



APPENDIX E: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Senate Bill 1000 requires the development of an Environmental Justice (EJ) element or the inclusion of EJ goals, policies, and objectives in other elements of the General Plan. The bill aims to encourage local jurisdictions and community stakeholders throughout California to proactively plan for and address environmental justice concerns at the outset when developing all components of a General Plan.

The Environmental Justice Element or integrated EJ policies must reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by addressing the following topics (Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, 2017):

- **Pollution Exposure and Air Quality.** Policies to prevent and mitigate exposure to hazardous materials and air pollution, remove and restrict toxic pollutants, and protect sensitive populations within and around disadvantaged communities.
- **Public Facilities.** Policies to promote facilities such as infrastructure, parks, community facilities, active transportation, roads and trails, and health-care facilities and ensure that EJ communities have equitable access to such facilities.
- **Food Access.** Policies to promote healthy food access for EJ communities through programs and projects, such as grocery supermarkets, local agriculture, and mobile vending.
- **Safe and Sanitary Homes.** Policies to ensure healthy and safe housing, such as addressing the presence of lead-based building materials and asbestos; and policies to increase access to housing, including affordable housing, by eliminating barriers to fair housing and instituting measures to prevent the displacement of low income and vulnerable residents and families.
- **Physical Activity.** Policies to promote spaces for physical activity and ensure access, connectivity, and equitable distribution of physical activity opportunities—such as pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly streetscape environments.
- **“Civil” or Community Engagement.** Policies and best practices for promoting equitable, inclusive, and meaningful community engagement in local planning processes that benefit EJ communities. The chapter includes ways to increase participation, inclusion, and accessibility for communities that are often not included in planning and land use decisions. The phrase “community engagement” will be used throughout this toolkit in place of “civil engagement” to distinguish this process from other traditional forms of public engagement, such as voting.



- Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities.** This includes policies to identify and reverse systemic funding inequities, such as concentrations of public resources that divert public investments away from disadvantaged communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that benefit EJ communities by promoting equitable development, ensuring that disadvantaged communities are the primary beneficiaries of investments and that projects and programs do not increase toxic exposures, reduce affordable housing stock, or displace residents and/or local businesses.

The following table summarizes policies and implementation strategies that address one of the above topics. These policies and strategies are marked by the letters “EJ” in the General Plan. In the case that a policy or implementation strategy is modified or adjusted within the General Plan Chapters and the change or adjustment is omitted from this Appendix the verbiage found within the General Plan Chapters will be the controlling language and supersede the verbiage found in this Appendix.

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-1.1.13 Utility District Expansion. Expansion of County-controlled sewer district boundaries is discouraged in the absence of public health considerations for existing development, and the expansion (through annexation) of special district, or municipal, sewer or water boundaries, onto Types 1 and 3 Commercial Agricultural Land is especially discouraged. Exceptional conditions that may support decisions to allow expansion of sewer districts to serve existing development, involve areas which have failing sewage disposal systems which threaten public health, safety and welfare, or the environment, and are subject to LAFCO approval where required. Any sewer lines allowed on commercial agricultural lands would need to be located well below tillable soil depths and with sufficient construction and buffers from pipelines to ensure public health and safety.
Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-1.1k Support the use of properties in urban areas for urban agriculture, where conducted in a manner which does not adversely impact adjacent residential neighborhoods and development.
Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-1.4.4 Windbreaks. Windbreaks designed to reduce or eliminate the hazard of pesticide drift or other use conflicts based on the prevailing wind direction, should be incorporated into buffers, as warranted and feasible.
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-1.4.9 Farmworker Housing Approval. Recognizing that farmworker housing is essential to the viability of local agriculture, and that there is a shortage of safe and affordable farmworker housing, allow standard Employee



