



INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

ADVANCING CLIMATE EQUITY

State Regulations and Strategies for Local Governments

Thursday, February 23, 2023 • 2:00 p.m.

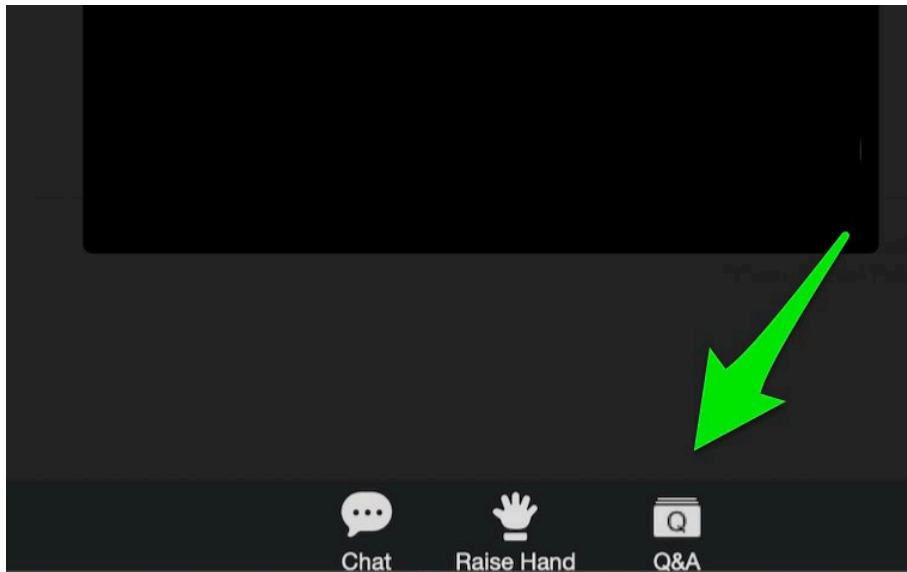
WELCOME!



Roberto Carlos Torres (He/Him/El)
Senior Program Manager
Institute for Local Government

TECH OVERVIEW & HOUSEKEEPING

- All webinar participants will be on **MUTE** for the duration of the event.
- Please **TYPE** any questions into the **Q&A BOX** at any time during the session.



- A recording of the session will be available shortly after the webinar.

ABOUT ILG



NON-PROFIT, NON-PARTISAN AND HERE TO HELP

- The Institute for Local Government is the non-profit training and education affiliate of three statewide local government associations
- Together with our affiliates, we serve over 2,500 local agencies – cities, counties and special districts
- We provide practical and easy-to-use resources so local agencies can effectively implement policies on the ground



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

ILG'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Program Areas

Leadership & Governance

Civics Education & Workforce

Public Engagement

Sustainable & Resilient Communities



Services

Education & Training

Technical Assistance

Capacity Building

Convening

Our mission is to help local government leaders **navigate complexity, increase capacity & build trust** in their communities

WHAT WE'LL COVER

State Regulations and Strategies for Local Governments

What is Climate Equity

Senate Bill 1000 (Leyva, 2016)

Contra Costa County Environmental Justice Element

City of San Diego, Incorporating Climate Equity

How You Can Begin Advancing Climate Equity

Resources

Q&A

*Disclaimer: information presented in this webinar **does not** constitute official legal advice.*

LET'S DO A QUICK POLL!

Please Participate

- 1 open smartphone browser
- 2 go to www.menti.com
- 3 enter participant code **64 99 72 5**



Or use QR code

WHAT IS CLIMATE EQUITY?

UNDERSTANDING EQUITY AND EQUALITY

EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.



EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



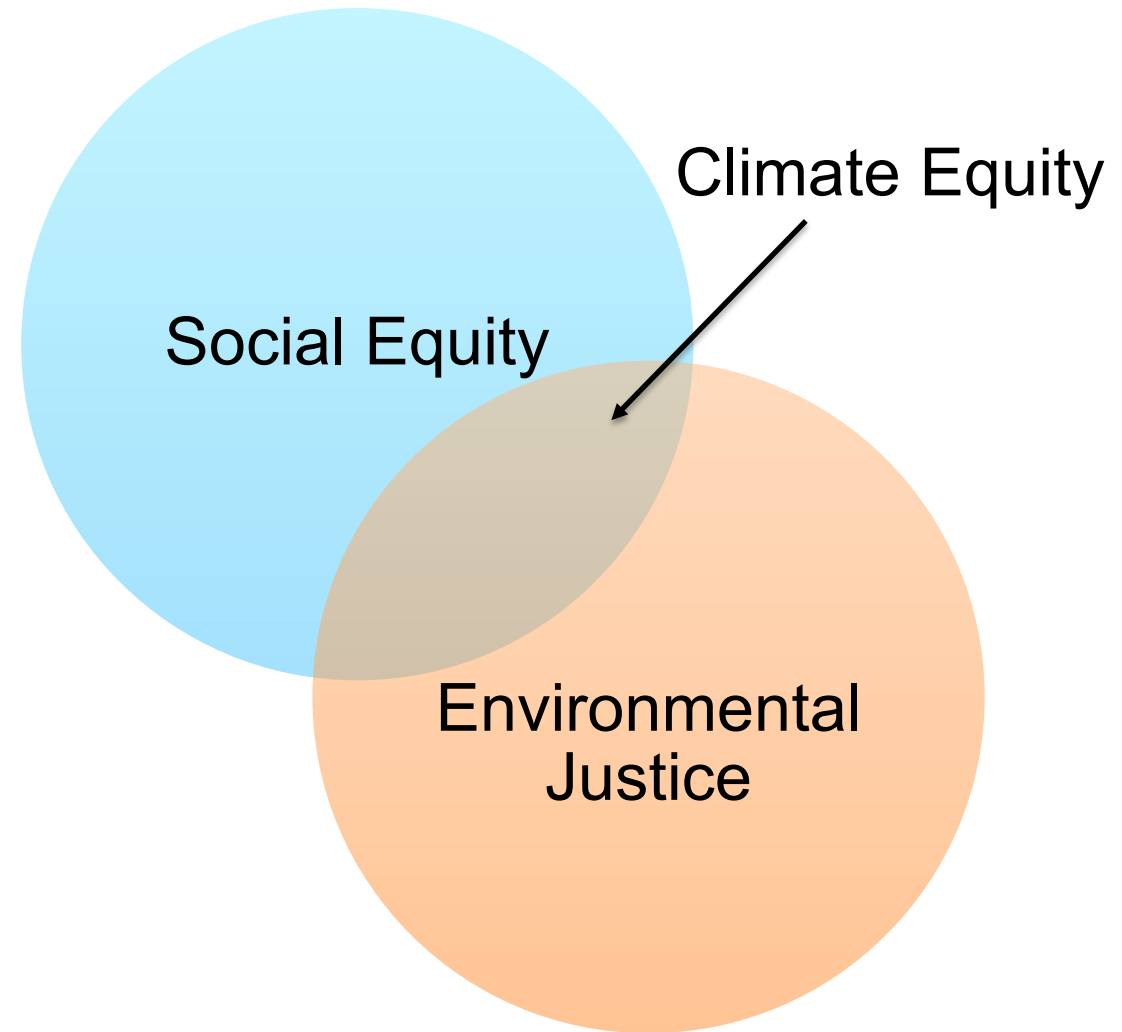
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WHAT IS CLIMATE EQUITY?

- **Intersection of Social and Environmental Justice**

- Different among communities
- Strives to undo historically unequal exposure to pollution
- Ensures a safe and healthy community, resilient to the impacts of climate change, regardless of socioeconomic status or race/ethnicity.

