



San Francisco Environmental Justice Framework

SF FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE | SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

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MODERNIZING THE GENERAL PLAN


The City's General Plan

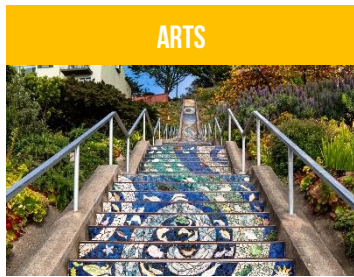
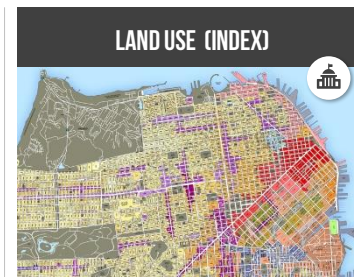
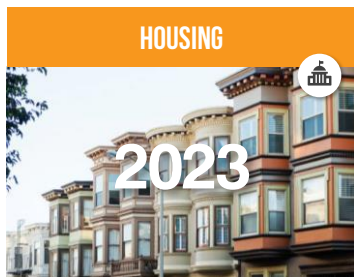
VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A comprehensive vision, with objectives and policies, influencing how we **live, work, play, and move about**, & the **quality and character** of the City.
- Through public adoption, the General Plan reflects **community values and priorities**.
- Both **public action and private development** must conform to the General Plan.



General Plan Components

 State mandated



The first General Plan updates to center EJ & RSE

INTRODUCTION



NEW: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



SAFETY & RESILIENCE



HOUSING

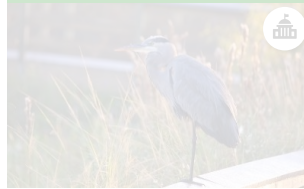


TRANSPORTATION



State mandated

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



URBAN DESIGN



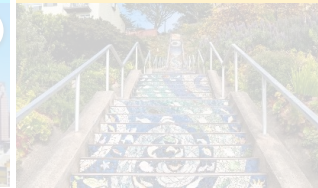
COMMUNITY FACILITIES



AIR QUALITY



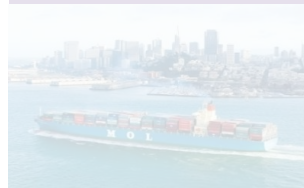
ARTS



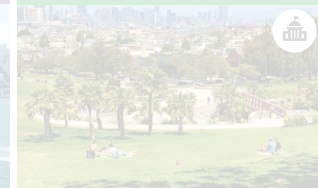
NEW: HERITAGE CONSERVATION



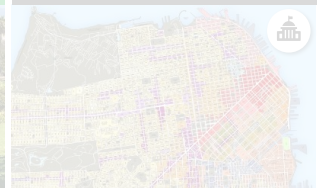
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE



LAND USE (INDEX) & AREA PLANS



Why Plan for **Environmental Justice (EJ)**? Why Now?



- **CA Senate Bill 1000 (SB1000)** requires:
 - Analyze data on **EJ Communities***
 - **Adopt policies in General Plan** to address “unique or compounded health risks” (standalone element or integrated throughout)
- **Planning & Historic Preservation Commissions** called for General Plan policies to address **racial & social equity**.

* Referred to as “Disadvantaged Communities” in SB1000

What **Policies** Can Address Environmental Justice & Racial Equity?



