

Nov 2024

Tribal and Environmental Justice Issue Paper



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Objectives of Tribal and EJ Issue Paper



Build a network of community leaders and organizations to inform and support the Council's EJ work

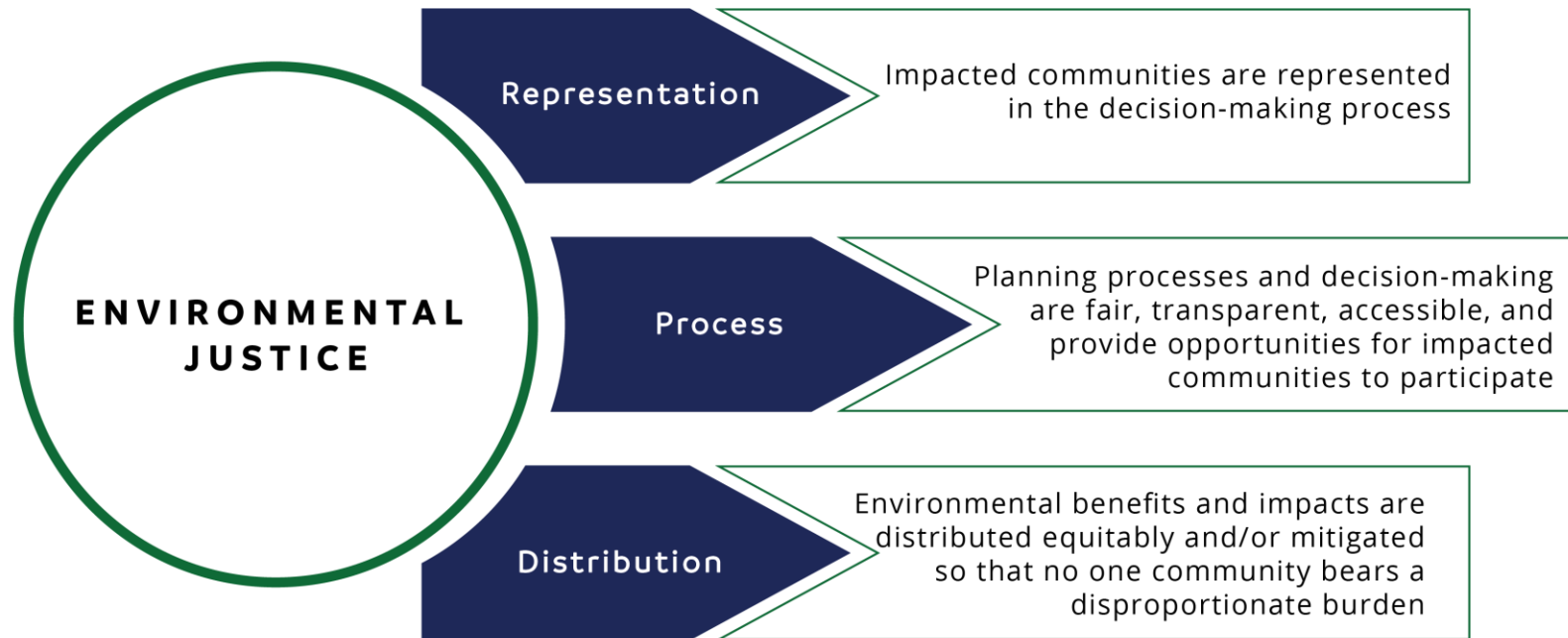


Identify environmental justice issues within and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

