



## **Environmental Justice (EJ) Advisory Committee Meeting #4 (Hybrid)**

Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Address:** 400 S. Imperial Ave., Imperial, CA 92251

**Meeting Room:** EOC (Building is located North of the City Hall)

### **AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
5:30 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda Review</b>
5:40 pm	<b>Participant Introductions</b>
5:45 pm	<b>Environmental Justice Project Progress Update</b>
5:50 pm	<b>Overview of the Draft EJ Element</b>
6:00 pm	<b>EJ Draft Element Goals &amp; Policies: Review &amp; Large Group Discussion</b>
6:55 pm	<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>
7:00 pm	<b>End</b>

# The City of Imperial

## Environmental Justice Element Development

### Advisory Committee Meeting #4

Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
5:30 – 7:00 pm  
Hybrid



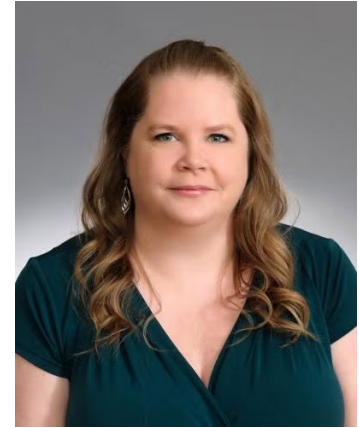
# INTRODUCTION



**Yvonne Cordero**  
Planner,  
City of Imperial



**Hanna Stelmakhovych**  
Program Manager,  
ILG



**Melissa Kuehne**  
Director of Enterprise  
Programs and Special  
Projects,  
ILG

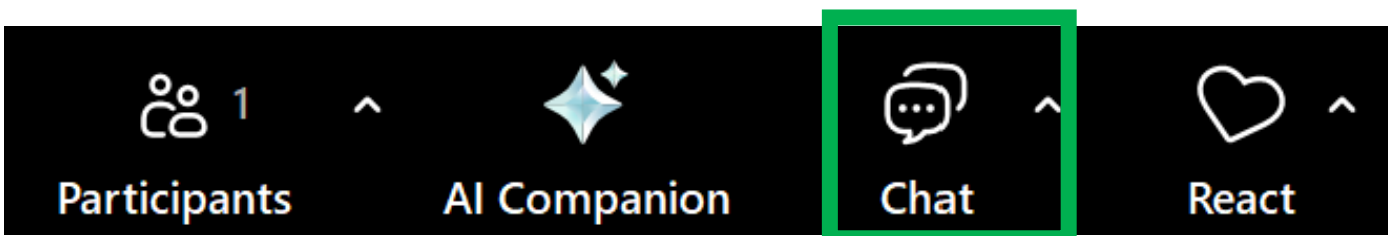
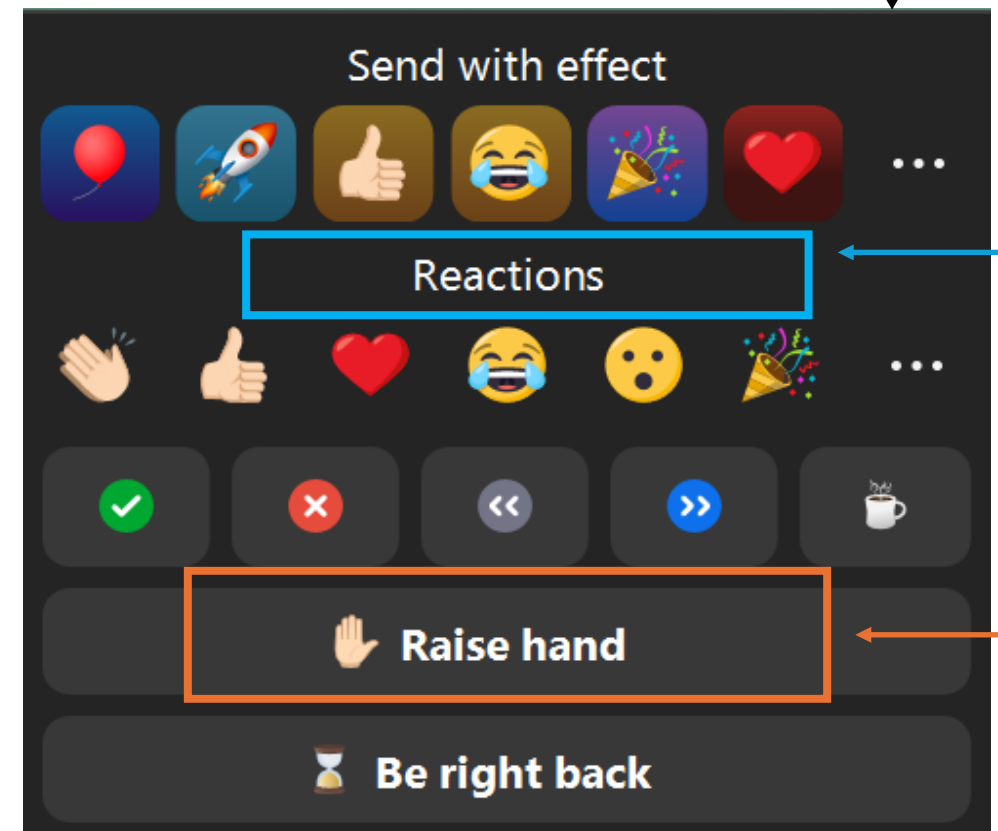
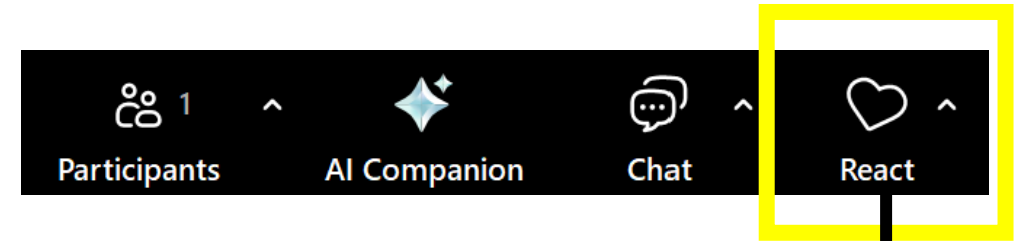


