

September 2024

# Tribal and Environmental Justice Issue Paper

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**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

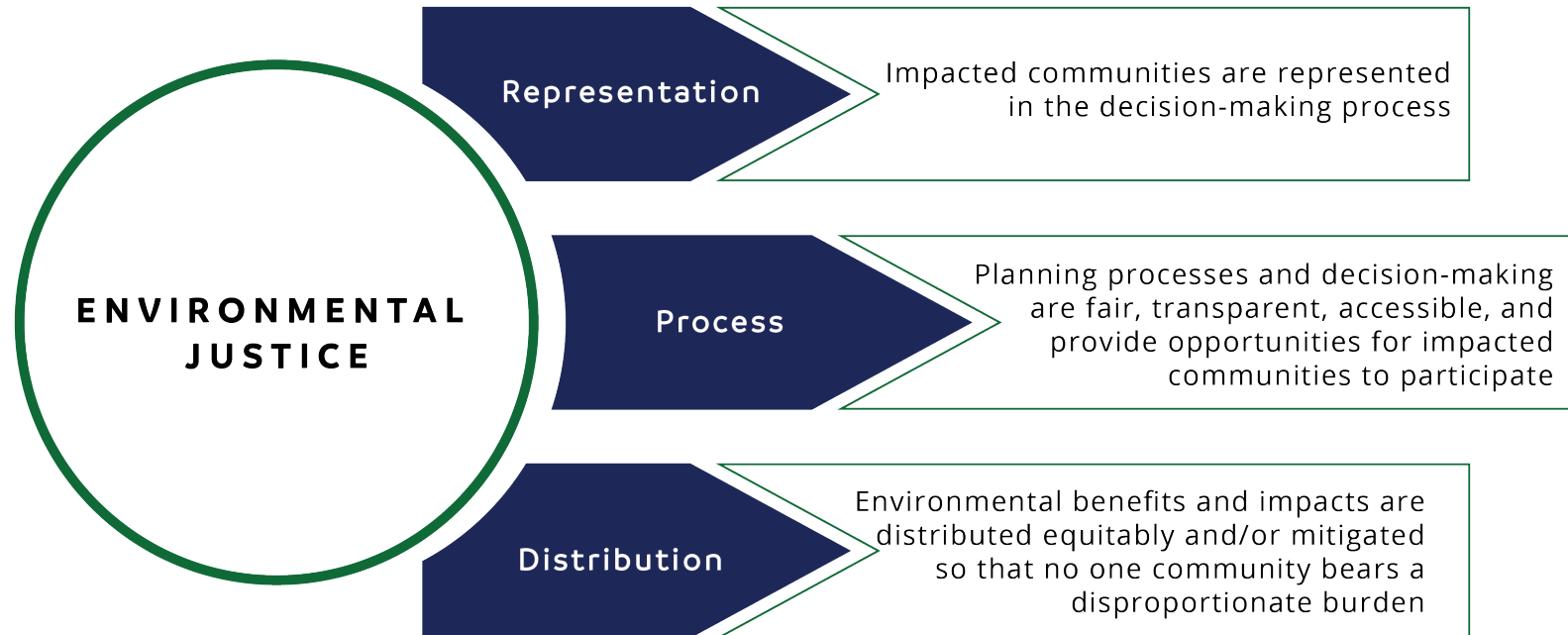


**Identify environmental justice issues** within and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

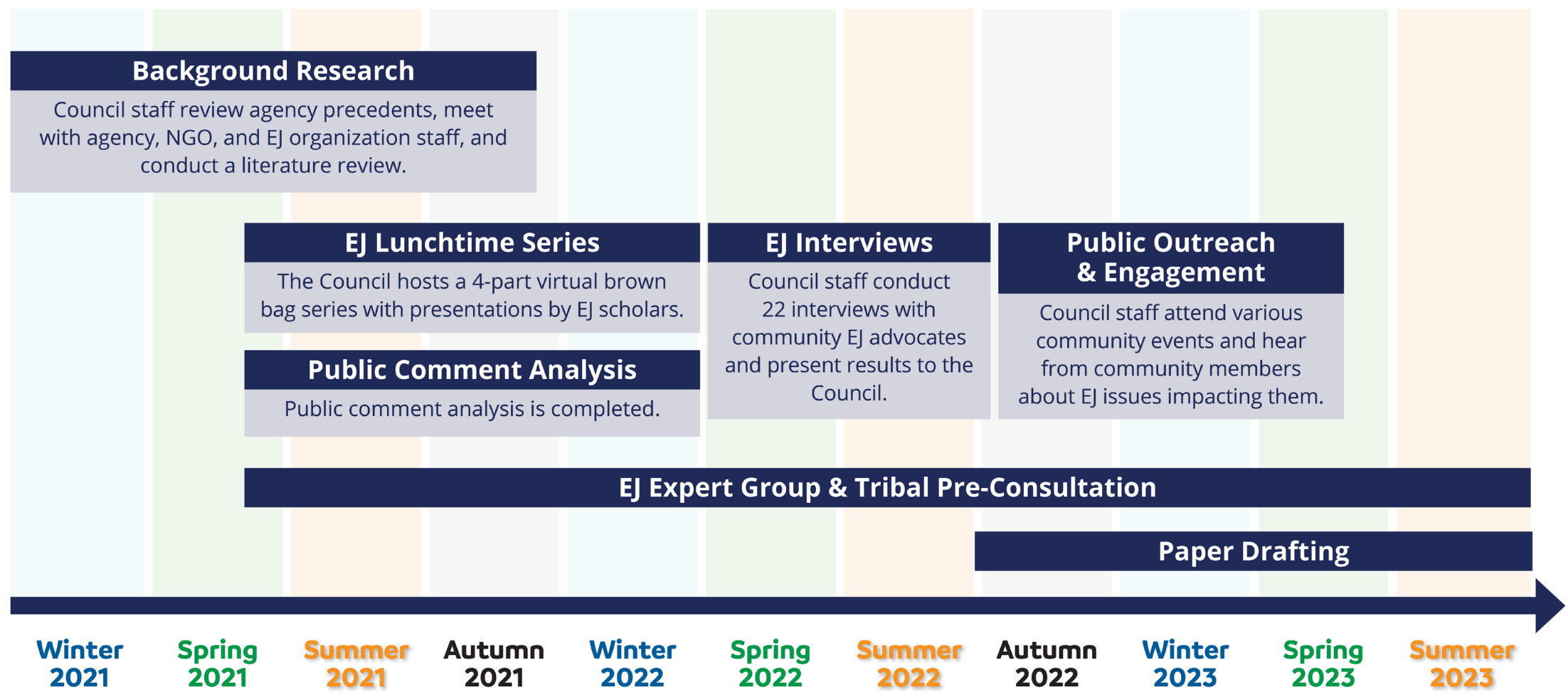