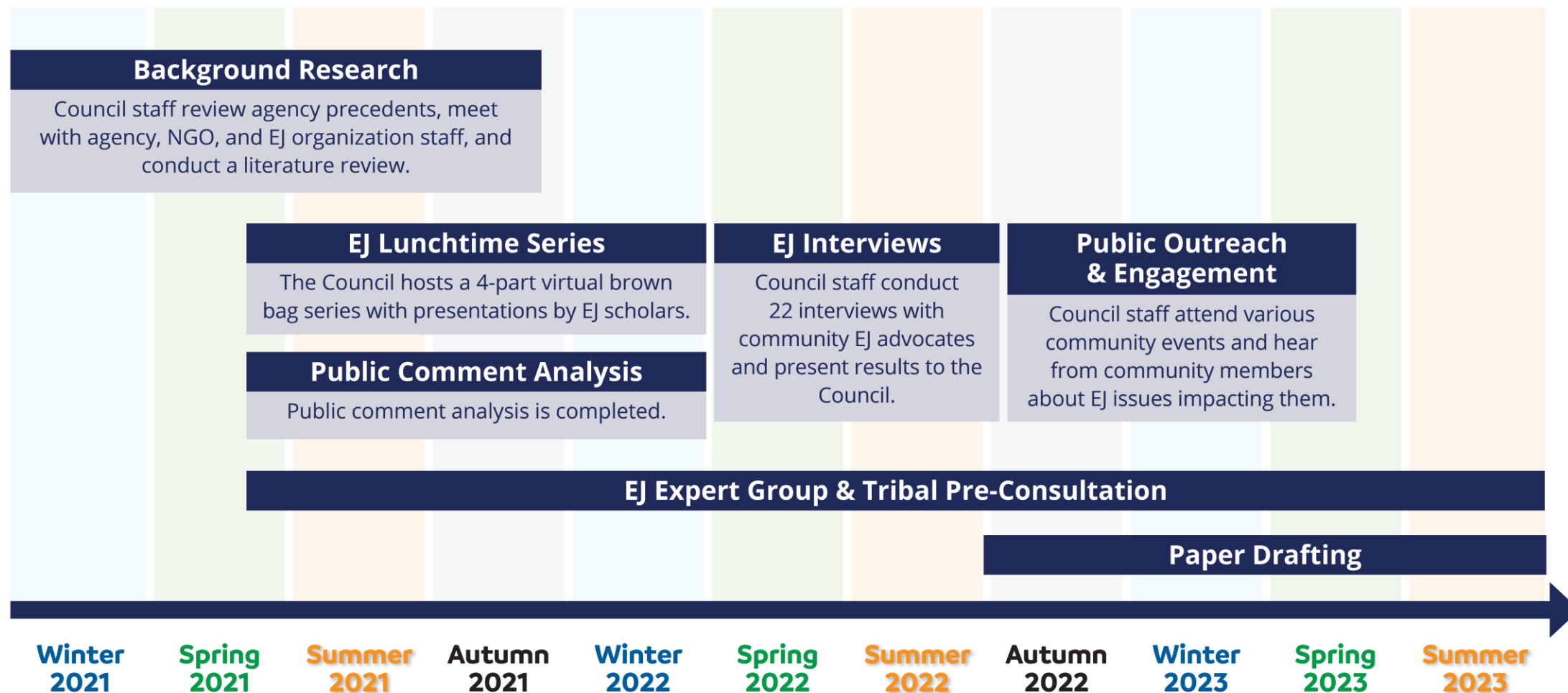


Identify options to address those issues

What is Tribal and Environmental Justice?



Issue Paper Development Timeline



What is a community-based organization?

What is an EJ community?

EJ Expert Group creation

- Goal: build relationships with CBOs
- >60 orgs and >100 Tribes
- Diverse expertise and geographical coverage in and around the Delta
- Kickoff call ~ 20 participants
- Contracted with 4 organizations

Interviews

- Goal: Legitimize voices of EJ communities
- Initial list – research and contacts > 60
- Purposive sampling: representation of wide array of issues and geographies
- Snowball sampling followed based on interviewee references

Tribal Engagement

- Outreach to tribes for Expert Group and interviews
- Pre-Consultation with 4 tribes
- Council tribal listening session April 2023
- Participation in events with a tribal focus
- Consultation and tribal roundtable October 15th



Council Tribal Listening Session 2023



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Section 4: History and Context

