



Environmental Justice Element Implementation Webinar

Planning and Environmental Review
December 6, 2023

Webinar Logistics

- This webinar will be recorded and available on the County's website.
- Online Features
 - Q & A

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Meeting Agenda

- Background of EJ Element
- Implementation Accomplishment
- Questions & Comments
- Next Steps



Environmental Justice Element

SB 1000 – Environmental Justice in Local Land Use Planning.

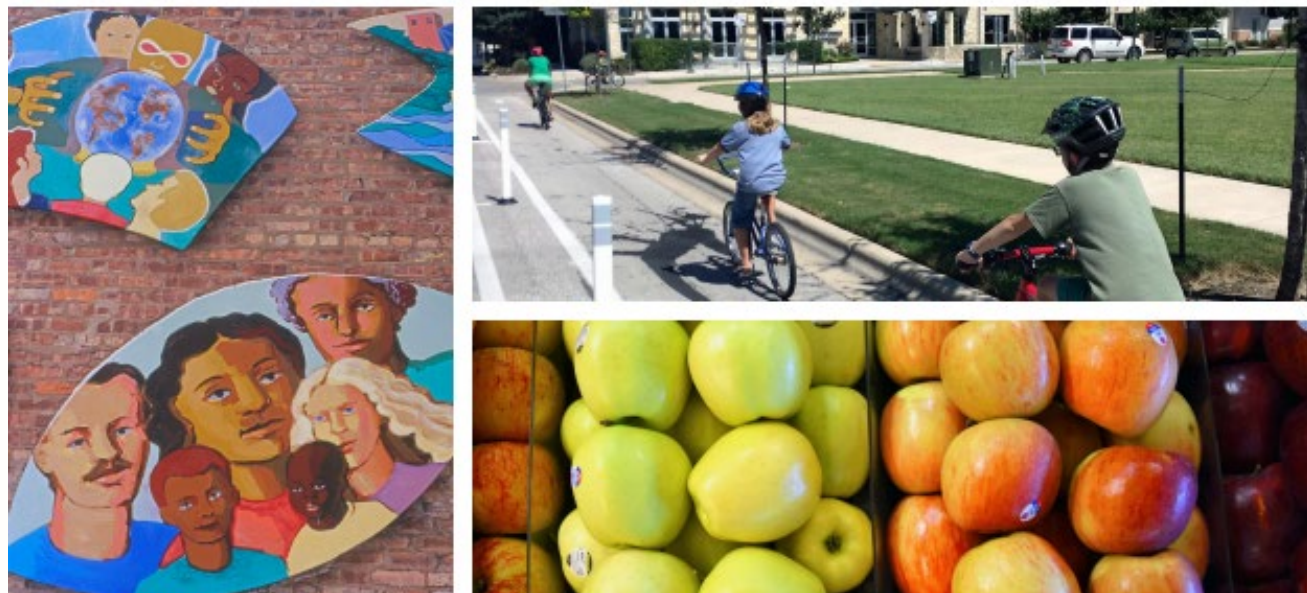
... fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