**Healthy &
Resilient
Environments**



**Physical
Activity &
Healthy Public
Facilities**



**Healthy
Food
Access**



**Safe,
Healthy, &
Affordable
Homes**



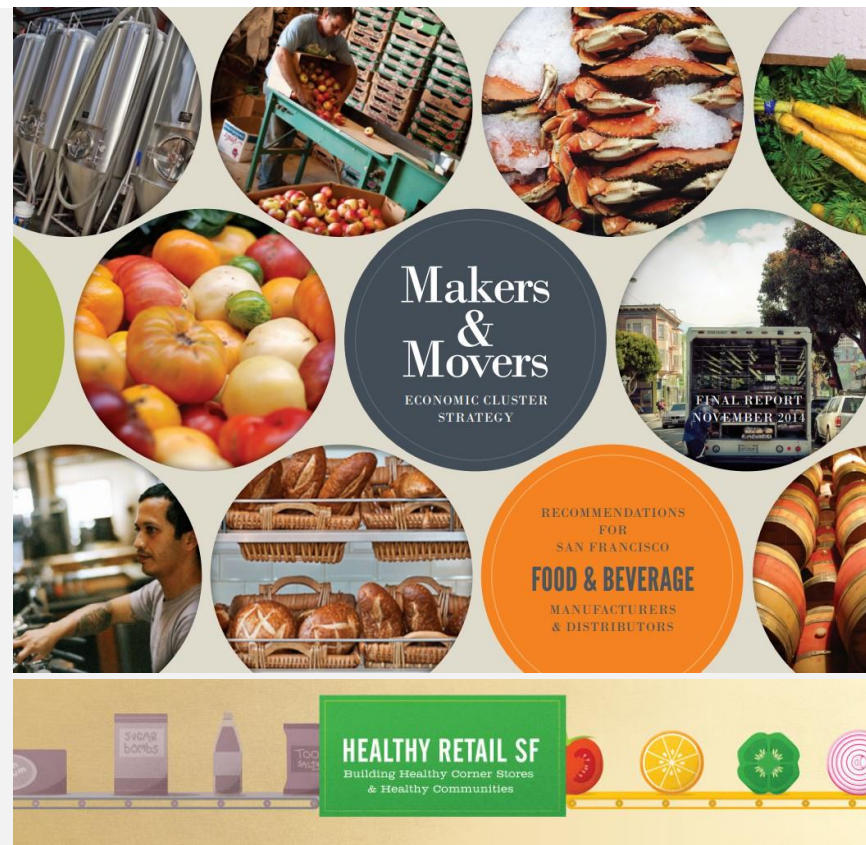
**Equitable &
Green Jobs**



**Empowered
Neighborhoods**

Examples of SF Planning & SFDPH Collaboration

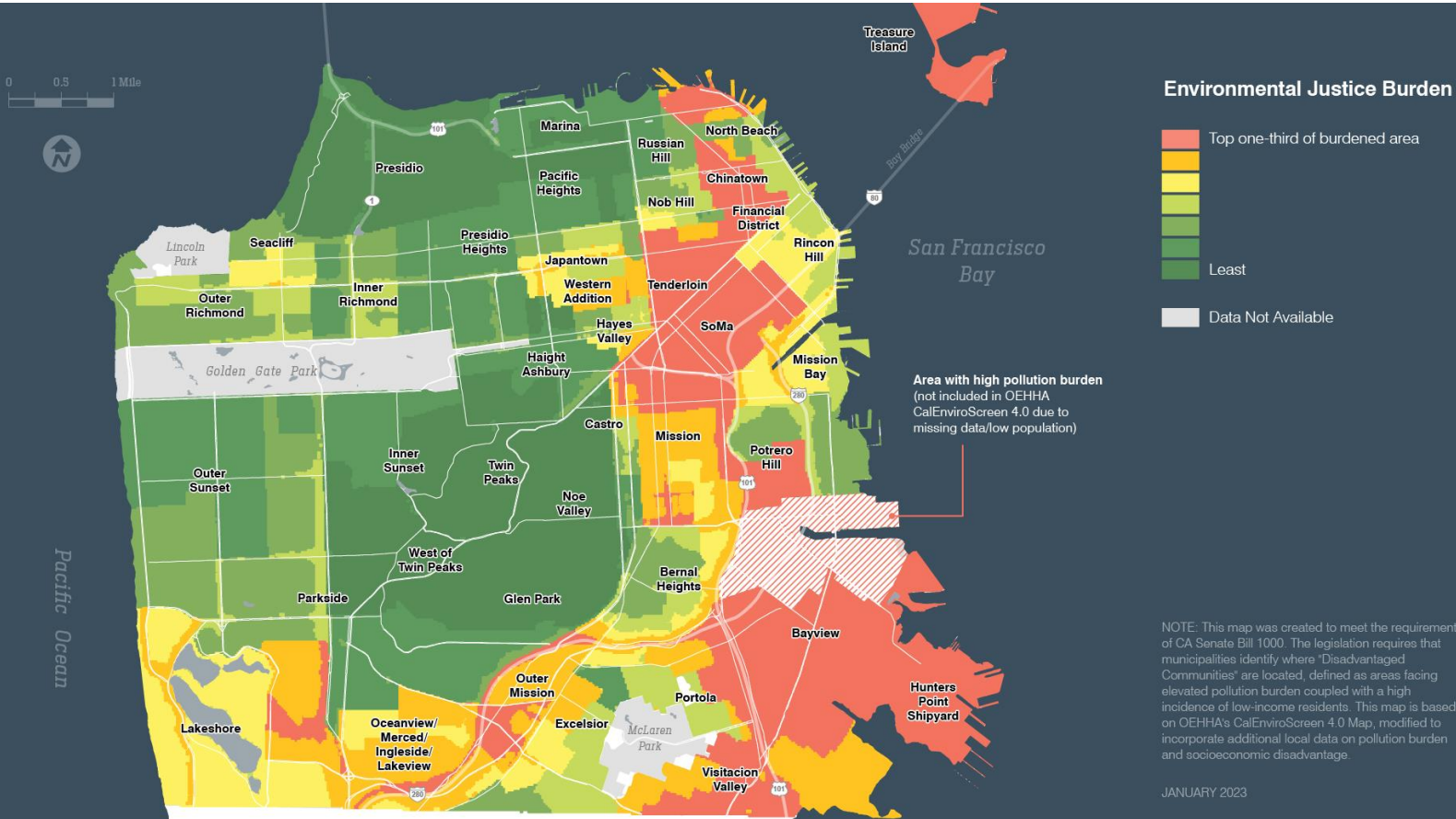
- San Francisco Food and Beverage Industry Cluster Study (November 2014)
- Healthy Retail SF (2013)
- Urban Agriculture Ordinance (April 2011)
- Health Care Services Master Plan (2013-2016)



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES MAP

San Francisco Environmental Justice Communities Map



NOTE: This map was created to meet the requirements of CA Senate Bill 1000. The legislation requires that municipalities identify where "Disadvantaged Communities" are located, defined as areas facing elevated pollution burden coupled with a high incidence of low-income residents. This map is based on OEHHA's CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Map, modified to incorporate additional local data on pollution burden and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Data Portal

The **Environmental Justice Data Portal** is a website where people can learn about environmental justice and explore maps displaying health, demographics, and other data in the context of Environmental Justice Communities.

The screenshot displays the San Francisco Environmental Justice Data Portal. At the top, the title "San Francisco Environmental Justice Data Portal" is visible, along with social media icons and the "San Francisco Planning" logo. A navigation bar includes links for "About", "Community Stories", "Environment", "Public Facilities", "Food Access", "Housing", "Jobs", and "Empowered Neighborhoods". Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail shows "Introduction" and "Preterm Births". The main content area is titled "Asthma" and includes a descriptive paragraph: "This map shows the rate of emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 residents. Asthma is a lung disease that can lead to life-threatening conditions. Exposure to traffic and pollutants can trigger an asthma attack and can cause or worsen asthma conditions." The source is cited as "Source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0". A "Data Source" button is located below the text. To the right, a map of San Francisco shows the rate of emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 residents, with different shades of blue representing varying rates. The map includes labels for various districts such as Golden Gate, Marina District, Richmond District, Mission District, and Bayview District. The map also shows major roads like the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway 101. The bottom of the map includes a scale bar and the text "Powered by Esri".

