

MARCH JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY



GP 23-02: March JPA Environmental Justice Element

Update

March JPA is extending the public comment period on the draft March JPA Environmental Justice Element from February 15, 2024 to February 29, 2024. This extension was requested by attendees at the February 20, 2024 Community Workshop held at the Moreno Valley Conference Center.

Overview

March Joint Powers Authority (March JPA) is preparing an Environmental Justice Element to the March JPA General Plan. According to the State of California, Environmental Justice is defined as “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.”

Upon completion, the Environmental Justice Element will be included as part of the March JPA General Plan, and it will reflect the agency’s commitment to reducing environmental burdens and ensuring all residents have the opportunity to access public facilities and services that improve their quality of life.

Consistent with the recently adopted 14th Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement by and between the Cities of Moreno Valley, Perris, Riverside and the County of Riverside, the March Joint Powers Authority is planned to sunset on July 1, 2025. As the March JPA planning jurisdiction will be absorbed by Riverside County, with the County fully responsible for future land use reviews and approvals after July 1, 2025, March JPA is reviewing the adoption of an Environmental Justice Element based on Riverside County’s adopted Environmental Justice Element.

The March JPA Environmental Justice Element would be applicable within the existing March JPA planning jurisdiction. Other nearby land, including the adjacent March Air Reserve Base and Riverside National Cemetery would not be subject to the provisions of the Environmental Justice Element. A map of the March JPA planning jurisdiction is attached to this notice.

Why is an Environmental Justice Element Necessary?

In California, state law requires every local jurisdiction to prepare and adopt a comprehensive and long-range general plan to guide its growth and physical development. The General Plan provides a consistent framework for land use and development decisions in accordance with an established community vision. In 2016, the State of California passed

Senate Bill 1000 - the Planning for Healthy Communities Act requiring cities and counties to address environmental justice within their general plans.

What will be included in the JPA's Environmental Justice Element?

The March JPA Environmental Justice Element will include objectives and policies consistent with Government Code section 65302(h) that have as a goal:

- a) Promote Civic Engagement
- b) Health Risk Reduction (e.g., Food Access, Safe and Sanitary Homes, Physical Activity, and Reduce Pollution exposure)
- c) Public Facilities and Health Care Facilities
- d) Other Environmental Justice Objectives (e.g., stormwater capture, solar and renewable energy, and implementation of climate action plans)

Public Engagement

Community participation is an important component in the development of the March JPA's Environmental Justice Element. The March JPA conducted two Community workshops on December 19, 2023 and February 20, 2024, to provide opportunities for the public to participate in the development of the element.

As identified above, March JPA will continue to accept formal public input and comments up to February 29, 2024.

Contact Information

For more information or to submit comments on draft documents as they become available, please contact:

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Draft Environmental Justice Element

- Current draft Environmental Justice Element is available at: <https://marchjpa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Draft-Environmental-Justice-Element.pdf>