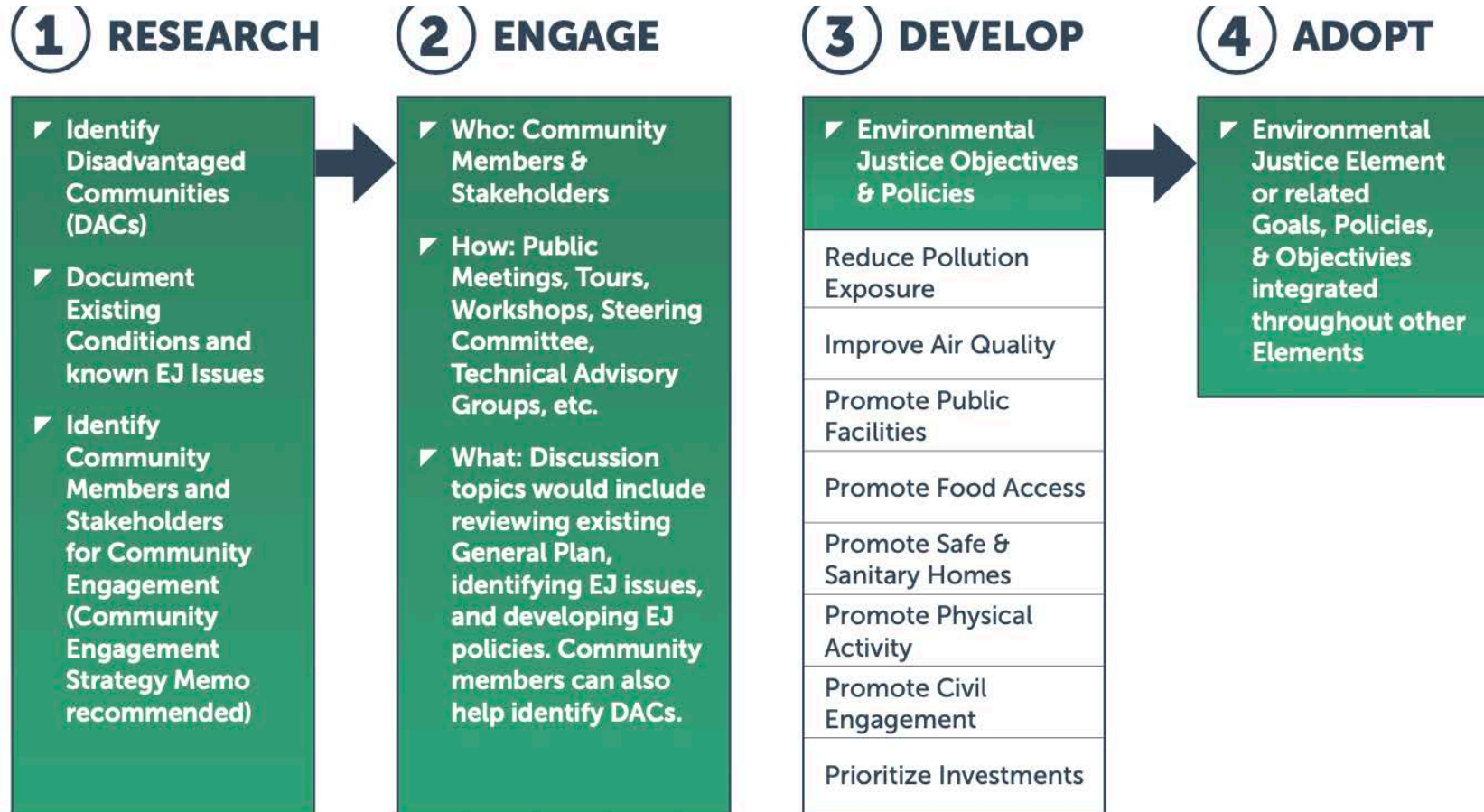
CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Indicator Maps

<https://oehha.maps.arcgis.com>





EJ Planning Process



Development approach by Tulare County:

Phase 1:

- Baseline Research
- Scoping of existing EJ policies
- Limited policy development
- Strategic civic engagement

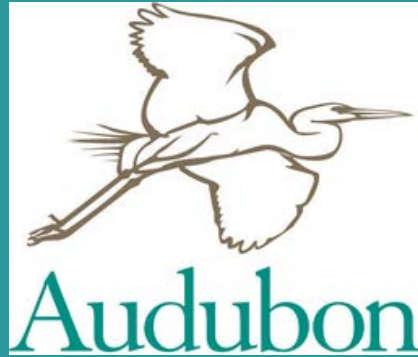
Phase 2:

- Robust public engagement
- Additional baseline research
- Policy development and modification of existing policies

CEJA Toolkit: <https://www.caleja.org/sb1000-toolkit>

Source: California Environmental Justice Alliance & PlaceWorks

Tulare County EJ Advisory Committee



Civic Engagement

Policies must be developed to increase civic engagement in the public decision-making process.

