

**CITY OF HAYWARD*****Memorandum***

DATE: November 18, 2021

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Leigha Schmidt, Acting Principal Planner

SUBJECT: **Formation of a Community Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice**

The City has kicked off an update to the Housing Element, which is being combined with updates to the Climate Action Plan and General Plan Updates related to Safety and Environmental Justice. The City anticipates creating a new standalone Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan which aligns with other work that the City is doing around race, equity, health and housing.

Per State Law, preparation of the Environmental Justice Element must include creation of a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) with stakeholders who are active and engaged with disadvantaged communities. The project team is reaching out to various existing Commissions and Committees seeking volunteers who have experience, interest and capacity to participate in a limited term Community Advisory Committee (CAC) around the issue of Environmental Justice. We are hoping to have 6-8 Committee volunteers taken from the Community Services Commission, Planning Commission, Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force, and Youth Commission, all of whom have demonstrated reliability and a commitment to working with the City.

The Committee would run for about four months beginning in January 2022. There would be three approximately 2-hour long meetings with homework in between.

The Committee's first task will be to ground-truth an Existing Conditions Assessment, which would assess the following environmental justice topics:

- Pollution exposure
- Access to clean air and water
- Access to healthy food
- Access to safe and sanitary housing
- Access to physical activity and recreation



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The Committee's second task will be to consider and prioritize objectives and policies for the Environmental Justice Element.

The Committee's third task will be to review and discuss the Environmental Justice Element and the best way to begin the process of achieving its vision.

For additional information on this topic, please see:

1. Staff report related to the Housing Element prepared for the October 19, 2021 Joint Planning Commission/City Council Work Session available at this link:
<https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5186196&GUID=E8EFC53D-6501-4BA3-A6CD-399E559F823E&Options=&Search=>
2. Staff report related to the Housing Element Update prepared for the September 2, 2021 Homelessness-Housing Task Force:
<https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5121228&GUID=11A69278-2D8E-460E-A5B2-03158385527F&Options=&Search=>
3. Project website at <https://haywardhousingandclimateupdate.com/>

Please contact Leigha Schmidt at leigha.schmidt@hayward-ca.gov if you are interested in participating.