

## Santa Fe Springs Special Events

The City of Santa Fe Springs offers a variety of culturally-based special events for the entire community, including adults, children, seniors, and families.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

# CHAPTER 6

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

Introduction.....	EJ-1
Environmental Justice Communities .....	EJ-3
Environmental Justice Communities Concerns .....	EJ-8
Environmental Justice Goals and Policies ...	EJ-24



**Re-Imagine**  
**Santa Fe Springs**

2040 GENERAL PLAN



**Santa Fe Springs Residents**

Santa Fe Springs residents enjoy the diversity of parks, recreational facilities, and community services programming available to the community.



## CHAPTER 6: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

### Introduction

Environmental justice provided, and continues to provide, a specific lens through which to redress disparities in health outcomes that fall along a community's racial, ethnic, gender, and economic identities. The geographical dimension of these disparities became etched in maps through redlining, racially restrictive covenants, Jim Crow laws, and exclusionary zoning. Barriers to voting, equal representation, and discrimination in appointments against Black, Hispanics, Asian, Pacific Islanders, and American Indians created the decision-making environments that let harmful land uses flourish and public infrastructure fail to meet the needs of the underserved. The democratic deficits of that system—including a lack of transparency—prevented these communities from having meaningful participation in the political process or to be informed about disparities in facilities and services to the detriment of public health and economic development. While those conditions may or may not have been pervasive in Santa Fe Springs, this Environment Justice Element represents the City's commitment to ensuring that all people receive equal treatment, equal access, and equal protections, and that everyone has the opportunity to engage in decisions that affect their health and economic well-being.

### Legal Requirements

The State of California defines Environmental Justice as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations and policies.

In 2016, Senate Bill 1000 amended California Government Code Section 63502 to require cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their general plans.

If a city, county, or city and county has a disadvantaged community, then the environmental justice element, or related environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, are required to do all of the following:

- Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
- Identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process.
- Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Environmental justice seeks to correct existing inequalities regarding pollution and health burdens that certain neighborhoods face. Environmental justice is grounded in principles of justice and fairness and focused on creating a society in which everyone can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Equitable outcomes come about when smart, intentional strategies are put in place to ensure that everyone can participate in and benefit from decisions that shape their neighborhoods and communities.



## Scope and Content of the Environmental Justice Element

The Environmental Justice Element contains a comprehensive set of goals and policies aimed at increasing the role and influence of historically marginalized populations and reducing their exposure to environmental and health hazards. This Element is structured as follows:

- **Background:** A discussion of environmental justice principles, the methodology for identifying Environmental Justice Communities, and the specific demographics of the disadvantaged communities (i.e., environmental justice communities) in Santa Fe Springs.
- **Environmental Justice Issues and Concerns for Santa Fe Springs:** An evaluation of baseline environmental issues impacting Santa Fe Springs' disadvantaged communities (as defined by the State), including pollution burden, population characteristics, educational attainment, linguistic isolation, health and wellness, food insecurity, and park access.
- **Goals and Policies:** The goals, policies, and programs describe how the City will incorporate environmental justice into decision making and support positive outcomes for affected residents.

### Terms in this Element

This element uses several acronyms to identify agencies, modeling tools, and commonly used terms used in the discussion of environmental justice issues. The terms are described in the text, and this serves as a handy reference to the acronyms representing those terms.

**CalEnviroScreen:** California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool

**Disadvantaged Communities (DAC):** Communities are defined as the top 25% scoring areas (census tracts) from CalEnviroScreen screening tool.

**HPI:** Healthy Places Index is a tool that measures community conditions that affect health outcomes

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** Small particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or smaller (an air pollutant). The widths of the larger particles in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> size range would be about thirty times smaller than that of a human hair. The smaller particles are so small that several thousand of them could fit on the period at the end of this sentence.

## Environmental Justice Issues and Concerns for Santa Fe Springs



Pollution Burdens



Population Characteristics



Linguistic Isolation



Educational Attainment



Food Insecurity



Park Access



Health & Wellness



## Environmental Justice Communities

California law defines “disadvantaged communities” (or “environmental justice communities”) as areas that are most afflicted with a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool “CalEnviroScreen” was developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify environmental justice communities using the following indicators:

- **Pollution Burden:** Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; and
- **Population Characteristics:** Areas with concentrations of people with low incomes, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, low levels of educational attainment, and/or are sensitive populations (e.g., disabled individuals, seniors, and emancipated foster youth).



Looking east out to the sea of industrial uses with Telegraph Road located at the bottom of the photo. Industrial uses consist of approximately 72 percent of all land area (acres) in the City.



CalEnviroScreen produces a percentile ranking of census tracts to demonstrate the degree of burdens present in that tract relative to the rest of the State. For example, a 75th percentile ranking for a census tract would mean that it falls within the top 25 percent of all CalEnviroScreen scores statewide—and is among the highest burdened census tracts in California. A CalEnviroScreen score of 75 or higher also means the census tract is considered a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) for the purpose of the Environmental Justice Element. See Table EJ-1 for CalEnviroScreen percentile scores for all census tracts in Santa Fe Springs Planning Area.

**CalEnviroScreen Score**

When reporting the degree of burden a disadvantaged community bears, a high CalEnviroScreen score represents an undesirable condition.

On this basis, eight census tracts within the Santa Fe Springs Planning Area are classified as Disadvantaged Communities (5028.02, 5027.00, 5029.02, 5023.01, 5023.02, 5031.04, 5030.00, and 5031.05). Figure EJ-1 identifies the location of these disadvantaged tracts and residential uses located in census tracts that have available CalEnviroScreen 3.0 data.

**Table EJ-1: CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Percentile Scores**

Percentiles and Indicators	City of Santa Fe Springs				Sphere of Influence					
	Not a DAC	Census Tracts Identified as Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) <sup>1</sup>								Not a DAC
	Census Tracts 50XX.XX									
	28.01	28.02	27.00	29.02	23.01	23.02	30.00	31.04	31.05	31.03
CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Percentile	70	92	91	95	95	95	96	80	76	71
Pollution Indicators Percentile	95	94	99	95	98	95	93	81	71	71
Population Characteristics Percentile	41	77	58	81	74	81	75	68	70	61

Source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, June 2020.

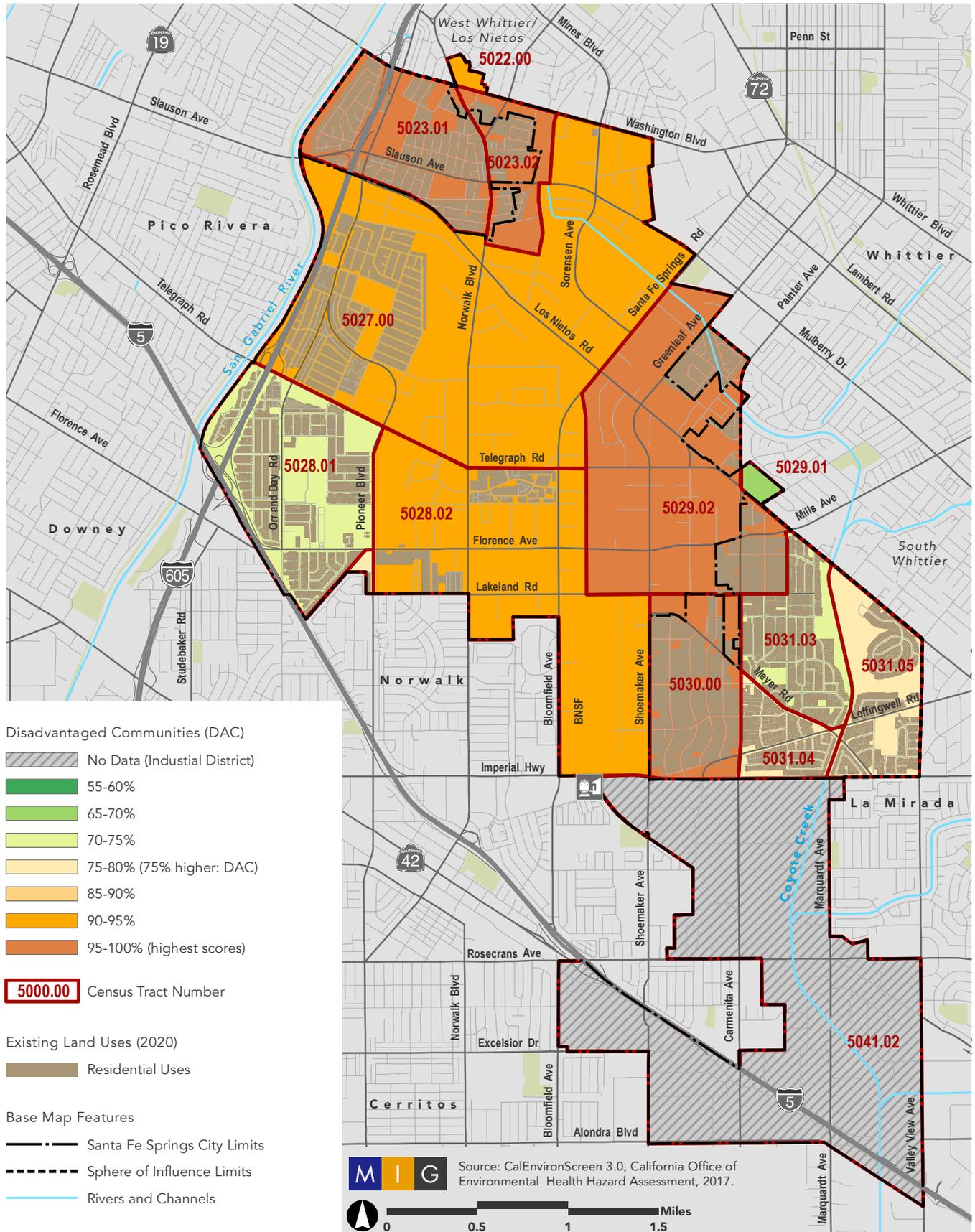
Note: 1) Census tracts with a CES 3.0 percentile of 75 or greater is highlighted in red, indicating these areas are within the top 25 percentiles in the State are considered disadvantaged communities. Census Tracts 5028.01 and 5029.01 are below the percentile score of 75.