**Identify options** to address those issues

# 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

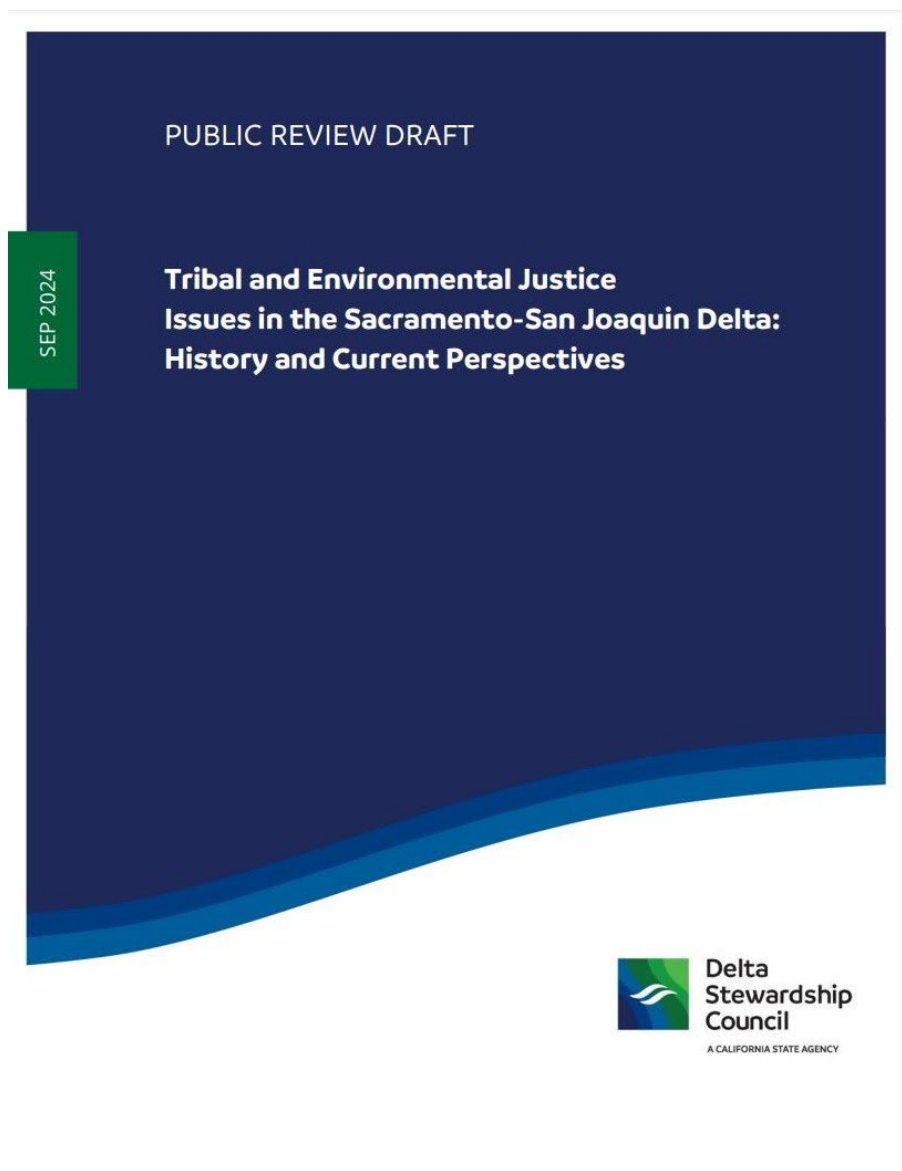
- Goal: Legitimize voices of EJ communities
- Initial list – research and contacts > 60
- Purposive sampling: representation of wide array of issues and geographies
- Snowball sampling followed based on interviewee references