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
		<p>Housing Act (EHA) Projects, including Streamlined EHA Projects (outside the Coastal Zone only), within the Agriculture and Commercial Agricultural zone districts as a principal permitted agricultural uses, consistent with the EH licensing and permit approval procedures specified in SCCC 13.10. Allow Small Farmworker Housing Projects as a principally permitted use on CA and A parcels outside the Coastal Zone, and as a conditional use on parcels within the Coastal Zone, subject to applicable permit approvals provided in the SCCC. Require Site Development Permit review for all farmworker housing projects to ensure appropriate siting, buffering, and other objective development standards and conditions of approval as applicable.</p>
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	<p>ARC-1.4.11 Pajaro Valley Development Reserve for Affordable Rental Farmworker Housing (ARFH) Projects. For sites located outside of the Coastal Zone only, a Pajaro Valley Development Reserve has been mapped and established to allow development of no more than 200 total units of affordable, multi-family rental housing for farmworker households by qualified non-profit housing providers “ARFH Projects”) within certain qualifying agricultural areas of unincorporated Pajaro Valley, as further set forth in SCCC 13.10. The ARFH Projects may be allowed by the County as a conditional use on qualifying agricultural lands in CA or A zoning districts subject to CEQA review and approval by the Board of Supervisors. The Board may in the future take action to adopt policy and regulatory amendments to increase the reserve to more than 200 units, if determined to be warranted and in the broader interests of support for the agricultural economy. Each ARFH project is estimated to consist of approximately 40 to 60 multi-family dwelling units, therefore the initial 200-unit capacity of the Development Reserve is expected to be sufficient for four to five ARFH projects in total. ARFH projects are not EHA Projects.</p>
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	<p>ARC-1.4b Encourage wind shelter from pesticide drift or dust for existing housing in agricultural areas. (Responsibility: Agricultural Commissioner, Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission)</p>
“Civil” or Community Engagement	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	<p>ARC-1.4c Create, make public on the County website, and distribute bi-lingual materials to agricultural landowners, managers and lessees regarding opportunities and applicable development standards for farmworker housing, in order to support the development of farmworker housing in the community. (Responsibility: Planning Department)</p>



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-3.1.8 Chemicals Within Sensitive Habitats. Maintain regulations that restrict the use of insecticides, herbicides, or any toxic chemical substance in sensitive habitats, except when the habitat itself is threatened, an emergency has been declared, when a substantial risk to public health and safety exists, including maintenance for flood control by the Department of Public Works, or when such use is authorized pursuant to a permit issued by the Agricultural Commissioner. The responsible use of herbicides to eradicate invasive, non-native plants can be an appropriate management action in Sensitive Habitats.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-4.2b Continue to monitor surface water quantity and quality to locate and identify water quality problems arising from point and non-point sources of pollution affecting public health and the environment. (Responsibility: Water Purveyors, Environmental Health, Regional Water Quality Control Board)
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-4.4b Continue to conduct a comprehensive monitoring program to assess long-term trends in surface and groundwater quality and to identify water quality problems arising from point and non-point sources of pollution affecting public health and the environment. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Public Works, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Agencies)
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-4.4f Work cooperatively with the State Parks Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the University of California and other relevant agencies to initiate water quality restoration programs for coastal lagoons that will restore and improve natural drainage and saltwater balances, protect the natural habitat, and mitigate public health hazards. (Responsibility: Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources; Department of Public Works,; Planning Department,; City of Santa Cruz; City of Capitola)
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-4.5h. Continue to work with the PVWMA to eliminate overdraft and saltwater intrusion through implementation of their Basin Management Plan. (Responsibility: Planning Department, PVWMA, Environmental Health, Board of Supervisors, Resource Conservation District)
Public Facilities	Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element	ARC-9.1.7 Open Space for Tribal Resources. Consult with Native American tribes to identify tribal lands and cultural resources on public lands that may be appropriate to preserve as open spaces pursuant to Government Code 65560(b)(6), and to identify appropriate strategies to preserve confidentiality regarding the location and use of these resources. Consult with Native American tribes prior to designating any lands as open space.



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	<p>OBJECTIVE BE-1.2 CORRIDORS + CONNECTIONS To coordinate land use and transportation planning to plan for population and job growth along key transportation corridors that can accommodate increased building intensity in order to support land use patterns with less traffic congestion and more mobility.</p>
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	<p>BE-1.2.2 High-Quality Transit Corridor Land Use. In Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) opportunity areas located within one-half mile of high-quality transit corridors, encourage new development to include compact housing, infill development, mixed use commercial development, and commercial activity centers, with associated public facilities and services land uses as needed. Do not support General Plan or zone map amendments in these transit corridor areas to less intensive land use designations or zone districts.</p>
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	<p>BE-1.2.5 Main Street Land Use. Along Main Streets where pedestrians are prioritized, encourage ground floor retail, restaurant, and other “active” commercial land uses that serve to enliven pedestrian activity. Encourage infill mixed use development to increase building intensity and support economic vitality of Main Street businesses.</p>
Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Built Environment	<p>BE-1.2.6 Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. New development adjacent to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) should complement its recreational and transportation functions and should provide direct pedestrian access to the trail. Commercial development should be designed with public orientation toward the trail, or an option to modify the site to add this public orientation in the future.</p>
Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Built Environment	<p>BE-1.2.7 Mobility Hubs. Encourage the economic viability and safety of mobility hubs by encouraging a diversity of high building intensity land uses that facilitate an active hub area during both the daytime and evening.</p>
Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Built Environment	<p>OBJECTIVE BE-1.4 COMPLETE NEIGHBORHOODS To ensure that residents and visitors within the USL and RSL have convenient access to shopping and services within one-half mile (15-minute) walkshed to meet daily needs in order to reduced reliance on car travel and enhance opportunities for neighborhood mobility, social connections, and healthy lifestyles.</p>
Physical Activity	Built Environment	<p>BE-1.4.4 Physical Recreation Facilities. Support private gyms, studios, and public recreational facilities in neighborhood locations that are convenient and accessible by walking and bicycling.</p>



