

# 1 Emergency Preparedness & Response

## Safety Element

### Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Create multilingual alerts.** Coordinate with the County to find ways to make warning systems (texts and phone alerts) multilingual.
- B. Increase hillside fire protections.** Evaluate options for managing traffic in hillside neighborhoods during high-risk fire days.
- C. Strengthen neighborhood connections.** Work with local organizations to build strong neighborhood networks that support each other during disaster emergencies.
- D. Disaster planning for vulnerable community members.** Identify individuals who may need early evacuation during disaster emergencies and provide them with support in making a plan.

How will we know that this is successful?  
Write on **sticky notes** possible measures and metrics.

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?  
Write your feedback on **sticky notes** in the space below!

### How closely do these Policy Themes reflect your needs?

If these apply to you, place a **dot sticker** in the appropriate box.

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# 2 Equitable Community Resilience

## Safety Element

### Draft Policy Themes

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- A. Create a network of Community Resilience Hubs.** Establish ADA-accessible hubs that provide backup power, clean air, and safe places to stay cool or warm. These spaces will serve as trusted community gathering spaces before, during and after emergencies.
- B. Help residents prepare for power outages.** Provide information on backup power options for medical devices and safe storage of refrigerated medicines. Encourage neighbors to share resources and support one another.
- C. Improve disaster education and outreach.** Hold recurring community listening sessions and adjust programming based on community feedback.
- D. Provide City staff training on equity, inclusion, and community partnering** to ensure disaster education and programs reflect community needs.

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# 3 Wildfire and Air Quality

## Safety Element

### Draft Policy Themes

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- A. Expand fire-deterrent programs in areas of high fire risk.** Expand home hardening programs to increase the number of fire-resistant roofs, vents, and windows.
- B. Maintain defensible space around homes.** Require homeowners to manage vegetation on their properties and support the establishment of community fuel breaks.
- C. Support community safety during poor air quality days** by developing programs that distribute HEPA filters and provide instructions on how to create do-it-yourself clean-air rooms.

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# 1 Community Connections & Belonging

## Environmental Justice

### Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Address ongoing gentrification and the loss of diversity and culture in Berkeley.** Value the diversity that remains and encourage displaced people to return.
- B. Promote cultural education and storytelling** through public art, beautification projects, and events held in collaboration with community change agents.
- C. Partner with non-profits serving diverse communities** to create more opportunities for people to return to, move to, and stay in Berkeley.
- D. Ensure City community centers are accessible to diverse communities,** provide multilingual programs and opportunities to learn about different cultures, and expand these offerings to West Berkeley and other underserved areas of the City.
- E. Create more free and low-cost outdoor programs and events** that are engaging, welcoming and celebrate diversity. Ensure events are inclusive of different cultures, abilities, and languages.

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# 2 Healthy Food Access

# Environmental Justice

## Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Improve access to healthy and affordable food** at grocery stores, farmers markets, and food pantries. Focus on West Berkeley, South Berkeley, and near the UC campus.
- B. Community gardens:** Expand opportunities for creating more safe, accessible and vibrant community gardens in the City of Berkeley.
- C. Farmers markets:** Work with the Ecology Center to make farmers markets safe, accessible, and vibrant, and request that a market open in West Berkeley.
- D. Expand and destigmatize food access programs.** Improve and expand services at food pantries, dine-in facilities, and take-away kitchens where existing options are limited.
- E. Develop a food preparation and nutrition training program.** Support local organizations in creating a program that provides low- or no-cost prepared food to the public.

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# 3 Healthy & Accessible Public Spaces

# Environmental Justice

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The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Create street cleaning and neighborhood cleanup projects** that focus on areas of the City most impacted by illegal dumping and trash, including West Berkeley, South Berkeley, Downtown, near the railroad tracks and BART, and along major streets and freeways.
- B. Empower neighborhoods and communities most affected by pollution and toxins.** Raise awareness through accessible education and information, and connect people with Community Based Organizations that serve vulnerable populations.
- C. Improve and expand the City's parks, playgrounds, and community gathering spaces.** Make these spaces safe, welcoming, and easy to use for people of all abilities, ages, income levels, cultures and languages. Provide ample tree cover, include play spaces for children and youth, and add outdoor fitness areas.
- D. Increase safe access to public amenities** such as public restrooms, drinking fountains, barbeque and picnic areas, and shaded places to rest.
- E. Develop policies to further reduce the environmental and neighborhood impacts of construction projects,** including trash, air pollution, water pollution, limited public access, and risks from sea level and groundwater rise.

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# 4

# Safe & Affordable Housing

# Environmental Justice

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- A. Focus on renters' needs** when creating City housing policies and programs, including those that increase access to rental assistance and hold landlords accountable through incentives for compliance.
- B. Explore opportunities for culturally friendly affordable housing** that serves the lowest-income populations, including people experiencing homelessness, and provides wrap-around supports such as mental health services, job placement help, and other essential needs.
- C. Explore opportunities to support home ownership** for low-income populations.
- D. Support alternative housing types** including collective housing, congregate housing, RVs, mobile home parks, transitional housing, and other housing options.
- E. Provide affordable home upgrades.** Support upgrades in energy efficiency, air conditioning, and air filtration for low-income households, people with disabilities, elders, and other communities who face marginalization.
- F. Evaluate current housing programs, resources, and applications.** Ensure they are effective and accessible to all.

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# 5 Effective and Inclusive City Government

## Environmental Justice

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- A. Hire staff who reflect Berkeley's diverse community and train them to work within and across communities,** addressing their unique needs while fostering connection and belonging.
- B. Ensure an honest feedback loop between City government and marginalized communities.** Evaluate existing whistleblower programs and strengthen accountability by providing opportunities for engagement and education.
- C. Create an Office of Engagement and Community Collaboration** to build meaningful relationships with community-based organizations. This Office will compensate partners fairly for their participation and expertise, set equitable engagement standards for all City departments, coordinate cross-departmental outreach to reduce community burden, and ensure programs and policies are effectively communicated to the communities most affected.
- D. Make the needs of marginalized communities a priority in the early planning of public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian projects** to address ableism, accessibility, and safety risks. Focus on engaging the disability community, elderly, youth, low-income residents, and other communities who face marginalization.
- E. Evaluate the accessibility of City outreach materials and City Council and Commission processes.** Make these resources available to people of all abilities and in multiple languages. Work with community to create opportunities to hear diverse voices, including youth voices.

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