ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Riverside County Planning Commission

General Plan Amendment 190004
Workshop
Workshop Purpose

- Informational
  - Topical information/descriptions
  - State requirements
  - Proposed direction

- Receive input
  - Planning Commission
  - Public
EJ Background

• Planning Commission (PC) – July 18, 2018
  • GPA No. 1226 (with Safety Element)
  • PC recommended approval (5-0 vote)
  • Board of Supervisors (BOS) – Fall 2018
• Received comments and direction
• GPA No. 190004 (EJ)
  • Brought back to PC for consideration - recommendation
  • BOS - final action
What is Environmental Justice?

• “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental law, regulation, and policies”

Photo resource: https://www.icafoodshelf.org
Senate Bill 1000

Include Environmental Justice in General Plan

Policy
- Reduction of health risks
- Promotion of civic engagement
- Prioritization of improvements/programs
- Identify environmentally “disadvantaged communities”

Required by State law for communities defined by mapped boundaries that meet the definition in statute
• Add EJ to existing General Plan element(s)
• Policy categories
  • Civic Engagement
  • Health Risk Reduction
    • Pollution Exposure
    • Food Access
    • Safe and Sanitary Homes
    • Physical Activity
  • Public Facilities
How will this work?

- **EJ Implementation Program**
  - Community meetings/input
  - Review for compliance with EJ
EJ Policy

- Policy: *Encourage civic engagement in the local planning process, in furtherance of environmental justice planning.*
  - Example: developers engage the community in the entitlement process

- Process: EJ Implementation Program requires developers to meet with community and collect input as part of projects
  - Municipal/Community Advisory Council review, etc.
Goals
- Enhance community participation
- Enhanced quality of life

Potential Implications
- Delay projects
- Project changes
- Project feasibility
- Increased project costs
**Affected Communities**

- **What is an EJ communities** (a.k.a Disadvantaged Communities)
  - Environmentally disadvantaged/challenged
  - e.g.:
    - Poor air quality (agricultural land dust/pesticides)
    - Poor water quality (ground water contamination)

- **Mapping EJ Communities**
  - State and regional sources (existing sources) with local adjustments
  - 2010/12 Census
  - “Living” document; revise as new information becomes available
Affected Communities

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES - EAST COUNTY

EJ Community Sources:
- UC Davis
- State
- Source Overlap

Scale: 0 to 15 miles
Community Outreach

- Thermal-Oasis Community Advisory Council – May 20, 2019
- Discussion Points:
  - Environmentally constrained and economically challenged communities; distinguish from social disadvantaged
  - Role of the community
  - Difference between development and public projects within and outside of EJ Community
Community Outreach

• Thousand Palms Community Advisory Council – May 30, 2019

• Discussion Points:
  • Community role – pre-environmental justice GPA vs. post-environmental justice GPA
  • Environmental justice issues in Eastern Coachella Valley – degraded air quality caused by Salton Sea
  • Potential private project impact from additional scrutiny – processing delays and additional costs
  • “Isn’t this just another layer of bureaucracy?”
  • Is Thousand Palms an EJ Community or are its constraints part of “quality of life”
• Thank you!
• Questions? Comments?

Riv. Co. Environmental Justice Online!

planning.rctlma.org/AP/EJ