

# POLICY WORKING GROUP

## Preliminary Policy Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed by the Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy Working Group. Recommendations were determined based on discussion and feedback from group members and City representatives. The recommendations will continue to evolve and be refined through development of the cumulative impact ordinance and the City's EJ Action Plan.

## Environmental Justice (EJ) Fundamentals

Goal: Governance systems and structures ensure that City policies and processes promote EJ.

- Determine how the City will define environmental justice to shape current and future policy
- Designate EJ neighborhoods, which should be subject to different policy requirements to prevent further environmental injustice impacts
- Formalize a community advisory body, comprised of community-based advocates, to provide recommendations to the Mayor's Office and City departments on EJ work
- Require City department leadership to identify and implement action steps to promote EJ
- Institute community engagement standards to ensure meaningful involvement of EJ neighborhoods

## Cumulative Impacts Elements

Goal: The City is required to consider environmental, health, and social stressors in decision-making.

- Reform the City's zoning code to require additional review of consequential facilities during zoning and permitting processes, especially within EJ Neighborhoods
- Establish thresholds applied to consequential facilities that allow the City to deny zoning or permitting approval and/or to require stronger community protections
- Increase community members' voices as a factor in decision-making around land use, zoning, permitting, and enforcement

## Community Benefits

Goal: People who live in EJ neighborhoods directly benefit from local development.

- Establish funds to be used for neighborhood improvements in EJ areas, potentially to be funded by facilities that contribute to cumulative impacts
- Explore opportunities for community ownership of land in EJ neighborhoods (e.g., land trust)
- Ensure developments and infrastructures are environmentally friendly
- Allow the City to require local environmental improvement projects in addition to financial penalties for businesses that violate zoning or permit requirements
- Communities should have agency and ownership over established benefits

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