2) Census Tract 5030.00 has the majority of residential population within the South Whittier Sphere of Influence. Only a few residential units are in the City of Santa Fe Springs. Although Census Tract 5029.02 is primarily in the City, the majority of the residential units are in the South Whittier Sphere of Influence. Census Tracts 5023.01 and 5023.02 have residential units primarily in the West Whittier/Los Nietos Sphere of Influence; some residential units and smaller neighborhoods are in the City of Santa Fe Springs. Census Tract 5022.00 includes only a shopping center and does not have any residential units in the City. The remaining Census Tract is within the West Whittier/Los Nietos County Unincorporated area but not within Santa Fe Springs Sphere of Influence.

Figure EJ-1: Disadvantaged Communities



RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN





## Demographics of Santa Fe Springs Disadvantaged Communities

### Race and Ethnicity

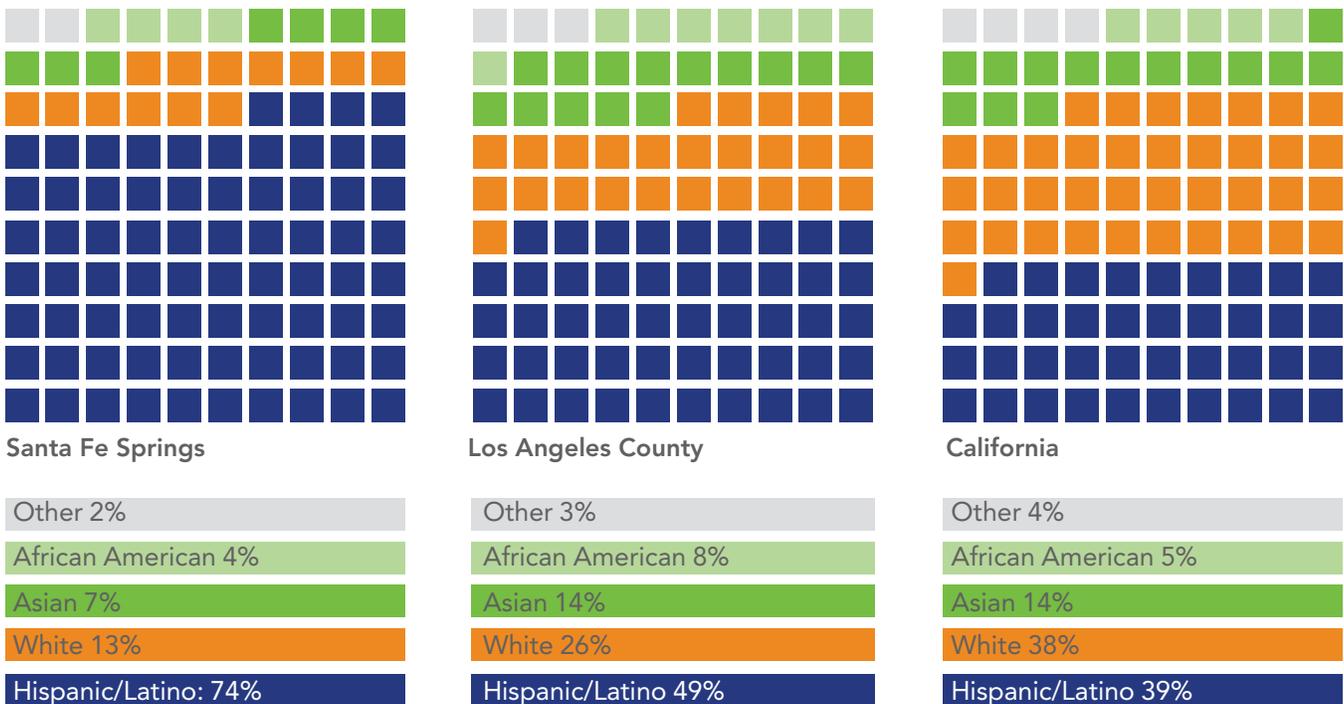
The population in Santa Fe Springs is predominantly of Hispanic or Latino origin (74 percent), a proportion higher than that of Los Angeles County (49 percent) and California (39 percent). Most Hispanic residents (69 percent) are of Mexican descent (Figure EJ-2).

Fifty-five percent of the total growth in population since 2010 has been of people of Asian descent. This corresponds with trends in many parts of east Los Angeles County.

### Language Skills and English-Speaking Ability

Nearly 57 percent of Santa Fe Springs residents speak a language other than English. This includes 49 percent of all Santa Fe Springs residents who speak Spanish and 6.5 percent who speak an Asian or Pacific Islander language. Among those who speak Spanish, nearly 68 percent also speak English very well but significantly, 32 percent speak English less than very well. A similar pattern exists among Asian and Pacific Islander language speakers, where nearly 69 percent also speak English very well and 31 percent speak English less than very well. Unless they are part of a household with others who are proficient English speakers, those who speak English less than very well could be linguistically isolated from the overall Santa Fe Springs community.

Figure EJ-2: Race and Ethnicity (2019)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2019 5-Year Estimates, 2020.

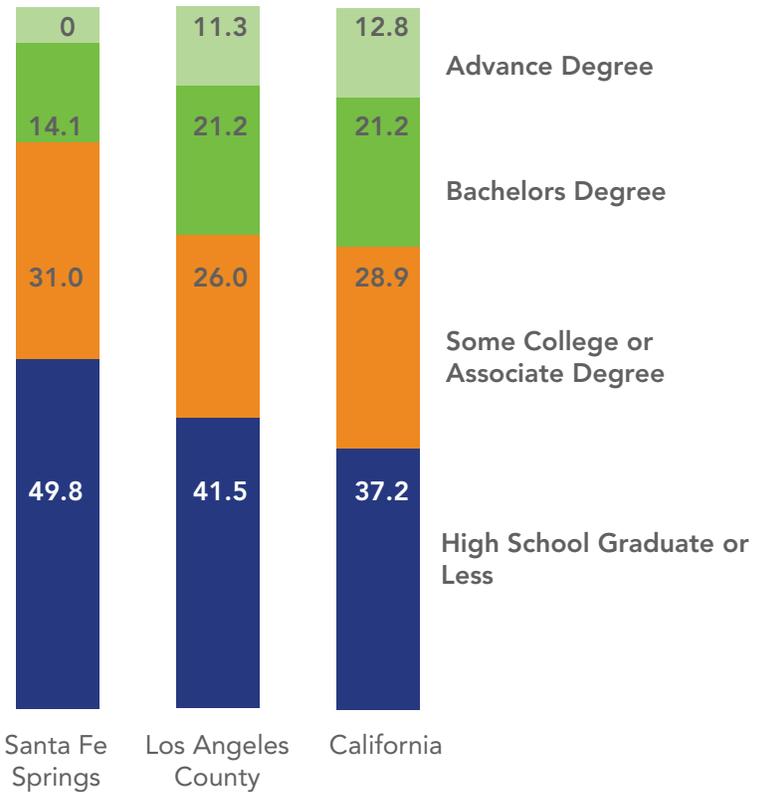
Note: Each square represents a percentage point. Each color represents a race or ethnicity based on the legends identified above.



### Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is one of the CalEnviroScreen indicators. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a population that has a high percentage of residents without a high school diploma, or equivalent, can be expected to earn less and experience higher unemployment rates. As shown in Figure EJ-3, 83 percent of Santa Fe Springs residents have at least a high school diploma (or equivalent), compared to 79 percent and 81 percent for Los Angeles County and California, respectively. However, although the percentage of Santa Fe Springs residents without a high school diploma or equivalent is lower (19 percent) than in Los Angeles County (27 percent) and California (10 percent), residents with a Bachelor’s degree of higher drops off to almost half, at 17 percent of the County and State percentages (32 percent and 33 percent, respectively).