## 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
- Upcoming: Consultation and tribal roundtable October 15th



*Council Tribal Listening Session 2023*



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# Section 4: History and Context

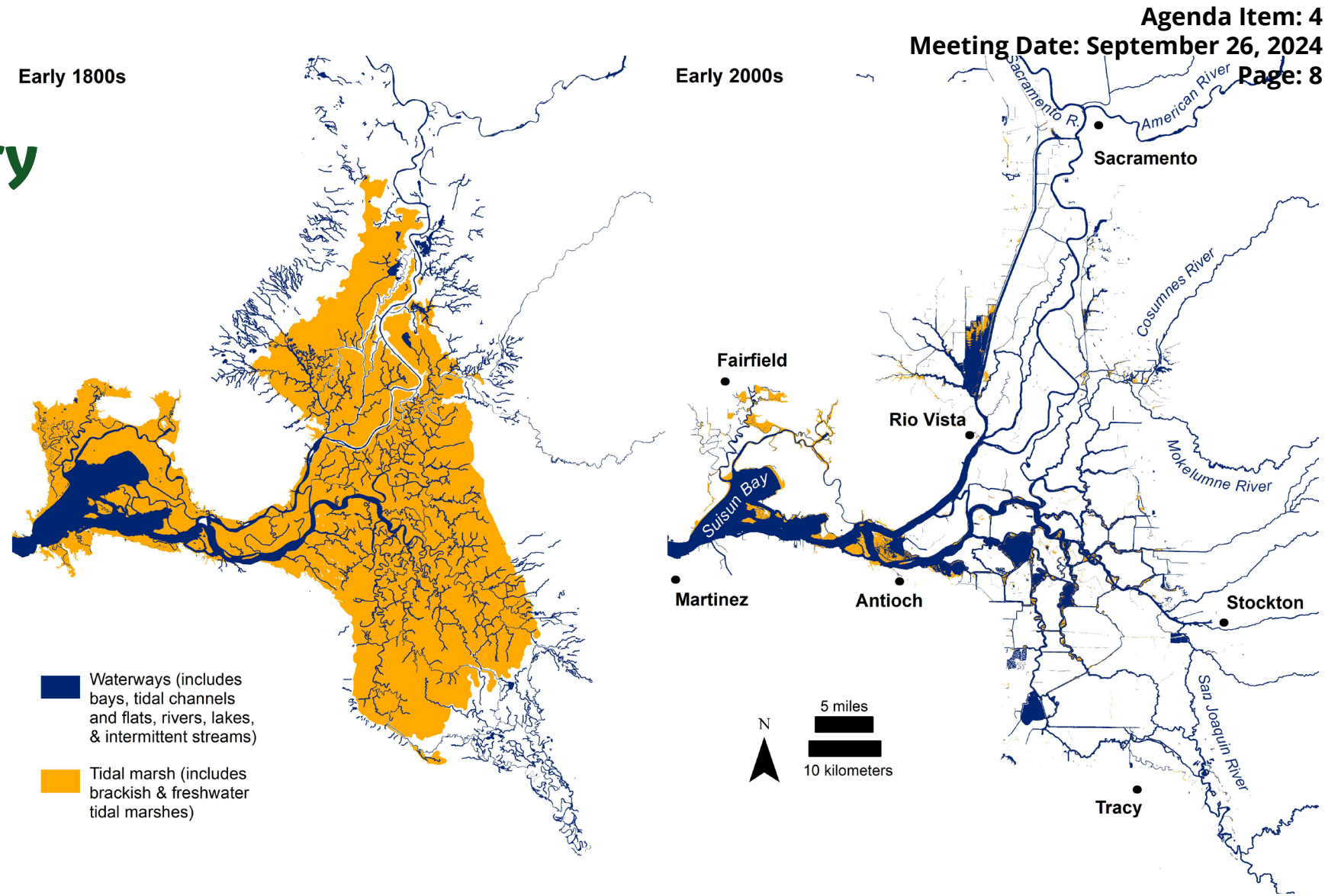