Environmental Justice Element



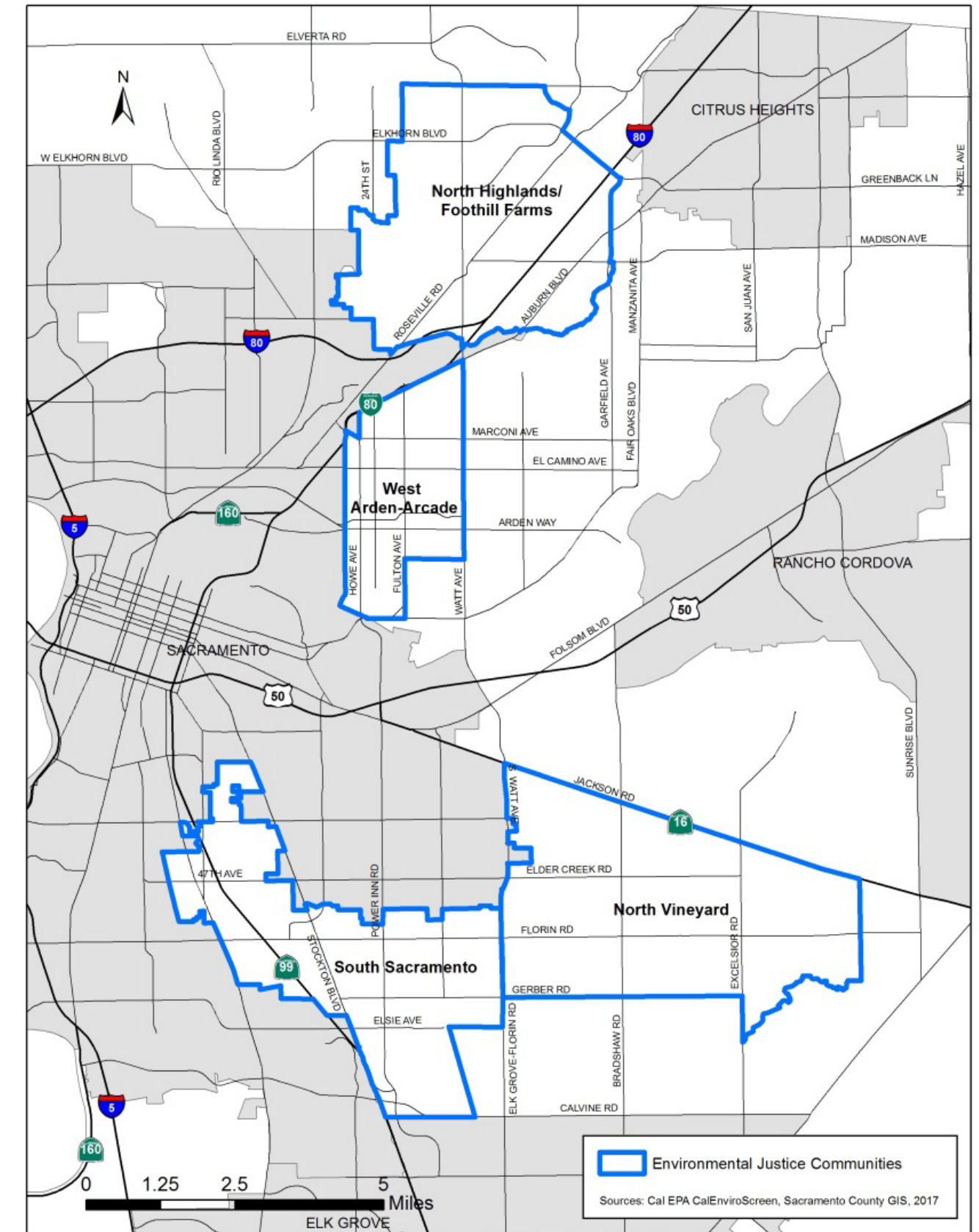
- Purpose of the EJ Element is to address public health risks and environmental justice concerns.
- The County elected to emphasize the importance of the EJ by preparing a separate, standalone document, that has same weight as any other mandatory elements of the County's General Plan.



Environmental Justice Element

Phase 1

- Adopted on May 8, 2018
- Baseline research, scoping & preliminary policies.
- Established four EJ Communities
 1. North Highlands / Foothill Farms
 2. West Arden-Arcade
 3. North Vineyard
 4. South Sacramento



Environmental Justice Element

Phase 2

- Adopted on December 17, 2019
- Built on Phase 1 – Public Outreach & Policy Development



Environmental Justice Element

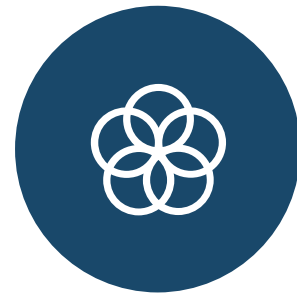
- Community Outreach
 - 7 Pop-up booth at community events
 - Web survey (7 languages)
 - 3 community workshops
 - Meeting with CBOs & stakeholders





**The County's
Environmental Justice
Element covers the
following topical areas:**

Civil Engagement



Crime Prevention



Food Access



Promotion of
Physical Activity



Access to Public
Facilities



Reduce Pollution
Exposure



Safe and
Sanitary Homes



Civil Engagement

Ensure appropriate opportunities for all persons to participate in the decision-making process.

- **Community Outreach Strategy**

- A framework for all departments to participate in meaningful two-way communication with the public on all aspects of County governance & delivery of services.

- Continued work with Public Information Office.