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-1.4.5 Health Services. Support health services in locations that are convenient and accessible by walking, bicycling and public transit. Cluster major health facility land uses so that those seeking medical care can travel to one area for multiple medical services.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Physical Activity, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-1.4.6 Access to Nature. In residential and commercial development areas, facilitate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure connecting development to nearby public trails and parks, as well as alternatives to public parks such as parklets, temporary parks, and privately-owned public spaces.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Food Access	Built Environment	BE-1.4.7 Eliminate Food Deserts. Encourage small markets and grocery stores to locate in “food deserts” where there are not currently healthy food options within a one-half mile radius. If the market cannot support economic viability of a traditional grocery store within a one-half mile walkshed, encourage neighborhood corner stores, scheduled food truck visits, and farmer’s markets selling fresh produce and other healthy foods.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Food Access	Built Environment	BE-1.4.8 Urban Agriculture. Allow ancillary food cultivation as part of park/recreation, residential, public/quasi-public, and commercial developments, where feasible and appropriate. Allow animal keeping with conditions dependent on parcel size and location, as well as type and number of animals. Encourage urban agriculture as an appropriate temporary use on vacant lots.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Food Access	Built Environment	BE-1.4a Map one-half mile walksheds from grocery stores, schools, health services, parks, gyms, and other neighborhood gathering places, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged communities. Identify gaps in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, neighborhood commercial land uses, healthy food options, and health and fitness opportunities. In areas where “15-minute neighborhoods” do not exist, redesignate/rezone parcels or apply a combining zone district to allow for neighborhood-scale nonresidential land uses, and identify grant opportunities to fund improved pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure and access to nature. (Responsibility: County Administrative Office, Planning and Public Works Departments, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-1.4d Consider providing incentives for development projects that provide community benefits related to access to healthy food options and access to nature. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-1.4e Identify opportunities to convert public right of way into neighborhood parklets, especially in neighborhoods without public parks. (Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Departments)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Food Access	Built Environment	BE-1.4f Support urban agriculture uses for food production and greenscaping, regulate safety and aesthetics of urban agriculture, and allow urban agriculture in appropriate locations. (Responsibility: CDID, Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)
Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-1.5.1 Regional Sustainable Communities Strategy and Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Coordinate with AMBAG and SCCRTC to maintain consistency between local land use and regional transportation planning objectives so that development occurs in transportation-efficient locations as identified in the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy/Metropolitan Transportation Plan (SCS/MTP).
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-1.5.5 Public Facility and Service Extensions. Coordinate public service planning with cities, special districts, and LAFCO to ensure sufficient and efficient service delivery to all communities. Program the timing and location of public service capacity expansions or extensions to support projected levels of development and to maintain economic, social, and environmental quality.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-1.5f Review special district capital improvement programs, infrastructure master plans and proposed infrastructure projects for consistency with the County General Plan/LCP , and to ensure sufficient and efficient service delivery to disadvantaged communities (per California Government Code section 65402(c)). (Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Departments, Planning Commission)
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Built Environment	BE-2.3.10 (EJ) Unpermitted Residential Structures. Recognize that there are existing unpermitted structures that are providing attainable housing for Santa Cruz County residents. Promote preservation of these structures through programs such as the “Safe Structures Program” (also known as the Limited Immunity Amnesty Program) to allow a legal pathway for health and safety upgrades to these units.
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Built Environment	BE-2.3i Implement the Safe Structures Program with safety inspections for structures that cannot feasibly be modified to meet current SCCC building and zoning standards. Structures completing the Safe Structures Program receive a certificate and are marked as a low priority for code



