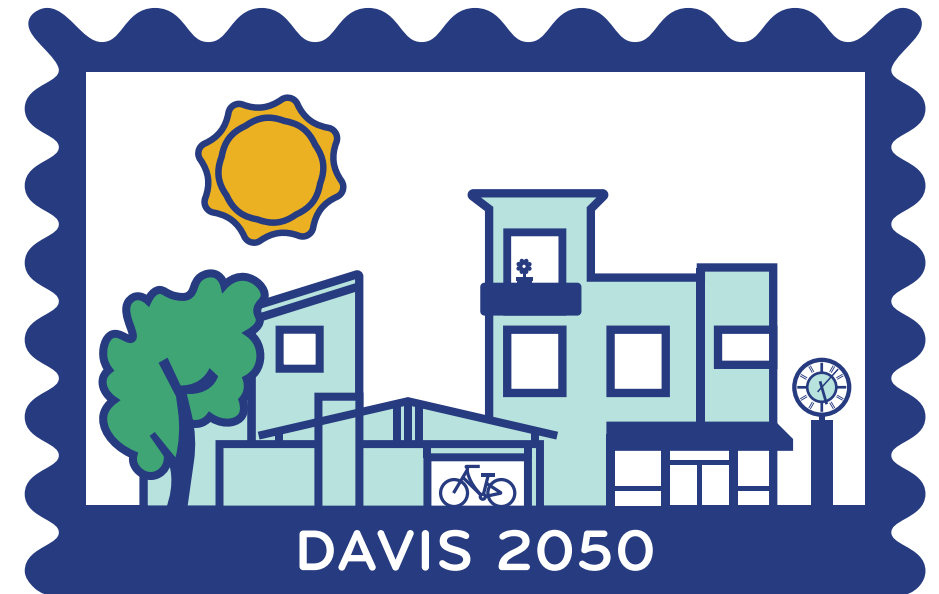


Davis General Plan Update Presentation to City Council

August 19, 2025



General Plan Update



Agenda

1. SB 1000 and Draft Disadvantaged Communities Screening

Eric Yurkovich, Raimi + Associates

2. Environmental Justice and Community Development

Professor Jonathan London, UC Davis

3. Discussion



SB 1000 Purpose

“address unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by decreasing pollution exposure, increasing community assets, and improving overall health”

- Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation General Plan Guidelines



SB 1000 Requirement

- Requires local governments to identify any "disadvantaged communities (DACs)" in its jurisdiction when a city or county adopts or updates **two or more elements** of its general plan concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.

If DACs are identified, then local governments have two options:

An EJ Element: a separate new element in the general plan

EJ Policies: a set of EJ-related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements



$$\text{Sensitive Populations} + \text{High Pollution and/or Health Burden} = \text{Disadvantaged Community}$$

“Disadvantaged Community”

A “disadvantaged community” (DAC) is defined as: “1) an area that has been identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency...2) **a low income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards** that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.”

– (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (h)(4)(A).)



SB 1000 Process

There are generally three steps to developing an EJ Element:

1. Screening

Identify DACs,
including unique
or compounded
risks



2. Engagement

Engagement with
the community,
especially in DACs,
related to
environmental
justice



3. Policy Development

Integration of
goals, policies
and programs
into the General
Plan to address
DAC priorities



SB 1000 Policy

In EJ element or EJ policies:

- **Must minimally address eight topic areas** (see list to the right) to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in DACs
- Identify goals, policies, and actions that address health, equity and environmental justice priorities and needs in DACs

