



memo berkeley

to **Jeremy Pagan and Lily Toy, City of Redding**

from **Christine Thomson, MIG**

re **Redding Riverfront Specific Plan: Redding General Plan Community Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element Consistency**

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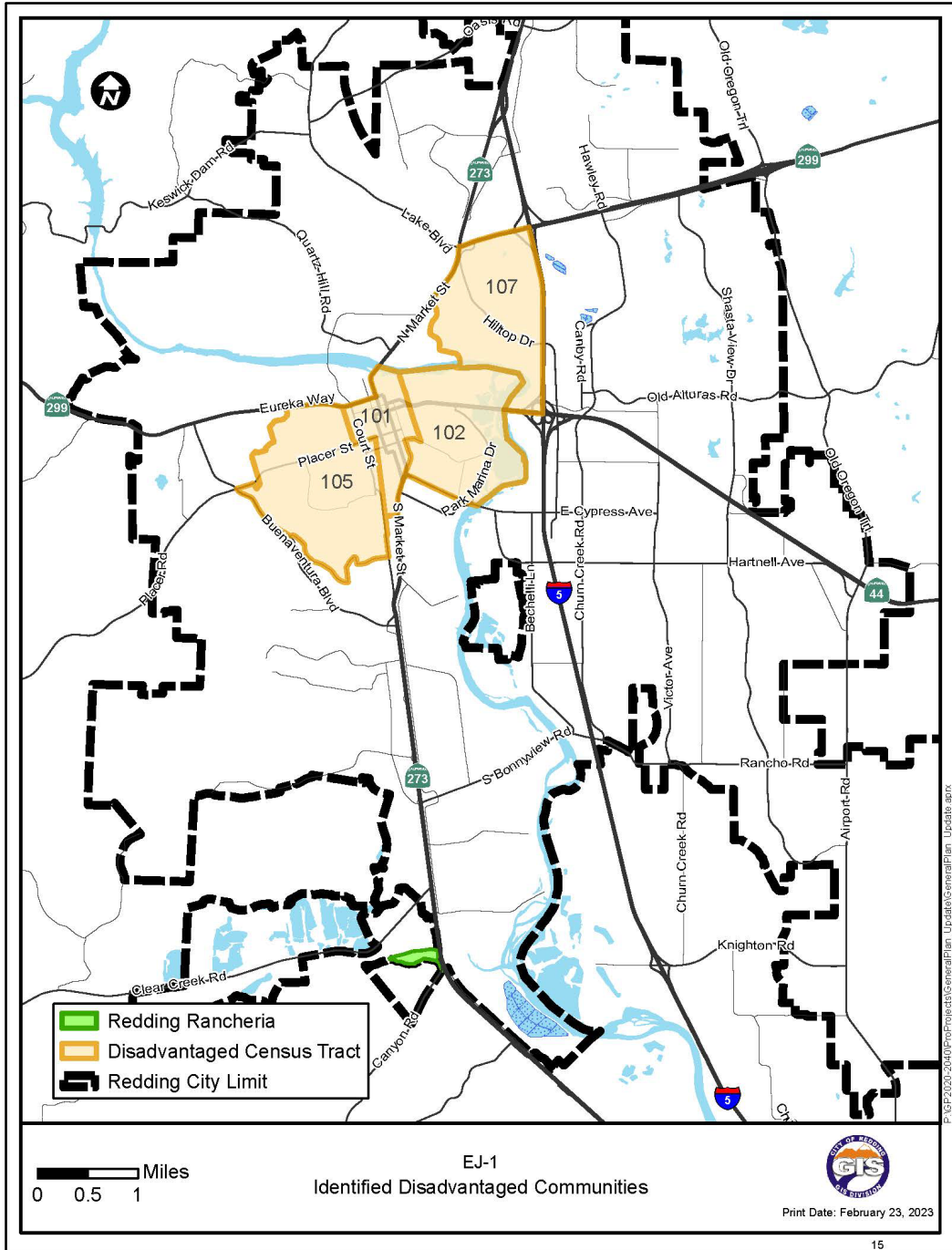
Introduction

The City of Redding initiated a process to comprehensively update the Riverfront Specific Plan in early 2023. As part of this project, MIG has prepared the following review of the City's adopted *Community Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element* (adopted by the City Council in March 2024 as part of the updated General Plan). The purpose of this memo is to identify specific environmental justice and community health policy direction from the 2024 General Plan that can help guide the planning process for the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan update.

Overview of the 2024 Redding General Plan Community Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element

The City's adopted *Community Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element* (EJ Element) seeks to recognize and address groups that have been disproportionately impacted by either adverse environmental conditions and/or regulations. The preparation and adoption of the EJ Element by the City of Redding recognizes the need to address local community equity and health outcomes.

Using criterion required by the State of California and established by the CalEnviroScreen pollution burden indicators, the City identified existing disadvantaged communities located within four census tracts in Redding. Census tract 60890**10200** covers the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan study area. The other three census tracts are either adjacent to or near the study area and include census tract 60890**10100** (covering Downtown, west of the study area), census tract 60890**10703** (covering land on the other side of the Sacramento River, north and east of the study area), and census tract 60890**10500** (covering areas west of Downtown that are not contiguous to the study area). The boundaries of all four census tracts are identified on the General Plan map on the following page.



The City has identified a series of specific pollution burdens based on State data in these four census tracts, including diesel particulate matter, lead, known clean-up sites, and hazardous waste. Census tract 6089010200, which covers the study area, meets the State's significant 75th percentile burden in lead (79.6%) with lead and diesel particulate matter close to this threshold at 74.6% and 70.1% respectively. It also contains a hazardous waste burden (50%).