Figure created using data published in Whipple et al. (2012).

## 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:

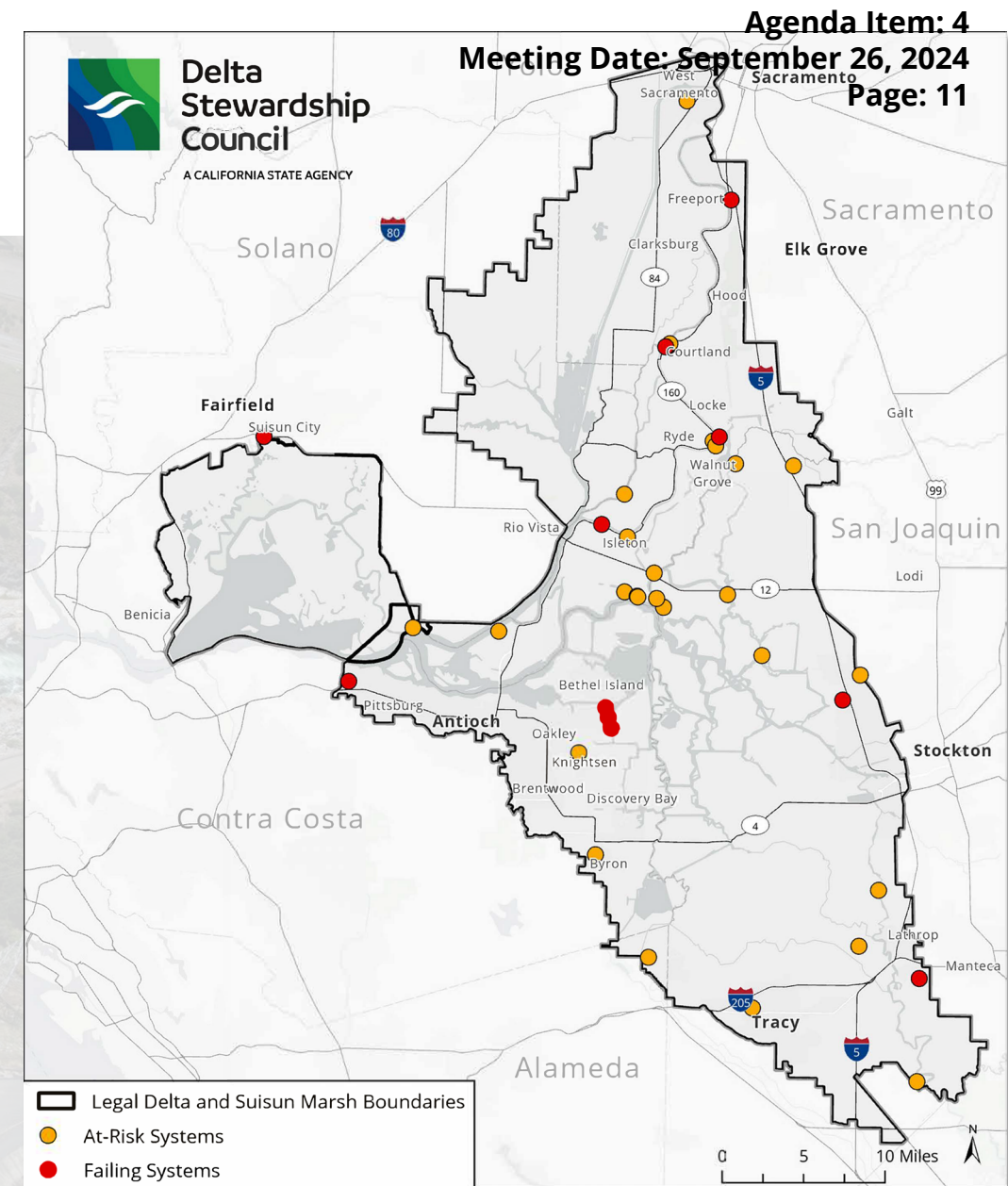
- Water rights priority system
- Water conveyance
- Harmful algal blooms; pollution and industrial contaminants
- Water affordability

