
TOWN OF LOOMIS GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING #1 APRIL 19, 2021



AGENDA

- » **Introductions and Available Documents**
- » **Environmental Justice Overview**
- » **Approach**
- » **Draft Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures**
- » **Schedule**
- » **Next Steps**



INTRODUCTIONS AND AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS



INTRODUCTIONS

- » **Town Staff**
- » **Committee Members**



AVAILABLE GENERAL PLAN DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR REVIEW

<https://loomis.ca.gov/2020-general-plan-update/>

» Volume I General Plan Policy Documents

- Cover and Table of Contents (V.1)
- Chapter 1 Introduction (V.1)
- Chapter 2 Role of the General Plan (V.1)
- Element IX Environmental Justice(V.1)
- <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/element-ix-environmental-justice/>

» Volume II Implementing Standards, Guidelines, & Plans

- 1 Glossary (V.2 11-12-2020)

» Volume III General Plan and CEQA Settings

- 3 Environmental Justice Setting (V.1 9-30-2020)
- <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/environmental-justice-setting/>



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OVERVIEW



WHAT IS 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.**



GENERAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- » **In 2016, passage of SB 1000 led to the requirement for an Environmental Justice Element in city and county General Plans in which a disadvantaged community exists.**
- » **SB 1000 purpose:** “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))



GENERAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS SB 1000

- » (1) ...The environmental justice element, or related environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, shall do all of the following:
 - (A) 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.
 - (B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.
 - (C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.
- » (2) A city subject to this subdivision shall adopt or review the environmental justice element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements, upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after 1/1/18.



OTHER RELATED LEGISLATION

- » **SB 535:** In 2012, passage of SB 535 directed that 25 percent of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund go to projects that provide a benefit to disadvantaged communities. The legislation gave CalEPA responsibility for identifying those communities.
- » **AB 1550:** In 2016, passage of AB 1550 requires that 25 percent of proceeds from the fund be spent on projects located in disadvantaged communities.
- » Disadvantaged communities in California are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State's cap-and-trade program.



KEY DEFINITIONS

» **Environmental Justice**

- The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

» **Disadvantaged community**

- An area that has been identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) or a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution or hazards that can lead to adverse health or environmental effects.

» **Low-income areas**

- Areas with household incomes below 80 percent of the statewide median or below thresholds established by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.



HOW ARE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED?

- » **The CalEPA maintains an environmental justice program and an environmental justice task force that coordinates compliance and identifies disadvantaged communities.**
- » **Maintained by the CalEPA, the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) identifies disadvantaged communities by providing a mapping data tool to identify communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution.**
- » **Areas are ranked based on potential risk associated with health and social factors such as:**
 - pollutants (water quality, air emissions, pesticides, toxic releases and cleanups, and solid waste buildup)
 - social vulnerabilities (poverty, housing burden, education, linguistic isolation, unemployment, age, and race).