Figure EJ-3: Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2019 5-Year Estimates, 2020.



Santa Fe Springs Community Services Department provides an assortment of family services and programming for residents.



## Environmental Justice Concerns

As a primarily industrial city, the concerns and challenges facing Santa Fe Springs' residential neighborhoods are readily apparent. Some neighborhoods are directly abutting industrial uses and railroad lines. Other neighborhoods are within several hundred feet of the I-605 and I-5 freeways, while truck and vehicle traffic can emit emissions affecting residential areas abutting major roadways. The community has experienced the impacts of the contaminated groundwater caused by prior industrial practices in neighboring cities. Some of the socioeconomic concerns include some levels of poverty and, with a high concentration of Hispanic/Latino population, there are some limited English-speaking households.

The following are the environmental, socioeconomic, and health issues that can impact environmental justice communities.

### Pollution Burden

One of the indicators used to designate a disadvantaged community is pollution burden. The pollution burden is calculated by measuring the average of exposure and environmental effects within the disadvantaged communities. The Cleanup Sites, Toxic Release Inventory, Solid Waste Facilities, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are the pollution burdens receiving the most focus due to their higher composite scores and wide distribution of burden.

Tract 5041.02 contains the City's southern industrial region, but due to its very low residential population, a composite score was not determined and therefore excluded from the CalEnviroScreen analysis. Although not shown on Table EJ-2, this area would show pollution indicators that are among the top two percent of all census tracts in the State. Tract 5028.01 in the City and tract 5031.03 in the Sphere of Influence are the only populated areas not designated as disadvantaged communities. Although not designated as a disadvantaged community, census tract 5028.01, which encompasses the area around Santa Fe High School, has a pollution burden score that is within the top five percent ranking in the State, at the 95th percentile. Tract 5027, among the eight DAC census tracts, is within the top one percent, at 99th percentile.

All pollution indicators above 75, placing them at the top 25 percent of census tracts in California, are described and summarized in Table EJ-2.



*There are nearly 200 active oil wells in the community with some in residential areas.*



### Cleanup Sites

Brownfield sites containing hazardous substances are areas that suffer from environmental degradation that can lead to severe health problems. While some sites may be undergoing cleanup actions by governmental authorities or property owners, others may experience delays due to high costs, lawsuits, and concerns regarding cleanup. The overall composite percentile score of 91 is high, but four of the individual census tracts are considerably higher, including tract 5027 with a pollution burden score at the 100th percentile.



### Toxic Release Inventory

Elevated levels of hazardous cancer-causing air pollutants have been found in areas where industrial facilities are sited. Accidental chemical releases can exacerbate pollution exposure and can lead to a variety of detrimental health problems. The toxic release inventory indicator represents modeled air concentration of chemical releases from large facility emissions in and nearby the census tract. This indicator takes the air concentration and toxicity of the chemical to determine the toxic release score. As Table EJ-2 indicates, toxic release constitutes a significant pollution burden in all eight of the DAC census tracts.



### PM<sub>2.5</sub>

Small particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are fine inhalable particles with diameters generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller. PM<sub>2.5</sub> can originate from a variety of sources such as emissions from cars and trucks, industrial facilities, and wood burning. Fine particulate pollution causes heart and lung disease and can lead to increased mortality. As shown in Table EJ-2, this pollution burden extends across the entire city.



### Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste is potentially dangerous or harmful to human health or the environment. Potential health effects associated with living in proximity to hazardous waste processing and disposal sites include diabetes and cardiovascular disease.



### Solid Waste Sites and Facilities

Old, noncompliant, or abandoned solid waste disposal sites can release waste gases such as methane and carbon dioxide for decades after site closure. Exposure to landfill leachate can have adverse impacts on reproductive and respiratory systems. With a composite percentile score of 84, solid waste sites and facilities is the third most significant pollution burden in Santa Fe Springs. Tract 5029.02 is at the 95th percentile.



### Groundwater Threats

Hazardous waste storage and disposal sites can negatively impact soil, groundwater (drinking water), and air quality, leading to a wide array of negative health impacts. The groundwater threats indicator has a lower overall composite score of 70, but four of the eight DAC census tracts have very high percentile scores in the 90th to 98th percentile range.



As shown in Table EJ-2 and Figures EJ-4 and EJ-5, the concentration and density in Santa Fe Springs of pollution burden indicators, sites, sources, and facilities holding contaminants rank among the top five percent in the State per the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 report. The positive effects that otherwise would be expected from the City’s sterling park and recreation system, historic heritage, comprehensive community services, large employment base, pool of entrepreneurs, and enviable location contrast with negative conditions associated with environmental factors which can adversely impact community health and residents’ potential for higher economic achievement.

The six pollution indicators described above are ranked at highest scores (95 to 100) out of more than 8,000 census tracts in California. With the exception of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the description suggests that proximity of residents to these sites are contributing factors.

According to analysis that overlays the data onto maps, nearly 2,000 homes in Santa Fe Springs are located within 500 feet of an industrial use, affecting approximately 5,000 persons (28 percent of City residents). Over 1,500 homes with nearly 5,500 persons lie within 1,000 feet of I-5 and I-605. Over 1,800 homes with nearly 4,500 residents are within 500 feet of a businesses that handles and/or releases hazardous waste.

**Table EJ-2: CalEnvironScreen 3.0 Percentile Scores**

Pollution Burden Percentiles and Indicators	City of Santa Fe Springs				Sphere of Influence					
	Not a DAC	Census Tracts Identified as Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)								Not a DAC
	Census Tracts 50XX.XX									
	28.01	28.02	27.00	29.02	23.01	30.00	23.02	31.04	31.05	31.03
<b>Pollution Indicators</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>
Cleanup Sites	77	98	100	99	93	93	97	78	69	49
Hazardous Waste	73	89	100	95	99	74	99	31	32	18
Groundwater Threats	45	98	96	95	70	89	90	39	2	41
Solid Waste Facilities	68	85	93	95	71	29	71	87	88	79
Toxic Release Inventory	85	83	87	85	89	82	89	82	82	82
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Traffic	96	51	82	39	88	34	47	27	32	32
Diesel PM	80	63	73	57	64	72	61	83	58	60
Drinking Water	61	61	88	65	88	53	89	52	60	60
Ozone	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
Impaired Water Bodies	41	0	41	29	41	29	0	29	29	29
Pesticides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: CalEnvironScreen 3.0 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, June 2018.

Note: Census tracts with a pollution burden percentile of 75 or greater is highlighted in red, indicating these areas are within the top 25 percentiles in the State regarding pollution burdens.

