

Introduction to Environmental Justice

The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element is to identify goals, policies, and actions that promote environmental justice citywide with a focus on reducing disproportionate impacts on Glendale's most vulnerable populations such as low-income residents, communities of color, and immigrant communities. The Environmental Justice Element hopes to contribute toward remedying environmental injustices caused by historic and social influences, including those related to zoning, land ownership, lending practices, economics, public health, and politics.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, 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 or policies."

and has areas defined as "Disadvantaged Communities" (described below), the City must address environmental justice in its General Plan. This Environmental Justice Element was prepared concurrently with updates to the Land Use, Mobility, and Safety Elements. Per SB 1000, the City can choose to either adopt a new, stand-alone General Plan Element or integrate environmental justice policies and goals into existing Elements of the General Plan. Glendale has elected to prepare a new, stand-alone Environmental Justice Element so that all existing environmental justice-related goals and policies are easily accessible in one document for easy reference and to provide clear guidance on the fair and equitable distribution of community benefits.

The Environmental Justice Element marks an initial step in building a sustained, strategic approach to advancing environmental justice in Glendale. Recognizing that no single policy document can fully resolve the complex environmental issues facing the City, the Environmental Justice Element lays the groundwork for ongoing efforts to address systemic inequities and enhance environmental health and quality of life for all residents.

Overview

Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was signed into California law in 2016. SB 1000 specifies that because Glendale is revising two or more General Plan elements concurrently

Contents:

- + Pollution Exposure & Air Quality
- + Public Facilities
- + Healthy Food Access
- + Safe & Sanitary Homes
- + Physical Activity
- + Unique or Compounded Health Risks
- + Civic Engagement
- + Public Improvements & Community Programs

While the Environmental Justice Element applies citywide, there is a special focus on vulnerable areas of Glendale.

Disadvantaged Communities

The term “Disadvantaged Community” is a broad designation that generally includes low-income areas disproportionately affected by environmental, health, and other hazards. In relation to environmental justice, Government Code Section 65302, as amended by SB 1000, defines a Disadvantaged Community as follows:

“A Disadvantaged Community is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.”

Note on Terminology

While the state uses the term “Disadvantaged Communities,” the City of Glendale is opting to use the term “Environmental Justice Communities.” The term “disadvantaged” can have a negative connotation and undermine the fact that these communities are vibrant places with rich culture and history.

Environmental Justice Communities in Glendale

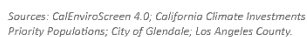
There are 40 census tracts within City boundaries. Out of these, 28 are currently considered Environmental Justice Communities (as of December 2024), shown in Figure EJ-1.

The Environmental Justice Communities were identified using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Priority Populations Mapping Tool. CalEnviroScreen is a science-based mapping tool that was used to determine overall pollution exposure and vulnerability of Glendale communities by census tract. CalEnviroScreen assigns a numerical score for each census tract in the State. The scores are representative of how vulnerable census tracts are to environmental “burdens”. A census tract with a high score is one that experiences higher pollution burden and vulnerability than census tracts with low scores. Out of the 40 census tracts in Glendale, more than half (23) have high CalEnviroScreen scores, qualifying these as Environmental Justice Communities. CARB’s Priority Populations Mapping Tool is a tool used to identify additional Environmental Justice Communities beyond those identified via CalEnviroScreen. These are low-income communities located within a 1/2 mile of Environmental Justice Communities determined by CalEnviroScreen. Based on the Priority Populations Mapping Tool, five more census tracts in Glendale are considered Environmental Justice Communities.

As described by CalEnviroScreen, Environmental Justice Communities are areas of the City that have higher pollution burdens and vulnerabilities than other areas and are defined both by characteristics of the population and the pollution burden they bear. Characteristics of the population include the number of people most vulnerable to pollution, i.e. “sensitive receptors” (children, pregnant women, the sick and the elderly), and their socioeconomic status, such as poverty level and unemployment status. Social factors that may also contribute to increased environmental vulnerabilities include a lack of access to fresh food and lack of park and recreation opportunities.

Since the boundaries of Environmental Justice Communities may evolve over time, this Environmental Justice Element includes flexible strategies that can be adapted to address both current and future needs.

More information about Environmental Justice Communities in Glendale is included in the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix A). This Report provides a baseline of information to help City staff and the public understand environmental justice-related opportunities and challenges facing the community. Key takeaways from the Report are included in each relevant topical area of the Environmental Justice Element.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

Statutory Requirements

With the adoption of SB 1000 in 2016, the California Government Code Section 65302(h) regarding General Plans was amended to include requirements related to incorporating environmental justice into local land use planning processes. In summary, 65302(h) requires the City to address the needs of environmental justice communities by identifying objectives and policies to:

- Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
- Promote public facilities
- Promote food access
- Promote safe and sanitary homes
- Promote physical activity
- Reduce any unique or compounded health risks not otherwise addressed above
- Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process
- Prioritize improvements and programs

Organization of Element

To comply with the requirements of SB 1000 and California Government Code Section 65302(h), the Environmental Justice Element is organized into the following topics and addresses each as they relate to Glendale:

1. Pollution Exposure & Air Quality
2. Public Facilities
3. Healthy Food Access
4. Safe & Sanitary Homes
5. Physical Activity
6. Unique or Compounded Health Risks
7. Civic Engagement
8. Public Improvements & Community Programs

Each of these topics contains goals with related policies and specific actions that the City will undertake to accomplish identified goals.