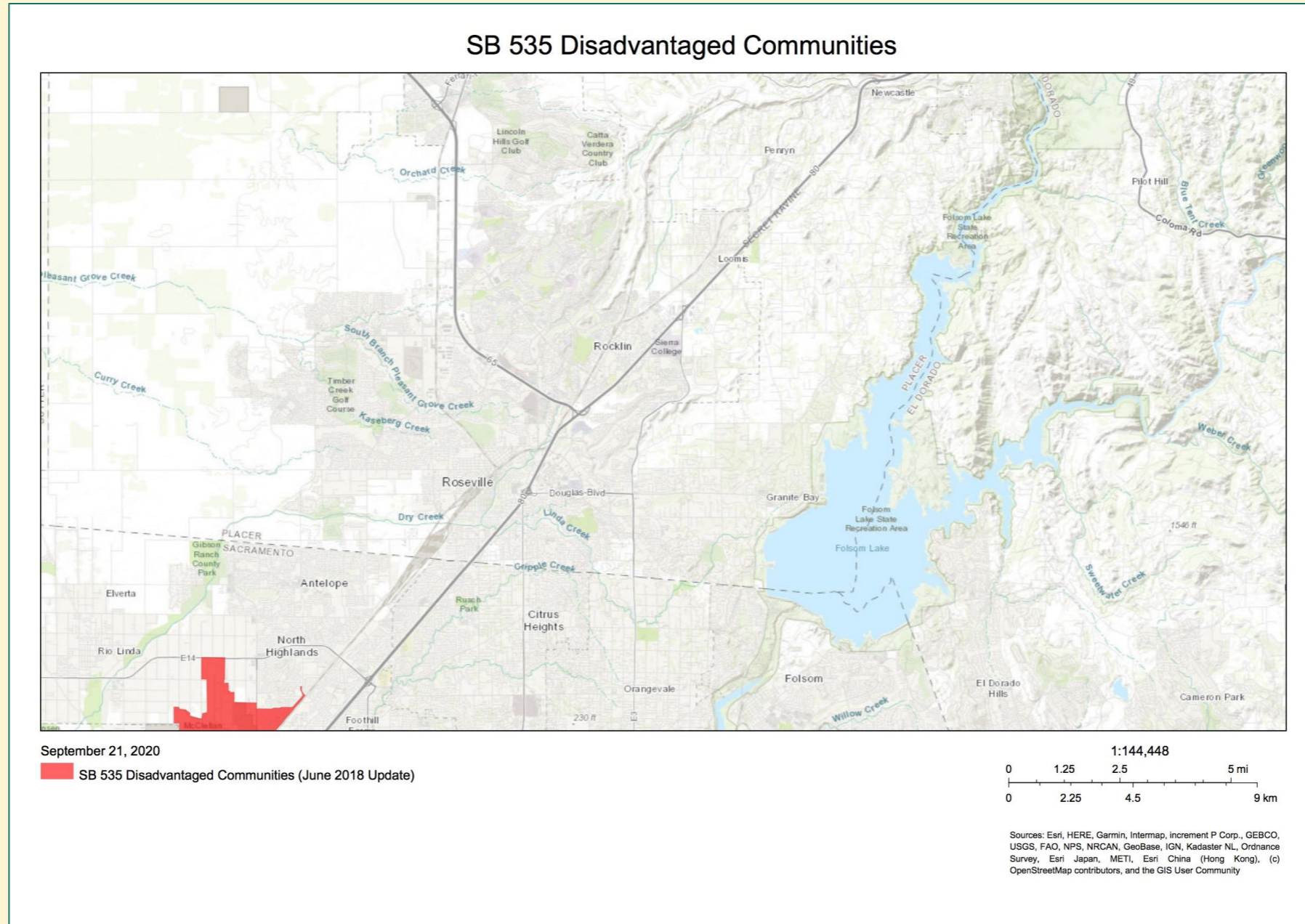


IS LOOMIS A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY?

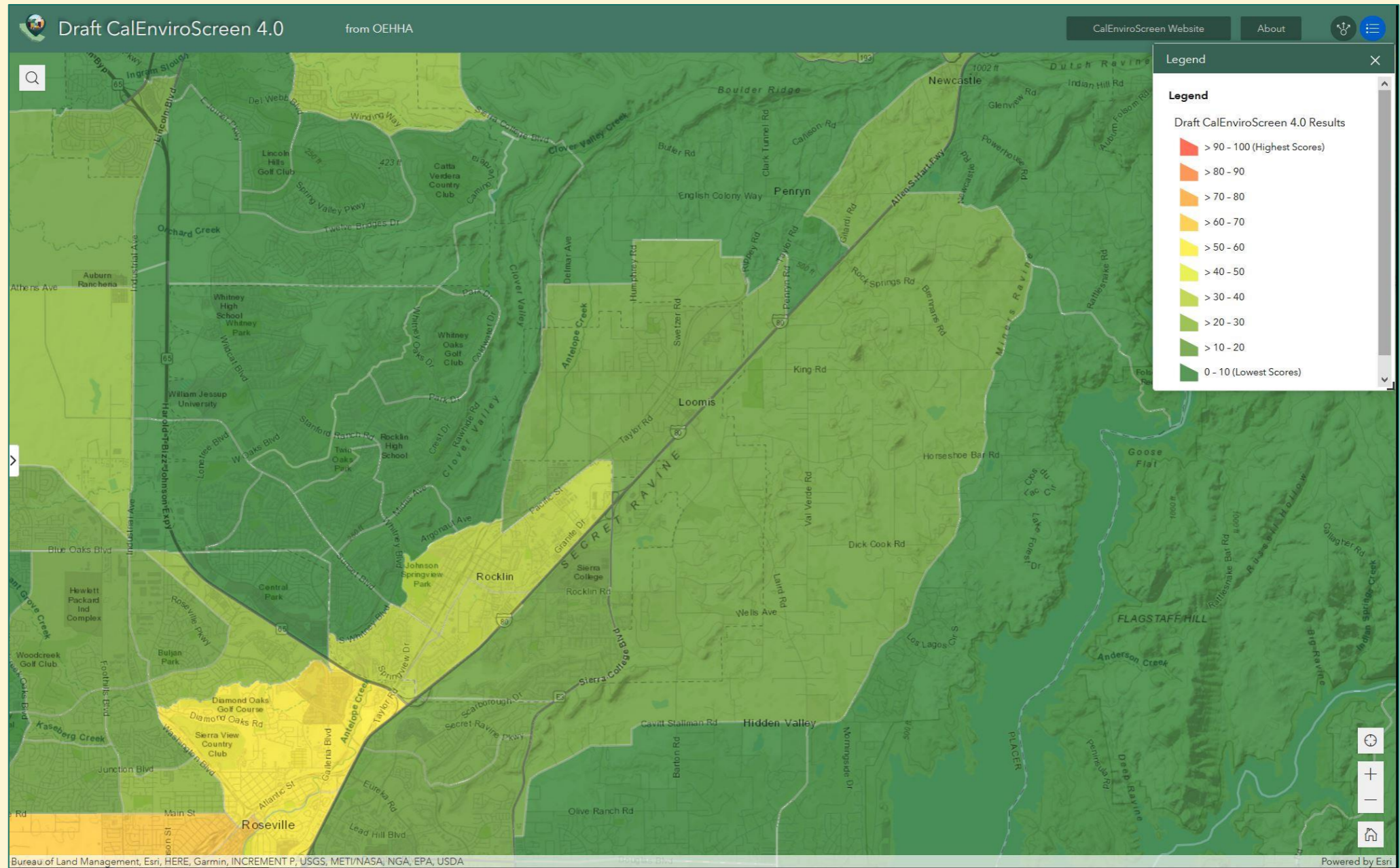
- » **Loomis is NOT a disadvantaged community.**
- » **Current CalEnviroScreen data is from June 2018 and Draft data for 2021 is now available.**
- » **Per 2018 data, southern Loomis is within the lowest risk category of 1-10%**
- » **The portion of Loomis north of I-80 is within the second lowest category of 11-20%.**
- » **Draft 2021 data shows southern Loomis ranked at 16% and northern Loomis ranked at 13%.**
- » **Therefore, no areas of Loomis are considered to be a “disadvantaged community”.**



DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY MAP



CALENVIROSCREEN MAP



DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY RATING 2018 AND 2021 (DRAFT)

	CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018)		CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (2021) Draft	
	NW of I-80	SE of I-80	NW of I-80	SE of I-80
Population	6,536	6,970	7,962	8,183
CalEnviroScreen percentile	15-20%	5-10%	13%	16%
Pollution Burden Percentile	33%	30%	24%	35%
Population Characteristics Percentile	15%	5%	12%	12%
Exposures				
Ozone	74%	74%	71%	72%
PM 2.5	18%	18%	10%	10%
Diesel	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 Houses	N/A	N/A	17%	10%
Environmental Effects				
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%
Population Vulnerability Indicators				
Asthma	18%	8%	16%	10%
Low Birth Weight	12%	3%	5%	26%
Cardiovascular Rate	25%	13%	48%	28%
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%
Age Profile				
0-10	12%	10%	17%	12.6%
11-64	74%	73%	67.3%	68.3%
65+	13%	17%	15.7%	19%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	83%	85%	80%	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%	5.4%



DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY RATING

» Factors with Higher Ratings

- Ozone – The County is identified as an area with ozone levels that exceed state thresholds.
- Cleanup sites – There are a number of cleanup sites in Loomis. Those sites that have land use limitations are former mine and orchard sites with elevated pollutant levels from pesticide use, storage of fuels, or elevated arsenic and lead (mining). Most areas have been fully addressed and are closed cases, but even closed cases can affect the rating. Cases that remain open or have a land use restriction can include sites that have been cleaned, but the landowner has not paid the required fees and so the case is not fully closed. This also includes leaking underground tanks or spill sites from old gas and service stations or industrial uses that no longer exist and have been cleaned
- Groundwater Threats – Affected by the cleanup sites discussed above
- Unemployment (2018) – Unclear why this is so high for 2018. The percentile drops by about 20% for 2021.
- Housing Burden –North of I-80 drops and South of I-80 increases in 2021.



SCENARIOS

» Is an environmental justice issue created if higher density residential land uses are located near the railroad track or freeway?

