

SB 1000 Factsheet

This factsheet was produced by the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) as part of their SB 1000 Toolkit.

Overview

Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), or the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was signed into law in 2016. It requires cities and counties with “Priority Equity Communities”* to develop an environmental justice (EJ) element or integrate related EJ goals, policies, and programs into other elements of their general plans. As the long-term policy document for a city or county, a general plan establishes a shared vision for the future and guides a community’s future development pattern and policy decisions.

SB 1000 ensures EJ is a real and vital part of the planning process in order to reduce risks in communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards. By reducing pollution and improving access to health-promoting amenities and activities, SB 1000 works to create places that foster positive health outcomes for all who live, work, and play in them.

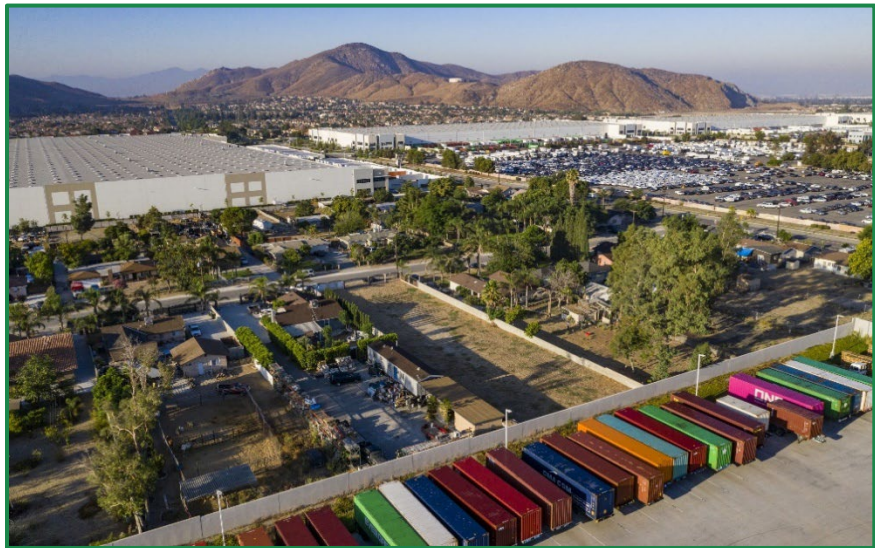
What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice is defined in California as “**the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.**”

For decades, many low-income communities and communities of color have experienced a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution because of discriminatory past and present land use and environmental policies. EJ seeks to correct these unjust legacies by reducing exposure to pollution (including air pollution and hazardous wastes) in impacted communities, and by involving residents in any decisions to improve their communities.

For more information on EJ, please see the [Principles of Environmental Justice](#).

*Priority Equity Communities” are “Disadvantaged Communities” (DACs), as defined in Senate Bill 1000. Please refer to Question 5 in the SB 1000 Primer tool for a complete definition, and please refer to the SB 1000 Toolkit’s “Data Tools” webpage for a full analysis of Priority Equity Communities in the county.



What is a Priority Equity Community?

A Priority Equity Community (PEC) is defined as “**a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation**”. To comply with SB 1000, cities and counties must conduct a technical analysis to identify any PECs within their geographic boundaries using methodology outlined in State guidance by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR). This technical analysis must be complemented with authentic engagement of residents from the identified PECs.

For more information on identifying PECs, please see OPR’s [General Plan Guidelines](#) and the Office of the Attorney General’s [Bureau of Environmental Justice](#).

SB 1000 Topic Areas

An EJ element or related EJ goals, policies, and programs in a general plan must minimally address the following topic areas to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Priority Equity Communities:

1. **Reduce pollution exposure**, such as improving air quality and water quality
2. **Promote public facilities**, such as expanding parks, libraries, health facilities, and other infrastructure
3. **Promote food access**, such as expanding the number of grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and community gardens
4. **Promote safe and sanitary homes**, such as improving home air filtration, increasing access to affordable housing, and removing asbestos, mold, and lead-based building materials
5. **Promote physical activity**, such as improving street walkability and bikeability
6. **Promote civic engagement**, such as expanding language access and adopting participatory planning methods



Ultimately, across all six of these topic areas, an EJ element or related EJ goals, policies, and objectives must prioritize improvements and programs that address the EJ priorities and needs of Priority Equity Communities.

For more information on example policies, please see OPR’s [Model EJ Policies](#) and SBCTA/SBCOG’s [SB 1000 Example Practices and Model EJ Language tools](#).