- **Requires Intentional Action**



In a recent survey, close to

26%

of local governments have or have started implementing a policy around equity, social and environmental justice

TODAY'S PRESENTERS



Leila Hakimzadeh
Planning & Land Use Manager
Governor's Office of Planning and
Research



Moriah Saldaña
Climate Action Program Manager
City of San Diego
Sustainability & Mobility
Department



William R. Nelson
Principal Planner
Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and
Development

STATE REGULATIONS



Leila Hakimzadeh

Planning & Land Use Manager
Governor's Office of Planning and
Research

Environmental Justice

Update to the General Plan Guidelines

Presented by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research:

Leila Hakimzadeh, Planning and Land Use Manager

Parker Friederich, CivicSpark Fellow, Planning and Community Development



A Brief History of EJ in California

1800s

- Some of the state's earliest environmental injustices can be traced back to laws, policies, and practices against California's Native American Tribes.

1900s

- Additional policies were enacted at the local and State level, discriminating against groups due to their race, income, and national origin. Examples include the Alien Land Law, local redlining, and problematic labor practices.

2000s

- COVID-19 has highlighted many systemic inequities from walkable streets to safe housing. Environmental justice requires sustained attention and action.

Legislative Context

SB 115 + AB 1553

- Dates: 1999 & 2001
- Established a formal EJ definition, designated OPR as the coordinating agency for State EJ programs, and required OPR to develop EJ guidance for General Plans.

SB 535 + AB 1550

- Dates: 2012 & 2016
- Requires 25% funds from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for “disadvantaged communities” and for projects located specifically in those communities, in order to improve public health and quality of life.

AB 617

- Date: 2017
- This legislation reduces air pollution in communities disproportionately and most impacted by poor air quality through specific community emission reduction plans, programs and air quality monitoring.

AB 1628

- Date: 2019
- This legislation revised California's EJ definition to add “meaningful engagement” of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins.

CA Definition of Environmental Justice



The **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

CA Definition of Environmental Justice (cont.)

“EJ includes but is not limited to:

- A. The availability of a **healthy environment** for all people.
- B. The **deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens** for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- C. Governmental entities **engaging and providing technical assistance** to populations and communities most impacted by pollution **to promote their meaningful participation** in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process.
- D. At a minimum, the **meaningful consideration of recommendations** from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.”

(Government Code 65040.12)

SB 1000 (Leyva)

- Date: 2016
- This legislation made EJ considerations mandatory in the General Plan, for all cities and counties in California with “disadvantaged communities.”
- Government Code 65302(h)

Over the next two years,
140+ jurisdictions
plan to adopt EJ elements

Engagement – A Critical Component of EJ

When working with communities experiencing disadvantages, consider:

- Historical context
- Barriers to participation
- Community assets & knowledge

Engagement should occur early and often during the EJ update process.



EJ Element Update Process

Step 1: Are there “disadvantaged communities” within your jurisdiction?
Are you updating two or more general plan elements concurrently?

Step 2: If so, update or develop new policies to do the following:

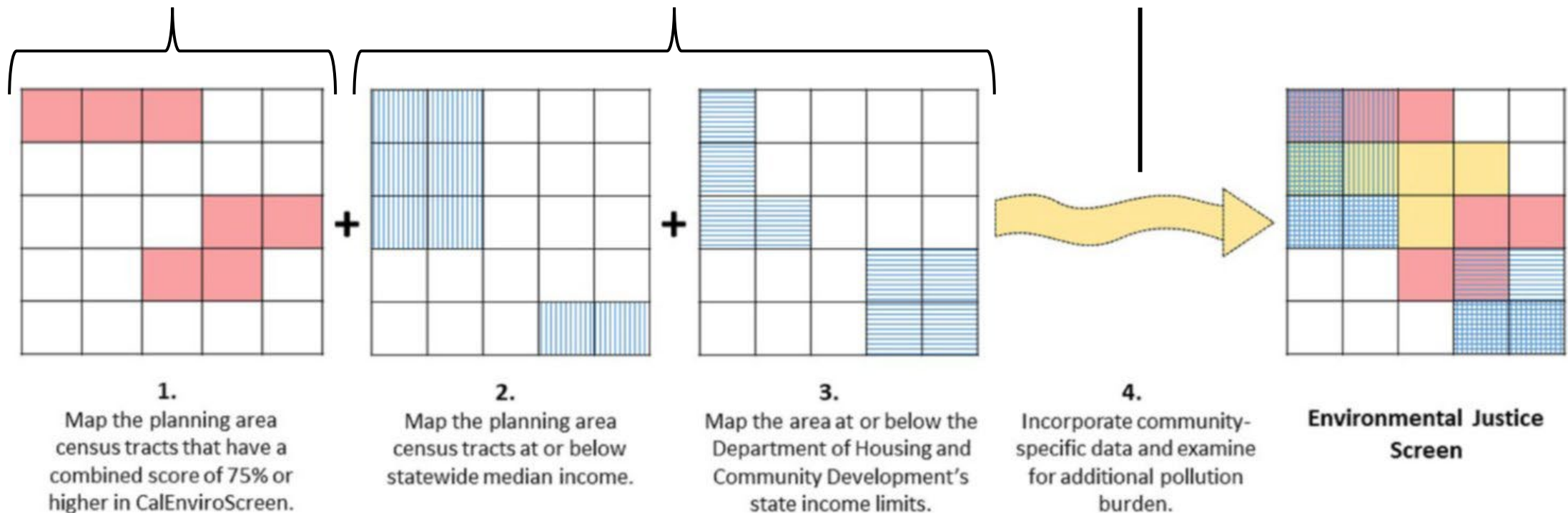
- Reduce Pollution Exposure
- Promote Public Facilities
- Promote Food Access
- Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes
- Promote Physical Activity
- Reduce Unique or Compounded Health Risks
- Promote Civic Engagement
- Prioritize Disadvantaged Communities

Step 1: Screening Process

CalEnviroScreen Analysis

Mapping of low-income areas

Local context +
Community engagement



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Pollution Exposure

Pollution can take many forms including:

- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Soil Pollution
- Other Health Hazards

Jurisdictions should address land use compatibility, infrastructure and services, to address and reduce pollution exposure and health risks in disadvantaged communities

Consider the tradeoffs associated with the traditional, rigid separation, of land uses.

Legislative Connections

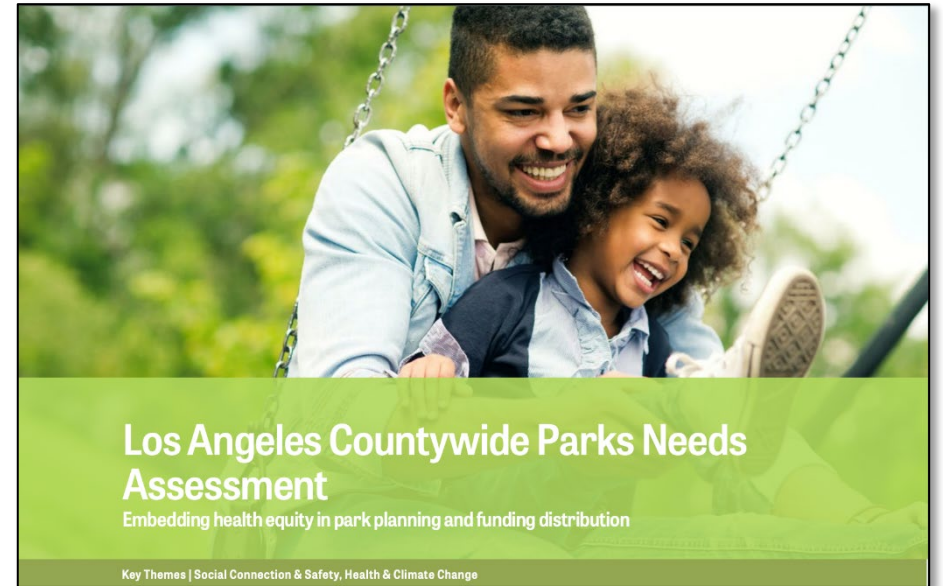
Jurisdictions can leverage current work that is occurring to reduce pollution burden in disadvantaged communities such as programs defined in AB 617, AB 685, SB 88, and SB 200.