- Not necessarily
 - There may be benefits of the location, such as proximity to transit or park and ride lots, and services such as childcare, schools, commercial work centers, community centers, parks, groceries, etc.
 - If there is other market-rate or low-density housing in the area, the “burden” of the location is distributed across different income categories and lower-income groups are not bearing a larger proportion of that burden.
 - There are existing market rate units near I-80 (Hunters Drive, Hunter Oaks Lane, Stone Road, S. Walnut) and near the railroad tracks (RV park and mixed-use along Taylor, Orchard Park Way, Cagle Lane, Berg Lane, Frost Lane, etc.)
 - Are higher density uses allowed farther away from the freeway/railroad?
 - Are there ways to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the effects of proximity to areas with higher pollutant emissions such as the use of setbacks, landscaping, greenways, walls, or other methods? Policy can be developed to address these methods within the Code.



SCENARIOS

» **Should higher density residential be located as far away from the railroad tracks and freeway as possible?**

- Not necessarily
 - Locating affordable or senior housing at the edge of Town away from the commercial center requires those persons to travel into Town via a personal vehicle for services, work, personal care, etc. because there are no transit services to the edge of Town.
 - Increasing vehicle dependence or decreasing access to services can increase environmental justice rankings.
 - Some factors, such as cleanup sites, tend to be located farther from the center of Town (old orchard or mine sites)



APPROACH



WHY INCLUDE AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT IN THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE?

- » **It is not a required element since there are no “disadvantaged communities” within the Town of Loomis**
- » **Including an Environmental Justice Element in the General Plan Update helps the Town to consider and avoid environmental justice issues to maintain a healthy community**
- » **Addressing such issues now:**
 - Avoids the development of disadvantaged communities within the Town in the future
 - Ensures community equity and protects human health over the lifespan of the General Plan
 - Keeps the Town compliant with State general plan law should regulatory thresholds or conditions change



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- » **Are there areas of Loomis with high concentrations of pollutants or socially disadvantaged neighborhoods?**
- » **Is housing affordability and access to fresh food, healthcare, or recreational areas an issue for Loomis?**
- » **How can Loomis provide all residents with access to affordable housing, fresh food, healthcare, and recreation?**
- » **What can Loomis do to reduce factors that adversely affect health?**
- » **How should the General Plan address Environmental Justice?**



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPROACH

- » **Approach is to provide a general goal, objective, policy, and implementation measures for Environmental Justice**
- » **Reference the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures from other Elements that affect conditions related to Environmental Justice**
 - For example, policies related to:
 - Clean water
 - Air quality
 - Noise level management
 - Transit and Pedestrian/Bicycle Accessibility
 - Access to parks and open space
- » **Referencing other Elements helps to avoid redundancy and conflicting statements.**



DRAFT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY TOPICS (AS APPLICABLE)

- » Pollution exposure including air quality, water quality, and land use compatibility
- » Public services and facilities
- » Food access
- » Safe and sanitary homes including housing location, quality, and affordability
- » Physical activity including accessibility to public transit, employment, and services
- » Additional unique or compounded health risks including climate vulnerability (i.e., high fire threat areas, sea level rise, high flood or seismic risk areas, etc.)
- » Civic or community engagement
- » Prioritization of improvements for disadvantaged communities



DRAFT GOAL, OBJECTIVE, POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

» **Goals**

- The goal of the Loomis General Plan Environmental Justice Element is to support a thriving community by reducing health and environmental impacts, particularly on disadvantaged or low-income communities within the Town.

» **Objectives**

- The provision of a full range of access to housing, public facilities, and economic centers, improvement in the quality of the built and natural environment, and promotion of civil engagement.

» **Policies**

- Consider environmental justice issues as they pertain to the equitable provision of public services, housing, amenities, and environmental quality.

» **Implementation Measures**

- The Town shall consider matters of community equity and environmental justice during the public project review process.
- The Town shall modify the General Plan, zoning code, and zoning map to maintain environmental justice within the Town and achieve equitable conditions throughout the Town.



APPLICABLE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES FROM OTHER ELEMENTS

- » **Each of the other General Plan Elements includes applicable goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures.**
 - They can be referenced in the Environmental Justice Element to fulfill the various policy aspects of an environmental justice element
 - Referencing policies from other elements reduces redundancy, avoids conflict, and ensures each element is addressing concerns related to health and equity for each topic area.
 - Shows that Environmental Justice is addressed by the General Plan as a whole and is considered under all the elements.
- » **We will review these to determine if they should be referenced in the environmental justice element.**



