

## REPORT TO GENERAL PLAN 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE

**Subject: Introduction to SB 1000 Requirements**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 1000, which became effective in January 2018, requires that California cities and counties include an Environmental Justice Element in their General Plans. This requirement can be met by adopting a separate chapter (e.g., an “element”) on this topic, or by addressing environmental justice throughout the Plan. San Rafael has proposed to meet the requirement by including a Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (“JEDI”) Element in General Plan 2040. SB 1000 compliance is required at the time that two or more elements of a General Plan are concurrently updated. As a result, only a few communities have addressed the requirement to date. San Rafael has an opportunity to set a standard for best practices that other cities can follow in the future. The September 11 meeting is intended to be an introduction to the State requirements; at future meetings, we hope to invite guest speakers to address how other cities are addressing “JEDI” issues in their long-range plans.

### REPORT

Senate Bill 1000 amended the California Government Code to require that general plans identify “disadvantaged communities” within their boundaries and include goals, policies, and objectives to:

- Reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities related to pollution exposure and to promote public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity
- Engage disadvantaged communities in the decision-making process
- Adopt policies that prioritize improvements that address the needs of disadvantaged communities

Disadvantaged communities are areas specifically identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency or other low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health outcomes.

The goal of SB 1000 is to ensure the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes. This includes the equitable distribution of public facilities and services, minimizing the overconcentration of health and safety hazards in lower income communities, and creating more livable communities. The environmental justice element must identify objectives and policies to

reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by reducing pollution exposure. Other considerations include the adaptation of lower income communities to climate change impacts, access to clean drinking water and clean air, buffering from industrial uses, and access to transit, healthy food, parks and open spaces, schools, health care, and basic city services.

As noted at prior meetings, San Rafael will be meeting the SB 1000 requirement by including a “JEDI” (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) element in its General Plan. Some of the policy framework for this Element already exists in General Plan 2020 (primarily in the Housing Element and in the Governance Element) but additional guidance is needed.

The purpose of our discussion on September 11 will be to introduce the concept of the JEDI Element and solicit feedback from Steering Committee members on issues to address. We will follow up at future meetings with guest speakers and draft policies and programs. We are also working with the Canal Alliance and Communities in Collaboration (meeting facilitators) to do Spanish-language outreach to address both SB 1000 issues and broader issues related to the General Plan and the future of San Rafael.

Steering Committee members are encouraged to visit the link below, which will open a “toolkit” for SB 1000 compliance prepared by the State of California.

To review the SB 1000 toolkit, click [here](#).