## 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.*

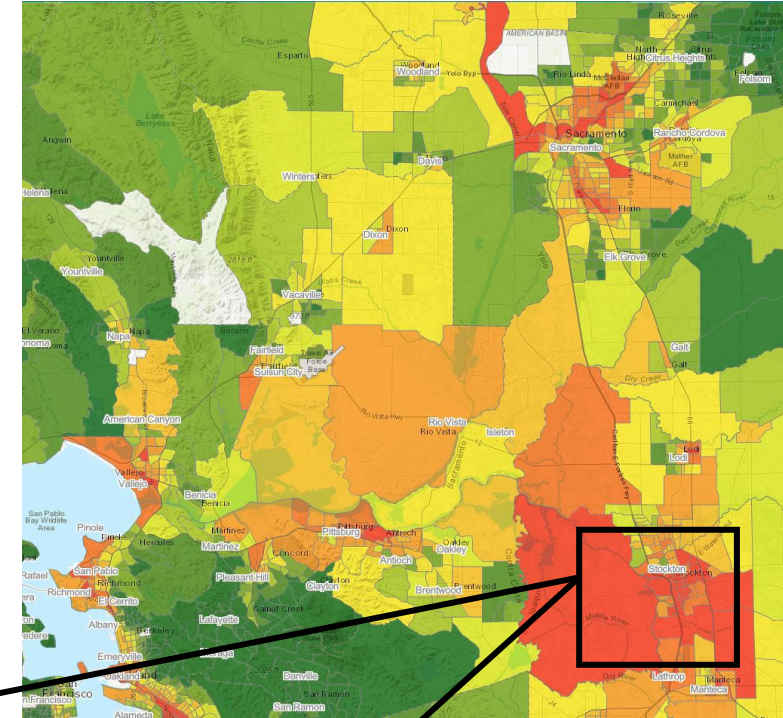
# Pollution Exposure, Public Health, and Recreation/Outdoor Access