Public Facilities

Policies should be developed to expand or improve facilities such as:

- Public improvements,
- Public services, and
- Public amenities

Some of these policies overlap with other EJ topics or initiatives.



This OPR case study highlights a park access initiative that occurred in LA County.

Food Access

Policies should be developed to address:

- Availability,
- Access, and
- Utilization of food

Jurisdictions may leverage programs or funding provided by CDFA's Office of Farm to Fork.



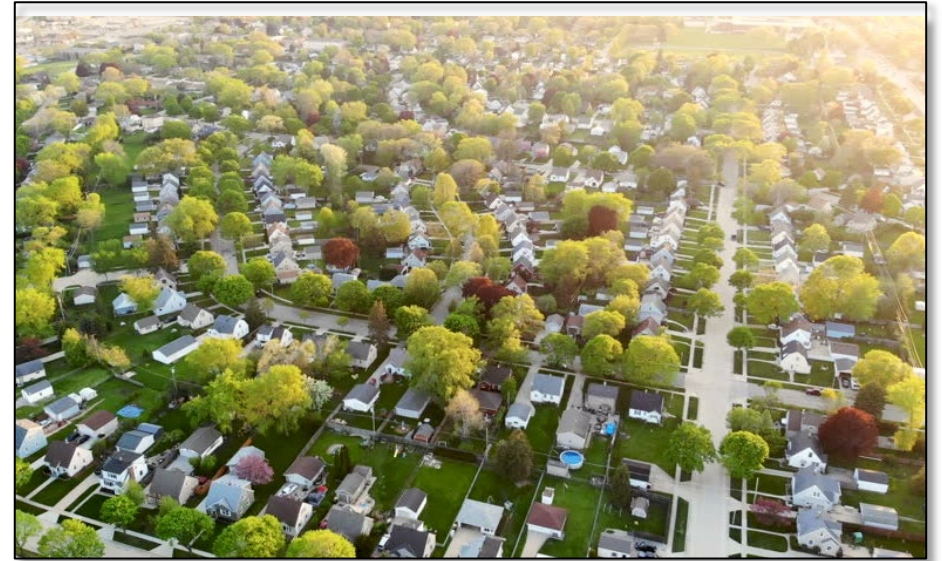
This OPR case study highlights a food access initiative that is happening in Fresno.

Safe and Sanitary Homes

Policies should be developed to address:

- Location,
- Quality, and
- Affordability of housing

Jurisdictions may wish to coordinate their EJ update with their housing element update to promote positive health outcomes.



This provides a unique opportunity to examine existing and future housing need with a focus on low income households.

Physical Activity

Policies can be developed to increase:

- Access to recreation and open space for play and exercise
- Active transportation investments

Jurisdictions may want to leverage funding from other sources, such as the Safe Routes to School or Active Transportation programs.

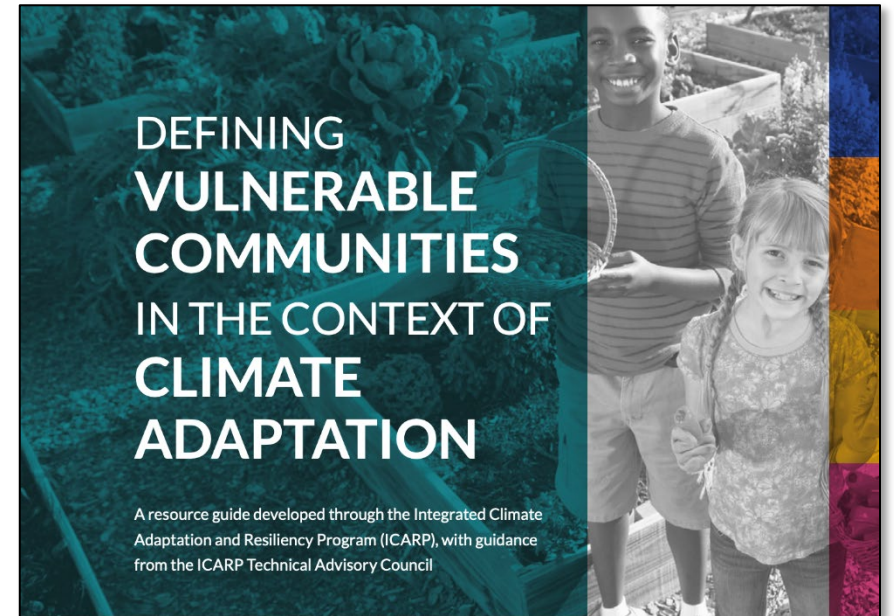


This OPR case study highlights an active transportation plan developed in Fresno.

Unique or Compounded Health Risks

Jurisdictions can address any unique or compounded risks specific to their area, including disparities due to COVID-19.

OPR also recommends **coordinating EJ and climate change** considerations. This can be done by aligning the EJ process with the safety element update which, according to SB 379 and SB 1035, must address climate vulnerability and adaptation.



OPR's Defining Vulnerable Communities publication outlines the linkages between climate adaptation and SB 1000.

Civic Engagement

Policies must be developed to increase civic engagement in the public decision-making process.

Local governments should work towards collaborating with and empowering disadvantaged communities so that they can shape the future at both the General Plan level and at more specific project and program levels.

Level of Engagement	Examples of Engagement	Direction & Public Impact on Decision Making
Inform	Outreach Open Houses Data Access	One-Way, No Impact ----->
Consult	Photo Voice Community Survey Tribal Consultation	One-Way, Some Impact ←-----
Involve	Design Charrettes Walk Audit Focus Groups	Two-Way, Some Impact ←----->
Collaborate	Citizen Advisory Committee or Workgroup	Two-Way, Good Impact ↔
Empower	The public makes the final planning decisions	Two-Way, High Impact ↔

Jurisdictions can track and measure their engagement efforts to inform future action.

Prioritizing Disadvantaged Communities

EJ policies and programs should focus on areas identified by the local community for improvement and include mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of prioritized programs.

The plan can also outline reporting and communication strategies to convey the status and outcomes of the policies & programs back to the residents.



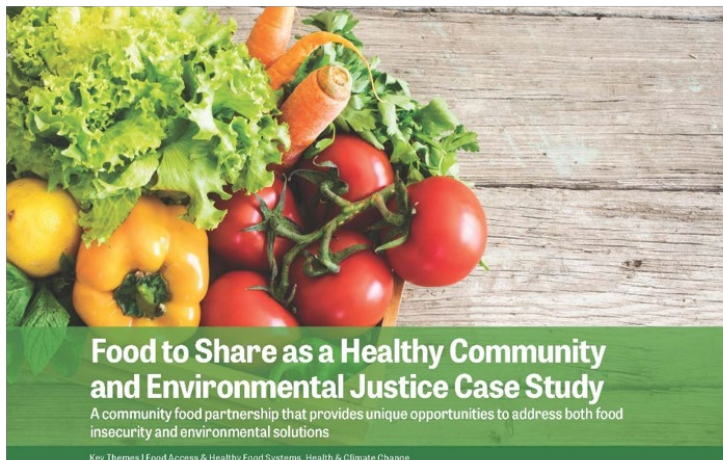
Oakland CBOs created a robust process to prioritize community member's needs.