- Increased social media & mailing list presence.

- On-call contracts with multiple translation & interpretative services



Crime Prevention

Fear of crime could discourage residents from accessing services that meet Environmental Justice objectives.

- **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design**

- Reducing both the incidence and fear of crime by proper design, maintenance and use of buildings and the spaces between buildings.

- **Supporting Youth**

- Youth Master Plan to provide vision and a roadmap to improve and enhance the overall quality of life
- Board of Supervisors established *Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board* in 2021.



Food Access

Food plays a critical role in the health, economy and culture of a sustainable community. It is essential that all have access to food that is healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate.

- **Food Action Plan**

- Create a holistic vision for the food system from production through waste management County-wide.
- Working with Public Health & Sacramento Food Policy Council on Food Systems Assessment and Food Action Plan

- **Healthy Food Access**

- Require healthy food at convenience stores.
- Allowing edible landscaping as common outdoor amenities & open space.
- Support CalFresh, Market Match, WIC & Farmers Markets.



Physical Activity

Physical Activity is a large contributor to the physical and mental health of Sacramento County residents. Active people tend to live longer and have lower risks for diseases.

- **Promote Physical Activity**

- Support physical activity programs and education offered by the local park and recreation districts
- Promote walking, biking, and other modes of active transportation
- Encourage school district activities that support physical activity wellness.

- **Active Transportation Plan**

- Adopted in October, 2022
- Combines and updates Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan
- Prioritizes improvements in EJ Communities.

<http://walkbikesacramento.net>



Public Facilities

Public Facilities are essential for creating and maintaining healthy, connected and vibrant communities.

- **Equitable Distribution of Public Facilities**
 - Advocate for equitable distribution of public facilities and levels of service within EJ Communities amongst service districts.
 - Preferences given to EJ Communities.

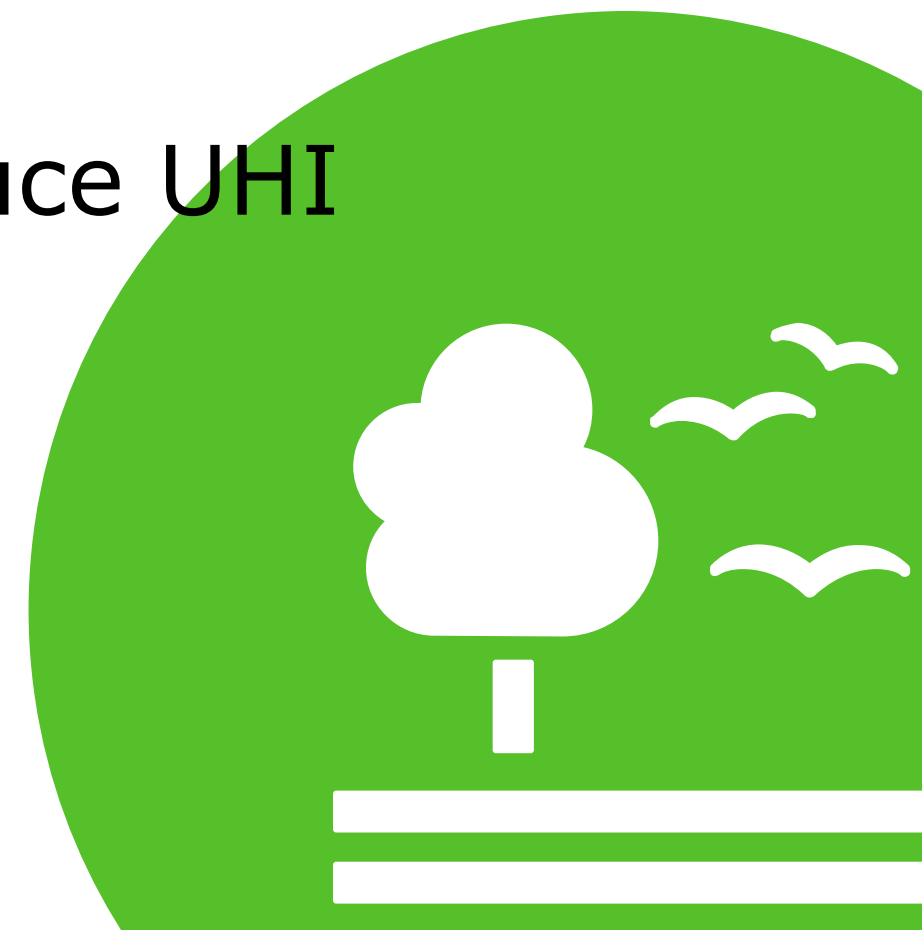


Pollution Exposure

EJ Communities are often disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution exposure.