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
		enforcement, and residential occupancy is allowed even though the units are not fully permitted as compliant with all applicable codes. (Responsibility: Planning Department)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-3.1.6 Service Commercial and Light Industrial (C-S). The C-S designation characterizes a range of commercial services and light industrial activities including assembly and manufacturing; commercial service facilities such as auto repair, contractors' yards, warehousing and storage; and outdoor sales facilities, such as nurseries, lumber yards, and boat and auto sales. Ancillary land uses are allowed including office and retail uses associated with items produced on site, and services for employees such as restaurants and cafes, personal services, and child care. C-S uses are generally most appropriate within the USL in locations with access to appropriate routes for freight and goods movement, where the impacts of noise, traffic, and other nuisances and hazards associated with such uses will not adversely affect other land uses. C-S uses with high employment density and managed impact to neighborhoods may be appropriate in employment-based activity centers. Low-impact C-S uses with large land requirements, and which do not rely upon urban infrastructure, may be more appropriate in rural areas along appropriate routes for freight and goods movement, outside of the USL/RSL.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-3.1.7 Heavy Industrial (I). The I designation characterizes heavy industrial activities such as lumber mills and major manufacturing plants. Such I uses are appropriate in locations with access to appropriate routes for freight and goods movement, separated from residential neighborhoods and activity centers, where it has been determined through environmental review that the noise, traffic, and other nuisances and hazards associated with such uses will not adversely affect other land uses. The I designation does not include quarries.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-3.1c Require buffer zones between new industrial facilities and sensitive land uses, following distances recommended in the California Air Resources Board Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective. Ensure that industrial development does not adversely impact water supply watersheds. Do not allow heavy industrial uses in the Bonny Doon or North Coast Planning Areas, but consider light industrial uses with appropriate permits and mitigation measures to ensure no significant adverse environmental impacts. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Water Districts)



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-3.3.10 Food Processing Industry. Accommodate food processing, wholesaling, and distribution facilities within Santa Cruz County to connect local agriculture to markets such as retailers, restaurants, schools, hospitals, and other institutions.
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Built Environment	BE-4.1.5 Landscape Design. Establish standards for landscaping associated with new construction and major renovation projects. Landscape design should relate to the building and the site design, and trees and plants should be appropriate to the site conditions with consideration for growth pattern, solar access, maintenance, screening for privacy, safety, and water conservation. Existing mature trees and native vegetation should be preserved as appropriate. Fencing, walls, site furniture, and lighting should be integral and compatible elements of the site design.
Safe and Sanitary Homes	Built Environment	BE-4.1.7 Residential/Nonresidential Transitions. Provide appropriate transitions and buffers between residential and nonresidential properties to protect residential access to light and air, and to consider privacy as feasible.
Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.2 Design with the Environment. To Encourage building and site designs that conserve energy and water, reduce material waste and carbon emissions, and support a healthy indoor and outdoor environment.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.2.6 Water Conservation. Encourage development projects to conserve water with efficient fixtures indoors and sustainable site elements outdoors such as drought-tolerant plants, rainwater catchment systems, graywater irrigation systems, and other strategies.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.2.7 Energy Conservation. Development should enable passive solar heating and lighting through building location, orientation and massing wherever practicable. Passive solar should be a priority for energy conservation in building design. Further energy conservation should be achieved with energy-efficient building envelopes, lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems, and renewable energy design components.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Safe and Sanitary Homes	Built Environment	BE-4.2.8 Healthy Indoor Environment. Ensure that building regulations provide for safe and healthy indoor air quality through moisture control and ventilation and reduction of exposure to lead, mold and other indoor health hazards. Encourage the use of toxin-free building materials.