# ZOOM CONTROLS: COMPUTER/LAPTOP

Click **REACT** → **RAISE HAND** if you would like to talk

Click **REACT** → **REACTIONS** if you want to share your reactions

Please type into the **CHAT** box at any time during the meeting if you have something to share.



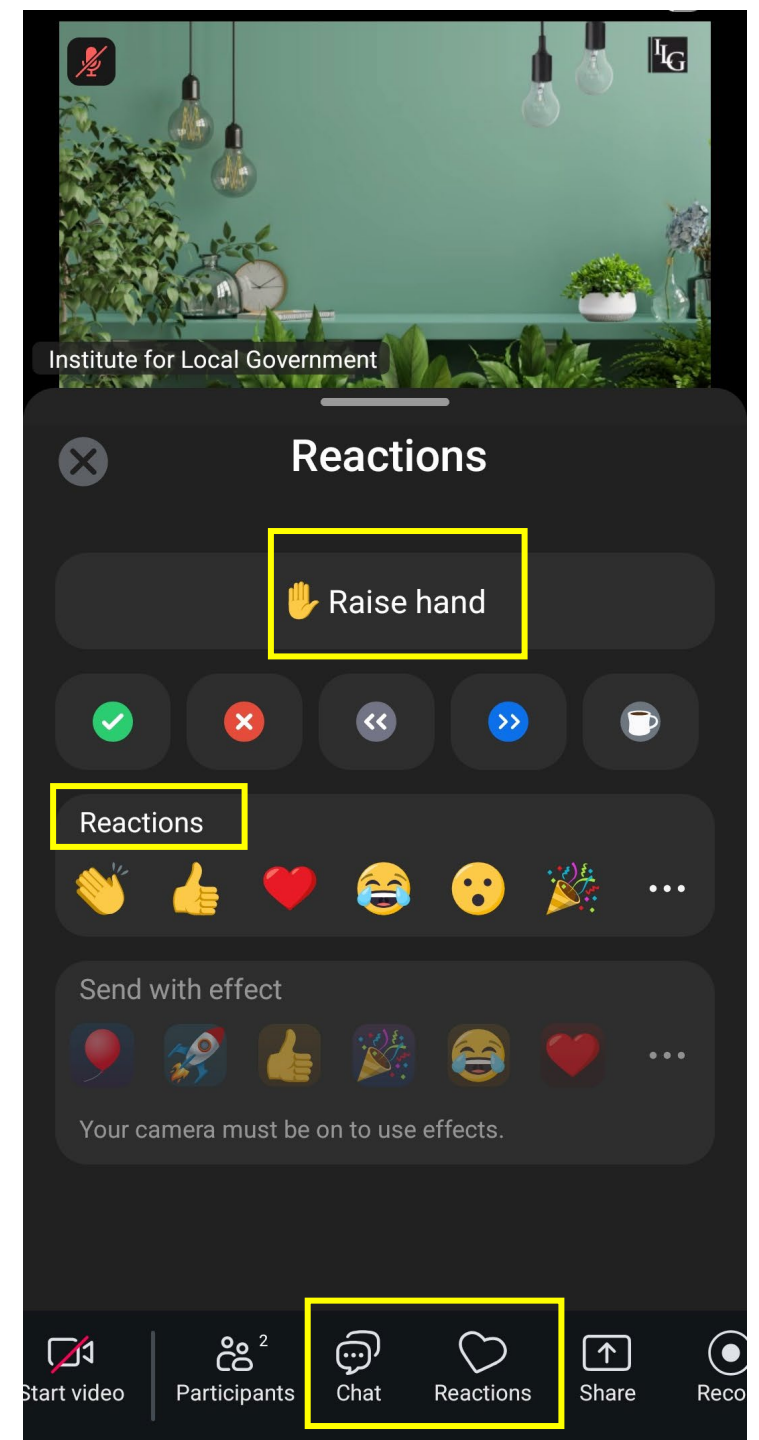
# ZOOM CONTROLS: CELL PHONE

**Swipe** your screen to the right or left to locate your **REACTIONS, CHAT** and **TAP TO SPEAK** buttons

Click **REACTIONS** to **RAISE HAND** if you would like to talk

Click **REACTIONS** if you want to share your reactions

Please type into the **CHAT** box at any time during the workshop



# AGENDA



Welcome & Introductions



Environmental Justice (EJ) Project Progress Update



The EJ Element Goals and Policies: Overview & Large Group Discussion



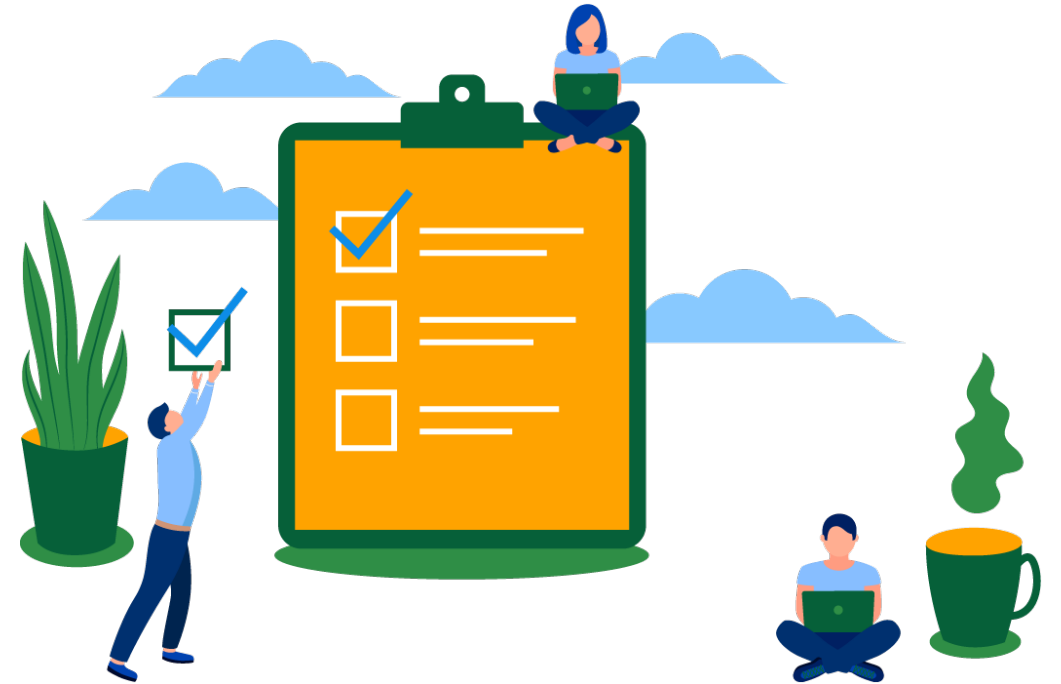
Wrap up & Next Steps

# TELL US ABOUT YOU

## Name

Name/whom do you **represent**  
(residents, yourself,  
stakeholders, nonprofit)

What is your **favorite**  
**recreation activity** in Imperial  
Valley?



# THE EJ ELEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: WHERE WE'VE BEEN



Existing Conditions Report ✓



EJ Outline and Policy Framework ✓



Draft EJ Element ✓

✓ **Community Engagement:** Survey, Tabling Events,  
Committee Meetings



# THE EJ ELEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: NEXT STEPS



Draft EJ Element: Public Review and Comment



Final Draft EJ Element: Planning Commission & City Council Hearings

**Community Engagement:** Survey, 2 Virtual Community Workshops, Tabling, Committee Meetings





**QUESTIONS?**


# DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) ELEMENT

Draft EJ Element is the planning document that addresses the requirements of SB 1000.