Additional Resources



Environmental Justice Case Studies

- Highlight local initiatives across California
- Nine are published on OPR's website
- OPR plans to add to the set of examples



Example EJ Policy Language Document

- Pulls from adopted General Plans
- Addresses all required topics
- Policies can be strengthened and adapted

More Questions?

Send an email to:

SB1000@opr.ca.gov

View the Guidance and Additional Resources:

<https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>

<https://www.oag.ca.gov/environment/sb1000>

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



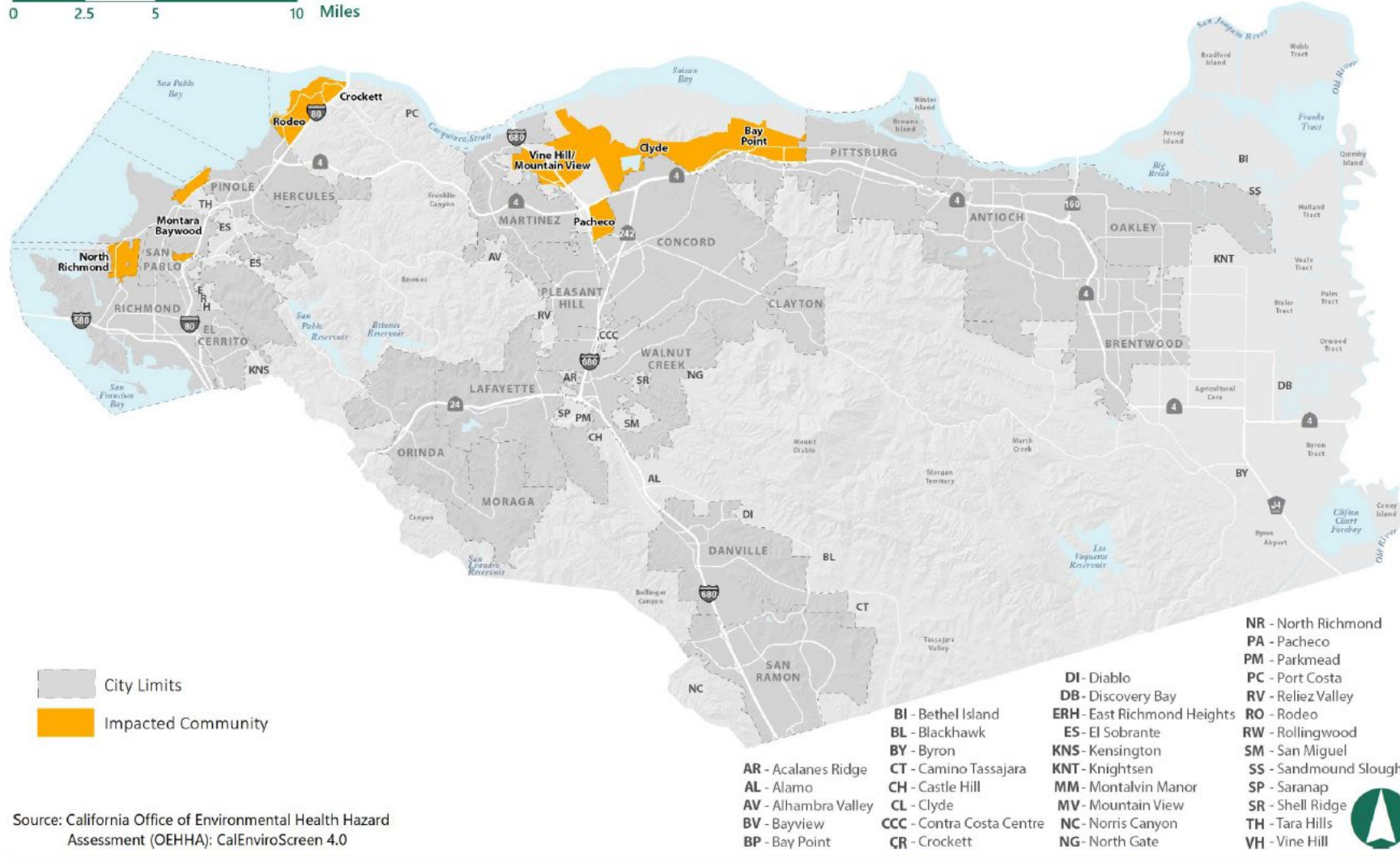
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S JOURNEY



William R. Nelson
Principal Planner
Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and
Development

FIGURE SC-1 IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

0 2.5 5 10 Miles



Source: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA): CalEnviroScreen 4.0