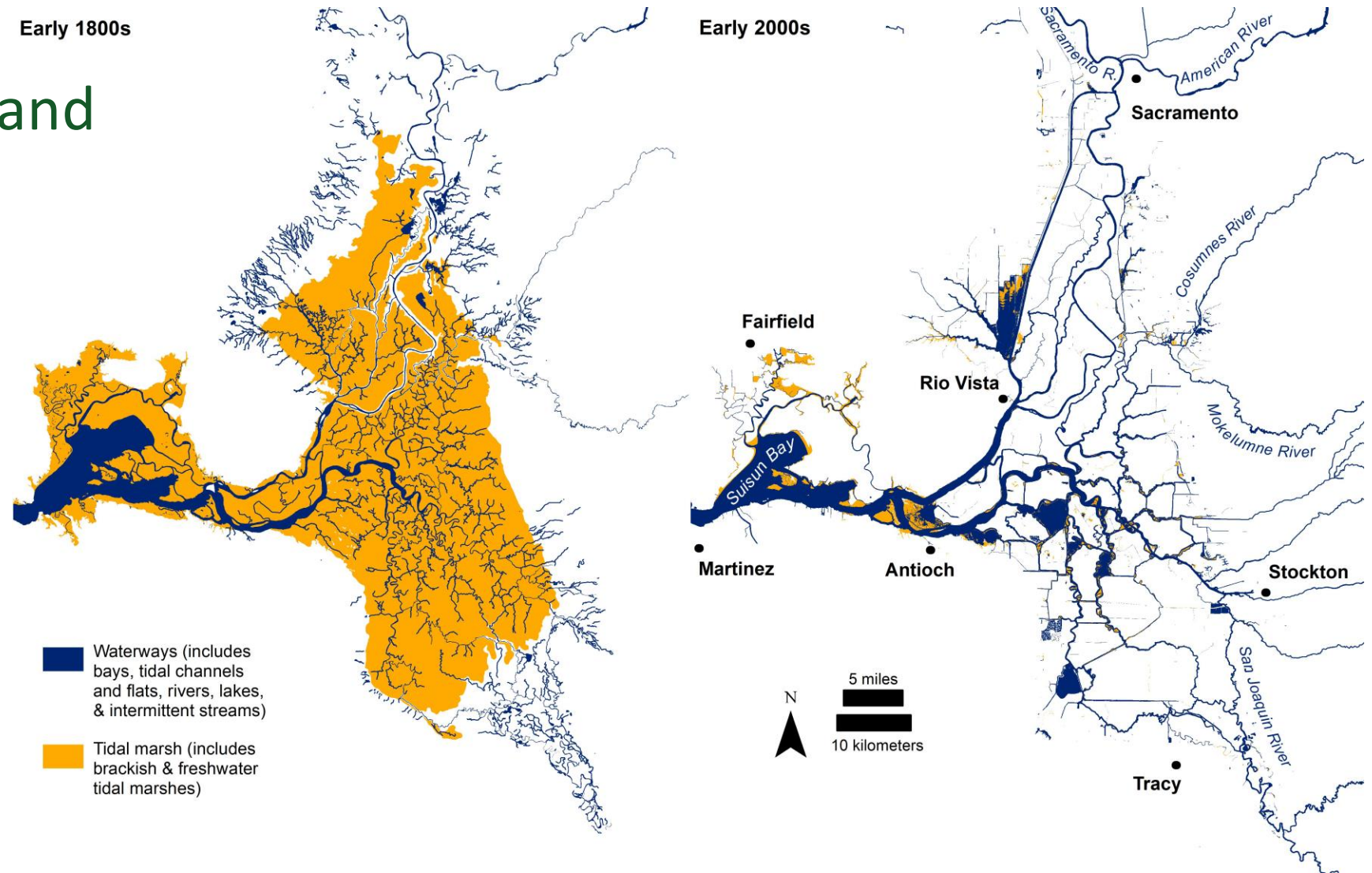


Figure created using data published in Whipple et al. (2012).

Section 5: Current Issues

Procedural justice: fairness,
transparency & accessibility of
decision-making processes

Representational justice:
representation in decision-making
processes

“Meet people where they are.
Address immediate issues
[first], before people can care
about bigger picture/longer
term issues. Bring together
people that have trusted
relationships with residents
and trained organizers.”

- Interviewee

“There’s so many agencies
that want to help but it’s a lot
of lip service or they just
disappear. You can only have
so many meetings before you
think, when is something
tangible actually going to
happen?”