Pollution Exposure: air quality, water quality, and land use compatibility

Public Facilities: libraries, schools, childcare, health facilities, parks

Food Access: grocery stores, farmers' markets, community gardens

Safe and Sanitary Homes: housing location, quality, and affordability

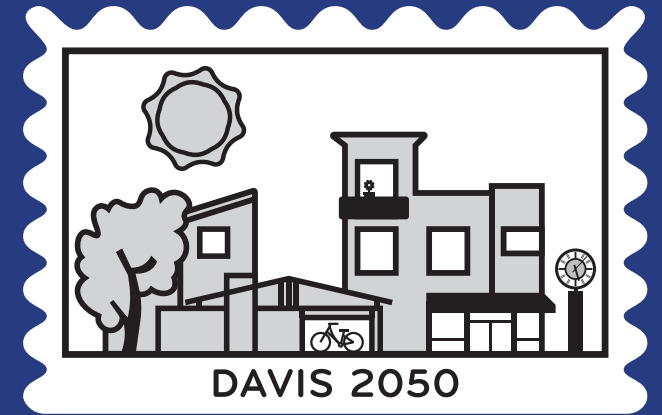
Physical Activity: walkability, bikeability, access to transit, traffic safety

Civic Engagement: language access, participatory planning, consult DACs

Unique or compounded risks

Prioritized improvements and programs for disadvantaged communities





General Plan Update

Disadvantaged Communities Screening Analysis

Preliminary Draft

SB 1000 Screening Methods

Method 1

CalEnviroScreen /
SB 535 DACs



Areas identified by CalEPA as being disadvantaged based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria



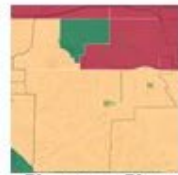
Areas at or below 80% of State and County AMI

Method 2

Low-income communities with disproportionate pollution burden



Diesel PM percentile



Cleanup Sites percentile



Other pollution factors from CalEnviroScreen 4.0



Low Income Communities Disproportionately Affected by Environmental Pollution



Method 3

Community-specific data and groundtruthing



Part A: CEJST
Align with Federal funding streams.



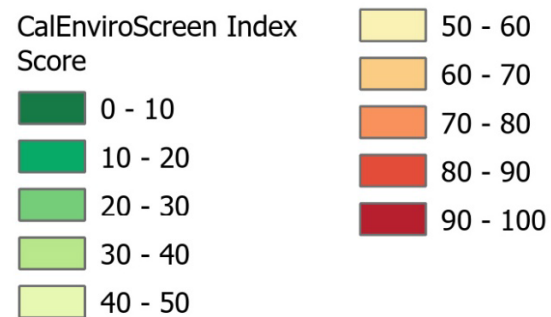
Part B: Other SB 1000 Topics
Assess additional indicators related to the other SB 1000 topic areas.



Identified Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)