The EJ Element identifies disadvantaged communities and contains goals and policies to address factors influencing health outcomes.

# HOW IS EJ DOCUMENT STRUCTURED?

## SECTIONS:

- Introductions
- Existing Conditions & Community Engagement
- Designation of Disadvantaged Communities
- EJ Goals & Policies. For example: 

## SAFE AND SANITARY HOUSING

**Goal EJ-5: Foster healthy living conditions for people of all backgrounds and incomes through implementation of the Housing Element goals, policies, and programs.**

EJ-5.1 Safe and Sanitary Homes. Enforce housing standards and support rehabilitation programs to promote safe and sanitary homes for all residents.

EJ-5.2 Fair Housing Access. Remove any barriers as necessary to ensure fair access to available housing opportunities and assistance for people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins.

# WHAT WE HEARD AND HOW THE DRAFT EJ ELEMENT REFLECTS IT

WHAT WE HEARD (TOP THEMES)	DRAFT EJ POLICY
Poor air quality, odors, industrial and traffic pollution affecting health	<b>Goal 1 (and 2):</b> Reduce pollution exposure through coordination with local and state agencies
Unsafe walking conditions, traffic congestion, and limited bike infrastructure	<b>Goal 2:</b> Improve pedestrian, bicycle, and street infrastructure
Extreme heat, lack of trees and shade	<b>Goal 3:</b> Expand tree canopy, shade infrastructure, and cooling amenities
Limited access to parks, recreation facilities	<b>Goal 3:</b> Invest in parks, libraries, recreation facilities, and programming

