

## Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice addresses discrimination through unjust land use policies and practices. Historically, policies that have discriminated against different groups of people have been based on practices of relocating those groups to undesirable or less desirable or hazardous locations, preventing groups from owning property, and allowing for health hazards to persist in areas in which certain groups reside. Issues of environmental justice may also occur in relation to access to food and recreation.

Although environmental justice has been a general plan consideration since 1999, passage of SB 1000 in 2016 led to the requirement for an Environmental Justice Element in city and county General Plans in which a disadvantaged community exists. The purpose of SB 1000 is to, “Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.” (Gov. Code, § 65302(h)(1)(A))

Under AB 1553, California Government Code § 65040.12 tasks the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR), which oversees General Planning in California, as a coordinating agency for state government environmental justice programs. OPR must coordinate with other state agencies such as the Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and others to coordinate environmental justice programs and data with federal agencies. OPR is also tasked with developing General Plan Guidelines for environmental justice. The purpose of the guidelines is to:

“1) Propose methods for the equitable distribution of new public facilities and services that increase and enhance community quality of life throughout the community, given the fiscal and legal constraints that restrict the siting of these facilities;

2) Propose methods for providing for the location, if any, of industrial facilities and uses that, even with the best available technology, will contain or produce material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant hazard to human health and safety, in a manner that seeks to avoid over-concentrating these uses in proximity to schools or residential dwellings;

3) Propose methods for providing for the location of new schools and residential dwellings in a manner that seeks to avoid locating these uses in proximity to industrial facilities and uses that will contain or produce material that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant hazard to human health and safety; and

4) Propose methods for promoting more livable communities by expanding opportunities for transit-oriented development so that residents minimize traffic and pollution impacts from traveling for purposes of work, shopping, schools, and recreation.”

On June 24, 2020, OPR added environmental justice guidelines to their General Plan Guideline document. This guideline provides a history of Environmental Justice in California, references environmental justice bills including SB 1000 and AB 1553, describes the California Communities Environmental Screening Tool, describes how environmental justice may be integrated into the General Plan, and establishes guidance for determining if an Environmental Justice Element is required in a jurisdiction, and what policy topics should be included. As established in the General Plan Guidelines, an Environmental Justice Element is only required in jurisdictions within which a “disadvantaged community” has been identified; however, an Environmental Justice Element may be included in a General Plan as a non-required element for jurisdictions without a “disadvantaged community” at the discretion of that jurisdiction. Jurisdictions in which an Environmental Justice element is not required may include aspects of environmental justice, but are not required to address any specific topics or the breadth of topics that a jurisdiction with a “disadvantaged community” would be

Commented [CC1]: Environmental Justice Setting to be inserted into the Setting Background Report Land Use section before “SPHERE OF INFLUENCE”.

1 required to address. Environmental Justice policies may be included in an environmental justice element or may  
 2 be referenced from other related elements in the General Plan. As noted in the content of the four guideline  
 3 areas listed above, many aspects of environmental justice are addressed through other elements of the General  
 4 Plan, including land use, housing, circulation, parks and recreation, health and safety, and public services and  
 5 facilities.

6 Fundamental to environmental justice is the term “disadvantaged community” which means an area that has  
 7 been identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) or a low-income area that is  
 8 disproportionately affected by environmental pollution or hazards that can lead to adverse health or  
 9 environmental effects. Low-income areas are defined as areas with household incomes below 80 percent of the  
 10 statewide median or below thresholds established by the California Department of Housing and Community  
 11 Development.