No identified communities in Davis



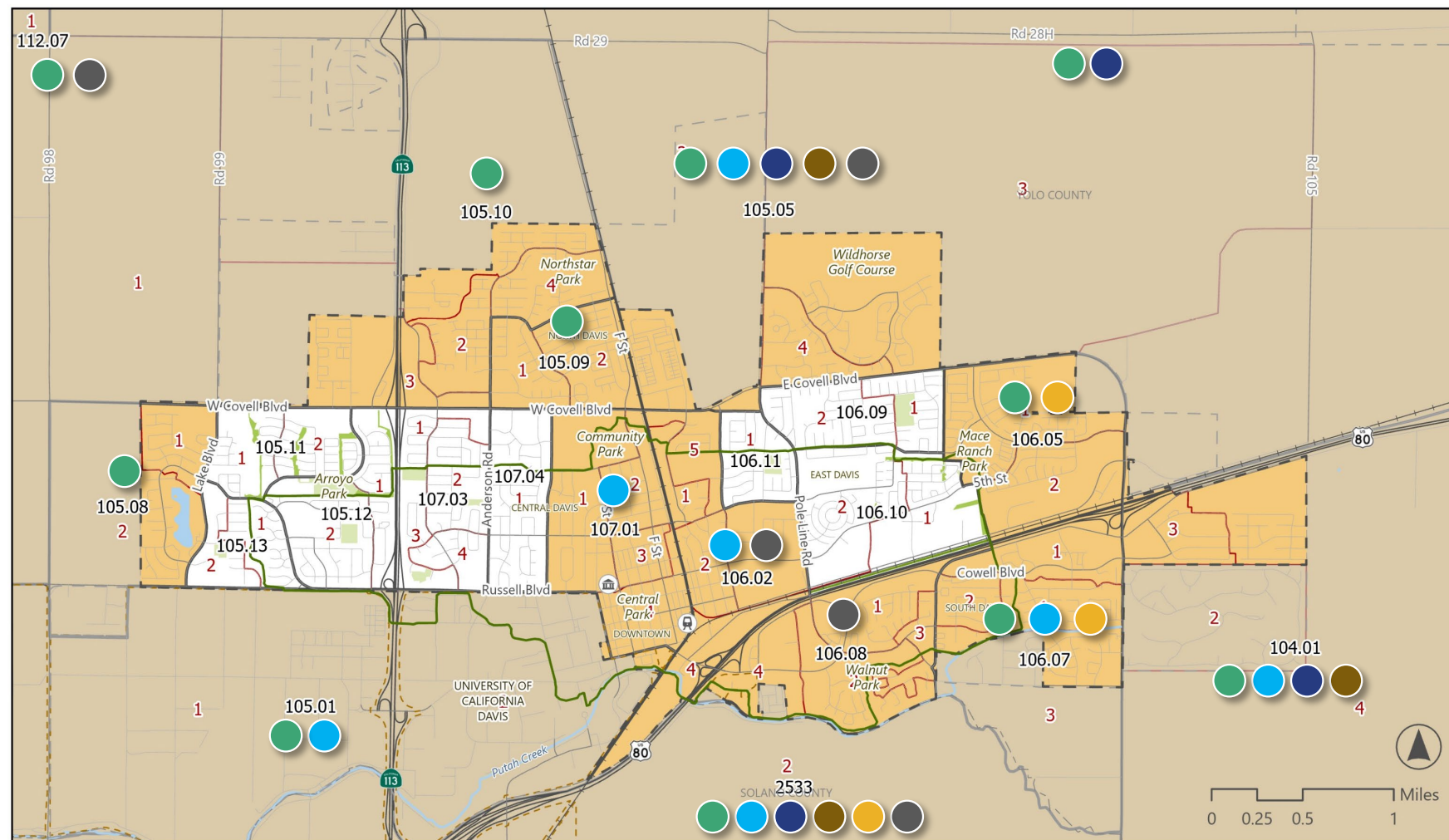
Low-income
areas <80% of
County area
median income

	California	Yolo County
2023 Area Median Income (AMI)	\$109,200	\$114,000
80% of AMI	\$87,360	\$91,200



