Environmental Justice Policy Program

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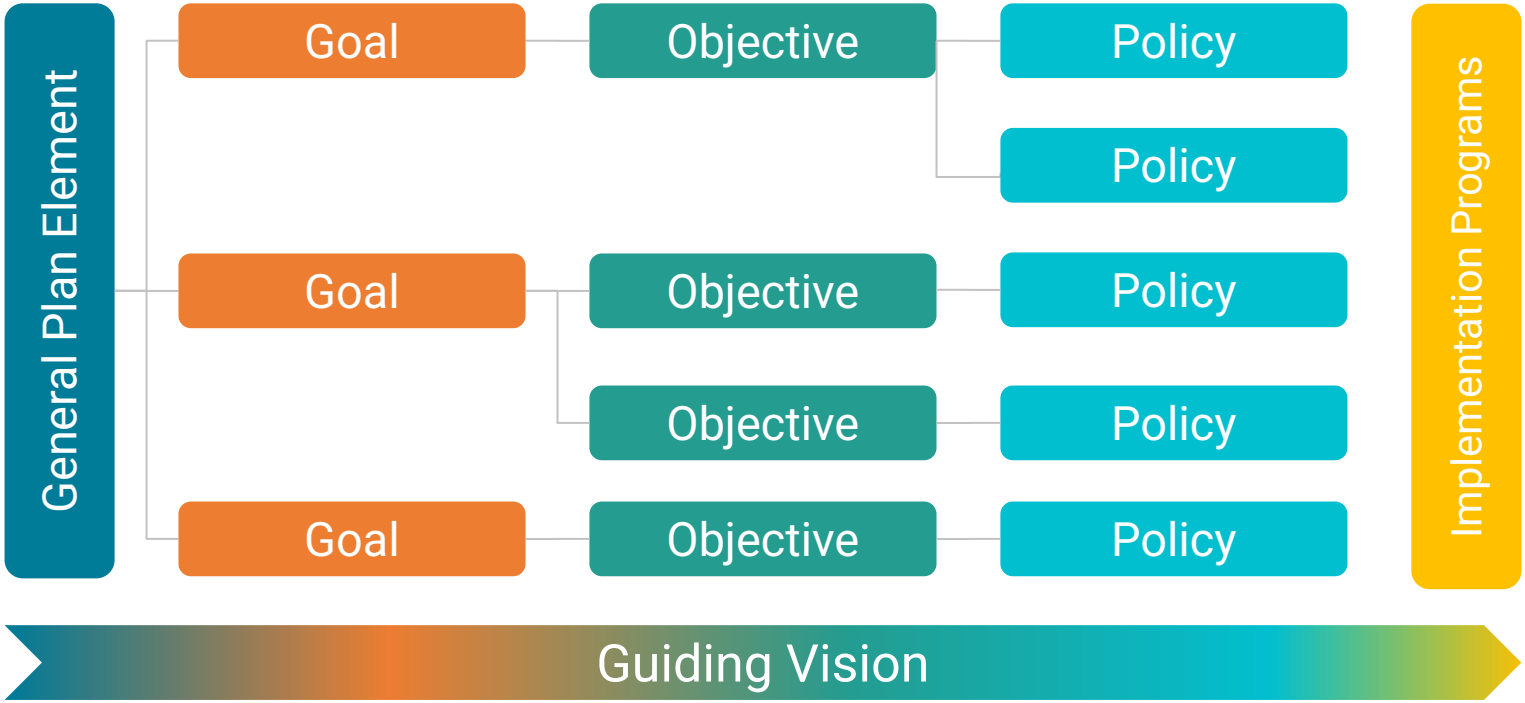
Los Angeles General Plan Elements



Traditional Structure of General Plan Elements



Initial Outreach & Engagement

10 mos
August 2023 - May 2024



focused on EJ Communities

24
engagement events

2,000+
comments

1,800+
people engaged

50+
office hours





EJ Working Group

Overview

- Bi-monthly meetings with 20 EJ Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Policy concept development and discussion
- Individual CBO follow-up meetings



EJ Technical Advisory Committee



Overview

- Monthly meetings convening 20+ departments
- Agendas programmed by topic
- Program concept development and discussions
- Individual department follow-up meetings

