

Environmental Justice and General Plans

In 2016, the Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed [Senate Bill 1000](#) (Leyva, Chapter 587), requiring cities and counties that have disadvantaged communities* to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their General Plans, either in a separate EJ element or by integrating related goals, policies, and objectives throughout the other elements. This update, or revision if the local government already has EJ goals, policies, and objectives, must happen “upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.”

The General Plan Guidelines (GPG) contains the statutory requirements for SB1000, but since the legislation passed after the public comment concluded for the GPG, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research will be soliciting more focused feedback with related state and local agencies as well as local jurisdictions and partners to learn more about the process to do these new updates, discuss data use, promising policies, and case examples to share with other jurisdictions across California. This new guidance will be made available in the coming year on the OPR website. Stay tuned on upcoming meetings in local areas across CA.

If your local jurisdiction is currently doing an update or you have inquiries related to SB 1000, please e-mail Elizabeth Baca at SB1000@opr.ca.gov.

* For purposes of SB 1000, “Disadvantaged communities” means an area [identified](#) by the California Environmental Protection Agency Pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code OR an area that is 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” (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)). The statute further defines “low-income area” to mean “an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income OR with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Developments list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093” (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(C)).