# Figure EJ-4: Pollution Burdens Scoring



## RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN

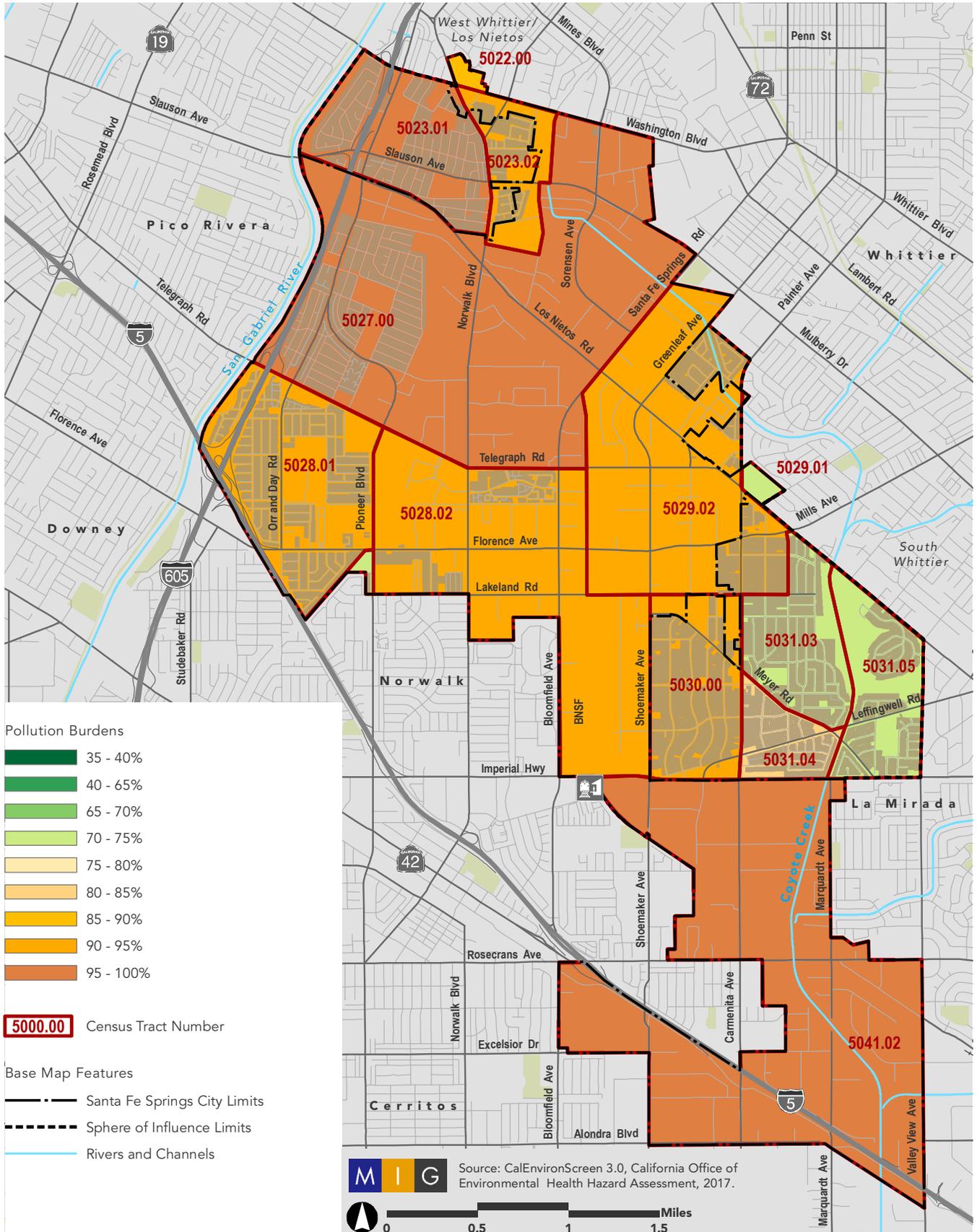
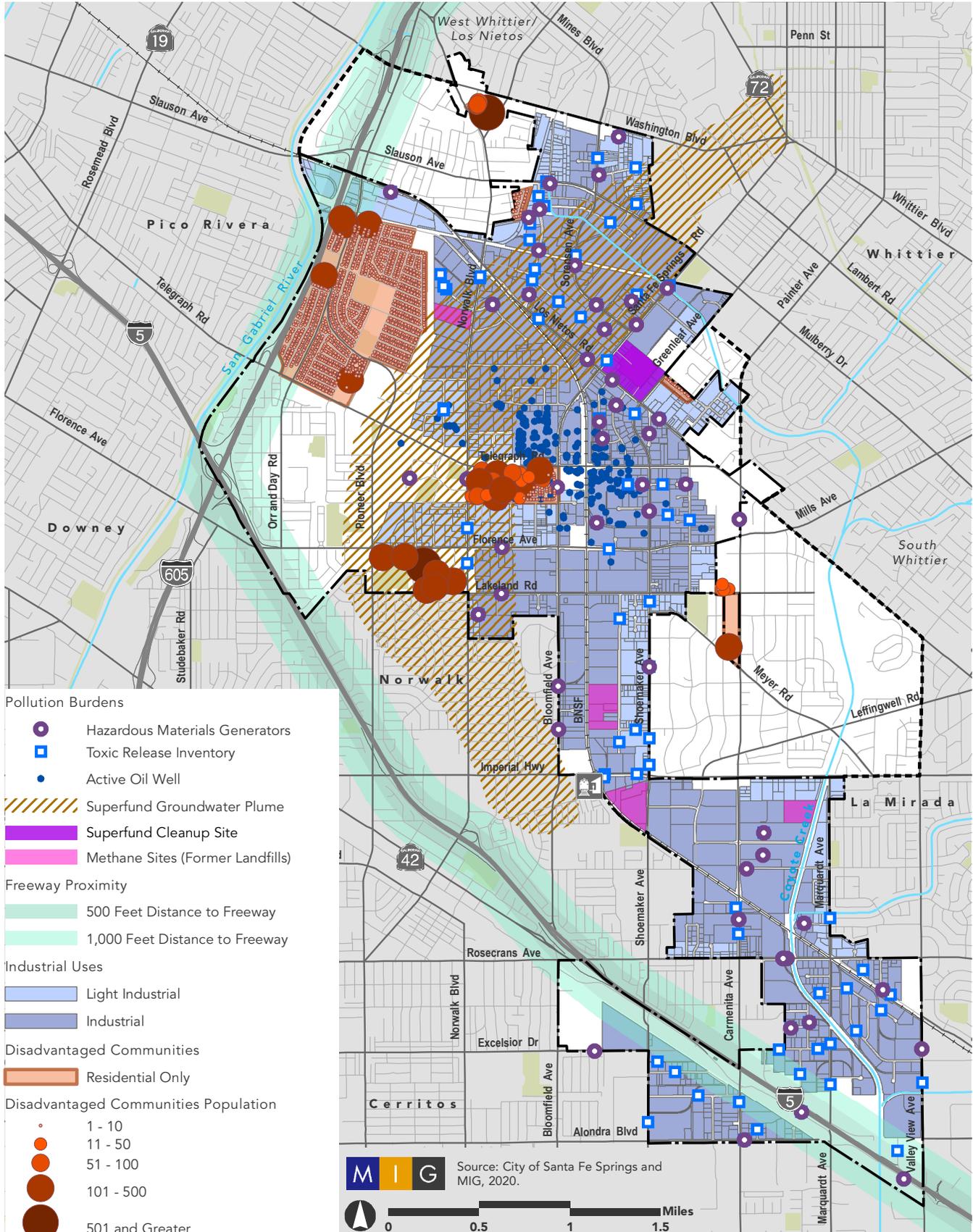


Figure EJ-5: Pollution Burdens and Disadvantaged Communities



RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN





Many homes and residents are confronting pollution burdens along different fronts. Many of the pollutions are invisible or difficult to detect, but long-term exposure can lead to health issues. Table EJ-3 summarizes the number of housing units and population living near various environmental pollution burdens. Figure EJ-6 identifies the proximity of residential uses to the various environmental pollution burdens.

### Addressing Pollution Burdens

The following are strategies this Element addresses through the goals and policies:

- Green Buffer Zones.** Establish a program with relevant funding strategies to expand green buffer zones between residential uses and industrial uses, railways, and freeways. Buffers can reduce pollution exposure using vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs), distance, and/or physical barriers (e.g., sound walls) between pollution sources and residential neighborhoods, schools, and other places where people may be exposed. Buffers reduce exposure by absorbing or blocking some of the pollution, thus lowering concentrations, (see Figure EJ-6).
- Light Industrial Zone.** Use a place-based approach to reduce pollution exposure adjacent to residential neighborhoods by limiting industrial operations, restricting truck idling, or similar regulatory approaches that will minimize potentially hazardous materials exposure and air pollution emissions.
- Enforcement and Monitoring.** Continue to consult with appropriate regional agencies that are responsible for monitoring and enforcing industrial operations that handle hazardous materials or emit pollution.
- Cleanup Prioritization.** Continue to consult with appropriate regional agencies in prioritizing the cleanup of former landfills, underground tanks, contaminated lands, and polluted groundwater.
- Education.** Educate the community about the hazards of hazardous materials exposure and air pollution emissions, as well as programs aimed at reducing exposures, emphasizing disadvantaged communities and conveying materials in multiple languages.