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.2.9 Construction Material Conservation. Reduce the volume of construction waste going to landfills through promoting retention and re-use of existing structures, efficient design and construction techniques, use of recycled-content materials, and structure deconstruction instead of demolition.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.3.3 Deprioritize Vehicles. Wherever possible, locate parking lots behind buildings. Screen parking lots located adjacent to residential parcels with fences, walls, and/or landscaping. On corridors where pedestrians, bicycles and/or transit are prioritized over vehicles, encourage bicycle storage, shared parking structures, and park and ride lots.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.3.4 Accessible Streetscape. Along streets where pedestrians are prioritized, ensure that all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements are met or exceeded and consider Universal Design Criteria as well as design strategies for those with hearing and visual or reading impairments. Provide ample seating and wider sidewalks to support streets that are safe, comfortable, and convenient for everyone.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.3.5 Public Safety and Community Design. Enhance public safety in neighborhoods, centers, streets, and public spaces by providing street-fronting uses (“eyes on the street”), adequate lighting and sight lines, and features that cultivate a sense of community. Provide adequate public space for social/physical distancing during public health emergencies.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.3.7 Green Space. Encourage publicly accessible green plazas, landscaping, and open spaces to be incorporated into the site design of new development projects in order to improve aesthetics, create more shade, increase pedestrian activity, and promote sustainability through the application of on-site prefiltration of stormwater. Encourage residential projects to provide public plazas or other types of open spaces that are accessible to the public or contribute visually to the public sphere.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Built Environment	BE-4.3.9 Urban Greening of Streets, Parking Lots, and Development Sites. Incorporate street trees to soften the linear appearance of streets, sidewalks, and building planes and provide shade at regular intervals to improve the pedestrian experience and the scenic qualities of corridors. Select appropriate trees and locate to increase shade for parking areas, buildings, and the public realm. Use trees to visually break up building facades, screen private spaces, create buffers between streets and pedestrian areas, and



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
		soften scale differences between buildings, with the co-benefit of reducing the urban heat island effect.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	OBJECTIVE BE-5.3 DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES To ensure that disadvantaged communities in unincorporated Santa Cruz County are identified and targeted for prioritized assistance in provision of services and facilities.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-5.3.1 Disadvantaged Community Definition. In Santa Cruz County, “disadvantaged communities” include communities that are defined as such by HSC section 39711, and by state agencies such as the California Air Resources Board, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Water Resources Agency, or Census tracts where the majority of the population are low income, poverty, or minority as defined by Census data or local income surveys. Communities disproportionately impacted by unmapped environmental factors such as water quality impacts, low-efficiency/high-cost water and sewage treatment, and air pollution from woodburning fireplaces and stoves, or unmapped flood hazards may also be considered disadvantaged. Fringe, legacy, and island communities may or may not be considered disadvantaged communities.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Safe and Sanitary Homes	Built Environment	BE-5.3.2 Protect Disadvantaged Communities. Ensure that future improvements in disadvantaged communities will not produce negative impacts on the community, such as an increase in toxic exposures, a net loss of affordable housing, loss of open space or access to parkland or community gardens, or the displacement of residents and local legacy businesses.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-5.3.3 Target Uses and Development. Encourage uses and development in disadvantaged communities that serve to improve circumstances for these communities, such as increased affordable housing, employment opportunities, environmental remediation, public infrastructure including the addition of parks and open space, and community services.
Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-5.3.4 Services for Legacy Communities. For each legacy community identified as a disadvantaged community, ensure that water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, and structural fire protection needs are met. If these needs are not met, seek funding to extend services to these communities.



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-5.3.5 Services for Fringe and Island Communities. Encourage and evaluate where appropriate annexations of non-agricultural land for fringe and island communities to incorporated cities. Prior to annexation, the County should assist cities in provision of services for fringe and island communities within city spheres of influence.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities, “Civil” or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-5.3a Collaborate with public, private, and philanthropic entities to facilitate environmental justice-related investments in or programs benefiting disadvantaged communities, such as ensuring access to affordable housing, quality affordable medical care, healthy food options, parks, utility infrastructure and street safety improvements. (Responsibility: Planning, Public Works, Parks, Public Health, and Environmental Health Departments, County Administrative Office)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-5.3b For each mapped disadvantaged legacy community, analyze water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, and structural fire protection needs or deficiencies, or identify programs that would address needs. (Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Departments)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Built Environment	BE-5.3c Analyze potential funding mechanisms that could make the extension of services, facilities or programs to disadvantaged fringe, island or legacy communities, as financially feasible. Seek grants and philanthropic funds. (Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Departments)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Built Environment	BE-5.3d Annually review mapped disadvantaged communities in reference to any changes in city spheres of influence and coordinate with cities regarding services for fringe and island disadvantaged communities. (Responsibility: Planning, Public Works, and Parks Departments; Water, Sewer, and School Districts)
“Civil” or Community Engagement	Built Environment	OBJECTIVE BE-6.3 OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT To actively promote public engagement in land use development and decision making, especially in disadvantaged communities.
“Civil” or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3.2 Community Meetings. Conduct community meetings to discuss pending special area plans, policy updates, and major development projects, with an emphasis on gathering public input at the beginning of the planning process to maximize opportunities for participation. Major development projects (requiring a public hearing by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors) must provide