- Interviewee

Tribal Justice Issues

Recognitional/Representational:

- Lack of recognition of tribal sovereignty, preservation, and Traditional Knowledge

Procedural:

- Marginalization and exclusion from decision-making processes and inadequate Tribal Consultation

Distributive:

- Disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards- water contamination, heat, air and noise pollution



Governor Gavin Newsom delivers apology to California Native Americans

Sacramento Bee, 2019

Water, Flood Risk, and Climate Change

Water:

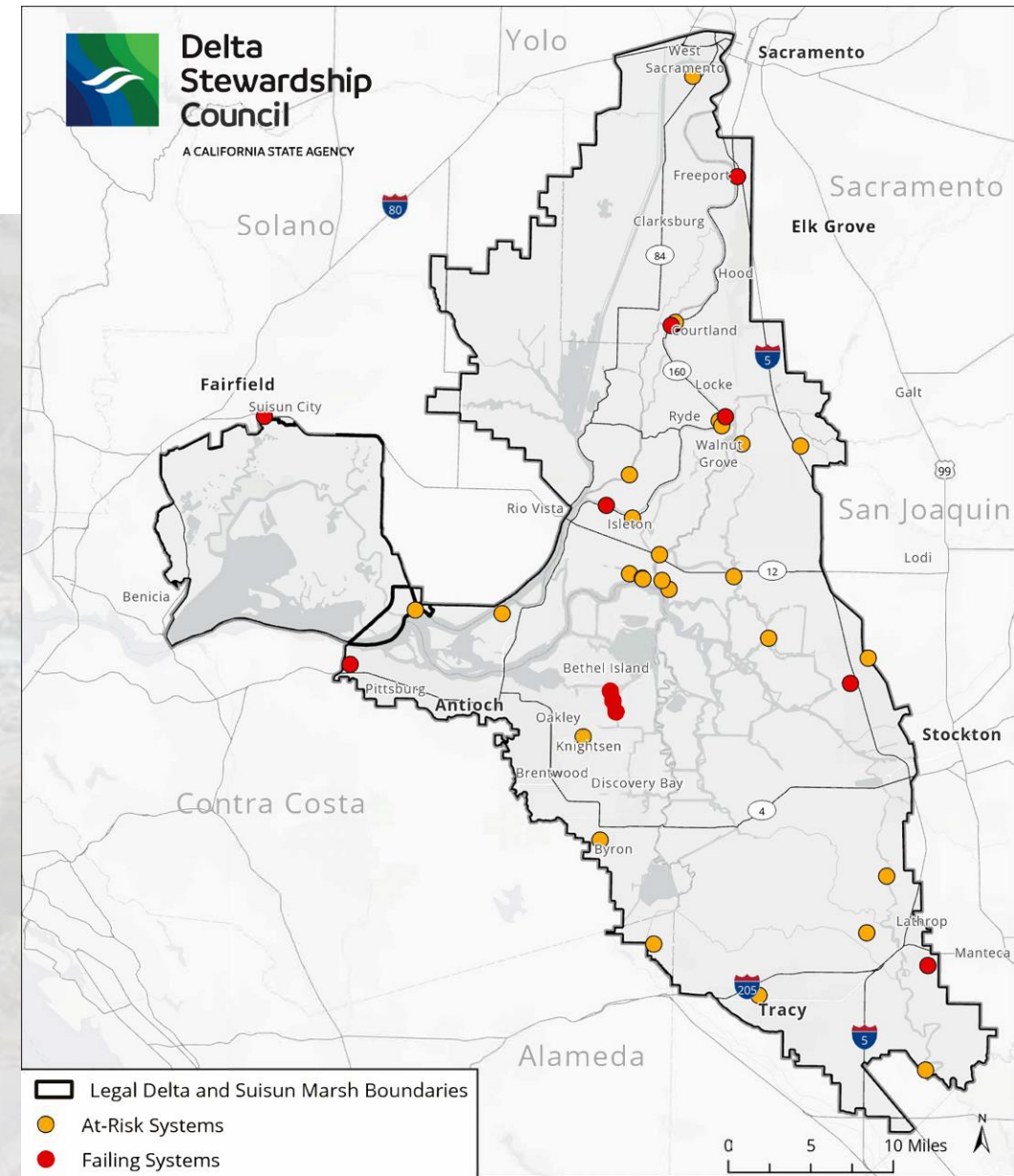
- Water rights priority system
- Water conveyance
- Harmful algal blooms; pollution and industrial contaminants
- Water affordability

Flood Risk

- Allocations of levee investments, flood insurance access and affordability, and land use planning

Climate Change:

- Some communities disproportionately vulnerable to climate hazards (floods, extreme heat events, droughts, etc.)



Water systems failing and at risk of failing human right to water standards. Data from SWRCB, 2024.