How the EJ Communities Map is Intended to be Used

Implementation Goals:

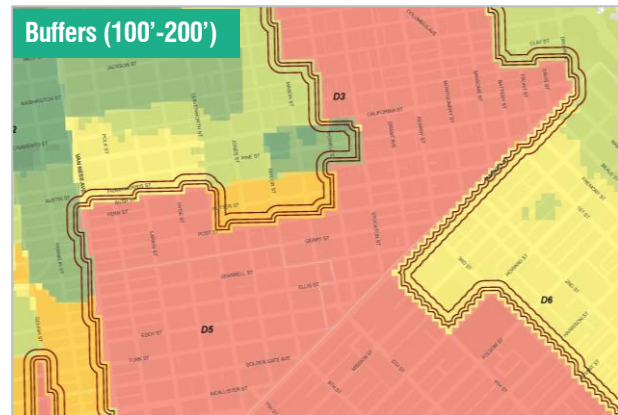
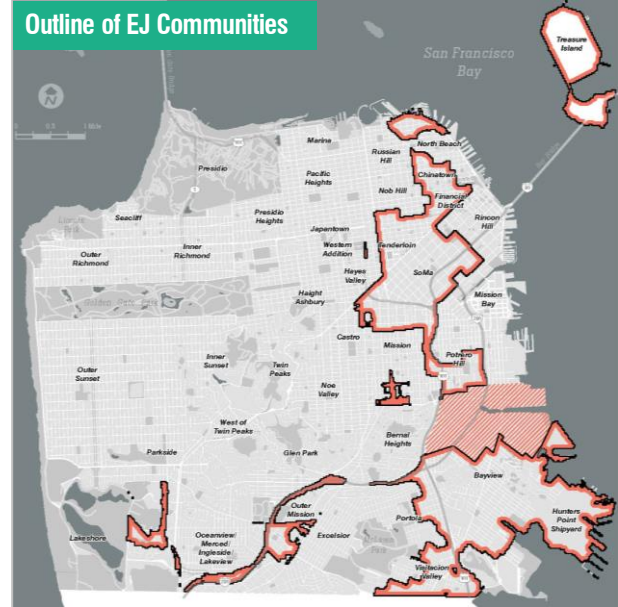
- Provide a **base for decision-making**; agencies should be transparent about unique considerations
- Identify areas where **additional policies and resources** can be invested to advance health & equity
- Guide community engagement to ensure **equity needs and priorities** are being met

What it will NOT do:

- **Will not result in lower housing production** or diminishing resources in these areas
- **Will not replace statewide map** (CalEnviroScreen) for purposes of state programs

EJ Communities Map **Other Tips for Usage**

- **User Guide** and **Technical Documentation** provide context on map development & use
- Encourage agencies & policymakers to **build flexibility** into processes (ex: add buffers; use in tandem with other maps)
- **Example applications:**
 - SFPUC Green Infrastructure Grant program
 - Housing Element policies & EJ analysis
 - RPD Equity Zones



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

Starting with **Community-Led** Solutions

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Malcolm X Academy
- Balboa High School
- SF State University

FOCUS GROUPS

- Promotoras Activas San Francisco
- Carnaval San Francisco
- Booker T. Washington Community Service Center
- Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
- City of Dreams
- Wu Yee Children's Services

EJ WORKING GROUP

- American Indian Cultural District
- Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates
- Brightline Defense
- Chinatown Community Development Center
- Code Tenderloin
- Demonstration Gardens - Tenderloin Peoples Congress
- Fillmore Media Systems & Services Co.
- Japantown Cultural District
- PODER
- Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
- Residents Supporting Community On Treasure Island
- San Francisco African American Faith Base Coalition
- San Francisco Parks Alliance
- San Francisco Transit Riders
- SistaH Music Snax Entertainment
- Southwest Community Corporation
- St. Andrew Missionary Baptist Church



Environmental Justice Framework



The 2017 People's Climate March heightened activism at the local level for environmental justice, and it was one of the most diverse showings of an environmental event in U.S. history.

Photo Credit: Becker1999 / Flickr

Healthy & Resilient Environments

WHY IT MATTERS

San Francisco has a long history of policy and land use decisions that have disproportionately exposed communities to environmental pollutants that impact quality of life and often result in adverse health outcomes, such as increased rates of asthma, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses. For example, residents in Bayview Hunter's Point grapple with the impacts of industrial contamination at the Hunter's Point Shipyard, air pollution from the U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280 freeways, and other environmental violations. The impacts of the climate crisis, which include poor and hazardous air quality, extreme weather events, and sea level rise, are predicted to exacerbate these health disparities.

