

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN HAYWARD



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice is defined by the State as, "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures and incomes as part of the development and implementation of environmental laws and policies." Environmental justice provides an important opportunity to alleviate problems that previous government activities have not addressed. As part of this update, the City will include a new Environmental Justice chapter in the General Plan.

## IDENTIFYING UNEQUAL IMPACTS

While pollution impacts all communities, low-income persons and communities of color experience those impacts at a higher rate. Historically in the United States, low-income and minority communities tend to be located closer to toxic or polluted environments including toxic waste-producing businesses, landfills, and energy facilities. These facilities cause health issues for nearby communities. Environmental justice shines a light on these issues and fights abuses and biased practices against these disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities suffer the most from economic, health, and environmental issues. These problems can include poverty, unemployment, air and water pollution, exposure to hazardous chemicals, and health impacts such as high rates of asthma and heart disease, among others.

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

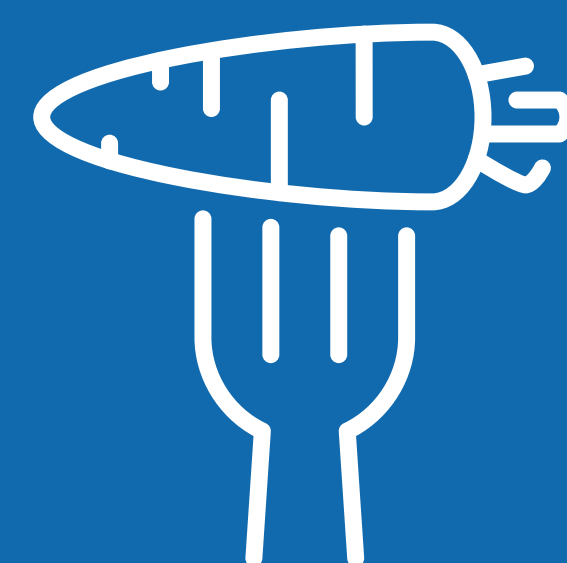
The new Environmental Justice Element will seek to create goals and policies to:



**Reduce Pollution Exposure**



**Promote Access to Public Facilities**



**Promote Access to Healthy Foods**



**Promote Safe & Sanitary Homes**



**Promote Physical Activity**



**Promote Civic Engagement**



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Please send all environmental justice questions and comments to [housingelementupdate@hayward-ca.gov](mailto:housingelementupdate@hayward-ca.gov)