Screening Method 2

Census tracts with scores in the 75th percentile, or top 25% statewide

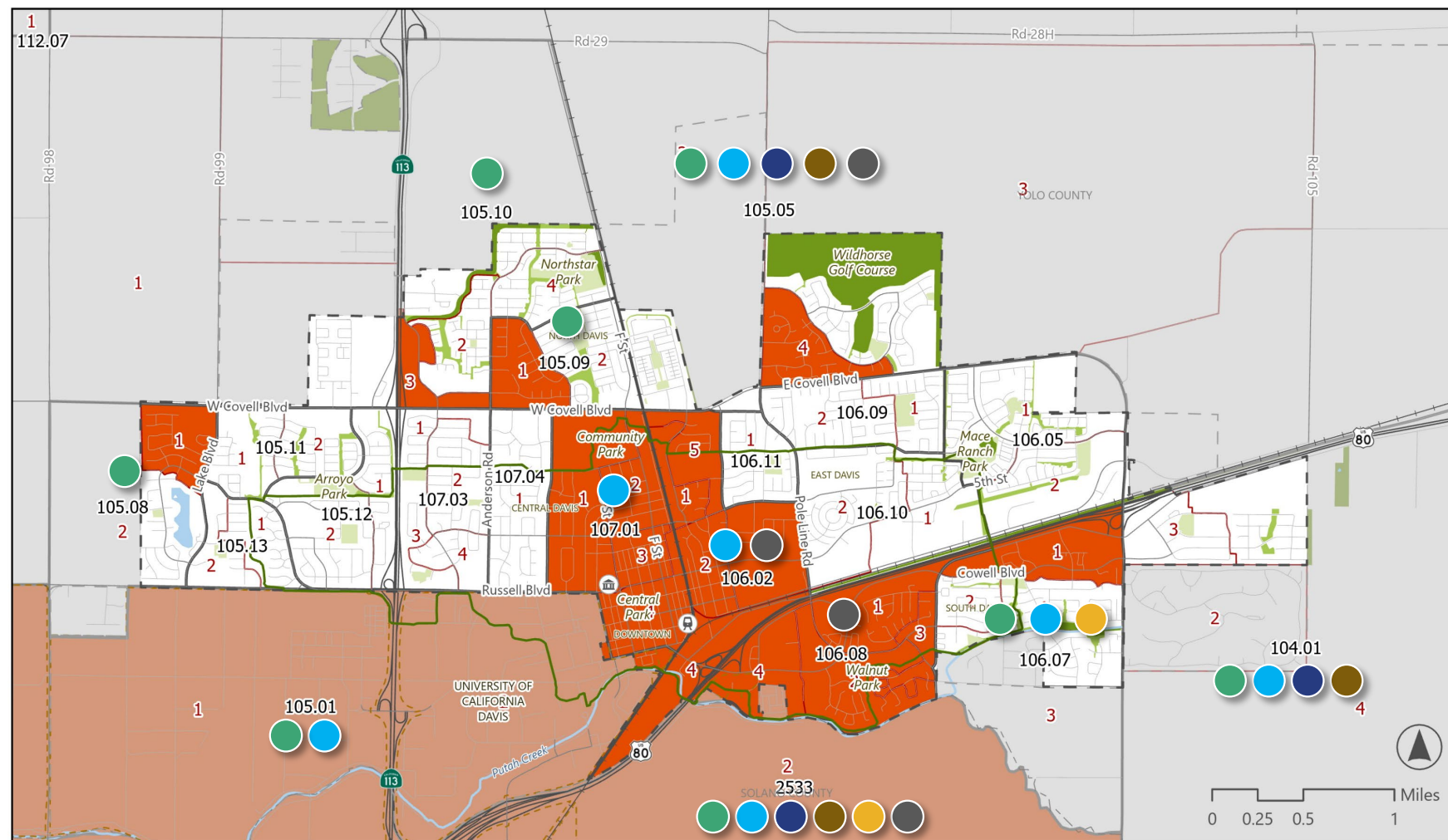


- Census Tracts
- Census Block Groups
- Pollution Burdened Tracts (>75%)
- Pollution Burdened Tracts (>75%) Outside the City Limits

- Pesticide Use
- Groundwater Threats
- Impaired Water Bodies
- Solid Waste Sites
- Clean-up Sites
- Hazardous Waste Sites

Screening Method 2

Low-income communities with disproportionate pollution burden

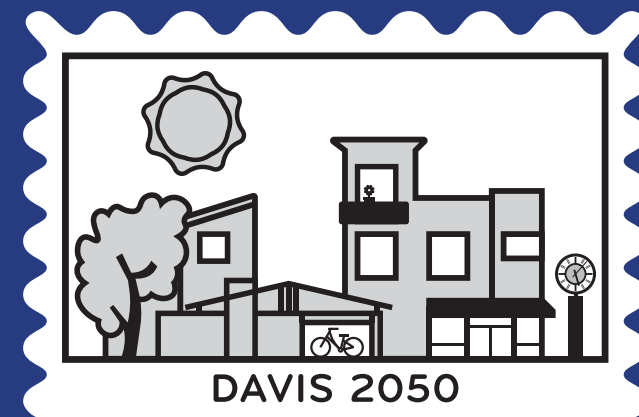


- Low Income Areas with Pollution Burdens Outside the City Limits
- Low Income Areas with Pollution Burdens

- Pesticide Use
- Groundwater Threats
- Impaired Water Bodies
- Solid Waste Sites
- Clean-up Sites
- Hazardous Waste Sites



