

What's Changing in Our General Plan?

Antioch's General Plan is a long-term vision that guides growth and reflects community priorities and values. It is divided by topics (called "elements") that include land use, circulation, housing, and environmental hazards. As community priorities change and in accordance with State law, the City must periodically update these elements.

This year, Antioch is updating the **Housing Element** and **Environmental Hazards Element** and will be incorporating new **Environmental Justice** policies into the General Plan.

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The Housing Element is part of the City's General Plan and lays out a blueprint for how the City will meet its housing goals. At its core, a Housing Element is an opportunity for community members and policy makers to address local housing challenges and find solutions. It contains detailed information on local housing needs, existing resources and constraints, and an inventory of sites that are suitable for new housing.

Why is Antioch updating its Housing Element?

Under State law, each jurisdiction in California must update their Housing Element every eight years. The Housing Element must demonstrate how the jurisdiction will accommodate a certain number of dwelling units anticipated by the State (known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, or RHNA). The RHNA also stipulates how many units are needed at different levels of affordability to meet the community demand.

The updated Housing Element must be approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), but should ultimately reflect the vision and priorities of the community. If the Housing Element is not updated and certified, jurisdictions may be ineligible for certain grants; fined; subject to litigation; and/or lose the right to deny certain projects.

Key Features in a Housing Element

- Goals, policies, objectives, resources, and constraints that support housing across all income levels
- Analysis of special housing needs and existing affordable housing
- Inventory of sites suitable and available for new housing
- Strategies to affirmatively further fair housing



Antioch's RHNA is 3,016 units (59% of units below market rate)

Topics in the Environmental Hazards Element

- Geology and Seismicity
- Flooding
- Fire
- Noise
- Hazardous Materials
- Disaster Response

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS UPDATE

California communities are often exposed to natural and man-made hazards, which jurisdictions must identify and try to mitigate. The Environmental Hazards Element implements policies to minimize the risks these hazards might pose to community members' physical safety, property, and business.

Why is Antioch updating its Environmental Hazards Element?

Under recent State law, the Environmental Hazards Element (referred to in State law as a "safety element") must incorporate climate adaptation and resiliency strategies. Climate impacts include wildfire, flooding, and extreme heat, among others. As environmental trends change, the City must make sure that the Environmental Hazards Element contains accurate data, community input, and policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

The City of Antioch is incorporating new policies into the General Plan that will seek to advance the principles of **Environmental Justice (EJ)** and achieve the following goals:

- All community members receive the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards.
- There is equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

The new policies will address environmental and health hazards that disproportionately burden certain areas and communities in the city (referred to as “disadvantaged communities”). Although the term “disadvantaged community” is not preferred by EJ communities, it is commonly used in State policy and will thus be used in this guide.

The EJ policies will also include engagement strategies to ensure that community members have meaningful and effective opportunities to participate in future policy and planning decisions, and prioritize the development of programs and improvements that address local needs.

Why is Antioch creating Environmental Justice policies?

Disadvantaged communities bear the brunt of environmental impacts and health hazards, often as a result of policy and planning decisions. Under State law, a jurisdiction must incorporate EJ policies into the General Plan when two or more elements are being revised, and if there are disadvantaged communities within that jurisdiction. Because the City of Antioch is updating both the Housing and Environmental Hazards Element, the City must comply with this requirement.



What does “Environmental Justice” mean?

“The 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.”

Gov. Code § 65040.12

Key Topics Addressed by Environmental Justice Policies

- Exposure to pollution
- Availability of public facilities
- Food access
- Safe and sanitary homes
- Physical activity
- Any unique or compounded health risks
- Opportunities for civic engagement
- Improvements and programs to address community needs

General Plan Updates Timeline