# WHAT WE HEARD AND HOW THE DRAFT EJ ELEMENT REFLECTS IT CONT'ED

WHAT WE HEARD (TOP THEMES)	DRAFT EJ POLICY
Limited grocery options and concerns about food affordability	<b>Goal 3:</b> Support access to healthy food options and services
Transit gaps and limited mobility options	<b>Goal 4:</b> Improve transit access, efficiency, and connectivity
Housing availability and affordability issues	<b>Goal 5:</b> Promote safe, sanitary housing and equitable access to infrastructure investments
Desire for greater transparency, and inclusion in city decision-making	<b>Goal 6:</b> Strengthen community engagement, multilingual outreach



**QUESTIONS?**

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

## AS A GROUP:

- ✓ **Review** EJ Framework Sections, Goals, and Policies
- ✓ Start thinking about
  - *What resonates with you?*
  - *What do you think would be most helpful for the city to tackle?*
  - *Is anything missing?*
- ✓ **Share your thoughts** verbally or via chat

# 1. POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND HEALTH RISKS

**Goal EJ-1:** Reduce residents' exposure to pollution and environmental health hazards, prioritizing communities and households most impacted by cumulative environmental burdens.

# **POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND HEALTH RISKS**

**EJ-1.1 Air Quality.** Coordinate with regional air quality agencies and community stakeholders to monitor air quality, share data publicly, and support community-specific emissions reduction strategies.

**EJ-1.2 Water Quality.** Coordinate with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to reduce water and ground water contaminant levels and complete remediation at known sites.

**EJ-1.3 Hazardous Materials and Pollution.** Coordinate with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to improve community health conditions near local hazardous waste facilities and cleanup sites.

**EJ-1.4 Pesticide Buffer Zones.** Support enforcement of regulations prohibiting pesticide application in runoff-risk areas and within 0.25 miles of a school or daycare.

# **POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND HEALTH RISKS**

**EJ-1.5 Pesticide Education and Outreach.** Partner with community-based organizations to provide households with education and resources regarding pesticide exposure risks and protective measures.

**EJ-1.6 Airport Land Use Compatibility.** Implement existing airport land use compatibility policies to protect sensitive receptors from noise, air quality, and safety hazards associated with Imperial County Airport operations.

**EJ-1.7 Extreme Heat.** Maintain and expand the city's cooling center and hydration station program, ensuring facilities are accessible and well-publicized in all neighborhoods during heat events.

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

*What resonates with you?*

*What do you think would be most helpful for the city  
to tackle?*

*Is anything missing?*

## 2. INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal EJ-2:** Ensure infrastructure investments serve all residents in existing communities and future development in unincorporated communities.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

**EJ-2.1 Water Service and Sewers.** Ensure that water and sewer service capacity meets the demand from future annexations and growth areas.

**EJ-2.2 Flood Control.** Implement flood control and stormwater drainage improvements consistent with existing plans.

**EJ-2.3 Multimodal Transportation.** Provide pedestrian and street infrastructure improvements consistent with the Circulation Element, prioritizing safe and complete streets to limit vehicle emissions and encourage the use of active transportation.

**EJ-2.4 Broadband Infrastructure.** Coordinate with internet service providers and regional partners to expand broadband access.

**EJ-2.5 Odors.** Evaluate solutions to odor emissions from wastewater lagoon treatment facilities.

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

*What resonates with you?*

*What do you think would be most helpful for the city  
to tackle?*

*Is anything missing?*

### 3. HEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS

**Goal EJ-3:** Foster healthy living conditions for people of all backgrounds and incomes.

# HEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS

**EJ-3.1 Parks, Open Space, and Recreation.** Ensure fair access to park and recreation opportunities.

**EJ-3.2 Physical Activity.** Increase physical activity resources and programs to improve community health conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes.

**EJ-3.3 Respiratory Health.** Work with local clinics, schools, and community organizations to address pollution-linked respiratory conditions, including asthma, and integrate asthma prevention resources into air quality and land use programs.

# HEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS CONT'ED

**EJ-3.4 Public Investments to Address Extreme Heat.** Invest in park improvements that increase comfort and usability during extreme heat, including shade structures, shade trees, misting systems, and drinking water stations.