VISION

We envision a City where everyone lives and works in a healthy and resilient environment. This means limiting exposure to pollution harmful to human health from both acute (e.g., toxic materials from an individual business) and widespread sources (e.g., air pollution from freeways). The City would be resilient to the climate crisis and other hazards, such as earthquakes, extreme heat, inland flooding, sea level rise, and poor air quality. Mitigation and adaptation strategies would prioritize communities that have historically faced disproportionate exposure to environmental burdens, and our most vulnerable communities at risk of health consequences and safety hazards, such as youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

PRIORITIES



Limit and protect against pollution exposure

Protect communities from all sources of pollution, including air, soil, water, and noise pollution. Limit exposure from temporary sources of pollution (for example, construction activities), ongoing sources (for example, freeways and polluting businesses), as well as future risks (for example, accidental release of hazardous materials).



Prepare for seismic hazards, other natural disasters, and the climate crisis

Implement hazard and climate mitigation and adaptation measures to prepare the City for the climate crisis and protect those who are most vulnerable. Build robust partnerships between the City, communities, and other groups to ensure adequate capacity for emergency preparedness in the event of a disaster (for example, disaster supplies, lifeline supplies, and neighborhood activation).



Expand nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, & urban greening

Restore natural habitats and the ecological function of the City by developing neighborhood-specific targets and stewardship programs for watersheds, tree canopy cover, green infrastructure, urban greening, and other biodiversity targets. Align these mitigation and adaptation measures to protect areas of high climate vulnerability.



Invest in resilient public utility systems and affirm access to water, power, and sanitation as a human right

Ensure that all residents and workers have access to safe, clean, affordable, accessible, and low-carbon sources of clean drinking water, electricity, wastewater services, broadband internet, and other utilities. Invest resources and promote actions that support the human right to water, power, and sanitation, particularly low-income households and people experiencing homelessness.



Ensure public access to data & information

Provide public access to reliable and up-to-date information on neighborhood environmental conditions, climate vulnerabilities, and public health concerns. Include references to government sources and community-led studies and programs.



Empower community planning for climate resilience and justice

Build community-based planning processes for San Franciscans to engage in local decision-making on healthy and resilient environments, including neighborhood investments, emergency resources, and other community needs.

Example Strategies

The following strategies are examples of successful work being done in the community related to environmental justice. They include City-led initiatives, community-led initiatives, and partnerships between the City and community.

- CleanPowerSF (SFPUC)
- Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan (ORCP)
- Heat and Air Quality Resilience Project (ORCP)
- Islais Creek Southeast Mobility and Adaptation Strategy (SF Planning, SFMTA, and Port of San Francisco)
- San Francisco Climate Action Plan (Mayor's Office, SF Environment)
- San Francisco Urban Forest Plan (Public Works, Urban Forest Council, and Friends of the Urban Forest)
- Urban Risk Lab (Neighborhood Empowerment Network)
- Waterfront Resilience Program (Port of San Francisco)

Healthy Food Access



PRIORITIES

- Affirm **healthy food as a human right**
- Empower **workers** and community members
- Leverage the food system as a means of **strengthening communities**
- Foster **climate resilience and innovation** in the food system
- Increase **nature-based food opportunities**

Healthy and Resilient Environments



Source: Becker1999 / Flickr

PRIORITIES

- Limit and protect against **pollution exposure**
- Prepare for seismic hazards, other **natural disasters**, and the climate crisis
- Expand **nature-based solutions**, green infrastructure, & urban greening
- Invest in **resilient public utility systems** and affirm access **to water, power, and sanitation as a human right**
- Ensure **public access** to data & information
- Empower **community planning** for climate resilience and justice