12 The CalEPA maintains an environmental justice program and an environmental justice task force that  
 13 coordinates compliance and identifies disadvantaged communities. The California Communities  
 14 Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) is maintained by the CalEPA and provides a mapping  
 15 data tool to identify communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution. This tool identifies  
 16 disadvantaged communities. Current CalEnviroScreen data is from June, 2018, and shows southern Loomis  
 17 within the lowest risk category of 1-10% and the portion of Loomis north of I-80 within the second lowest  
 18 category of 11-20%. A draft update (CalEnviroScreen 4.0) has been prepared, but not yet finalized, and that  
 19 draft detail is also shown with screening percentiles of 13% and 16%. These very low percentiles continue to  
 20 show Loomis at a very low risk of containing a disadvantaged community or issues of health and equity that  
 21 would cause environmental justice disparities. Detailed CalEnviroScreen data is shown in Table XX below:

	<b>CalEnviroScreen 3.0</b>		<b>Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0</b>	
	<b>Loomis North of I-80<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Loomis South of I-80<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Loomis North of I-80<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Loomis South of I-80<sup>2</sup></b>
Population	6,536	6,970	7,962	8,183
CalEnviroScreen 3.0 percentile	15-20%	5-10%	13%	16%
Pollution Burden Percentile	33%	30%	24%	35%
Population Characteristics Percentile	15%	5%	12%	12%
<b>Pollution Exposures</b>				
Ozone	74%	74%	71%	72%
PM 2.5	18%	18%	10%	10%
Diesel Particulates	27%	13%	41%	19%
Pesticides	33%	34%	25%	41%
Toxic Releases	11%	11%	12%	12%
Traffic	51%	41%	41%	39%
Drinking Water	5%	10%	0%	32%
Lead from Housing	N/A	N/A	17%	10%
<b>Environmental Effects</b>				
Cleanup Sites	85%	90%	91%	94%
Groundwater Threats	67%	48%	72%	61%
Hazardous Waste	26%	9%	0%	0%
Impaired Water	0%	29%	0%	34%
Solid Waste	39%	51%	40%	52%
<b>Sensitive Populations</b>				
Asthma	18%	8%	16%	10%

Table XX. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 and Draft 4.0 Data for Loomis				
	CalEnviroScreen 3.0		Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0	
	Loomis North of I-80 <sup>1</sup>	Loomis South of I-80 <sup>2</sup>	Loomis North of I-80 <sup>1</sup>	Loomis South of I-80 <sup>2</sup>
Low Birth Weight	12%	3%	5%	26%
Cardiovascular Rate	25%	13%	48%	28%
<b>Socioeconomic Factors</b>				
Education	13%	14%	25%	14%
Linguistic Isolation	0%	5%	0%	3%
Poverty	12%	16%	17%	22%
Unemployment	74%	66%	53%	44%
Housing Burden	66%	25%	32%	49%
<b>Age Profile</b>				
0-10	12%	10%	17%	12.6%
11-64	74%	73%	67.3%	68.3%
65+	13%	17%	15.7%	19%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White	83%	85%	80.1%	83.8%
Hispanic	9%	7%	8%	4.3%
Asian American	3%	3%	4%	4.4%
Native American	1%	1%	<1%	<1%
African American	1%	1%	1.6%	2%
Other	4%	3%	6.3%	5.2%

Source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0, June 2018, (<https://oehha.maps.arcgis.com/>) accessed September 2020.  
 CalEnviroScreen 4.0, February 2021, (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/draft-calenviroscreen-40>) accessed May 2020.

Notes:

1. Census Tract 6061021203; includes land outside of the Town limit, including the northern portion of Rocklin, and portions of the County between Penryn and Loomis
2. Census Tract 6061020602; includes land outside of the Town limit including portions of Rocklin east of Sierra College Boulevard and portions of the County west of Auburn Folsom Road and south of Gilardi Road.

There are 13 indicators related to pollution and eight indicators related to population characteristics or other health and social vulnerabilities. The percentages shown per indicator reveal the location’s ranking in terms of hazard or vulnerability. Higher percentages reveal higher potential risk, while low percentages reveal no or low potential to occur. As shown in the data, Loomis and the surrounding area have an overall very low potential for issues of environmental justice to occur. While some indicator percentages are at the higher end of the spectrum, such as for toxic cleanups or ozone, other indicators were very low or zero, such as linguistic isolation, toxic releases, drinking water, asthma, or low birth weight.

