Executive Summary

California Environmental Justice Alliance and PlaceWorks

September 21, 2017

The SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit, prepared collaboratively by the California Environmental Justice Alliance and PlaceWorks, is a guidance document intended for local governments, planners, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders who will be developing an Environmental Justice Element or a set of environmental justice policies integrated into a General Plan to meet the mandates of Senate Bill 1000 (Leyva, 2016), The Planning for Healthy Communities Act.

This toolkit provides background information on the requirements of SB 1000 and walks users through a process to identify “disadvantaged” or “EJ” communities with the most current tools. The toolkit also provides best practices for promoting meaningful community engagement throughout the EJ planning process, and guidance on how to develop environmental justice objectives and policies in General Plans. Finally, this resource presents five case studies to showcase different approaches on planning for environmental justice across California and considers potential funding sources to support local governments’ work on an Environmental Justice Element or related policies. Taken as a whole, this toolkit aims to help governments fulfill the requirements of SB 1000 and develop an environmentally just General Plan that addresses the needs of disadvantaged and EJ communities as well as helping to ensure legal defensibility.

The full toolkit will be available for download on October 2, 2017 at www.caleja.org/sb1000-toolkit.