Physical Activity and Healthy Public Facilities



PRIORITIES

- Distribute public facilities **equitably**
- Ensure **public facilities** are accessible and safe for all
- Offer **diverse, flexible, and inclusive programming** in public facilities
- Support **environmental education** programs
- Ensure robust **transportation connectivity**
- Ensure **streets and transit** are accessible and safe for all

Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Homes



PRIORITIES

- Work to **undo past harms**
- Build **accountability & oversight** in the housing systems
- Address **housing affordability & availability**
- Protect **vulnerable tenants**
- Expand **housing choices** citywide
- Ensure that housing supports **public health**

Equitable and Green Jobs



PRIORITIES

- Provide **living wages** for all
- Foster a robust network of **work & entrepreneurship**
- Promote pathways for **workers' empowerment and self-determination**
- Facilitate **the just transition** of the city's economy and workforce

Empowered Neighborhoods

PRIORITIES



- Prioritize **participation of EJ Communities** in decision-making processes
- Build **capacity** for diverse voices to engage
- Center environmental justice efforts in collaboration with **American Indian communities** and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Foster a culture of **transparency and communication**
- Develop **community partnerships** to expand city's reach
- Address **community safety**

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HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Healthy Food Access

WHY IT MATTERS

One in four San Francisco residents is at high risk of food insecurity due to low income, and there are significant disparities in accessing healthy food that is affordable and culturally appropriate. Being food insecure is associated with lowered life expectancy and a range of chronic health conditions, it and can be especially harmful to the health of children and seniors, people who are pregnant, people experiencing homelessness, and people with preexisting health conditions.

VISION

We envision a City where everyone has easy and secure access to healthy, affordable food that suits their needs and dietary preferences, and supports their cultural identity. Food is healthy when it promotes a healthy environment and the well-being of everyone involved in its production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal.



Healthy Food Access

PRIORITIES



3.1.
Affirm healthy food as a human right

Expand programs that ensure access to healthy and culturally appropriate food, particularly for fixed income, low-income, and food-insecure individuals, such as Market Match programs, free school meals, healthy corner stores, food recovery, and urban agriculture programs.

3.2.
Empower workers and community members

Consult with workers and community members to create local food assistance programs, workforce development programs, and other programs that facilitate access to healthy food and create living-wage jobs.

3.3.
Leverage the food system as a means of strengthening communities

Consider the potential benefits of a local food system for workforce development, economic resilience, sustainable land use, and improved public health outcomes in City plans and programs.

3.4.
Foster climate resilience and innovation in the food system

Facilitate local and regional food production (such as community gardens, rooftop and vertical gardens, and cottage industries), incorporate climate resilience throughout the local supply chain (such as net-zero emissions food distribution and infrastructure investments), and support youth training and workforce development in healthy food-related skills and industries.

3.5.
Increase nature-based food opportunities

Affirm Traditional Ecological Knowledge¹⁶ and nature-based food practices. Support nature-based and culturally appropriate access to public land and open space for foraging, gathering, cultivating, fishing, and hunting¹⁷ of food as well as conducting other nature-based cultural practices.

Healthy Food Access

EXAMPLE STRATEGIES



EXAMPLE STRATEGIES

The following strategies are examples of successful work being done in the community related to environmental justice. They include City-led initiatives, community-led initiatives, and partnerships between the City and community.

- **Urban Agriculture Program** (SF Recreation and Parks)
- **Food Recovery Program** (The SF Market)
- **Free and Reduced School Meals Program** (San Francisco Unified School District)

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Continued Growth & Opportunities

■ General Plan Updates Phase 2

- Incorporating EJ throughout other General Plan Elements (e.g., Environmental Protection, Air Quality, Commerce & Industry, etc.)

■ Interagency Coordination

- Inform City agencies' work on environmental justice and Racial & Social Equity Action Plans
- Identify opportunities for other collaboration (such as grants, projects, legislation)

A woman in a white lab coat and gloves is watering a child in a garden. The child is wearing a blue shirt. Other people are visible in the background.

THANK YOU

Learn more & sign up for email updates at:
<https://sfplanning.org/project/ej-framework>



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Water Power Sewer