

*Proposed assessment tool for inclusion in Contra Costa County General Plan. Its purpose is to bridge the gap between the County's Environmental Policy (2007) and day-to-day operations within each department.**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Do our county's projects and policies meet environmental justice goals?

The following set of questions is proposed for internal use by all departments of Contra Costa County government. The questions are intended to help staff determine the degree to which its outreach, programs and policies align with the County's environmental justice goals.

1. Are public materials and workshops presented in the languages of residents who may be affected by a project or policy?
2. Are meetings and workshops scheduled at times and locations that enable participation by working people and those without cars? Are notices of these events distributed through diverse media, not just online media?
3. Do all neighborhoods have opportunities to engage in decision-making conversations?
4. Has data collection reflected the economic, gender and racial diversity of the affected population?
5. Are the costs and benefits of a project or policy shared equitably by all who may be affected, or are there disproportionate impacts?
6. Are economic opportunities concentrated within one segment of a population or area, or are they available to all who may wish to take advantage of them?
7. What will be the indirect or unintended impacts on the quality of life of residents within different communities?

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Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission
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* Cities and counties are required to adopt an Environmental Justice element, or integrate EJ-related policies, objectives, and goals throughout other elements of their General Plan. An Environmental Justice Element is required by the Government Code Section 65302(h) (1), which specifies requirements for a city or county's General Plan. An environmental justice element is also required by under SB 1000.