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
		evidence of neighborhood meeting(s) as part of application submittal.
"Civil" or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3.3 Community Partnerships. Foster partnerships with community-based organizations to ensure that all affected members of the community learn about and have an opportunity to make public comments regarding development projects and policies. Partner with organizations that have relationships, trust, and cultural competency with target communities to outreach for local initiatives and issues.
"Civil" or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3.4 Accessible Public Engagement. Conduct outreach and public meetings with communication methods that convey complex and/or technical information in an easily understandable manner. To the extent possible, conduct outreach and meetings at times and places designed to engage a wide variety of participants. Facilitate meetings and workshops using diverse methods that can engage all participants and can appeal to multiple learning styles. Ensure that public meetings accommodate attendees with physical disabilities.
"Civil" or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3.5 Alternatives to Public Meetings. Recognize that members of the public may not be able to attend public meetings or events in person. Ensure that alternative public comment and participation options are available, such as electronic platforms.
"Civil" or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3.6 Targeted Outreach to Disadvantaged and Multilingual Communities. When a proposed development project or policy may impact a disadvantaged or multilingual community, conduct enhanced outreach to that community. In particular, consider outreach to these communities regarding topics such as affordable housing, employment opportunities, environmental remediation, and improved public infrastructure and services.
"Civil" or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3c Maintain a list of neighborhood, environmental and business group leaders and contacts, and actively develop relationships with these contacts as community partners. These contacts should include representatives of traditionally underrepresented groups in the public process, such as farmworkers, English as a second language speakers, youth, UCSC and Cabrillo College students, and working-age singles and families. Inform community partners about proposed development projects and policies. (Responsibility: Planning Department)



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
"Civil" or Community Engagement	Built Environment	BE-6.3d As appropriate for specific projects, organize outreach events, and conduct surveys directly to specific disadvantaged communities. Require outreach in the languages that are most commonly spoken in the community. (Responsibility: Planning Department)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-1.1.7 Sustainable Communities Strategy. Work with AMBAG to maintain consistency between local land use and transportation planning and the regional MTP/SCS to meet regional greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Coordinate on the definition of Opportunity Areas as well as determination of project consistency with the SCS.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Access + Mobility	AM-1.1.8 Clean Air Vehicles. Incentivize and support electric and clean air vehicles through charging infrastructure, priority parking, and other measures.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Access + Mobility	AM-1.1.1g Work with regional and local organizations to fund and site new electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at public facilities, work with property owners to install charging stations in existing parking lots, and require new development to provide EV charging infrastructure, including pre-wiring of buildings, and prioritized parking for clean air vehicles. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Public Works)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Access + Mobility	AM-2.1.1 Layered Network. Develop a layered network approach to streets to design a system that creates a high-quality experience for intended priority users based on land use as well as network connectivity.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Access + Mobility	AM-2.1a Develop and regularly update a County Active Transportation Plan that identifies and prioritizes infrastructure needs for bicyclists and pedestrians with special consideration and priority for safety. Coordinate the Plan with the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Department (Parks Department) planning process to incorporate greenways, as defined by Civil Code Section 816.52, and incorporate recommendations from existing plans such as the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan, Town Plans, Safe Routes to School, the Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan, and the Pleasure Point Commercial Corridor Portola Drive Streetscape Concepts. (Responsibility: CDID)



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Access + Mobility	AM-2.1b Update, maintain, and enforce the County Design Criteria to establish standards for street development that provide adequate access and safety provisions. Specifically, the Design Criteria will be updated to be consistent with the layered network approach identified as part of this Access and Mobility Element, as well as the Complete Streets Act of 2008 and the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Public Works)
Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Access + Mobility	AM-2.2.1 Vision Zero. Address system design, vehicle technology, and enforcement to reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-2.2.2 Safe Routes to School. Address existing safety issues around youth transport, encourage growth of active transportation to schools in order to reduce vehicle trips, and support increased funding for school bus transit.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-2.2.3 Infrastructure Safety. Plan for and program infrastructure that promotes a safe means of travel for all users along the right-of-way, such as sidewalks, shared use paths, bicycle lanes, and paved shoulders.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-2.3.2 Facility Design. Regularly review sidewalk and bicycle facility standards in the County Roadway Design Criteria to incorporate best practices for encouraging active transportation use.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-1.3b Retrofit existing intersections and sidewalks to be compatible with ADA standards and remove existing barriers to movement. (Responsibility: Public Works)
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-2.3d Paths and pedestrian facilities, both on and off road, should include user amenities such as shade trees, benches, and lighting. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Public Works, Parks Department)
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-2.3f Partner with local school districts and non-profit organizations to improve access to bicycles, helmets, and related equipment for low income families. (Responsibility: Planning Department)