**Table EJ-3: Housing and Population Proximity to Pollution Indicators**

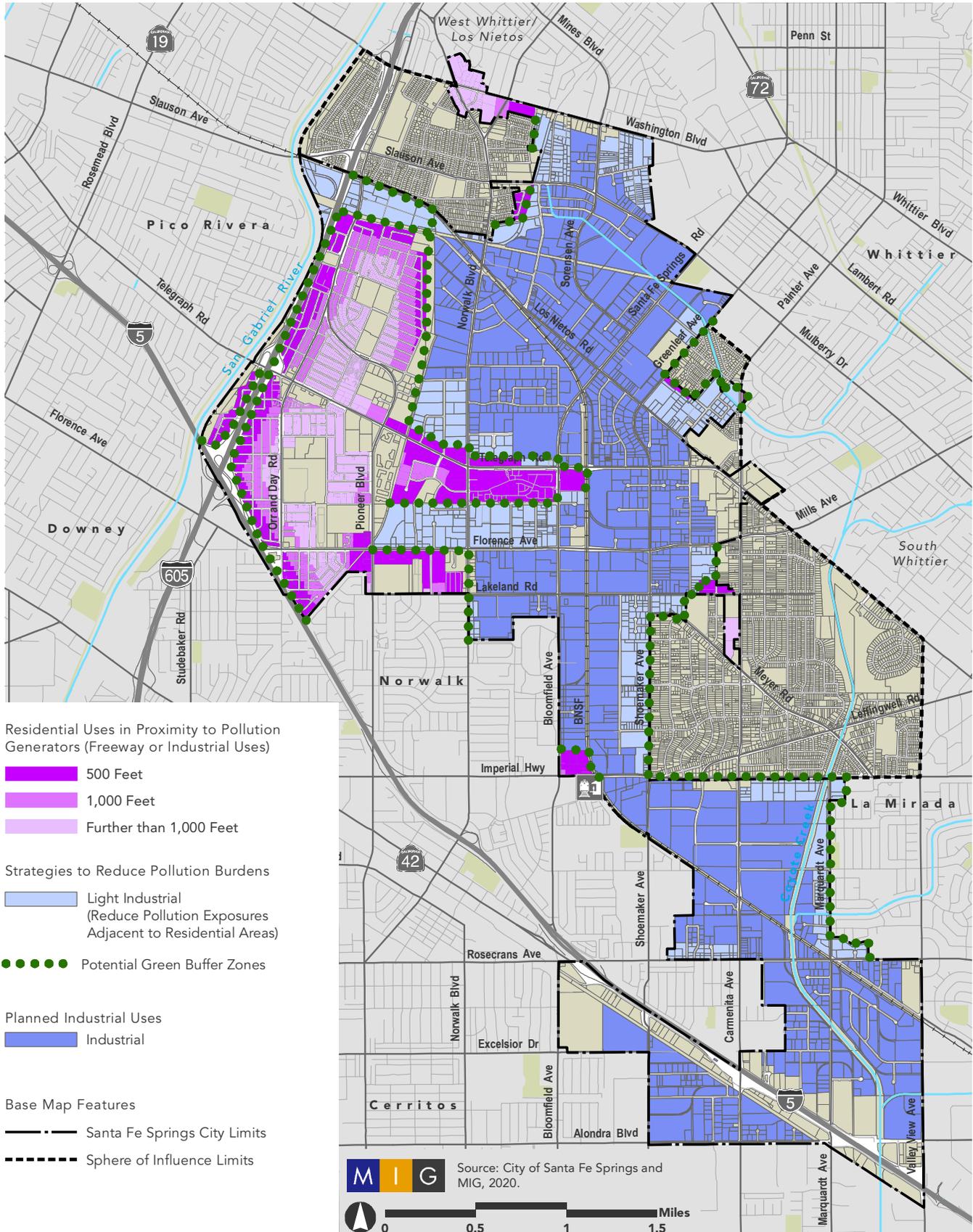
Pollution Burden	Number of Housing Units			Population		
	City	SOI	Total	City	SOI	Total
Proximity to Industrial Uses						
Share a Property Line	512	166	678	1,196	685	1,881
Within 500 Feet	1,965	1,975	3,940	5,111	8,585	13,696
Proximity to I-5 and I-605 Freeways (Traffic and Diesel PM)						
Within 500 Feet	824	177	1,001	2,914	818	3,732
Within 1,000 feet	1,563	439	2,002	5,492	2,058	7,550
Proximity to Toxic Release Inventory						
Within 500 Feet	1,833	582	2,415	4,563	2,590	7,153
Within 1,000 feet	3,379	2,128	5,507	9,738	8,968	18,706
Proximity to Solid Waste Facilities and Clean Up Site						
Within 500 Feet	45	12	57	154	53	207
Within 1,000 feet	209	204	413	701	904	1,605

Source: MIG and UrbanFootprint, 2020.

Figure EJ-6: Addressing Pollution Burdens



RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN





## Population Characteristics

Certain population characteristics and socioeconomic factors are often related to health conditions such as asthma, low-birth weight, and cardiovascular disease. In particular, socioeconomic factors such as lower educational attainment, linguistic isolation, poverty, unemployment, and housing burden are often found in populations that also have a higher risk of health conditions. For Santa Fe Springs, the top characteristic across multiple census tracts is cardiovascular disease. Another top characteristic is education, with five of the nine census tracts having lower educational attainment.

Population Characteristics above 75, at the top 25 percent of the State census tracts, are noted and provided in the descriptions below.

**Table EJ-4: Population Characteristics Indicators Scores**

Population Characteristics Percentiles and Indicators	City of Santa Fe Springs				Sphere of Influence					
	Not a DAC	Census Tracts Identified as Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)								Not a DAC
	Census Tracts 50XX.XX									
	28.01	28.02	27.00	29.02	23.01	23.02	30.00	31.04	31.05	31.03
<b>Population Characteristics</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>61</b>
Asthma	58	59	62	66	78	71	71	52	64	57
Low Birth Weight	27	50	39	58	43	5	62	43	78	38
Cardiovascular Disease	81	83	86	81	98	96	85	61	88	70
Education	51	71	76	86	79	86	86	86	71	66
Linguistic Isolation	44	94	62	70	74	87	85	65	59	73
Poverty	41	79	48	78	56	83	84	66	59	73
Unemployment	7	33	27	66	20	73	39	76	42	64
Housing Burden	21	80	30	65	65	90	94	65	31	38

Source: CalEnvironScreen 3.0 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, June 2018.

Note: Census tracts with a population characteristics percentile of 75 or greater is highlighted in red, indicating these areas are within the top 25 percentiles in the State regarding population characteristics.



### Cardiovascular Disease

Pollution exposure and health stresses associated with poverty can lead to acute heart attacks and other heart problems and is the leading cause of death both in California and the United States. Survivors of a cardiovascular events are highly vulnerable to recurrences, especially following short- or long-term exposure to particulate matter. Eight out of nine census tracts in the Santa Fe Springs Planning Area have a higher rate of cardiovascular disease than 80 percent of all census tracts in California.



### Educational Attainment

Studies have found that adults with less education have more pollution-related health problems and are more likely to die from the effects of air pollution. Educational attainment equals or exceeds the 75-percentile score in five of the eight DAC census tracts.



### Linguistic Isolation

A high degree of linguistic isolation (difficulty speaking English) among members of a community can limit access to health information and public services. People with limited English abilities are less likely to receive regular medical care or mental health services. Linguistic isolation is very high in two of the eight DAC tracts with percentile scores, respectively, of 94 for census tract 5028.02 and 87 for census tract 5023.02.



### Poverty

Members of poor communities are more likely to be exposed to pollution and to suffer from health effects as a result of that exposure than residents of wealthier communities. Income can affect health when people cannot afford healthy living and working conditions, nutritious food, and necessary medical care. Poor communities are often located in areas with high levels of pollution. Poverty can cause stress that weakens the immune system, thus exacerbating pollution effects. Three of the DAC census tracts exceed the 75-percentile score for poverty.



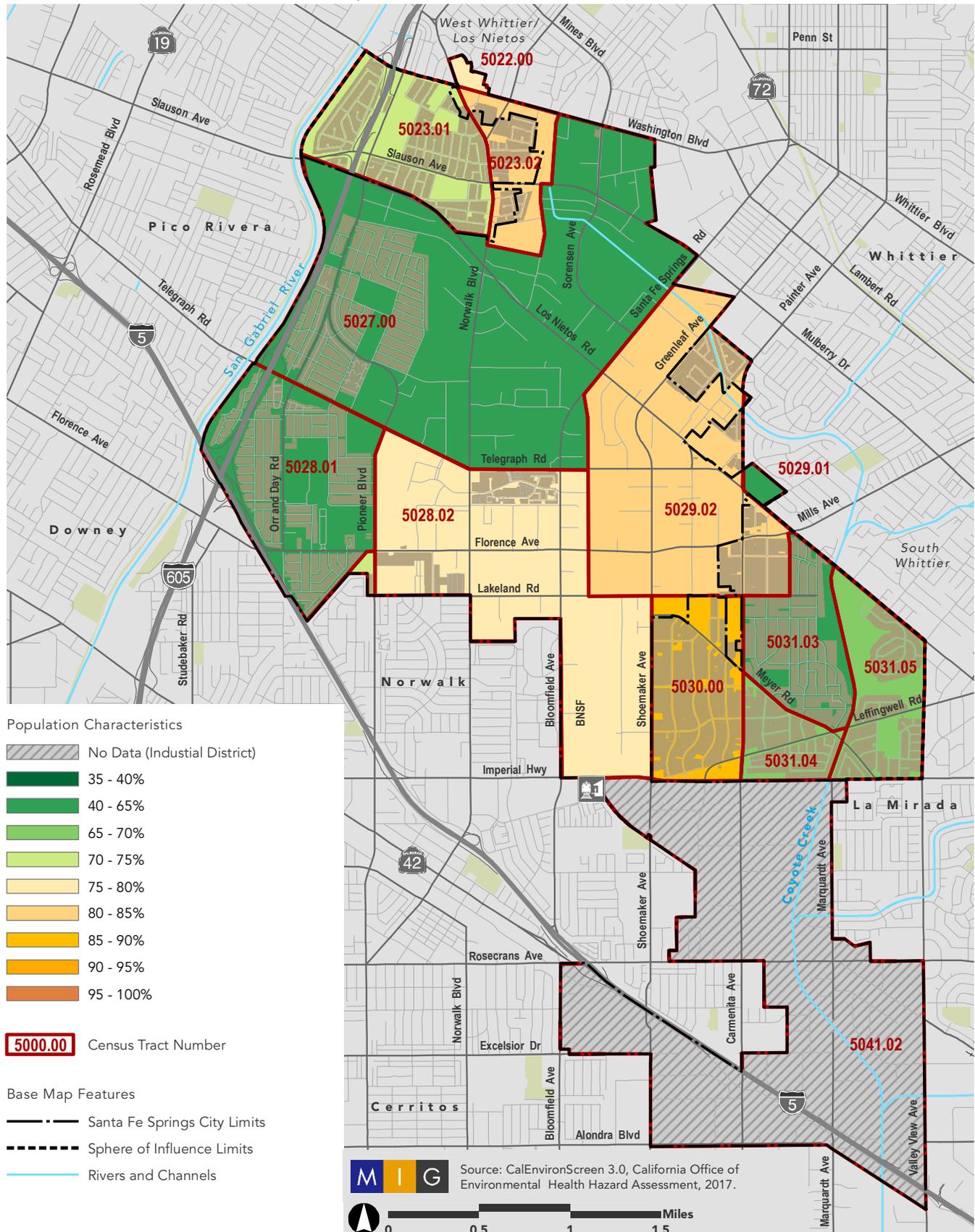
### Housing Burden

Housing affordability is an important determinant of health and well-being. Residents of low-income households with high housing costs may suffer adverse health impacts due to their limited ability to afford health care. The percentage of low-income households paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing is on the rise nationwide. The housing burden indicator considers the regional cost of living for both homeowners and renters and includes the cost of utilities. Two of the DAC census tracts exceed the 75-percentile score for poverty.