**EJ-3.5 Community Recreation Center.** Develop a community recreation center that offers year-round indoor space for seniors, teens, youth programs, and community events.

**EJ-3.6 Library Services Expansion.** Explore options to expand library facilities, services, and hours to better serve all residents, including programming for youth, seniors, and non-English-speaking residents.

# HEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS CONT'ED

**EJ-3.7 Access to Healthy Food.** Recruit full-service grocery stores and fresh food retailers.

**EJ-3.8 Food Distribution Programs.** Partner with community-based organizations to expand food distribution programs and ensure equitable geographic coverage of food assistance services throughout the city.

**EJ-3.9 Food Access in City Programs.** Evaluate opportunities to address access to healthy food and nutrition in city-operated programs, including senior and youth programs.

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

*What resonates with you?*

*What do you think would be most helpful for the city  
to tackle?*

*Is anything missing?*

## 4. ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT

**Goal EJ-4:** Provide transit services that are accessible to all residents, including seniors, people with disabilities, and those without access to a vehicle.

# **ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT**

**EJ-4.1 Regional Transit Coordination.** Coordinate with regional transit providers to explore expanding transit service.

**EJ-4.2 Paratransit.** Promote paratransit services for seniors, people with disabilities, and others with limited mobility, and explore expanded eligibility and service hours.

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

*What resonates with you?*

*What do you think would be most helpful for the city  
to tackle?*

*Is anything missing?*

## 5. SAFE AND SANITARY HOUSING

**Goal EJ-5:** Foster healthy living conditions for people of all backgrounds and incomes through implementation of the Housing Element goals, policies, and programs.

# SAFE AND SANITARY HOUSING

**EJ-5.1 Safe and Sanitary Homes.** Enforce housing standards and support rehabilitation programs to promote safe and sanitary homes for all residents.

**EJ-5.2 Fair Housing Access.** Remove any barriers as necessary to ensure fair access to available housing opportunities and assistance for people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins.

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

*What resonates with you?*

*What do you think would be most helpful for the city  
to tackle?*

*Is anything missing?*

## 6. DECISION MAKING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**Goal EJ-6:** Increase awareness of city activities to inform residents about city matters and the decisions.

# DECISION MAKING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**EJ-6.1 Meaningful Participation.** Facilitate the meaningful involvement of residents, businesses, city employees and organizations in all aspects of the city's governmental planning process.

**EJ-6.2 Targeted Outreach.** Partner with community-based organizations, schools, and faith-based institutions to conduct targeted outreach to low-income, non-English-speaking, and underrepresented residents on city planning and decision-making processes.

# LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

*What resonates with you?*

*What do you think would be most helpful for the city  
to tackle?*

*Is anything missing?*

# NEXT STEPS

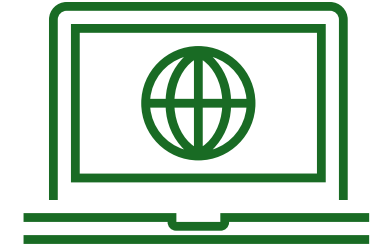


Next committee  
meeting

**Tuesday, May 19 at  
5:30 pm**



Public  
Engagement:  
**survey**  
&  
virtual **workshops**  
on **May 16 & 30**



Visit the city's website  
for **project information**  
and materials

<https://www.cityofimperial.org/EJ>

THANK YOU



**Yvonne Cordero**

[ycordero@imperial.ca.gov](mailto:ycordero@imperial.ca.gov)



**Hanna Stelmakhovych**

[hstelmakhovych@ca-ilg.org](mailto:hstelmakhovych@ca-ilg.org)



**Melissa Kuehne**

[mkuehne@ca-ilg.org](mailto:mkuehne@ca-ilg.org)



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECT TEAM



- Othon Mora, City of Imperial
- Yvonne Cordero, City of Imperial
- Hanna Stelmakhovych, ILG
- Melissa Kuehne, ILG
- Matthew Gelbman, Ascent