Local governments should work towards collaborating with and empowering disadvantaged communities so that they can shape the future at both the General Plan level and at more specific project and program levels.

| Level of Engagement | Examples of Engagement | Direction & Public Impact on Decision Making |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Inform | Outreach Open Houses Data Access | One-Way, No Impact -----> |
| Consult | Photo Voice Community Survey Tribal Consultation | One-Way, Some Impact <----- |
| Involve | Design Charrettes Walk Audit Focus Groups | Two-Way, Some Impact <-----> |
| Collaborate | Citizen Advisory Committee or Workgroup | Two-Way, Good Impact <=====> |
| Empower | The public makes the final planning decisions | Two-Way, High Impact <=====> |

Jurisdictions can track and measure their engagement efforts to inform future action.



Probing Questions

- How does each community resident fit in the context of the community?
- How does the resident's story align with the topic areas you're addressing in your EJ element?
- What are residents most passionate about, and how much are they willing to contribute?
- What mode of communication do they feel most comfortable with?

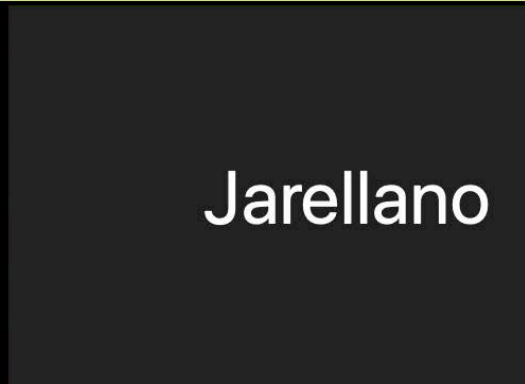
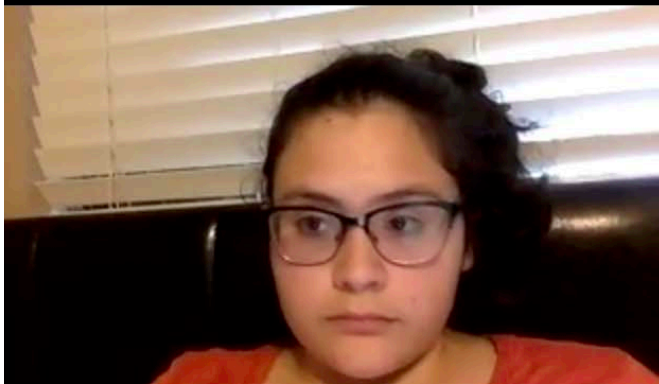
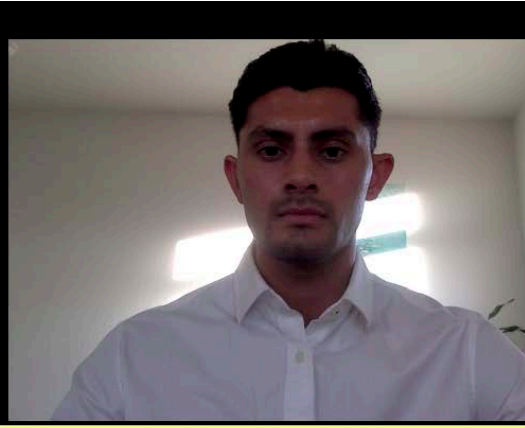
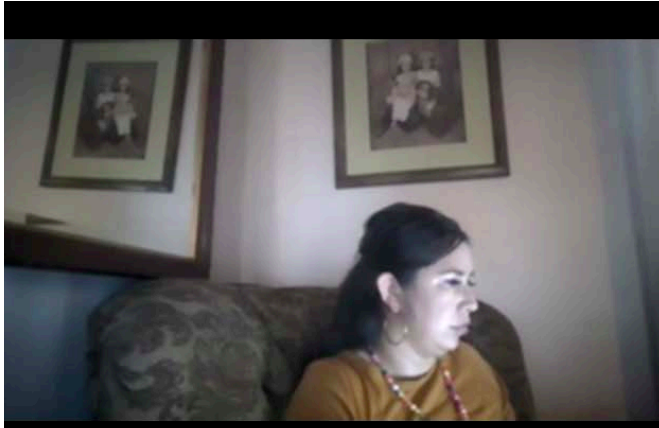
Strategies

- Create paid opportunities around civic engagement.
- Establish an EJ Advisory Committee.
- Create social and digital pathways for community participation.
- Create an ombudsman role or delegate tasks to a planner in your jurisdiction to carry out community engagement responsibilities.

Civic Engagement During COVID-19

- Notify the public of all hearing times, topics, and detailed information.
- Reach out to residents early to help make sure that residents are informed and notified through multiple channels about remote options for public hearings.
- Give ample time for public to submit comments prior to the meeting's start time.
- Provide multiple option for teleconferencing, with two-way communication
- Provide adequate telephone option-available in multiple languages and ensure that comments can be made via phone.
- During the meetings/hearing, consider using separate teleconferences lines or audio channels to meet language access needs.
- Work with CBOs to determine when it may or may not be appropriate to delay a hearing or meeting.

Source: Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability; CEJA



Q&A | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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Q & A | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OPR Guidance: <https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>
CEJA Toolkit: <https://www.caleja.org/sb1000-toolkit>

MORE QUESTIONS? SEND AN EMAIL TO SB1000@OPR.CA.GOV.