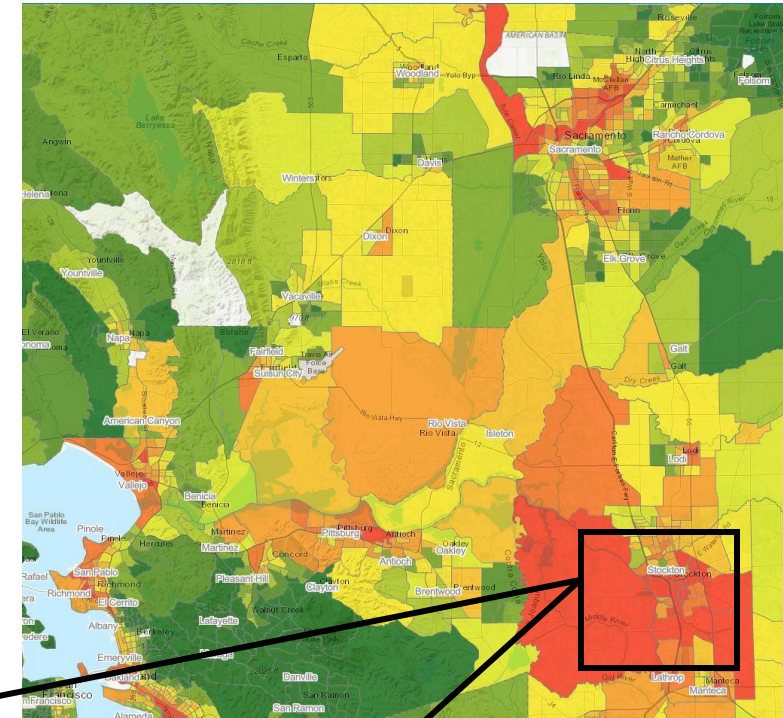
Pollution Exposure, Public Health, and Recreation/Outdoor Access

Pollution exposure & public health:

- Historic redlining and present-day land use planning result in disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards
- Long-term, generational health impacts due to pollution exposure, lack of access to health services, public transport, & healthy food

Recreation & outdoor/greenspace access:

- Inequitable access
- Higher air temperatures, lower air quality



*CalEnviroScreen 4
.0 scores*

Formerly redlined neighborhoods in Stockton

CalEPA, Pollution and Prejudice

Food security, housing, and the unhoused

Housing and the unhoused:

- Unaffordable housing and necessities
- Lack of sanitation resources lead to health hazards for unhoused neighbors
- Encampments near levees pose safety risk from flood risk

Food security and access:

- High rates of food insecurity in most Delta counties
- Inability to engage in subsistence activities
- Inadequate access to stores selling healthy foods

The **Delta Residents Survey** found that approximately **1/4 of Delta residents** report household incomes of \$50,000 annually or lower and **report affordability of basic needs (housing, food, utilities, transportation) to be a key challenge to their well-being** (Rudnick et al., 2023).