# Figure EJ-7: Population Characteristics Scoring



## RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN





## Health and Wellness

Our health is shaped dramatically by community characteristics—housing, education, economic, and other social factors—which often are shaped through policy. The California Healthy Places Index (HPI) includes eight indicators representing 24 community characteristics with weighted scoring to create a single indexed Healthy Places Index. In contrast to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 data, where higher percentiles equate to worse conditions, lower HPI percentiles equate to worse conditions.

In 2020, the HPI score for Santa Fe Springs of 35 was worse than that of two-thirds of communities in the State and was among the lowest among neighboring jurisdictions, as shown in Table EJ-5.

The low overall HPI score is driven by particularly low scores for five of the 24 community health indicators. According to Table EJ-7, the City scored low, compared to other California cities, in severe housing costs burden (18.2), uncrowded housing (11.4), clean air (diesel PM) (6.5), clean air (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) (17), two-parent household (14.8), and voting (14).

Table EJ-6 provides health estimates for California’s diverse population at the local level (ZIP codes and cities). The estimates are part of California Health Interview Survey, the largest state health survey in the United States; this is a project by the UCLA Health Policy Center. Survey respondents in Santa Fe Springs show

comparatively worse outcomes, indicating lower healthy personal conditions than in the County as a whole. Asthma, diabetes, obesity, and being overweight exceed Los Angeles County numbers.

**Table EJ-5: HPI Scores of Surrounding Communities**

City and Community	Healthy Places Index Score
La Habra Heights	91.0
La Mirada	66.5
Hacienda Heights	61.2
Carson	55.9
Whittier	53.9
La Habra	50.4
Downey	48.2
<b>LA County: West Whittier (Los Nietos)</b>	<b>44.0</b>
City of Industry	42.5
<b>LA County: South Whittier</b>	<b>39.1</b>
Norwalk	40.3
Pico Rivera	37.4
Irwindale	37.2
<b>Santa Fe Springs</b>	<b>35.0</b>
Montebello	24.5
Commerce	18.9
Bell Gardens	8.5

Source: The California Healthy Places Index (HPI), Public Health Alliance of Southern California, 2020.

**Table EJ-6: Health Conditions**

Health Conditions (2016) for Population Age 18 and Older (unless indicated)	Santa Fe Springs	South Whittier	West Whittier- Los Nietos	Los Angeles County
<b>General Health</b>				
Fair or poor health (18-64)	27.1%	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>
Needed help for mental health problems	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>
Delayed prescriptions/medical services	17.5%	<b>18.5%</b>	18.2%	<b>19.7%</b>
Serious psychological distress	8.6%	<b>9.1%</b>	9.2%	<b>8.6%</b>
Work impairment	8.7%	<b>9.1%</b>	8.6%	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>Asthma and Diabetes</b>				
Ever diagnosed with asthma	13.6%	<b>13.3%</b>	12.7%	<b>12.8%</b>
Ever diagnosed with asthma (age 1 to 17)	20.6%	<b>20.5%</b>	20.3%	<b>12.8%</b>
Ever diagnosed with diabetes	12.7%	<b>11.8%</b>	12.8%	<b>9.5%</b>

Source: AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition, California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2016.



**Table EJ-7: Healthy Places Index Indicators Percentile Scores**

Healthy Places Index Indicators Percentile	Santa Fe Springs	West Whittier - Los Nietos	South Whittier	Los Angeles County
Above Poverty	45.2	50.1	42.5	44.6
Employed	44.2	58.8	53.3	69.6
Median Household Income	52.7	58.2	58.1	66.1
Pre-School Enrollment	56.1	79.4	53.7	87.5
High School Enrollment	67.8	75.1	52.3	49.1
Bachelors Attainment	21.3	21.5	26.0	66.1
Insured Adults	29.6	24.7	26.1	10.7
<b>Severe Housing Costs Burden</b>	<b>18.2</b>	51.0	36.6	7.1
Homeownership	52.2	67.0	50.0	1.8
Housing Habitability	71.3	29.0	37.9	19.6
<b>Uncrowded Housing</b>	11.4	15.8	9.6	1.8
Retail Density	74.7	77.5	71.0	98.2
Supermarket Access	91.2	77.5	92.7	96.4
Park Access	65.5	38.9	45.6	57.1
Tree Canopy	33.7	32.6	33.2	25.0
Alcohol Establishments Availability	21.9	21.0	12.3	3.6
<b>Clean Air - Diesel PM</b>	<b>6.5</b>	12.1	17.9	3.6
Clean Air - Ozone	59.6	59.6	59.6	42.9
<b>Clean Air - PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>	<b>17.0</b>	16.6	17.8	14.3
Safe Drinking Water – Contaminants	30.1	17.2	50.6	32.1
<b>Two Parent Household</b>	<b>14.8</b>	40.2	37.6	25.0
<b>Voting</b>	<b>14.0</b>	17.0	16.7	7.1
Active (Healthy) Commuting	36.4	48.9	40.8	82.1
Automobile Access	42.1	46.8	55.0	1.8

**Food Security and Grocery Store Access**

Santa Fe Springs is an important link in the region’s food supply chain. Far from being a “food desert,” it is home to the Interfaith Food Center food bank, the headquarters of Mothers NC specialty WIC retailer, a two-acre Community Garden, several produce and goods wholesalers and transporters, and major national and regional grocery stores. However, given that the city has a daytime population of 100,000, the distribution and low density of commercial retail zones for groceries and other food retailers should be considered a food security priority.

Food security is having the means to access healthy and nutritious food. Food accessibility factors include travel time to shopping, availability of healthy foods, and food prices---relative to access to transportation and the socioeconomic resources of food buyers. The poverty rate is a gauge of food security since it is based on three times the food budget for a family of four updated by the Consumer Price Index annually and scaled for different family sizes. Government programs such as CalFresh Program/SNAP, free and reduced-price meals at schools, and income supports such as SSI boost incomes to buy food. Households with incomes less than 30 percent of the federal poverty level are vulnerable to food insecurity. In Santa Fe Springs, the percentage of households experiencing food insecurity is estimated to be three times the number of households (13.4 percent) that are below the poverty level and of which, 48.6 percent of these households received Food Stamps/SNAP. Table EJ-8 shows food insecurity using this metric.

Source: The California Healthy Places Index (HPI), Public Health Alliance of Southern California, 2020.



Figure EJ-8 show the grocery locations in the City that are distant from its residential neighborhoods. The map also identifies several census tracts that include:

- A poverty rate of 20 percent or higher, or with a median family income less than 80 percent of median family income for Los Angeles County
- More than 100 households have no access to a Vehicle
- A significant number of residents living more than one-half mile from the nearest supermarket

To address some of these challenges, goals and policies have been identified to decrease food insecurity and increase healthy food access. Additionally, Figure EJ-8 also identifies priority zones for siting community gardens or increasing opportunities for urban agriculture.

**Priority Zone 1** focuses on creating urban agricultural incentives opportunities or identifying areas (public or private) for the production of healthy, locally sourced food on underutilized land in underserved areas. Other urban agriculture opportunities include micro farms, backyard farming, edible landscapes, and similar approaches.

**Priority Zone 2** focuses on siting community garden opportunities within walking distance of the senior population living within the Costa Azul and Little Lake Village Senior Apartments.

These opportunities can open up new opportunities for local farming and gardening to provide locally grown produce to the local community.



Urban agriculture offers increased access to healthy, locally grown, and culturally appropriate food sources.