In partnership with



General Plan Update

Environmental Justice and Community Development

Professor Jonathan London, Katie Caceres, and Hilda Cabello-Garcia: Department of Human Ecology/
Community and Regional Development

UC Davis EJ Team

Professor:
Jonathan London
Teaching
Associate: Lupe
Franco

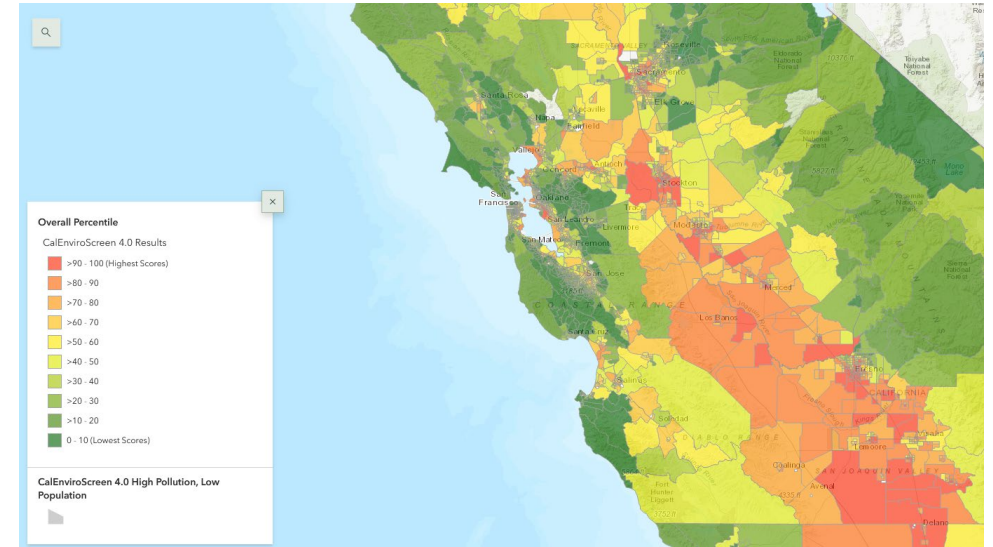
CRD 149: EJ and
Community
Development

Funding: UC
Davis Global
Affairs



Defining Environmental Justice

"Environmental Justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." [California EPA]



UN Sustainable Development Goals



Used by countries, cities, universities, and others to mobilize and track progress on a globally-indexed system



Class Goal 1

- Provide visionary resources to integrate environmental justice into the City of Davis's General Plan Update

Class Goal 2

- Incorporate experiential student learning and university-community partnerships into local city planning

Class Goal 3

- Develop a model curriculum adaptable by local governments and universities around the world



Method 1: Focus Groups & Surveys

- Typically under-represented populations
- 16 focus groups
- 2 surveys
- 1 walk audit
- Over 100 participants

Method 2: Policy Research

- Document EJ in General Plan promising practices:
 - CA Plan Search
 - CA Attorney General's data base
- Academic literature

Method 3: EJ Mapping/ Data

- CalEnviroScreen
- Healthy Places Index
- Water Justice mapping tool



Deliverable 1: EJ Framework

- Overview of Environmental Justice
- Overview of the SDGs
- Relevance of EJ to General Plans
- Overall EJ vision for Davis

Deliverable 2: EJ Policy Tracker

- Interactive spreadsheet with goals, policies and actions related to elements of the General Plan

Deliverable 3: Compendium of Student Projects

- Focus group reports and summaries
- Compendium of EJ maps



Focus Group Synthesis

- EJ Problems

- Affordable Housing

- Lack of adequate housing for students, disabled people and other low-income residents
 - Sense of exclusion and lack of secure tenure in community

- *"I have been living in Davis for over 24 years. The day I must leave due to high costs will be a hard blow for me and my family."* (Spanish-language survey)

- EJ Recommendations

- Affordable Housing

- Invest in creative housing models (housing coops, limited equity, urban land trusts)
 - Prioritize density and mixed use in all commercial areas
 - Use "climate smart" designs for water, energy, parking, landscaping



Focus Group Synthesis

- EJ Problems

- Green Space

- Uneven distribution of shade, trees, and community gathering areas
 - Lack of access to species relevant for Native peoples
 - *"It's hard to feel welcomed when the people who were here first have not been welcomed."* [Native Focus Group]

- Public Transportation

- Timing and accessibility of bus routes

- EJ Recommendations

- Green Space

- Prioritizing the planting of native and culturally-meaningful vegetation in current public spaces and future developments in tree deserts.