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN REVIEWING POLICIES

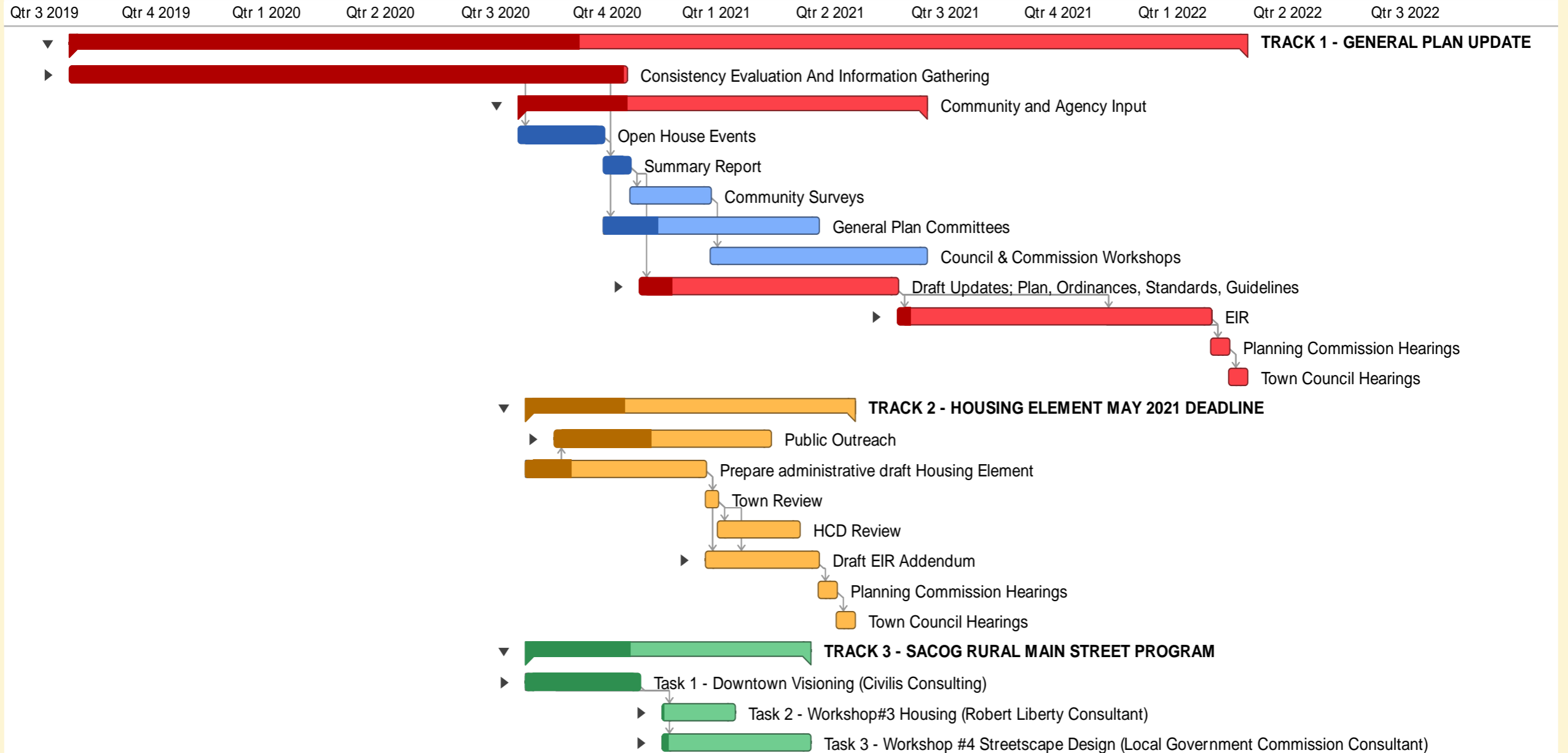
- » Has this policy/program been effective?
- » Does the policy/program address the equitable distribution of benefits and environmental burdens?
- » Has it been effective in managing pollution exposure risks, and/or facilitating well-rounded services in disadvantaged communities?
- » Has it facilitated the development of parks and green space, food markets, safe active transportation routes, etc.?
- » How can existing policies/programs be strengthened to integrate themes of health, resilience, equity, and Environmental Justice?
- » Are there additional policies/programs that should be created to reduce pollution, environmental health risks, and/or other impacts?



SCHEDULE



PROJECT SCHEDULE



NEXT STEPS

- » **Review all General Plan Settings to understand the existing conditions and submit written comments, if any, to the Town.**
- » **Identify any additional areas/topics of concern in Loomis, if any.**
- » **Review the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures from other Elements to determine if they should be referenced.**
- » **Review the Draft Environmental Justice Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures**
 - Finalize based on committee comments



QUESTIONS?

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