SECTION 2: RECOMMENDATIONS

General Recommendations



Invest in Relationship and Trust Building



Work Through Trusted Community Partners



Be Intentional and Justice-Oriented



Make it Easy to Participate Early



Follow Through



Enhance Connections Between State Agencies and Local Governments



Identify and Fill Research and Data Needs

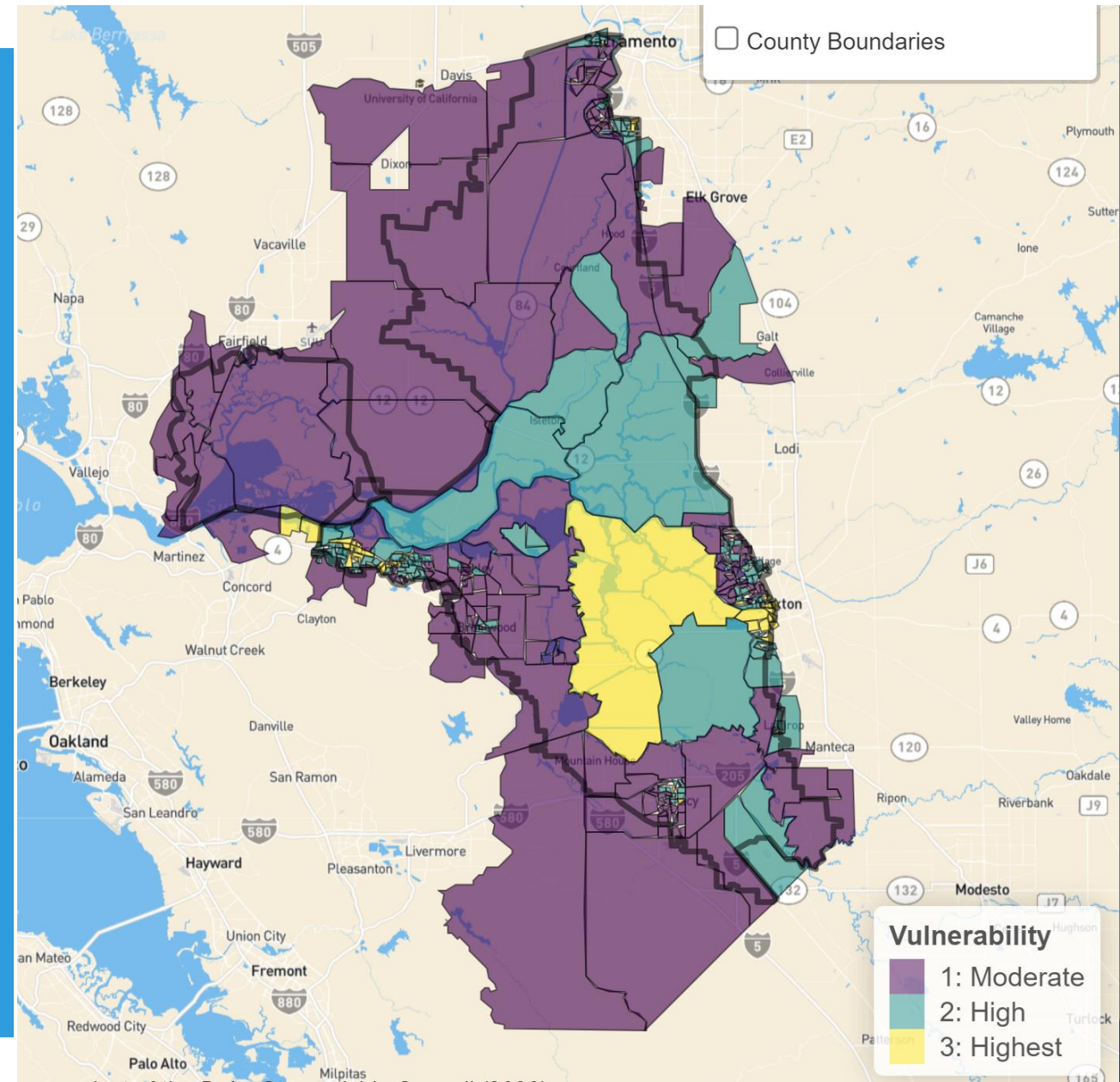
Goal 1: Integrate EJ into the Council

Commit to advancing EJ

Create a more inclusive workplace

Build spatial understanding of EJ communities and water justice issues in CA

Support and promote representation of tribal and EJ communities in Delta governance



Goal 2: Support and Recognize Tribes

Build on existing tribal relationships

Staff trainings

Embrace other ways of knowing

Proactive and early tribal consultation



Tribal nation flags represented at Native American Day

Goal 3: Further Community-Engaged Research and Partnerships

Create community research
networks and protocol

Prioritize tribal and EJ science needs

Improve science communication



Little Manila Rising at Spring 2024 DPIIC meeting

Goal 4: Address Funding Inequities

Science funding and proposal evaluation criteria

Technical assistance

Support legislative appropriations



Forthcoming Regional Climate Adaptation Plan



Delta Adapts:
Creating a Climate Resilient Future

Regional-level adaptation strategies

Agriculture Strategies:

Equitable food system

Climate-smart farming

Diversification of revenue
on agricultural land

Strategic land retirement

Ecosystem Strategies:

Improve capacity of ecosystems to
adapt and thrive

Build capacity and partnerships for
ecosystem resilience

Protect ecosystems by halting and
reversing subsidence

Enhance urban ecosystem health

Regional-level adaptation strategies continued

Water Supply Strategies:

Reduce reliance on the Delta through conservation local water supply development

Increase storage of surface and groundwater supplies

Modify reservoir operations

Modify water quality standards

Modify water infrastructure

Flood Risk Reduction Strategies:

Develop climate-informed understanding Delta flood dynamics

Strengthen and upgrade Delta levee system

Restore ecosystems for flood mitigation

Improve emergency preparedness and risk communication

Manage and expand upstream water storage capability

Use adaptive urban planning and farming practices to reduce risk

Next Steps

Public Review Period
Tribal Roundtable and
Consultation
Community Outreach



Visit the Council's EJ
webpage for more
information:
deltacouncil.ca.gov/environmental-justice

60 Day

Public Review
Period

Tribal Outreach

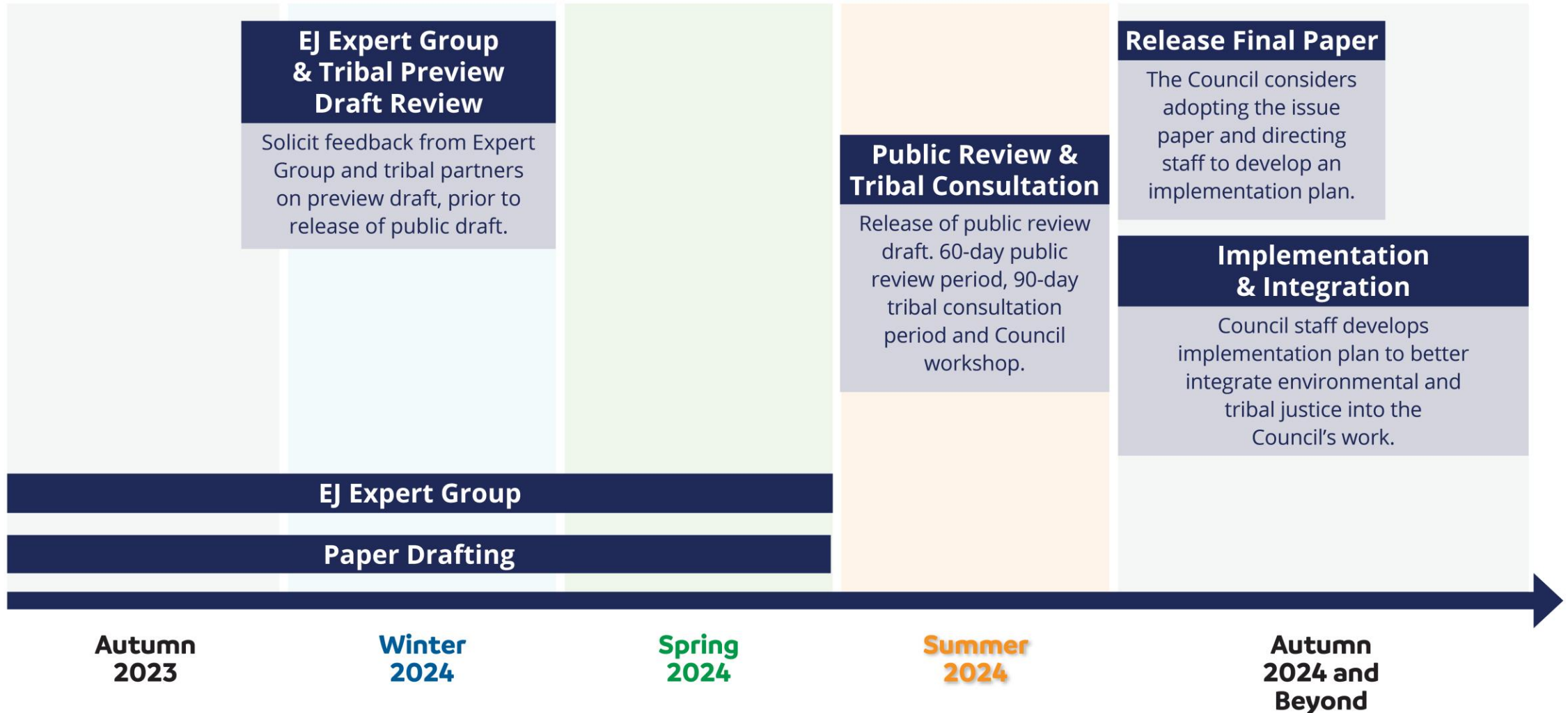
Tribal Consultations

Outreach

Community gatherings and meetings

Extra Slides

Issue Paper Development Timeline, Continued



Distributive Justice Issues