## 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

☐ County Boundaries

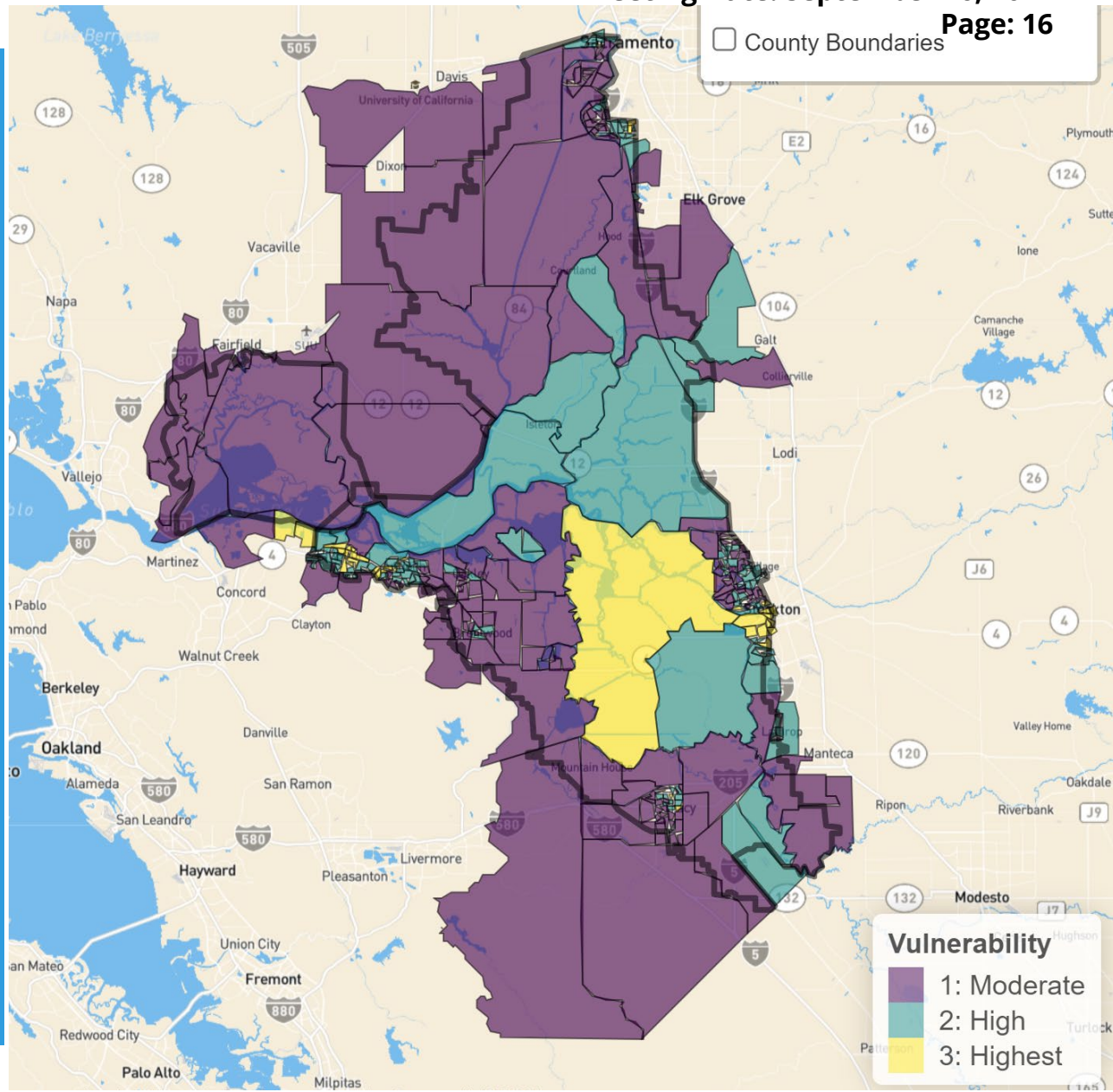
# Goal 1: Integrate EJ into the Council

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



## Next Steps

Public Review Period  
Tribal Roundtable and  
Consultation  
Community Outreach

## 60 Day

Public Review  
Period

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## Tribal Outreach

Tribal Roundtable  
Tribal Consultations

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## Outreach

Community gatherings and meetings



# EJ Expert Group

# Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance

# Gloria Alonso, Little Manila Rising

# **Bob Erlenbusch,** Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness

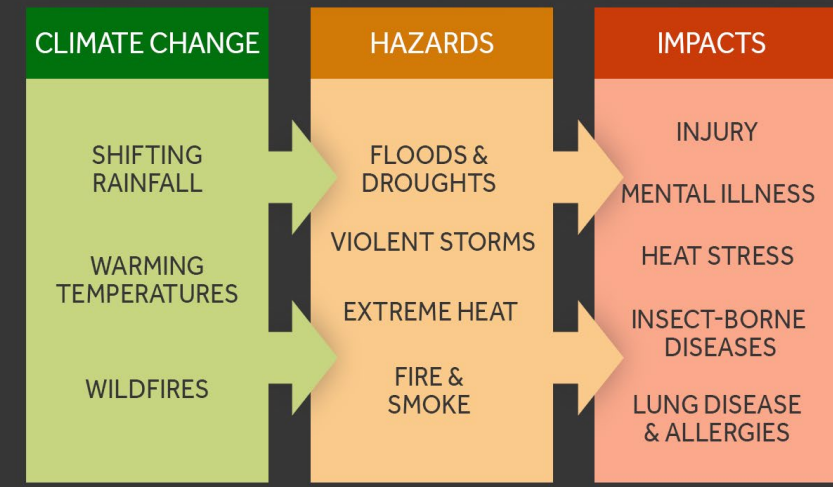




# Homelessness & Environmental Justice



# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS HEALTH



CLIMATE  CENTRAL

## Key issues

**Climate Change:**  
**Need for warming; cooling and clean air centers**



# BASIC & URGENT



August 2018

Realizing the Human Right to Water & Sanitation for Californians Experiencing Homelessness