FIGURE HS-16 HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS AND FACILITIES RANKINGS RELATIVE TO STATE

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

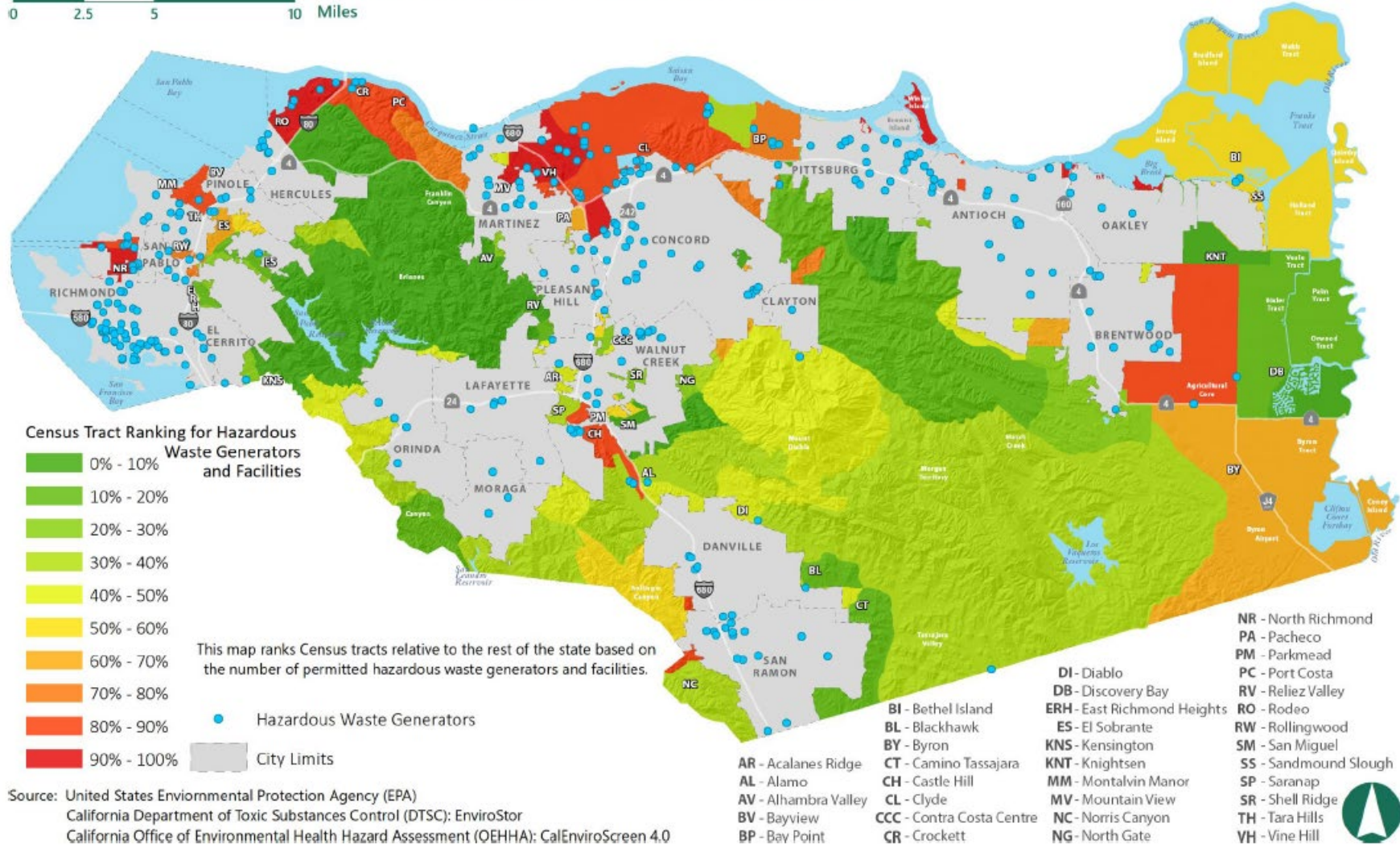


FIGURE HS-17 CLEAN-UP SITES RANKINGS RELATIVE TO STATE

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

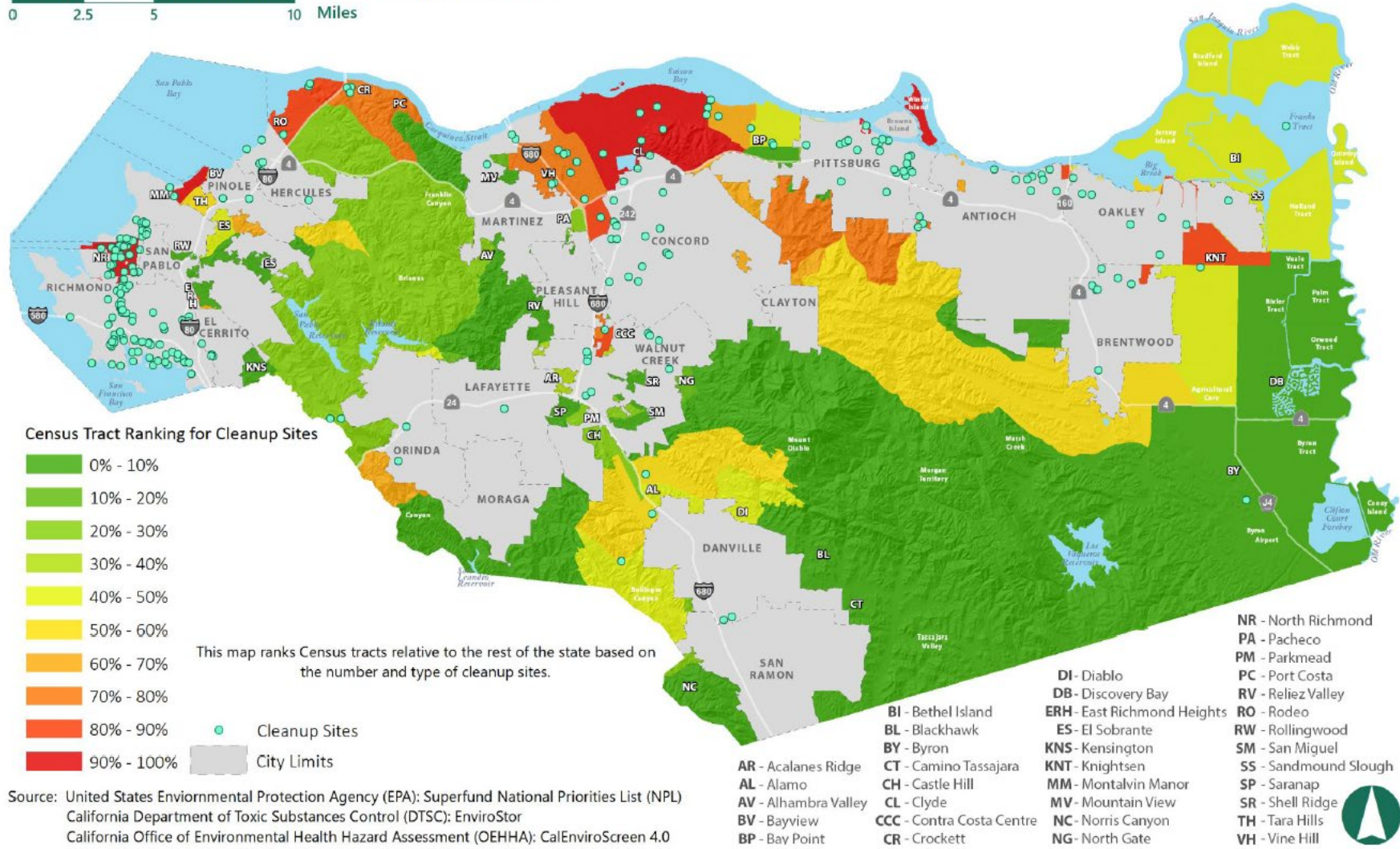
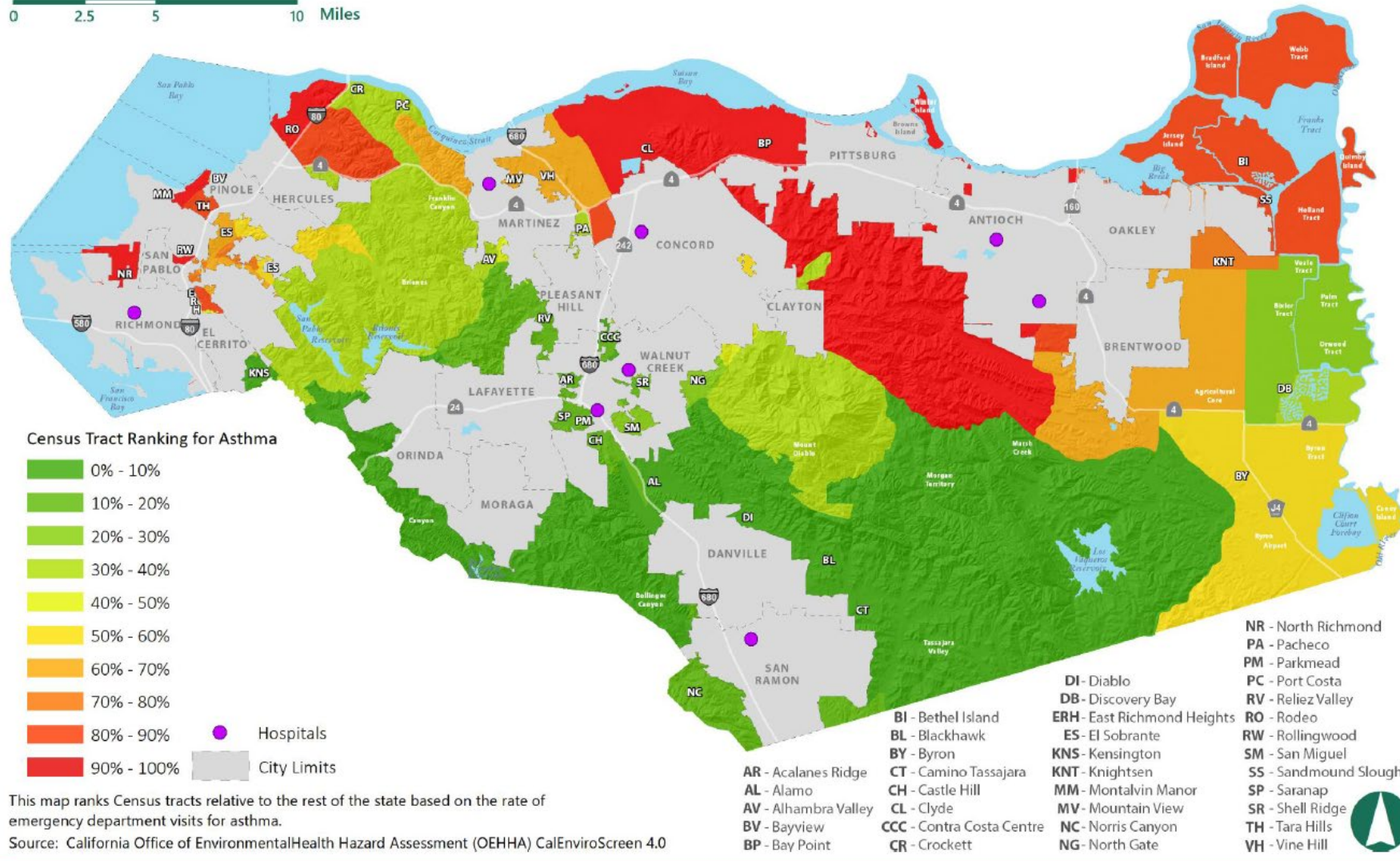