- **Climate Action Plan**

- Develop Climate Action Plan and prioritize climate-related investments in EJ Communities
- Transportation – EV charging facilities, public transit
- Green infrastructure, increasing urban forest to reduce UHI
- Energy efficiency upgrades in older building stock
- Incentives needed



Safe and Sanitary Homes

Substandard housing, overcrowded housing, and housing affordability can be issues in EJ Communities.

- **Housing Maintenance**

- Assist in promoting Low Income Weatherization Program in EJ Communities.

- **Housing Affordability**

- Review and update Affordable Housing Program
- County Rezone/Infill Programs



Implementation Priority Criteria



Implementation Priority Criteria

- The implementation priorities were identified by using the following criteria:
 1. Will it institutionalize Environmental Justice as part of the County's regular business practices, and
 2. Is it already funded and have a staffing commitment, and
 3. Does it provide co-benefits across other related community issues and County priorities.

2023 Implementation

- **Racial Equity Fair**

- This Fair was to bring all County employees, including various departments, community leaders, activists and residents together for two days.
- PER was invited to share about the County's EJ work, and the progress we made.
- This event allowed PER to share the EJ Element with all County departments, and to identify a solution to work to implement more programs for our EJ Communities.



2023 Implementation Work in Progress

- **Rezone/Infill**

- Continuing to work on the rezone and infill program to prioritize improvements and investments in EJ Communities

- **Climate Action Plan**

- Continued work to address comments received; many implementation programs prioritize EJ Communities.

- **North Watt Corridor**

- County received grant funding for North Watt Avenue Corridor.

- **Stockton Blvd**

- Continued work to study the feasibility of infill development along the corridor.

Other Accomplishments

- **Continued Support for EJ Programs**

- Staff has been supporting various programs that benefit EJ Communities.
- SacRT has applied grant program to improve bus stops, as well as nearby sidewalks, curb ramps, and other pedestrian infrastructures. All locations within Sacramento County are in EJ Communities.

– Re-Envision West Arden Arcade received ***Award of Excellence*** in the Transportation Category from the Sacramento Valley American Planning Association