**Table EJ-8: Income and Public Assistance**

Income/Public Assistance within last 12 months (2020)	Households		
	Santa Fe Springs		LA County
	Number	Percent	Percent
<b>Retirement Income</b>			
Social Security Income	1,670	32.0%	25.2%
Retirement Income	795	15.3%	11.6%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	320	6.1%	6.9%
<b>Public Assistance</b>			
Public Assistance Income	202	3.9%	3.2%
Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits	408	7.8%	8.3%
<b>Unemployment and Poverty</b>			
Unemployment <sup>1</sup>	577	4.1%	6.8%
Poverty Rate	2,353	13.3%	14.1%

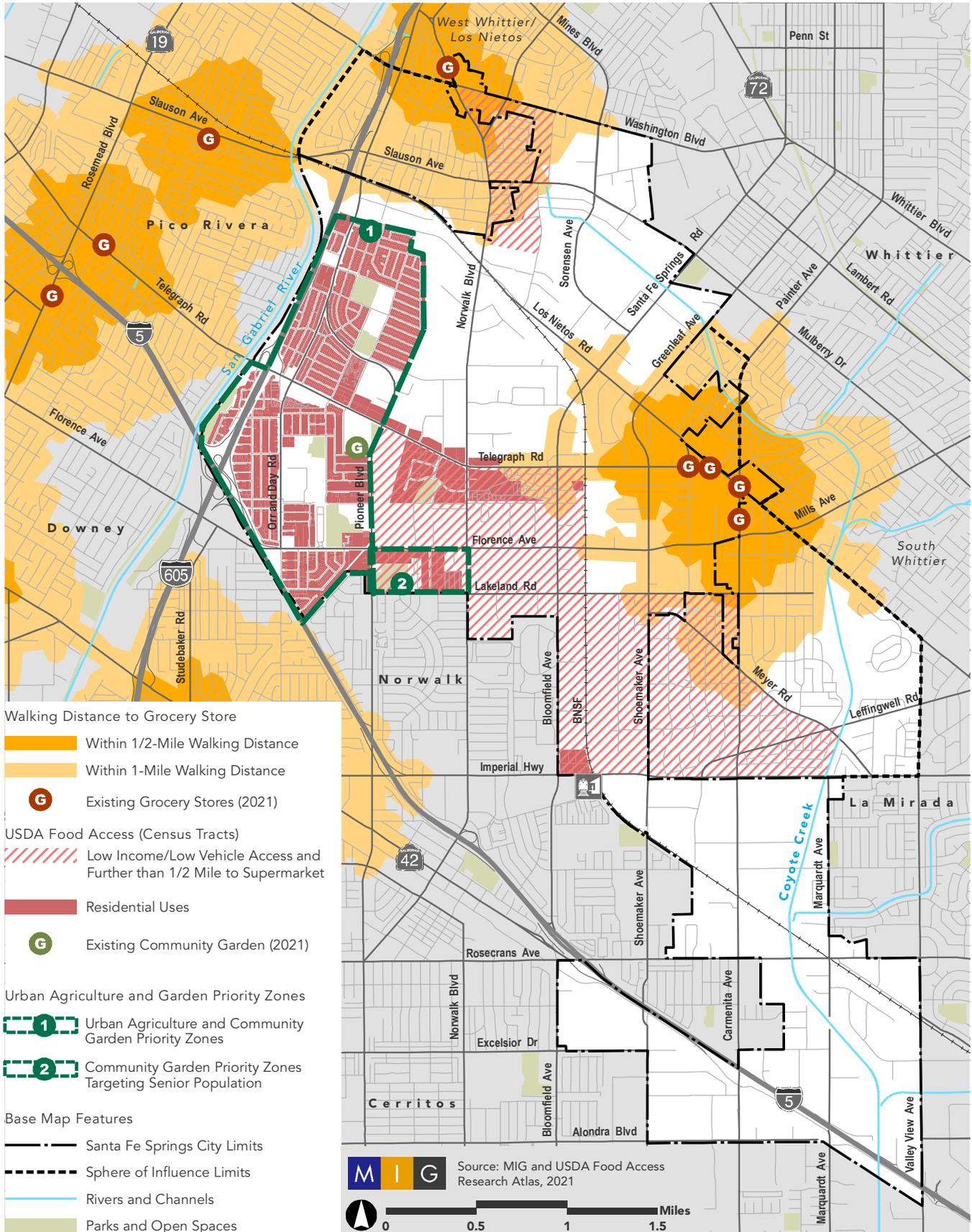
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2018.

Note: These numbers do not reflect coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic of 2020.

# Figure EJ-8: Population Characteristics Scoring



## RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN





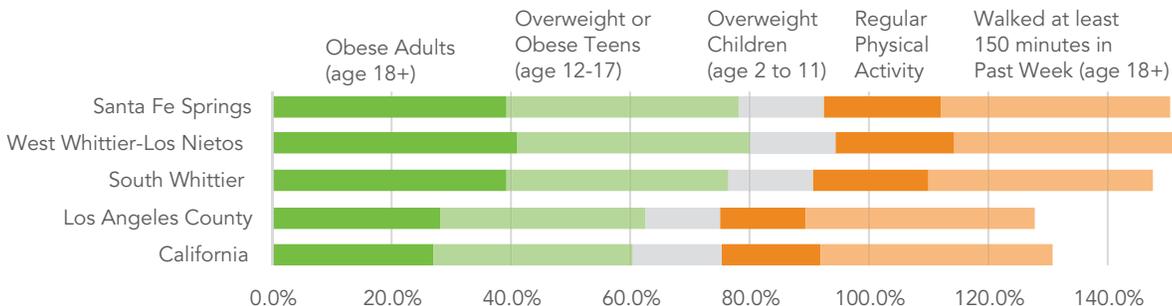
### Physical Activity and Park Access

Research demonstrates that participating in regular moderate to vigorous physical activity provides many health benefits. Some benefits of physical activity can be achieved immediately, such as reduced feelings of anxiety, reduced blood pressure, improvements in sleep, some aspects of cognitive function, and insulin sensitivity. Other benefits, such as increased cardiorespiratory fitness, increased muscular strength, decreases in depressive symptoms, and sustained reduction in blood pressure, require a few weeks or months of participation in physical activity. Physical activity can also slow or delay the progression of chronic diseases, such as hypertension and type 2 diabetes. Benefits persist with continued physical activity.

Figure EJ-9 shows the level of self-reported physical activity in the City and surrounding areas per the California Health Interview Survey. Compared to Los Angeles County, respondents in Santa Fe Springs have higher physical activity levels among children and adults 18 and over are likely to walk at least 150 minutes per week. This may be due to the comparatively high levels of park access and high quality of parks in Santa Fe Springs.

In Santa Fe Springs, 77 percent of City residents live within one-quarter mile—or a five-minute walk—of a City or County park, and 91 percent of City residents live within one-half mile, or a 10-minute walk. Residents within adjacent County unincorporated areas appear to enjoy less access to parks, with only seven percent of residents within a five -minute walk and 15 percent living within one-half mile (see Figure EJ-9).

**Figure EJ-9: Weight and Physical Activity**



Source: AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition, California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2018.

There are areas (shown in red in Figure EJ-9), which are all classified as disadvantaged communities, where there is or will be a need for parks or recreation facilities. These areas are potential future park target areas.

Target Area 1 is in the northern portion of the City and has the highest residential population density with several large apartment complexes. Although these complexes have some private recreational areas, including swimming pools, there are no public parks within walking distance to this area. Planned transit-oriented development to complement a future light-rail station will allow for additional higher density, multi-family residential developments. A small public park, such as a parkette or similar facility, would meet the park access needs in this area.

Target Area 2 is small single-family residential neighborhood. With the close proximity to the Los Nietos Community & Senior Center, a potential joint-use facility or joint effort to increase park space in this area would benefit both City and County residents. Since many of the homes have front and rear yards that can provide some outdoor play areas for residents, the priority for identifying a park in this area is lower than Target Area 1.