Community Partners

PSR LA
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

Pacoima Beautiful

ABC
Alliance for a Better Community

Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

Heal the Bay

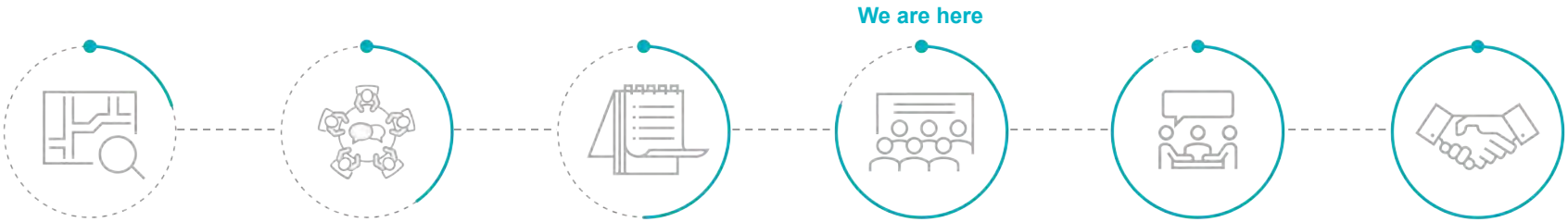
Friends of the LA River

Communities for a Better Environment
40 years | established 1978

Rising Communities
formerly CHC Community Health Councils

SAJE
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Timeline



Fall 2023 - Spring 2024	Spring - Fall 2024	Fall 2024 - Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	2026
Launch and Outreach Phase I	**Consult**	**Draft Plan**	**Release Draft and Outreach Phase II**	**Refine and Revise Plan - Open Space Element**	**Public Hearing and Adoption - Open Space Element**
Open Space				OS program continues	
Health & EJ				H&EJ program ends	

Health and EJ Element Overview

Draft Health & Environmental Justice Element



Existing Elements

Health Element

- First adopted in 2015, recently updated in 2021
- Focused on relationship between land use and health
- Addresses Senate Bill 1000 topics



Air Quality Element

- Adopted in 1979, last updated in 1992
- Focused on the relationship between land use and air quality
- Intersection with Mobility Element and Health Element



Goal 1: A City that is a leader in health, equity, and environmental justice.

- Prioritize Environmental Justice Communities
- Innovative solutions, collaboration and strategic partnerships
- Increased advocacy, monitoring and evaluation



Goal 2: A City that champions the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people.

- Inclusive and transparent outreach and engagement strategies
- Community partnerships and empowerment
- Value lived experience and elevate indigenous knowledge
- Acknowledge and address past harmful land use practices



Goal 3: A City with a healthy environment where life thrives.

- Neighborhood level approaches
- Pollution exposure reduction and remediation
- Land use and urban design solutions to address incompatible uses and cumulative impacts
- Safer operations and enhanced enforcement
- Support phasing out oil and gas uses



Goal 4: A City with clean, healthy air for all.

- Sustainable growth, infrastructure, and transportation
- Air quality monitoring, regulation, and advocacy
- Reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources
- Continue implementation of clean air action plans



Goal 5: A City that is prepared, responsive, and resilient to the effects of climate change and protects the most vulnerable, exposed, sensitive, and underresourced communities.

- Plan for climate equity and resilience
- Strategies for climate hazard mitigation and equitable recovery
- Climate adaptive development and sustainable operations
- Pursue carbon neutrality



Goal 6: A City that is a place of refuge and prosperity with high quality facilities, services, and lifelong opportunities that nurture personal and community growth and center health and wellness.

- Health supportive infrastructure, buildings, and open spaces
- Design for community, safety, and equity
- Food justice and innovation
- Youth, education and workforce development opportunities



Open Space Element Overview



Open Space Element
(adopted 1973)

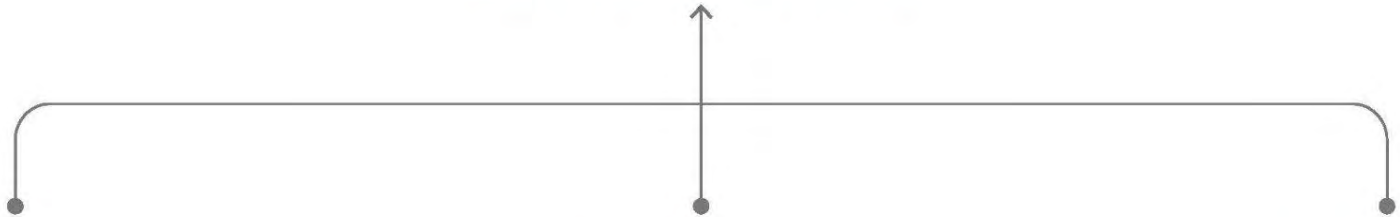
- Goals primarily focused on preservation and conservation
- Minor references to Senate Bill 1425 required topics
- Outdated structure and terminology



New Requirements

- Senate Bill 1425
  - Adoption by Jan 2026
  - Environmental Justice
  - Climate Resilience
  - Rewilding

Citywide Coordination



City Planning EJ Policy Work Programs

- Open Space Element
- Health and Environmental Justice Element
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Other City Planning Efforts

- Draft Wildlife Ordinance
- Landscape and Site Design Ordinance
- Community Plan Updates

City Department Coordination

- Urban Forestry Management Plan (Board of Public Works)
- Park Needs Assessment (Recreation and Parks)
- Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LASAN)

Progress

- Outreach Phase 1 (2023-2024)
  - EJ Working Group
  - EJ Technical Advisory Committee
- Policy Drafting
- Outreach Phase 2 (2025)
  - Community Partnership Program



Policy Concepts

- Adequate and equitable distribution
- Inclusive planning and management
- Equitable access
- Climate resilience
- Healthy ecosystems
- Resource preservation



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Release Draft
- Complete Outreach Phase 2
    - Health & Environmental Justice by **September 30**
    - Open Space by **Fall 2025**
- Document & archive Health & EJ feedback
- Open Space Element continues through the update process



Thank you!

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