2023 Implementation

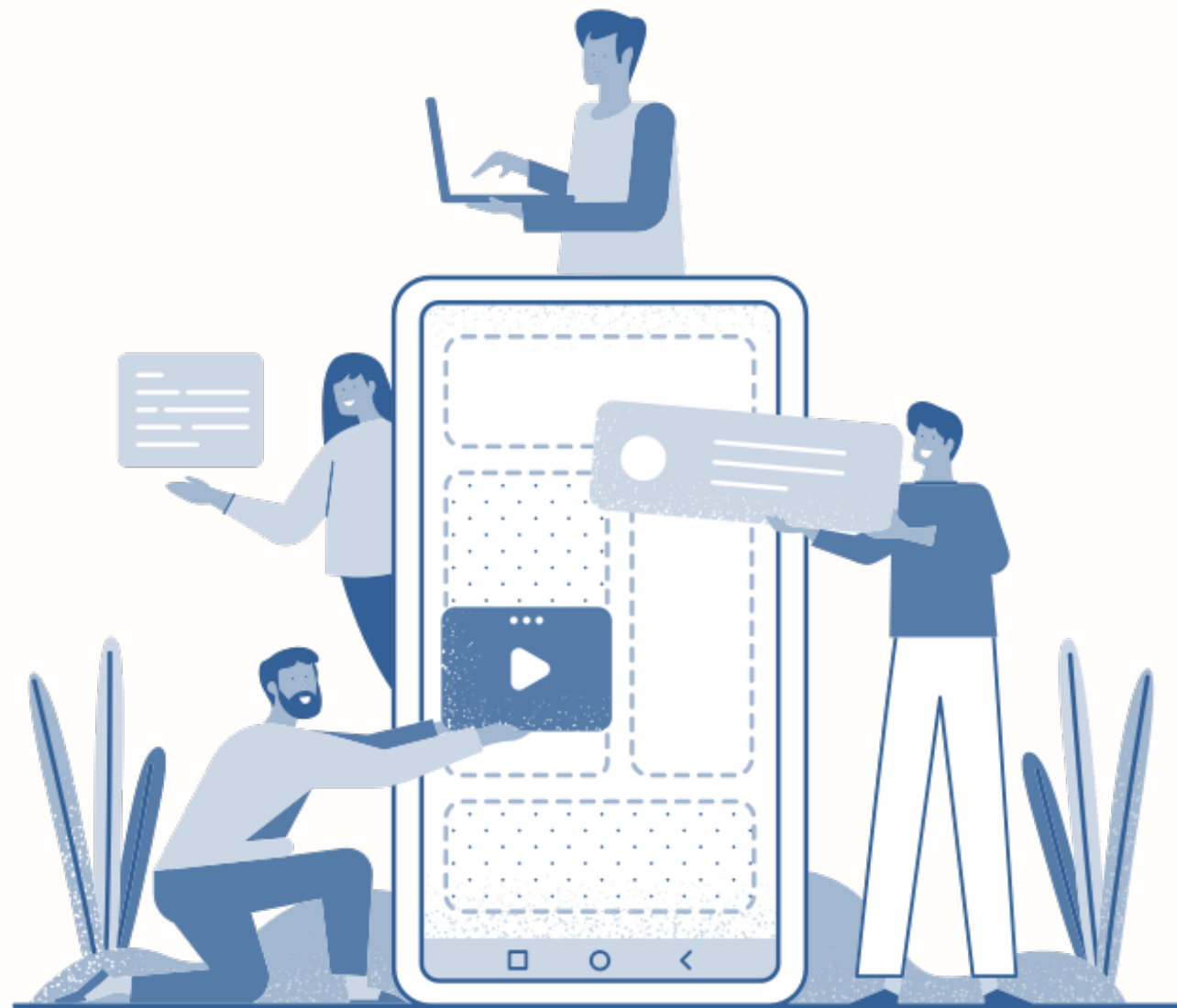
- **PER Training**

- Continued training and is part of on-going training annually.

- **Stakeholder Meeting**

- Continued to hold annual stakeholder meeting & survey.

- Will include EJ “Report Card” in the Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors



Areas for Improvement

- **Community Outreach**

- Working with CBOs
- Two-way communication
- Listening Sessions
- Regular updates with stakeholders
- Community Ambassadors
- Showing up
 - Attending Community Meetings, Stronger social media presence, Attending CBO meetings, etc...

- **More Collaboration**

- Working with other Agencies and Departments
 - Tree Planting (STF, SMUD)
 - Weatherization Program (SMUD)
 - Air Quality Monitoring (SMAQMD)
 - Food Action Plan (DHS, SFPC)
 - Prioritizing Road Maintenance (DOT)
 - Better Transportation Options & Improved Transit Stops (SacRT)
 - And so much more...

Recommended Priorities for 2024

- **Continue Executive-Level Working Group**

- Continue to meet and elevate EJ Principles within Executive-Level Working Group.

- **Continue to Develop Outreach Strategy**

- Research best practices, increase funding for multi-lingual services, increase use of social media, and develop new ways to communicate with County residents.

- **Continue 2023 Priorities**

- Identify additional collaboration with various department to implement EJ principles

- **Additional Priorities from the Survey**

- County staff will review the survey result and feedback.
 - Work with County leadership to develop additional priority for 2023

Questions & Answers



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At this time, Staff will respond to questions entered into the Webinar.

Next Steps

- **Stakeholder Survey**

- This survey is **open until December 18.**
- Staff will review, and summarize participants feedback.
- Work with County leadership to develop a recommended Work Plan for 2024.

- **Annual Report**

- Staff will prepare Report Card and Work Plan for inclusion in the General Plan Annual Report.
- Annual Report & Report Card will be presented to Board of Supervisors

Thank you!

- **Stakeholder Survey**

- Survey closes on December 18, 2023.

Scan QR Code
for Survey



- **Future Updates**

- Sign-up to receive future EJ Element notification from the County, including the survey results!

Scan QR Code
for EJ Email
Subscription



EnvJustice@saccounty.gov