- Public Transportation

- Design bus routes with a focus on affordable housing and other transit-dependent populations
 - Expanding service hours for nights and weekends



EJ Policy Tracker: Purpose & Format

Primary Type	Secondary/Tertiary Type	General Goal	Policy Action	Policy Intent	Time Frame	City Role	Potential Partners	Notes / Barriers	Quotes	Lead Dept / Agency	Legal Authority
Air Quality	Carbon Emissions, Noise	Residential communities without noise pollution	The City should ban the use (not just sale) of gas powered leaf blowers, and offer an assistance/buy-back program for the transition to electric.	Target noise pollution caused by gas leaf blowers	Short Term/Immediate	City in Collaboration	Yolo County Environmental Health, Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District, Cool Davis	The use of gas-powered leaf blowers and proximity to freeways were cited as primary sources of noise and air pollution. To alleviate the former, the city of Davis should consider instituting a full ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, and offer assistance to ease the costs of transitioning to electric ones, following the lead of other California cities such as Santa Monica.FROM FOCUS GROUP DATA	Residents of Paul's Place said that the fumes from leaf blowers, especially in richer neighborhoods that can afford landscaping, makes the air "unbreathable", and expressed a desire for people to switch to more electric powered ones (Affordable Housing Focus Group).	Davis Environmental Resources Division	The City of Alameda (and many others) have already done this (link) , and their policies and equipment exchange programs can be used as examples/templates.

↓ reformatted

Policy Intent

Policy Action

Goals: Widely available multi-modal transportation. Widespread use of active transportation.

Encourage mixed-use, transit-oriented development to minimize the need to drive by increasing opportunities for individuals to live near where they work, offering a convenient mix of local goods and services, and providing access to high quality transit services.

The City *should* revise and revisit parking requirements in zoning codes to shift support to transit-oriented development.

Goals: Healthy residents, Heat Stress resilience

Encourage residents to stay active and mitigate the impacts of extreme heat.

The City *shall* install public water fountains/water bottle refilling stations in more places, not just public parks.

Next Steps

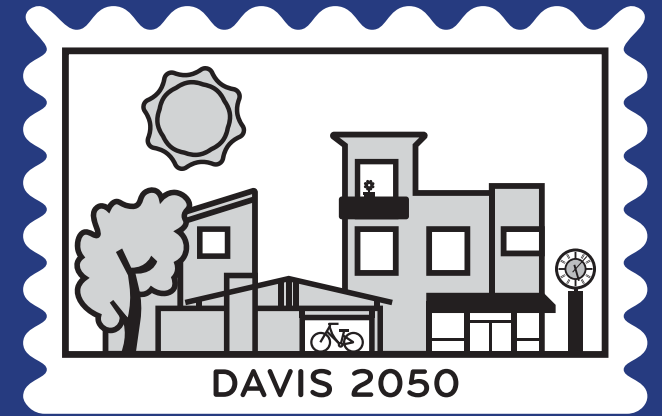
- September 2025:
 - Revise EJ Policy Tracker
 - Write the EJ Framework
 - Create archive of student products
- Possibility for class in Spring 2026



Questions for Council

1. What do you see as critical environmental justice issues to address in the General Plan?
2. Do you have any comments on the preliminary draft disadvantaged communities screening methodology or maps?
3. Do you have any direction for UC Davis on their final products?





General Plan Update

Thank you!

For any comments or questions reach out to
mstark@cityofdavis.org