

Green Zones Program Proposed Text Changes to the Los Angeles County General Plan

General Plan Policies related to EJ/GZ

(These are the policies that will be implemented or enhanced by the Green Zones. Text edits and additions in red.)

Chapter 3: Guiding Principles

Environmental Justice (text box)

http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf

SB 1000 requires that local jurisdictions include an environmental Justice element to their General Plan or related goals, policies, and objectives as they relate to disadvantaged communities in other elements of the General Plan. The Green Zones Program supports the goals of SB 1000 and the implementation of environmental justice throughout the unincorporated areas by identifying communities that disproportionately bear a burden from stationary sources of pollution due to incompatible land uses and better regulating incompatible land uses in close proximity to each other through new Zoning Code definitions, new permitting requirements and development standards.

Chapter 6: Land Use Element

II. Background

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Disadvantaged Unincorporated Legacy Communities (SB 244)

SB 244, which became effective in 2011, requires cities and counties to identify and study the infrastructure needs of disadvantaged unincorporated communities. **These communities were identified and studied only for the infrastructure needs based on the State criteria.** The County used the following criteria to identify “disadvantaged unincorporated legacy communities” as required by state law:

- Parcels are at least 50 years old.
- Parcels are outside of a city’s sphere of influence.
- Parcels are clustered with 10 or more units in close proximity.
- Households earn less than 80% of the state median income.

As shown in Figure 6.4, the majority of parcels identified for SB 244 are concentrated in the eastern portion of the Antelope Valley. The remaining parcels are located in the western portion of the Antelope Valley, Lopez Canyon, Kagel Canyon, Altadena, Hacienda Heights, and Rowland Heights.

Goal LU 7: Compatible land uses that complement neighborhood character and the natural environment.

Policy LU 7.1: Reduce and mitigate the impacts of incompatible land uses, where feasible, using buffers, appropriate technology, building enclosure, and other design techniques.

Policy LU 7.8: Promote environmental justice in the areas bearing disproportionate impacts from stationary pollution sources.

Goal LU 9: Land use patterns and community infrastructure that promote health and wellness.

Policy LU 9.4: Encourage patterns of development that protect the health of sensitive receptors.

Chapter 14: Economic Development Element

Goal ED 2: Land use practices and regulations that foster economic development and growth.

Policy ED 2.8: Incentivize as much as feasible, environmentally sustainable practices and high standards of development in the communities that bear disproportionate pollution and health impacts.

Policy ED 2.9: Streamline the permit review process and other entitlement processes for businesses and industries.

Policy ED 2.10: Support zoning incentives for the operation of farms in Agricultural Resources Areas (ARAs).

General Plan Appendix C

http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-appendices.pdf

IV. SB 244 Methodology

As discussed in the Land Use Element, SB244 requires cities and counties to identify and study the infrastructure needs of disadvantaged unincorporated communities. This State bill only focuses on infrastructure needs and does not consider the comprehensive analysis done by the Green Zones Program and EJSM as described below in C.V. In order to meet this state mandate, Los Angeles County utilized GIS to identify sites that match all of the following criteria:

- Parcels are at least 50 years old.
- Parcels are outside of a city's sphere of influence.
- Parcels are clustered with 10 or more units in close proximity.
- Households earn less than 80% of the state median income. (Source 2000 Census, 2010 American Community Survey)

Once sites were identified with GIS, the staff reviewed and refined the list to remove non-qualifying sites.

C.V. Environmental Justice Screening Method (EJSM)

The EJSM was developed in partnership with USC's Program for Environmental and Regional Equity and Occidental College. The tool is presented using GIS mapping and displays cumulative risks of communities in Los Angeles County that are disproportionately burdened by multiple types of pollution and health risks.

EJSM measures "cumulative impact" by mapping multiple data layers and approximately 40 indicators at the Census Tract level that include sensitive uses, socioeconomic information, and various sources of pollution to come up with a community EJSM score. A complete list of layers can be found [here](#):

http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/img/gis/agol/Green_Zones_EJSM_Data_Sources.pdf

The categories of cumulative impact include the following:

- Proximity to hazards and sensitive land uses
- Health risk and exposure
- Social and health vulnerability
- Climate change vulnerability

Each category of impact is assigned a score by Census Tract. Then the total cumulative impact scores by Census Tract determine the final EJSM score. EJSM is not a static model but instead is displayed using GIS mapping as it allows for continuous data updates and the overlay of additional data layers as needed. More information is available at:

<http://planning.lacounty.gov/greenzones/ejism>

The EJSM was one of the key analytic tools used to identify the Green Zone Districts of the County's Green Zones Program. It may be used in the future for other projects consistent with the General Plan.