FIGURE SC-2 ASTHMA RANKINGS RELATIVE TO STATE

0 2.5 5 10 Miles



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



CLIMATE EQUITY IN SAN DIEGO



Moriah Saldaña

Climate Action Program Manager

City of San Diego

Sustainability & Mobility Department



OUR CLIMATE
OUR FUTURE
City of San Diego Climate Action Plan

2022 Climate Action Plan

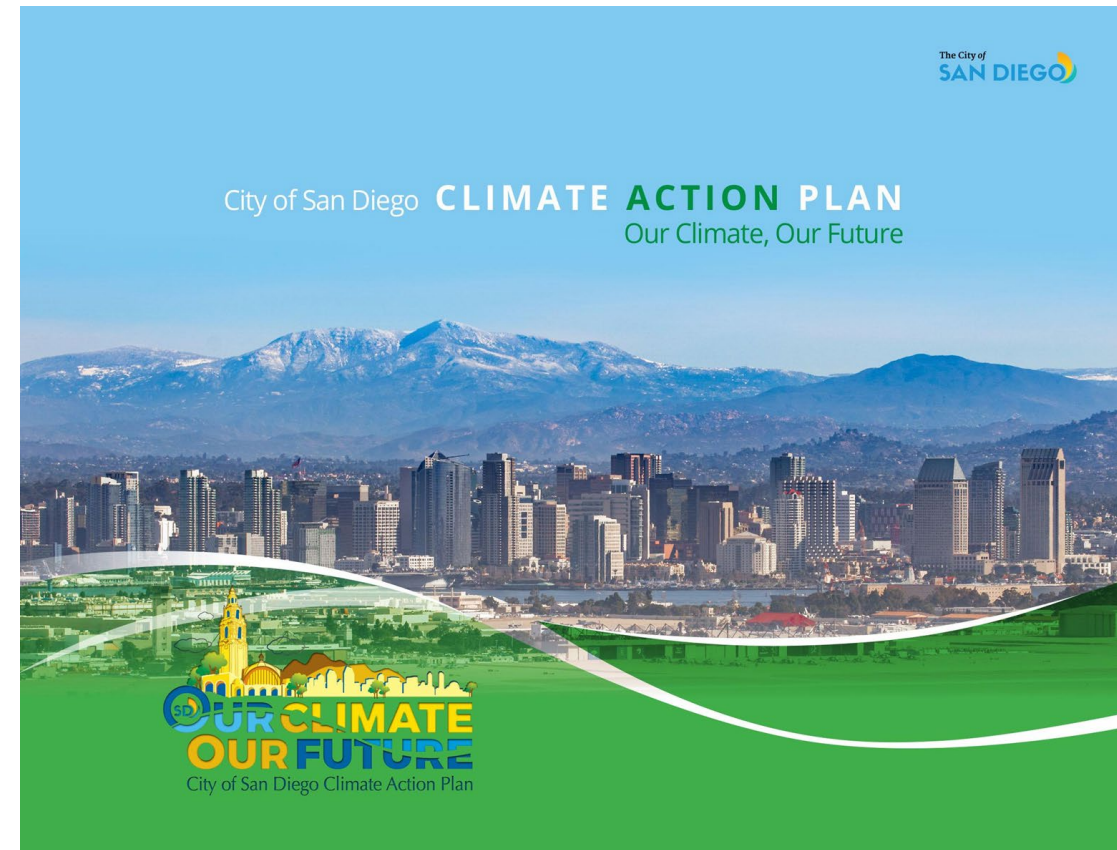


Need for “**immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions** in greenhouse gas emissions”

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,
Annual Report 6*

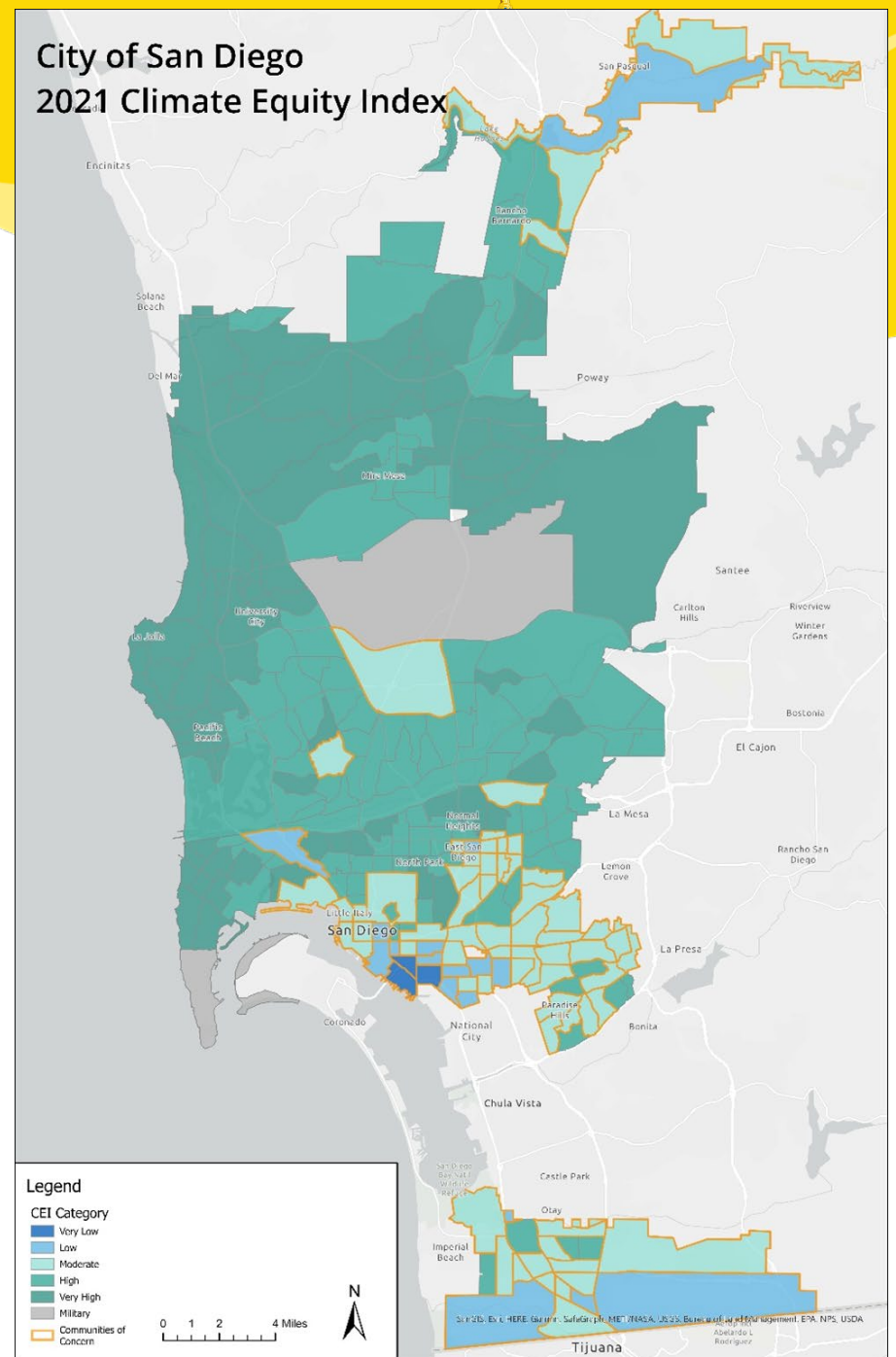
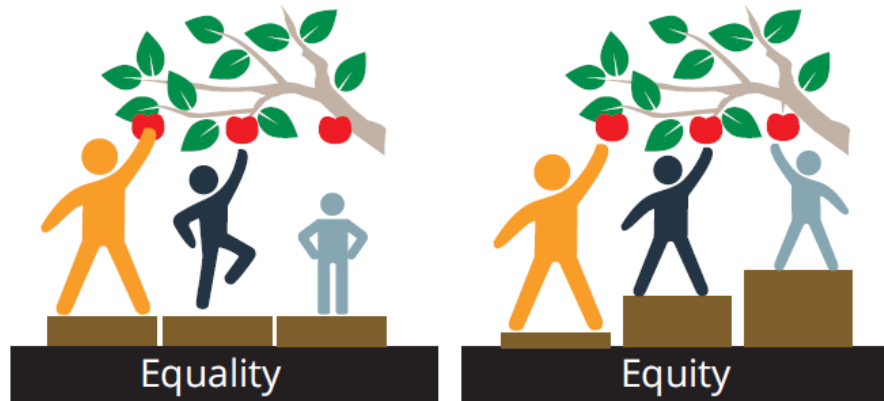
City Goal: Net Zero Emissions by 2035

