

GOAL EJ-6. UNIQUE OR COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS

Minimized environmental health risks, fostering healthier and safer living conditions for all residents.

Analyzing specific indicators that affect personal and communal health is important; but it is also essential to examine how each indicator affects one another, and how they combine to create unique health risks on both the individual and the community. The Existing Conditions Report and community input did not reveal any specific situations that would significantly compound health risks; however, certain unique characteristics of Glendale along with community feedback are important to consider, as summarized below. Rather than duplicating efforts in other sections of this or other General Plan Elements, this section of the Environmental Justice Element introduces additional policies and actions only as needed to fill any gaps.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

Glendale has a highly diverse population, with a large Armenian American community—one of the largest in the United States—and significant Latino, Filipino, and Middle Eastern populations. While Glendale may have a diverse cultural composition, the ramifications of historical discriminatory practices has left underrepresentation of the Black/African American community in Glendale. Recognizing this diversity helps contextualize the City's efforts to engage with multicultural and historically underrepresented groups in an inclusive manner. It also emphasizes the need for culturally inclusive and language-accessible policies. This topic is addressed under Goal EJ-7: Civic Engagement.

CAR-CENTRIC DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS AND AIR QUALITY

Glendale's development patterns have historically favored car-centric infrastructure, and this has implications for air quality and accessibility. Glendale is traversed by four freeways: the Glendale Freeway (State Route 2), the Ventura Freeway (State Route 134), the Foothill Freeway (Interstate 210) and the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5). These major traffic corridors expose certain neighborhoods, especially Environmental Justice Communities, to air pollutants such as ozone, DPM, PM₁₀, and PM₅. This topic is addressed under Goal EJ-1: Pollution Exposure & Air Quality, as well as other General Plan Elements such as the Land Use Element and Mobility Element, and other City plans or programs listed in Table EJ-1.

VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTERS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Glendale's geography includes mountainous areas with wildland-urban interfaces and high fire-hazard zones, putting some neighborhoods at higher risk for wildfires and other natural disasters. These risks are exacerbated by climate change, which is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of wildfires and other extreme weather events. This is a particular concern for marginalized and low-income residents, who often have fewer resources to prepare for or recover from such disasters. Goals, policies, and programs designed to reduce community vulnerability to climate change impacts, including wildfire, flooding, and extreme heat are addressed by other General Plan Elements such as the Safety Element and other City plans or programs listed in Table EJ-1.

LEGACY OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

Like many urban areas, Glendale has a legacy of discriminatory housing practices, including redlining, which shaped residential segregation patterns and created inequities in access to parks, schools, and other community resources. Redlining has left lasting impacts on communities by disproportionately exposing historically redlined areas to urban heat and climate risks. These neighborhoods often have fewer trees, less green space, and more heat-absorbing surfaces like asphalt and concrete, leading to higher

temperatures compared to non-redlined areas. This perpetuates environmental and social inequities tied to historical racial discrimination.

Although the harm caused by past injustices cannot be fully undone, the Environmental Justice Element and related City plans and programs aim to acknowledge this legacy, address damage where feasible, and prevent future inequities. Recognizing this historical context helps frame current environmental justice efforts to address disparities in neighborhood quality and access to resources, fostering a more equitable community for all residents. Other General Plan Elements address many of these topics, such as the Housing Element, Land Use Element, and Recreation Element. Other City plans or programs listed in Table EJ-1 also address many of these concerns.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents expressed frustration with constant noise and pollution from DMV driving tests, freeway traffic, modified vehicles, and leaf blowers. Concerns also center on increased crime, such as illegal marijuana grow houses and drug dealing. There is strong demand for better street safety and more police enforcement of dangerous driving, with many feeling that high neighborhood speed limits pose safety risks. People are also concerned about cigarette smoke in public parks and citywide. There is a strong desire for stricter development limits as increased density is perceived as adding to traffic. Residents also advocate for increased access to mental health services for vulnerable populations.

Table 5 in the Outreach Summary Report (Appendix B) includes all general comments categorized into themes, which include Community, Noise, Parks, Pollution, Streets, Survey, Utilities, and Waste. There was a diverse set of comments and ideas, suggesting that there is more to be discussed about environmental justice efforts in Glendale.

EJ-6 Policies

- EJ-6.1 **Continued Coordination.** Continued coordination amongst other General Plan Elements and City plans and programs to promote safety, healthy living conditions, and equitable distribution of resources for all residents.
- EJ-6.2 **Climate Change.** Reduce social and physical vulnerabilities resulting from the increasing risks of climate change.
- EJ-6.3 **Noise Pollution.** Protect sensitive land uses and vulnerable populations from excessive noise pollution. Use best available measures to minimize exposure from temporary sources of noise (i.e., construction activities), and ongoing sources (i.e., freeways, landscaping activities, and industry operations), as feasible.
- EJ-6.4 **Crime Prevention.** Support enforcement and prevention strategies to reduce crime, with a focus on specific community-identified concerns.
- EJ-6.5 **Street Safety and Traffic Enforcement.** Prioritize measures to improve street safety and traffic enforcement in residential neighborhoods.
- EJ-6.6 **Secondhand Smoke.** Protect sensitive populations, such as children, seniors, and individuals with respiratory conditions, from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in public spaces.
- EJ-6.7 **Mental Health Services.** Promote equitable access to comprehensive mental health services, prioritizing areas with higher rates of environmental stressors, such as air and noise pollution, and economic challenges.

EJ-6 Actions

- EJ-6a **Climate Change Vulnerability.** Consider the recommendations addressing climate change vulnerabilities in the Safety Element and Climate Action Adaptation Plan (CAAP).
- EJ-6b **Enforce Noise Standards.** Continue to enforce noise limits and standards as specified in the Noise Element and GMC Title 8.
- EJ-6c **Collaborate with Police.** Continue to collaborate with the Glendale Police Department on targeted law enforcement and community policing activities to address neighborhood concerns, especially in Environmental Justice Communities.
- EJ-6d **Enforce Fresh Air Ordinance.** Continue to enforce the Fresh Air Ordinance which prohibits smoking in many areas of the City.
- EJ-6e **Promote Mental Health Awareness.** Collaborate with local community organizations, including faith-based groups, schools, and public health agencies, to raise awareness of mental health resources and provide culturally sensitive outreach to vulnerable populations.