In addition to the pollution criteria, the EJ Element also recognizes that the Tribal Nation of Redding Rancheria is defined as a Disadvantaged Community. Tribal reservation lands are located on the southern border of the City. Property within a ½ mile of this reservation is eligible for cap-and-trade funds under SB 535 and AB 1550, but *not* considered a Disadvantaged Community. The Redding Rancheria and additional Native Nations and groups, including the Norelmuk Wintu Nation, Winnemem Wintu, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, and Unaffiliated (northern Wintu People) are key partners in the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan process.

Policy Framework Focus

The City's EJ Element includes a policy framework organized around six key topics:

- Equity and Environmental Justice
- Environmental Effects
- Housing
- Public Facilities, Safety, and Infrastructure
- Health Care and Healthy Food Access
- Healthy Neighborhoods

Each topic includes specific goals and policy that are applicable to the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan update process and study area. The following is a summary of each major goal section and how its direction can be incorporated into the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan process.

Equity and Environmental Justice

- **Goal EJ1:** *Support an equitable and comprehensive approach to civic engagement through broad public outreach and encourage diverse community member involvement in decision-making processes.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan update process includes a robust and inclusive community engagement process. Early in the project, MIG and the City prepared a comprehensive Community Involvement Strategy (CIS) that outlines key outreach approaches and methods, target audiences, communication tools, and the proposed timeline for

implementation. The document is a high-level summary of community involvement activities that will inform and guide the development of the specific plan. These activities will ensure that all members of the Redding community are actively engaged throughout the project, and that community ideas, perspectives, and needs directly inform all phases of this important project.

- **Goal EJ2:** *Recognize that Redding does not consist of a single homogenous community and that income disparities, health issues, transportation limitations, housing inadequacies, and similar situations can result in disproportionate environmental and other impacts on various residents in the community.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan update works to include a range of diverse groups and the process has the potential to identify new data sources that can describe locations and impacts on underserved and vulnerable residents.

Environmental Effects

- **Goal EJ3:** *Strive to reduce exposure to air pollution, noxious odors, and other environmental impacts throughout the City and region and incorporate strategies to reduce the unique and compounded environmental impacts and risks, particularly in underserved communities.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan update provides an opportunity to create new land use policy, development standards, mobility improvements, and environmental protection/rehabilitation policies that will strive to reduce the negative health, wellness, and environmental impacts for people living, working, and recreating in this area. This can include no- and low-impact development policies that can help reduce pollution burdens in the study area.
- **Goal EJ4:** *Strive to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events, such as summer heat and excessive cold, through a set of quantitative goals for built and natural environments with a special focus on underserved and/or vulnerable residents.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan will consider strategies to address extreme weather events by setting goals around priority techniques for green building design and performance to promote indoor comfort while reducing energy usage. This may include outdoor design requirements

to provide summer shade on heat-absorbing surfaces and winter sun near spaces affected by cooler water and wind conditions. Additional design techniques and strategies should focus on the needs of underserved and/or vulnerable residents to reduce pollution exposure and energy costs for these communities.

Housing

- **Goal EJ5:** *Identify and address housing needs and foster healthy living conditions and quality of life for people of all backgrounds and incomes.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan will evaluate opportunities to add housing within the study area that is focused on providing more opportunities for accessible and healthy local housing. This will primarily apply to privately owned property in the southern Riverfront area.

Public Facilities, Safety, and Infrastructure

- **Goal EJ6:** *Strive to ensure that public facilities and services are equitably located, distributed, well-maintained, and accessible to all residents.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan will emphasize equitably located, distributed, maintained, and broadly accessible public facilities and services throughout the study area. The update process provides an opportunity to evaluate public infrastructure needs/improvements and public services requirements for both existing and proposed future development and populations.
- **Goal EJ7:** *Address emergency and safety concerns throughout the City, especially in areas with underserved and vulnerable residents. Strive to effectively communicate the implementation strategy to all residents.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan update will address emergency and safety concerns for people and property within the study area. This includes a focus on communications and addressing the needs of underserved and vulnerable residents where there are current and proposed public gathering spaces.

Health Care and Healthy Food Access

- **Goal EJ8:** *Strive to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, health disparities as a result of lack of access to health care services and healthy food.*

- The Riverfront Specific Plan update process can identify and develop strategies to address health disparities by considering land uses that increase access to health care and healthy food. Broader access to health care services will be addressed by the City on a citywide basis, tied to other master plans and land use decisions.

Healthy Neighborhoods

- **Goal EJ9:** *Promote land use patterns, urban design, and neighborhood revitalization and activities that contribute to the development of cohesive, safe, and healthier neighborhoods.*
 - The Riverfront Specific Plan can evaluate land use patterns, urban design, and neighborhood revitalization activities to identify ways in which they can contribute to cohesive, safe, and healthier neighborhoods. This includes identifying and promoting opportunities for multi-modal transportation, more parks and open space, and new urban design approaches.

Conclusion

The Redding Riverfront Specific Plan update will evaluate a series of design and policy options that will help implement the City's 2024 General Plan. As part of the project process, the Project Team will evaluate ways to implement the City's key goals and environmental justice policy topics to help improve environmental health; provide access to housing, health care, and healthy food; create safe and cohesive neighborhoods; respond to extreme weather events; and provide access to parks, recreation, and open space. This review of the adopted EJ Element will be used to guide Redding Riverfront Specific Plan design and policy options.

Sources:

1. City of Redding, General Plan 2024, Community Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element (Draft, February 2024)
2. City of Redding General Plan 2024, Community Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element (Final, adopted March 26, 2024)