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	GOAL AM-3.0 EQUITABLE ACCESS Improve transportation access and mobility opportunities for disadvantaged communities to access jobs, goods, nutritional food, healthcare, services, and parks through integrated land use and transportation planning.
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	OBJECTIVE AM-3.1 ENHANCE TRANSIT To work with regional and local public agencies to increase transit service and frequency connecting disadvantaged communities to jobs, goods, food and services.
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-3.1.1 High Quality Transit Service. Work with Metro and SCCRTC to support the implementation of high frequency and high-quality transit services that connect disadvantaged communities to key destinations including but not limited to the SR 1 bus on shoulder project and high-quality transit in the Santa Cruz Branch Line corridor.
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-3.1.4 Farmworker Vanpools. Work with AMBAG, CalVans, and other agencies to promote and expand access to farmworker vanpool programs through employer TDM programs.
Public Facilities, Physical Activity, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Food Access	Access + Mobility	AM-3.1.5 Healthy Food Access. Maximize multimodal access to fresh food by encouraging grocery stores, healthy corner stores, and outdoor markets near high-quality transit stops and in disadvantaged communities.
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-3.1d Investigate options for expansion of CalVans and regulated private taxi services in agricultural communities as well as promote use and awareness of the federal voucher program for public transportation. (Responsibility: Planning Department, AMBAG)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities	Access + Mobility	AM-3.1e Ensure an equitable distribution of funding for infrastructure. (Responsibility: Public Works)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Physical Activity	Access + Mobility	AM-3.2.1 Active Transportation Access. Promote physical activity and close gaps in access to transit by planning for a comprehensive bikeway and pedestrian network that integrates with transit and connects to key destinations.



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Physical Activity	Access + Mobility	AM-3.2.4 Walkable Street Patterns. Prioritize connected, short blocks and new connections over/under existing barriers to facilitate greater connectivity and access for pedestrians.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-5.2.5 Buffers. Incorporate buffering between people and roadway pollutants to promote health, particularly near sensitive receptors.
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Access + Mobility	AM-5.2e Incorporate buffers or other noise reduction measures consistent with standards established in the Noise Element into the siting and design of roads located next to sensitive noise receptors to minimize adverse impacts from rail and vehicle traffic noise. Consider reduction measures such as alternative road design, reduced speeds, alternative paving, setbacks or buffers, and modifications to buildings affected by roadway or rail noise, prior to berms and walls. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Public Works)
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Public Facilities	Access + Mobility	AM-5.2f Design roadways to incorporate street trees and landscaping buffers between pedestrians and vehicles where there is sufficient right-of-way. (Responsibility: Planning Department, Public Works)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-2.1.7 Priorities for Park Development. Acquire, develop, County parks according to the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of and investment in parks and open space in areas that are underserved by parks. • Proposed parks that lie in the unincorporated area of the County and are outside the established sphere of influence of any incorporated city • Proposed parks that lie in the unincorporated area of the County, but are within the sphere of influence of an incorporated city
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-2.1a Commit adequate resources (funds and personnel) to the Parks and Recreation Program and allocate a greater proportion of the parks and recreation budget for parks and programs that serve the population most in need. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks Department)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-2.1g Establish a priority list by park type (i.e., neighborhood, rural, community, regional) based on a public participation process, for park site acquisitions and improvements, and allocate funds to develop park facilities in accordance with priorities based on needs and underserved



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Communities, Public Facilities		populations. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Supervisors)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities, Physical Activity	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-2.5c Encourage the provision of additional free facilities. Where user fees must be charged, encourage provision of season passes and a discounted fee schedule for economically disadvantaged groups. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality, Physical Activity	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-2.7j Improve and complete recreational bicycle/pedestrian loops in the South County coastal area. Support City of Watsonville and Land Trust trail plans and trail connections to County parks, beaches, and trails. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors,; Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Parks Department)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-2.8g Support opportunities for citizens to learn skills in a variety of artistic disciplines through County recreation class offerings.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1.5 Coordinated Services. Coordinate with the planning efforts of other public agencies providing education, public health and safety services, community centers, library services, justice services, flood protection, energy, and technology and communications services, as appropriate.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1.6 Equitable Public Services. Ensure the equitable provision of public amenities and infrastructure that improve the quality of life for all, including the distribution of funding resources, with priority to underserved and disadvantage populations.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1.8 Community Social Support Services. Provide access to preventative and intervention services as well as food and basic support through integrated health care and social services
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1.9 Improve Customer Experience. Provide customers of County government with equitable access to efficient, effective, and culturally responsive services through clear communication and engagement, and simplified processes to improve service delivery and customer satisfaction.