**BerkeleyLaw**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Environmental Law Clinic



**EJCW**  
Water Justice for All

## Key findings:

- ☐ **Water & sanitation are human rights** under both international law and CA AB685, but the state – along with counties and cities are failing to guarantee people experiencing homelessness those rights;
- ☐ **CA has no minimum standards for access to water and sanitation** and there is no enforcement mechanism to incentivize jurisdictions to comply with AB685;
- ☐ People experiencing homelessness face **worse access to water and toilets than is required by international law**;

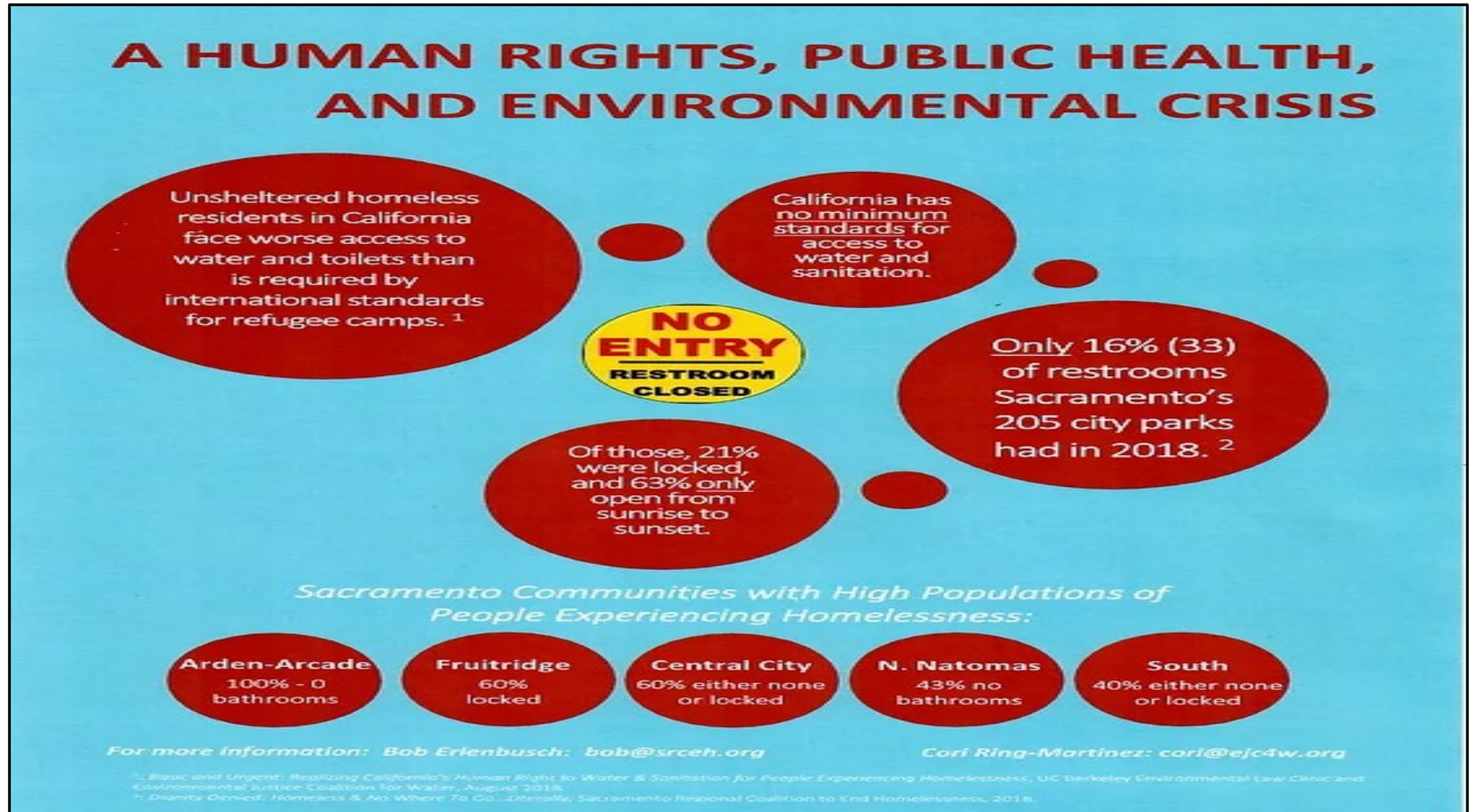


# Human Right to Safe Water & Sanitation

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# Barbara Barrigan- Parrilla, Restore the Delta

The politics of division make mismanagement of the Delta easier to accomplish, as some people who need water for economic development are prioritized over others whose lives, cultures, and economies are tied to healthy rivers and a robust estuary.