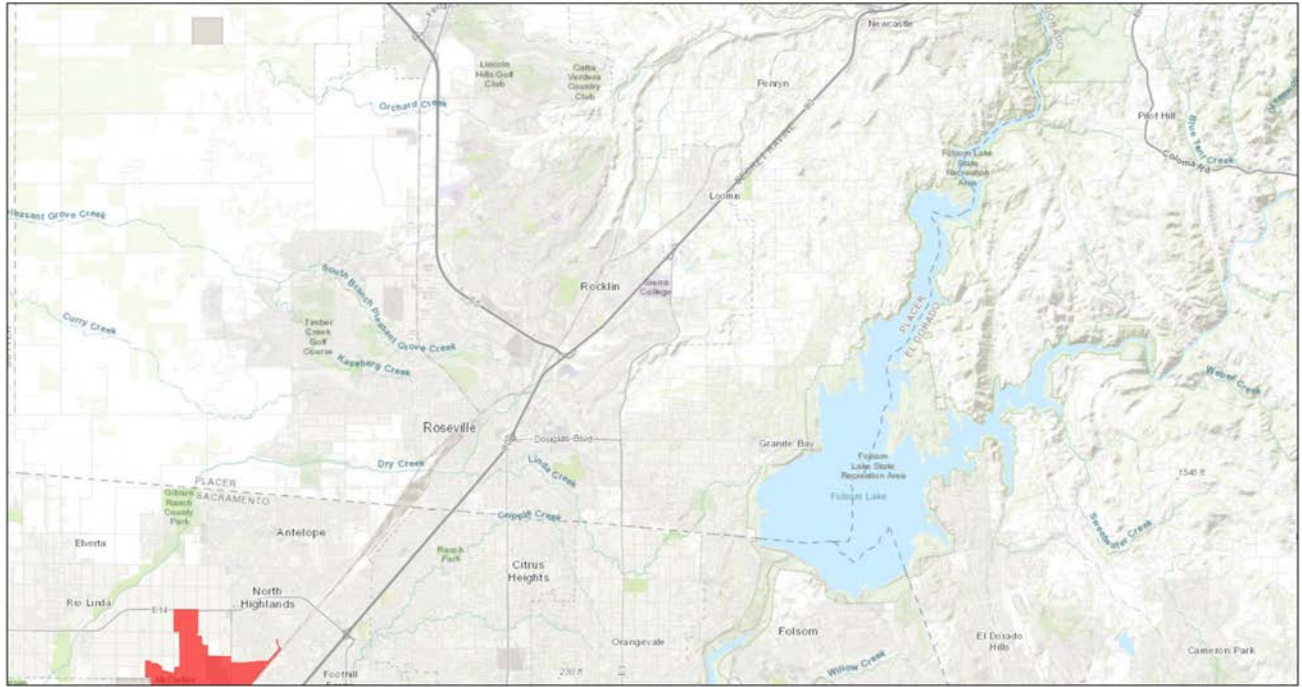
Factors that exceeded 50% included: ozone for which the entire region is not within ozone pollutant attainment levels; traffic under the 3.0 assessment only for the area north of I-80; cleanup sites that include sites that have been cleaned and cleanup cases closed; groundwater threats which includes leaking underground storage tanks that have been addressed and are closed as well as potential for leaks into open canals and waterways; solid waste, which includes the closed dump site outside of the Town limit but within the census tract area for Loomis; unemployment, which decreased under the 4.0 assessment; and housing burden under 3.0 for the area north of I-80. It is important to note that the assessment uses census tracts that are not confined to Town limits that can affect the percentiles as cleanup sites and other factors outside the Town are applied. The Town is not able to control the census tract boundaries or how CalEPA chooses to assess areas and their boundaries.

1 and therefore must work within these parameters to address the Town’s response to ensuring an equitably  
2 healthy community.

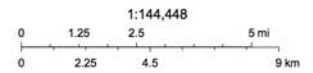
3 The CalEPA map of disadvantaged communities based on the CalEnviroScreen data in Table XX shows no  
4 disadvantaged communities within Loomis or Placer County, as depicted on Figure XX, (CalEPA Office of  
5 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities,  
6 <https://oehha.maps.arcgis.com>, accessed September 21, 2020).

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### SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities



September 21, 2020  
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (June 2018 Update)



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community