

Planning for Food Justice

A Summary of Gilroy's Implementation of
Senate Bill 1000: The Planning for Healthy Communities Act

What is SB 1000?

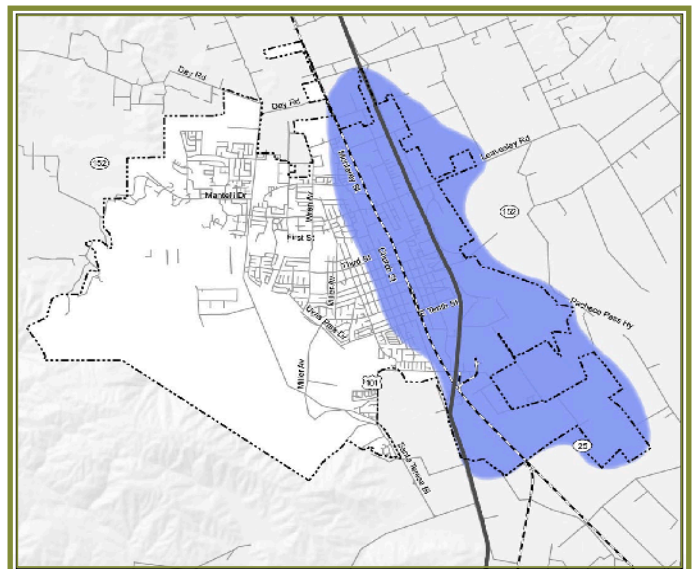
A **general plan** is what local governments use to guide their long and short term decision making around land use, housing, circulation, conservation, open space, noise, safety, etc. Senate Bill 1000, enacted in 2016, requires cities and counties with “**disadvantaged communities**,” or DACs (as defined by CalEPA) to incorporate Environmental Justice (EJ) into their general plans, either as a standalone element or as goals throughout the plan. Our research emphasizes the overlap between environmental and food justice.

Historically, land use planning has disproportionately exposed communities of color to environmental hazards and limited their access to green space and healthy food. SB 1000 attempts to reverse this trend by addressing the specific needs and concerns of DACs through local land use planning processes.

Goals of SB 1000

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| 1 | Reduce Pollution Exposure |
| 2 | Promote Public Facilities |
| 3 | Promote Food Access |
| 4 | Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes |
| 5 | Promote Physical Activity |
| 6 | Promote Community Engagement |
| 7 | Prioritize Programs that Address DACs Needs |
| 8 | Equitable Development and Design |
| 9 | Reduce Climate Change Impacts |

Gilroy's Equity and Engagement District



About Gilroy's Efforts

As early adopters of SB 1000, the City of Gilroy's planning team established an **Equity and Engagement District** (right) based on CalEPA's CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool. Many of the goals in Gilroy's EJ element are focused on neighborhoods within this district. They partnered with local community organization, **Nueva Vida**, to gather community input, especially from Latinx residents, to better address their needs within the EJ element policies.

Gilroy's Environmental Justice Element Goals Related to Food Access

EJ 2.1 Supply Healthy Foods: Encourage the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department to assist local vendors such as markets and convenience stores in supplying fresh produce for their customers.

EJ 2.2 Economic Incentives: Explore opportunities for the creation of economic incentives for local retail vendors to bring healthy foods to underserved areas.

EJ 2.3 Farmer's Markets: Encourage and facilitate the establishment of one or more farmer's markets in Gilroy.

EJ 2.4 Accept EBT Payments at Farmer's Markets: Work with Farmer's Market vendors to accept payment through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), which allows residents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to purchase foods with their program benefits.

EJ 2.6 Health and Wellness Education: Encourage the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department to provide health education such as wellness classes, healthy cooking classes, as well as to raise awareness of healthy habits and other current public health issues.

"I would like for all low income families to have access to healthy foods."

- Participant of BFI's Gilroy Community Meeting



"Our community is rich in experience."

- Participant of BFI's Gilroy Community Meeting



Recommendations for Cities & County Planners

We found that standalone EJ elements with **targeted, actionable, and specific** policies with **community participation** throughout the planning process allow for more equity-driven policies that advance environmental and food justice.

The **Office of the Attorney General** has also created their own best practices for more equitable implementation of the law and made it publicly available on their website: www.oag.ca.gov.

What can Community Members do?

- **Join or volunteer** with organizations like Nueva Vida or other local organizations throughout Santa Clara county who are working to expand good food access for all.
- For students, **explore careers** in city and regional planning or community and economic development to impact the built environment around you and your loved ones.
- **Contact** your local councilmember and city planners to learn more about the progress they're making to implement their EJ goals and how you can get involved.

Scan QR code to access Gilroy's complete EJ Element



Scan QR code to access the OAG's best practices for implementing SB B1000