Inclusion is a choice.

*Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla*  
*Executive Director*  
Restore the Delta



## 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](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/environmental-justice)

## 60 Day

Public Review  
Period

## Tribal Outreach

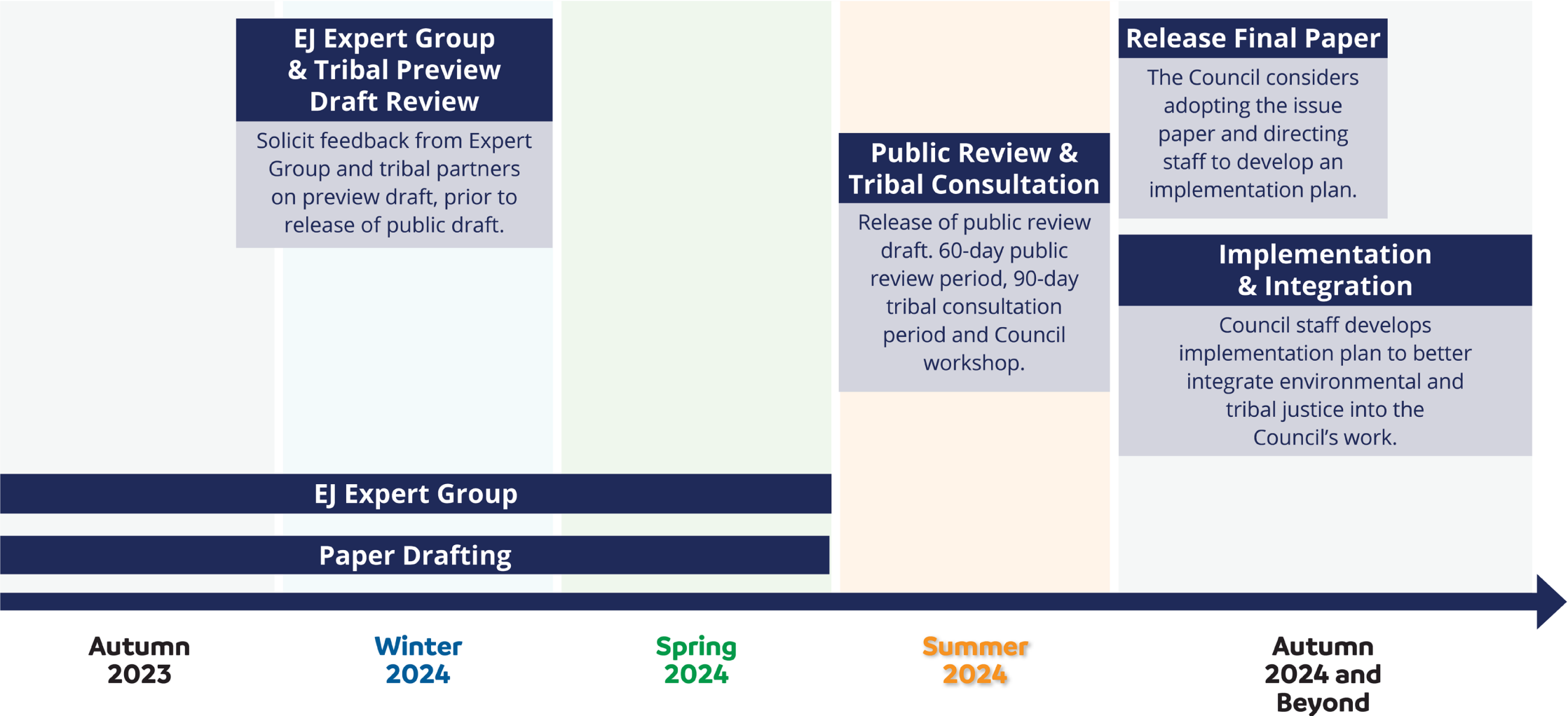
Tribal Roundtable  
Tribal Consultations

## Outreach

Community gatherings and meetings

# Extra Slides

# Issue Paper Development Timeline, Continued



# Section 5: Current Distributional Issues