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1d Evaluate public facilities for health hazards or major sources of contamination and create a remediation or alternate plan to address any issues identified, including a funding approach. (Responsibility: Public Works and Environmental Health Departments, Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Office, Water Districts, and Sanitation Districts)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1e Maintain interagency coordination agreements or memorandums of understanding with neighboring jurisdictions and partner agencies that provide urban public facilities and services within the County, to ensure effective and efficient service delivery of water, sewer, fire, and other essential services to all communities, including fringe and disadvantaged communities. (Responsibility: Public Works and Environmental Health Departments, Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Office, Water Districts, Sanitation Districts, and Fire Agencies)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Physical Activity	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.1f Continue existing programs and pursue new programs that support access to health and wellness services for the County’s vulnerable populations. Maintain current maps of disadvantaged and underserved populations. (Responsibility: Planning Department, County Administrative Office, and Board of Supervisors)
Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.2.8 Exposure to Toxins. Reduce youth exposure to hazardous materials and pollutants.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Physical Activity, Food Access	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.2.9 Health and Nutrition for Youth. Encourage and support services and programs that promote the healthy development of youth.
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.2i In collaboration with schools, require the use of safe cleaning products in all day care and educational facilities to improve indoor air quality and minimize the risk of toxic exposure to children, teachers, and cleaning staff. (Responsibility: Environmental Health Department, School Districts)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities, Food Access	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-3.2j Support school-based programs that integrate gardening and nutrition, and make the connection between healthy food choices and locally-grown fresh produce. (Responsibility: Human Services Department, School Districts)



Appendix E: Environmental Justice Policies

Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.2.1 Sewer Service within the Urban Services Line. Concurrent with project application, require a written commitment from the service district. A written commitment is a letter, with appropriate conditions, from the service district guaranteeing that the required level of service for the project will be available prior to issuance of building permits, or in the case of a subdivision, prior to filing the Final Map or Parcel Map. The County decision making body shall not approve any development project unless it determines that such project has adequate sewage treatment plant capacity.
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.2.6 Sizing and Siting Sewer and Sewage Disposal Facilities. Require developers, including public agencies, to locate and size new systems to best serve all areas anticipated to require sewer service.
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.2c Evaluate the feasibility of newly evolving technology to provide small community sewage disposal systems in a manner more environmentally and economically acceptable and more easily maintained than existing systems. (Responsibility: Public Works Department, and Environmental Health)
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.2d Consider the use of a sewer extension, small-scale community facilities and/or on-site wastewater disposal zone improvement districts as methods to deal with the soil and water table conditions, which severely hamper the functioning of septic systems in the Amesti Road area. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Public Works Department, Board of Supervisors)
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.2h Maintain the Sewage Disposal ordinance and operate County Service Area 12 to oversee and promote septic system inspection, maintenance, and improvement to prevent environmental degradation. Give first priority to those areas of failing septic systems or high concentration of older development in stream valleys or where lots sizes are predominantly small. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Board of Supervisors)
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.5.11 Yard Waste Collection. Provide separate collection of yard waste, for off-site composting, from residential and non-residential generators and continue to phase in collection of food waste and other compostable material. Require new development to provide sufficient space for separate storage of yard waste for composting.



Topic	Element	Policy or Implementation Strategy
Public Facilities, Safe and Sanitary Homes, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.5.19 Land Use Compatibility with Waste Disposal. Ensure compatibility of land uses adjacent to County solid waste disposal and transfer facilities through zoning and the land use permit process.
Public Facilities, Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.5g Identify publicly owned recycling/composting facilities with a Public Facility land use designation and ensure compatible land uses on adjacent properties. (Responsibility: Public Works Department)
Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.5r Consider disadvantaged communities when assessing locations for increased public refuse and recycling services. (Responsibility: CDID)
Public Facilities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.7.2 Universal Telecommunications. Promote universal and competitive services to residences, businesses, and schools.
Public Facilities	Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities	PPF-4.7.3 Improving Access. Work with utility companies to retrofit areas that are not served by current telecommunication technologies and provide strategic long-range planning of telecommunication facilities for newly developing areas, as feasible.