- Developed with community partners
- Prioritizes Communities of Concern
- Supports clean air & green jobs
- Maintains CEQA streamlining



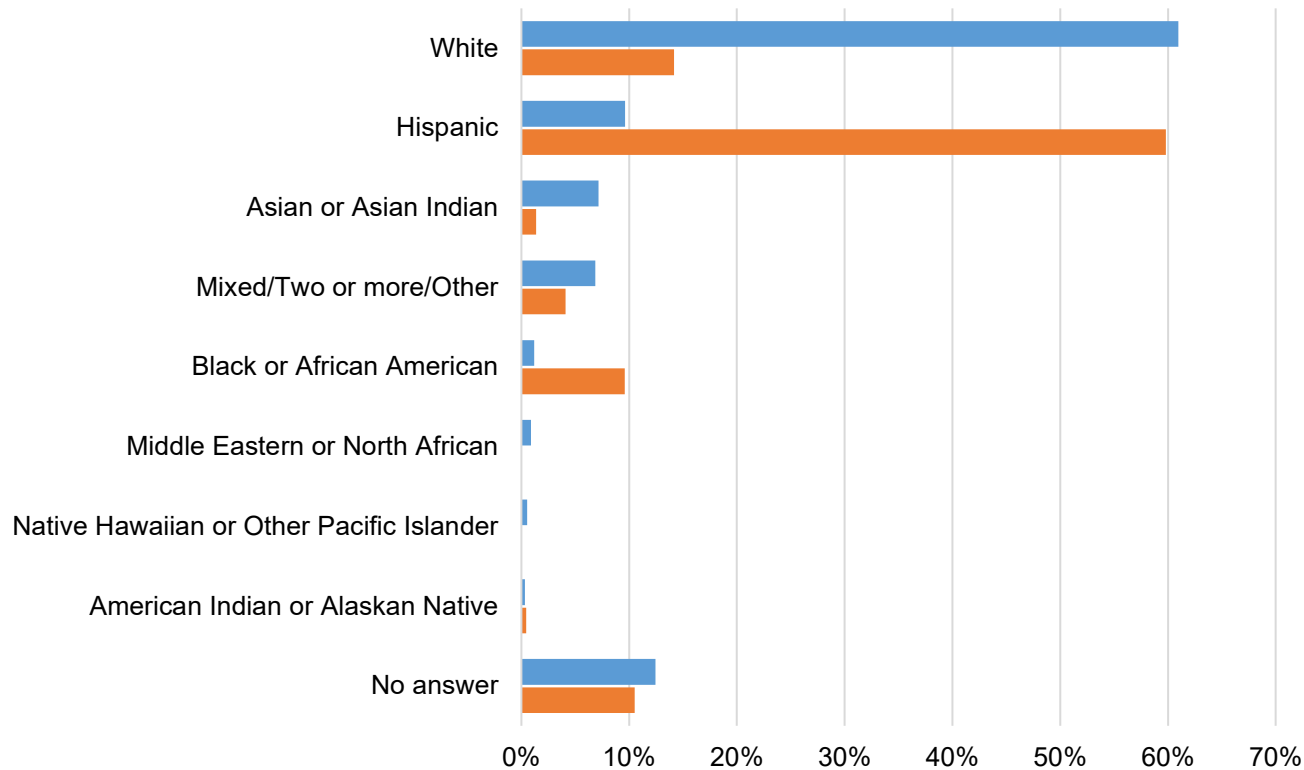
Centering Climate Equity

- Climate Equity Working Group
- Climate Equity Index
- Community Engagement
 - Informed Core Benefits
 - Identified actions