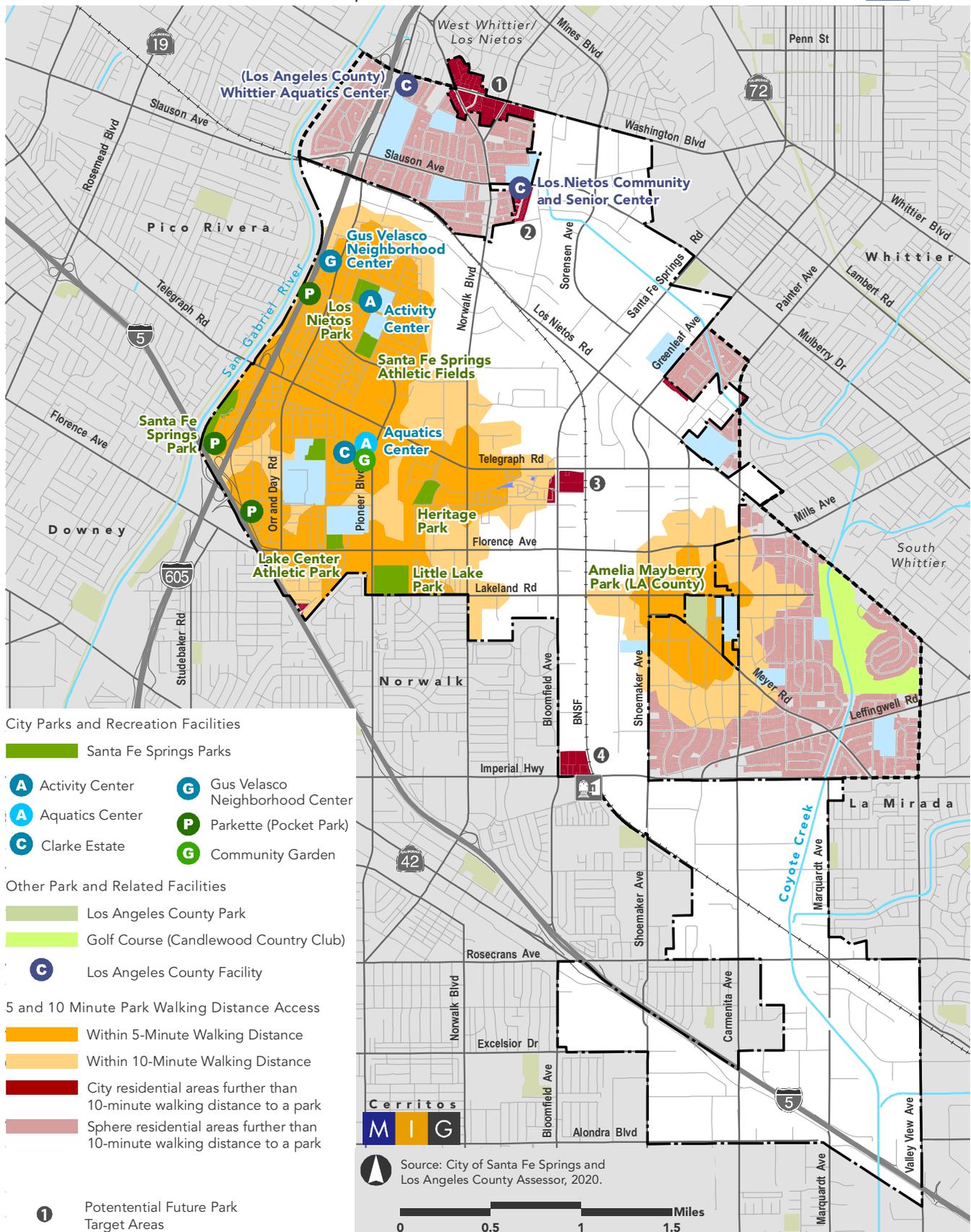
Target Areas 3 and 4 are planned mixed-use areas, as identified in the Land Use Element. Future park needs could be accommodated by private parks and recreational common open spaces that is provided by the new multi-family development.

Goals and policies to address park need in disadvantaged communities are in the Conservation and Open Space Element.

Figure EJ-9: Population Characteristics Scoring



RE-IMAGINE SANTA FE SPRINGS | 2040 GENERAL PLAN





## Environmental Justice Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies provide guidance in addressing the current and future challenges the City will confront.

To help identify goals and policies that align with the General Plan Guiding Principles, the following symbologies represent each of the Guiding Principles:

- HS** Healthy and Safe Neighborhoods
- ES** Economic Strength and Local Businesses
- D** Downtown
- DE** Diversified Economy
- EJ** Environmental Justice
- CSE** Clean and Sustainable Environment
- ARC** Adaptive and Resilient Community
- EI** Equitable and Inclusionary
- ADT** Active and Diverse Transportation
- T** Technology

## Reducing Pollution Exposure

### GOAL EJ-1: REDUCED EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Policy EJ-1.1:** **Roadway Pollution Burdens.** Mitigate impacts on residential neighborhoods immediately adjacent to I-605 from noise and air pollutant emissions. **CSE**
- Policy EJ-1.2:** **Truck Idling Restrictions.** Designate acceptable and unacceptable areas for freight trucking and diesel truck idling to limit impacts on disadvantaged communities already overburdened by air pollution. **CSE**
- Policy EJ-1.3:** **Cleanup Sites.** Prioritize the cleanup of former landfill and contaminated lands within disadvantaged communities. **CSE**
- Policy EJ-1.4:** **Industrial Pollution.** Reduce pollution exposure in residential neighborhoods by limiting industrial operations that generate potentially hazardous air pollutants. **CSE**
- Policy EJ-1.5:** **Stationary Source Emissions.** Consult with California Air Resources Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District to ensure the appropriate monitoring of stationary source emissions and to receive aid and assistance to reduce exposures to harmful air pollutants, especially in disadvantaged communities. **CSE**
- Policy EJ-1.6:** **Public Education.** Develop community programs to improve public awareness of State, County, regional, and local agencies, and resources. **CSE**



to assist with air quality and other environmental quality concerns. Provide materials in multiple languages, especially in Spanish and consider Korean.

**Policy EJ-1.7:**



**Emission Data Collection.**

Coordinate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to explore ways to initiate data collection efforts for a community emissions reduction and/or community air monitoring plan, including the identification of: information needed (new or updated), potential data sources and the resources needed, and strategies to engage residents and collect information.

**Policy EJ-1.8:**



**Green Buffers.** Expand trees and landscaping to build an extensive green buffer between residential neighborhoods and freeways, rail corridors, and industrial districts to help reduce air pollution impacts. Prioritize residential neighborhoods that are designated as disadvantaged communities.

Refer also to the Safety Element for policies related reducing pollution in residential neighborhoods.

**Open Space and Physical Activity**

**GOAL EJ-2: ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACES AND INCREASED LEVELS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES**

**Policy EJ-2.1:**



**Physical Activity.** Promote physical activity programs and education for residents and encourage them to participate regularly in physical activity and active lifestyles.

**Policy EJ-2.2:**

**Walking and Biking.** Promote

walking, biking, and other modes of active transportation as easy, healthy, and fun ways to complete local errands and short trips.

**Policy EJ-2.3:**



**School Programming.** Support school district activities, programs, and planning efforts that encourage physical activity and wellness.

Refer also to the Open Space and Conservation Element for policies related to enhancing parks and open spaces.

**Prioritizing Community Needs**

**GOAL EJ-3: MEETING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES' NEEDS**

**Policy EJ-3.1:**



**Grocery Stores.** Prioritize the siting of a new grocery store west of Norwalk Boulevard and within walking distance to residential neighborhoods and senior housing.

**Policy EJ-3.2:**



**Park Facility.** Identify opportunities to development small urban park or similar within the Potential Future Park Target Areas identified in Figure EJ-9.

**Policy EJ-3.3:**



**Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety.** Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements in disadvantaged communities.

**Policy EJ-3.4:**



**Community Services.** Maintain and improve community programming and services provided at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, Activity Center, and the Lake Center Athletic Park/Betty Wilson Center.

**Policy EJ-3.5:**



**Weatherization Programs.** Assist residents in disadvantaged communities to



retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient, weatherproof, and better protected from air and noise pollution.

**Policy EJ-3.6: Supporting Health Services.**



Collaborate with community-based organizations and local health providers engaged in improving public health and wellness, expanding access to affordable quality health care, and providing medical services for all segments of the community, as well as assigning priority to expand or improve health services to underserved areas.

**Policy EJ-3.7: Equitable Programming and Services.**



Ensure educational, recreational, and cultural programs and activities of local interest that are inclusive and affordable to all.

**Civic Engagement**

**GOAL EJ-4: INCREASED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FROM DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

**Policy EJ-4.1: Civic Engagement.**



Support an equitable and comprehensive approach to civic engagement and public outreach on all aspects of City governance and delivery of services.

**Policy EJ-4.2: Outreach Strategy Plan.**



Create a comprehensive community outreach strategy that serves as a framework for all departments to participate in meaningful two-way communication with the public, prioritizing residents in disadvantaged communities and those with language barriers.

**Policy EJ-4.3: Standard Meeting Conduct.**



Conduct all public meetings in a fair, transparent, and publicly accessible manner. Consider providing translation and interpretation services at public meetings, when necessary.

**Policy EJ-4.4: Special Meetings.**



Consider conducting special informational meetings for projects that could pose impact on disadvantaged communities, including projects that may handle hazardous materials, emit air pollution, and/or create truck or rail traffic.

**Healthy Foods Access**

**GOAL EJ-5: IMPROVED COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS THROUGH HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS**

**Policy EJ-5.1: Access Healthy Foods.**



Encourage the provision of safe, convenient opportunities to access healthy food products by ensuring that sources of healthy foods are easily accessible from all neighborhoods.

**Policy EJ-5.2: Food Education.**



Support food education programs and public service programming and messaging in different languages about healthy eating habits, food choices, culinary classes, nutrition, and related City programs.

**Policy EJ-5.3: Urban Agriculture.**



Promote and expand urban agricultural opportunities within disadvantaged communities, including home gardens, community gardens, urban orchards, farmers' markets, and small-lot urban agricultural projects on underutilized sites,



park or community facilities, schools, and remnant vacant properties.



This page left intentionally blank.