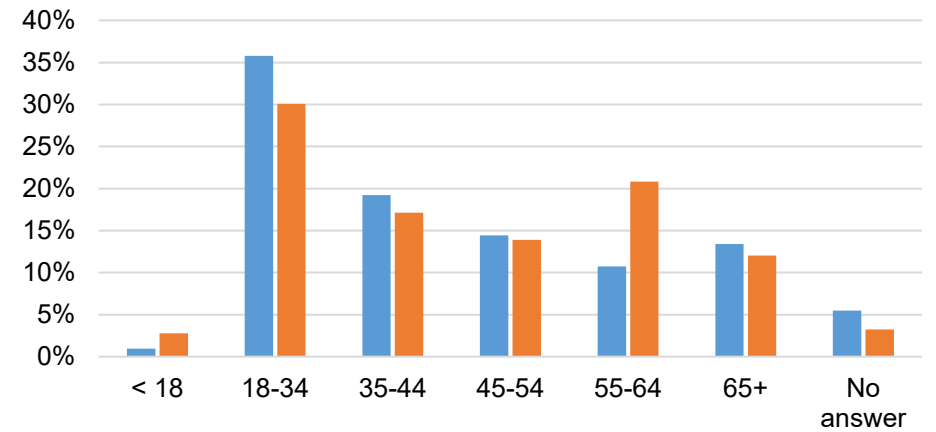


CBO outreach compared to previous outreach

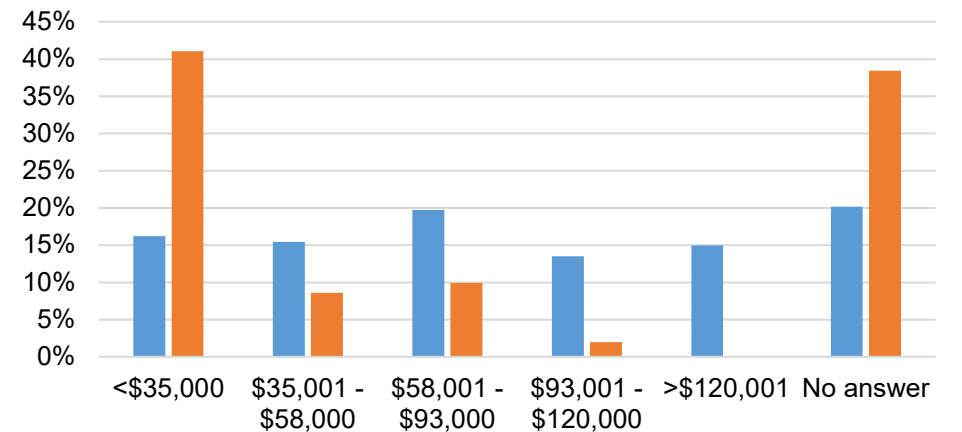
Race/Ethnicity



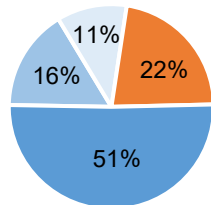
Age



Annual Income



The City has communicated with over 3,300 residents through its outreach efforts so far



- Forums
- Presentations
- CoC Outreach
- Online Survey

Major Themes From Engagement

These were the strongest themes running through the various engagements:

TREES, PARKS, GREEN SPACES

- Every Community of Concern expressed a strong desire for more trees and green spaces

PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE SAFETY

- Need safe streets and better sidewalks
- Access to public transit

AIR QUALITY/POLLUTION/LITTER

- Direct affects of pollution in their daily lives making them unwilling to spend time outdoors
- Residents describe a “layer of black residue that builds up outside their homes on plants, cars or window sills”

Major Themes (cont.)

HEAT

- Rising energy costs to combat severe weather
- Lack of A/C

LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD/FOOD INSECURITY

- Lack of access to affordable, healthy food
- Food insecurity

ACCESS

- Affordability of climate solutions
- Concern that infrastructure or technology would be unavailable in their communities

COMMUNICATION

- What is the City's CAP?
- Where to find information from the City?
- Lack of information in other languages
- Residents expressed doubt that their feedback from this engagement would be incorporated into the CAP update
- Reimbursement or incentive to residents in low-income areas to reduce barriers to participation

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

Work Within Your Organization

Identify Internal Champions

Train Staff

Coordinate Engagement Efforts

Partner with Your Community

Assess Community Relationships

Build/Repair Relationships

Engage Stakeholders & Sustain Momentum

Establish A Plan

Define Climate Equity

Identify Impacted Communities

Co-develop a Plan

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN WORKING WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION

Identify Internal Champions

- Who is already working on equity/climate equity?
- Who is interested in climate equity?
- Who can develop or be impacted by a climate equity plan?

Train Staff

- Does staff understand equity/climate equity/environmental justice?
- Who should know about climate equity?
- What resources are available to learn more?

Coordinate Engagement Efforts

- What engagement is currently happening?
- What is planned for in the future?
- What policies impact engagement?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN PARTNERING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Assess Your Community Landscape

- How have past efforts gone in the community?
- Are there existing relationships that could help address climate equity?
- Who in your community is advocating for equity/climate equity/environmental justice?

Build/Repair Relationships

- Are there groups advocating for equity/climate equity/environmental justice that don't have a connection with your jurisdiction?
- Why is there little to no relationship with the organization?
- Who is the best messenger to build/repair the relationship?

Engage Stakeholders

- What engagement has been done so far?
- Are you engaging for the right reason?
- Are you engaging early in the process?

QUESTIONS TO ESTABLISH A PLAN

Define Climate Equity

- What does climate equity mean to your community?
- What does it look like?

Identify “Impacted” Communities

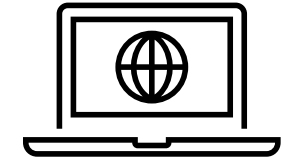
- Which communities have been impacted by inequity?
- How are they identified? CalEnviroScreen, Healthy Communities Index? Etc.
- How does the community define/name these communities?

Co-develop a Plan

- How will your organization achieve climate equity?
- What do the “impacted” communities want/need?
- How will your jurisdiction address the needs and wants of these communities?
- What existing plans need to be revised or leveraged?

RESOURCES

- U.S. EPA - <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-equity>
- UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation - <https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/environmental-equity/climate-equity/>
- California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) - <https://caleja.org/what-we-do/climatejustice/>
- The Greenlining Institute - <https://greenlining.org/work/climate-equity/>
- ILG -
 - Inclusive Public Engagement - <https://www.ca-ilg.org/inclusive-public-engagement>
 - Partnering with Community Based Organizations - <https://www.ca-ilg.org/partnering-community-based-organizations>



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- > Homelessness
- > Housing Toolkit
- > Inclusive Public Engagement
 - > The Basics of Public Engagement
 - > TIERS Public Engagement Framework
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 - > Immigrant Engagement and Integration
- > Partnering with Community Based Organizations
 - > Engaging Clergy and Congregations
 - > Measuring Success
 - > Leadership and Governance
 - > New to Public Service
 - > Planning Commissioner Handbook
 - > Recycling
 - > Technology
 - > Workforce and Civics Education

Partnering with Community Based Organizations

Resources and case stories to help facilitate partnerships between local governments and community based organizations. Community-based organizations can offer unique and important insights into the challenges and opportunities facing residents in their area and can help local officials improve their ability to communicate and connect with a wide range of community members.

City of Lodi – Love Your Block Program

This video highlights Lodi's Love Your Block program. The effort has provided leadership training to 60 community members and supported the exploration of local projects conceived by Love Your Block participants. The story focuses on the transformation of a blighted vacant lot into a 'greened' space that showcases a two-story mural.

Read more »

Expand Your Agency's Community Networks

Many local officials have a rich network of community relationships, yet this list of groups may not come to mind when a public agency is planning a public meeting. Use this inventory of various kinds of community organizations to help broaden the reach of your public engagement and create a ready resource for each engagement effort.

Expand Your Agency's Community Connections

Partnering with Community-Based Organizations for More Broad-based Public Engagement

Collaborating with local community-based organizations can enhance the breadth and depth of participation by community residents in local decision-making. This publication reviews the benefits of partnering, selecting partners, types of partnerships and the conditions that support effective collaboration. It also outlines common challenges with community partnerships and offers guidance on how to avoid them.

Partnering with CBOs for More Inclusive Public Engagement

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Takes Time

Requires Intentionality

Mutual Trust and
Communication

With The Community

Not Easy

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



ILG CAN HELP

Training

Understanding Climate Equity

Methods to Advance Climate Equity

Making Your Public Engagement More Effective & Inclusive

Technical Assistance

Developing Your Environmental Justice Element

Developing A Community Engagement Plan

Identifying Impacted Communities

Building New or Repairing Community Relationships

Contact Roberto C. Torres at rtorres@ca-ilg.org or call (619) 535-9352

RECORDING AVAILABLE SOON



The recorded presentation and materials will be shared electronically with all attendees a few days after the webinar.

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Thank you for joining us!



Leila Hakimizadeh



Moriah Saldaña



William R. Nelson



Roberto Carlos Torres