Goals: A goal in the General Plan is the broadest statement of community values. It is a generalized ideal which provides a sense of direction for action. They are overall statements of desired future conditions.

Policies: Policies are statements which further refine the goals and guide the course of action the City must take to achieve the goals in the plan. It is important to note that policies are guides for decision makers, not decisions themselves.

Actions: The associated implementation actions define the procedure, implementation technique, or specific program to be undertaken by the City to help achieve a specified goal or implement an adopted policy.

For policies and actions to be effective, they need to be clearly defined. The following is a list of common terms used in policies and implementation actions, along with guidance on how to interpret their meanings in relation to the significance, resource allocation, and expected outcomes of the policies and actions. In cases where other terms are used (and not defined below), an equivalent to the closest applicable term can be used.

- Shall: Absolute commitment to the policy or action and indicates that the policy must be adhered to in all cases.
- Should: Policy or action will be followed in most cases, but exceptions are acceptable for good reasons.
- Encourage: Policy or action is highly recommended and/or desired and should be pursued when feasible.

- Allow: Policy or action will be supported within certain parameters and certain guidelines.
- Coordinate: Policy or action will occur in conjunction with another entity, and the City will carry its share of the responsibility.
- Explore: Effort will be taken to investigate the subject at hand, to discover whether or not further commitment is relevant.
- Consider: Policy or action may or may not be followed, depending upon the results of analysis that will be completed.
- Limit: Effort will be taken to keep the subject within certain limits or will at least make undesired change more difficult.
- Restrict: Effort will be taken to keep the undesired action to a minimum.

Community Outreach

As part of preparing the Environmental Justice Element, the City of Glendale conducted a robust, multifaceted, and multilingual public engagement program to collect local data and knowledge regarding environmental justice issues. The following programs/activities were completed:

- General education/announcements, including a dedicated project website with educational information and public comment opportunity, project factsheet (also available in print), email and social media announcements, and direct mailer sent to all households (over 40,000) in Glendale's Environmental Justice Communities.
 - Between January 1, 2024, and October 30, 2024, the Glendale General Plan website received 1,669 visits and 3,396 page views by 986 unique visitors.
 - City staff promoted the EJ Element on social media between April 25, 2024, and August 15, 2024. Posts on social media received a combined total of 7,739 views and reached an audience of over 23,000 followers.
- Pop-up booths (with interactive activities) hosted at Fire Service Day, Cruise Night, National Night Out, and Fall Festival.
- Environmental Justice survey (online and paper copies in English, Spanish, Armenian, Korean, and Tagalog). The survey was open between April 1, 2024, and September 10, 2024, and was promoted through the direct mailer, City's website, social media, and at pop-up outreach events. A total of 248 responses were received. This input helped shape the Environmental Justice Element, reflecting the issues that participants identified as most important. The Outreach Summary Report (Appendix B) provides detailed information about the input received, including the survey responses. Key takeaways from the Report are included in each relevant topical area of the Environmental Justice Element.

Relationship To Other Elements and City Plans or Programs

Glendale's General Plan already addresses many environmental justice goals, policies, and actions within its Historic Preservation, Housing, Land Use, Mobility, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, Recreation, and Safety Elements. This Environmental Justice Element builds on those existing efforts and introduces additional goals, policies, and actions to fill any gaps and strengthen Glendale's approach to ensure that the General Plan fully addresses the needs of all residents.

The City also has several other plans or programs that support environmental justice efforts. An overview of how other General Plan Elements and City plans or programs are related to each of the eight topics in the Environmental Justice Element is provided in Table EJ-1.

Table EJ-1 Other Elements and City Plans or Programs Supporting Environmental Justice Efforts

Environmental Justice Topic	General Plan Element	City Plan or Program
1. Pollution Exposure and Air Quality	Housing, Land Use, Mobility, Open Space and Conservation, Safety	Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) (To be Adopted), 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Greener Glendale Plan (GPP), Green Building Code and Standards, Clean Construction, Fresh Air Program
2. Public Facilities	Housing, Land Use, Mobility, Recreation	Bicycle Transportation Plan, Downtown Mobility Study, Citywide Pedestrian Plan, Safe & Healthy Streets Plan, Verdugo Wash: Active Transportation Vision Study,
3. Healthy Food Access	N/A	Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Program
4. Safe and Sanitary Homes	Historic Preservation, Housing, Safety	Glendale Water & Power Residential Programs & Rebates, Code Enforcement (Neighborhood Services)
5. Physical Activity	Land Use, Mobility, Open Space and Conservation, Recreation	Bicycle Transportation Plan, Downtown Mobility Study, Citywide Pedestrian Plan, Safe & Healthy Streets Plan, Be Street Smart Glendale, Verdugo Wash: Active Transportation Vision Study, Vision Zero Action Plan
6. Unique or Compounded Health Risks	Housing, Land Use, Mobility, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, Recreation, Safety	Be the Change Series, Urban Art Program, Safe & Healthy Streets Plan, Be Street Smart Glendale, Vision Zero Action Plan, Fresh Air Program
7. Civic Engagement	Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, Safety	Be the Change Series, Urban Art Program
8. Public Improvements and Community Programs	Land Use, Open Space and Conservation, Recreation, Safety	Bicycle Transportation Plan, Downtown Mobility Study, Citywide Pedestrian Plan, Safe & Healthy Streets Plan, Be Street Smart Glendale, Verdugo Wash: Active Transportation Vision Study, Vision Zero Action Plan

GOAL EJ-1. POLLUTION EXPOSURE & AIR QUALITY

Minimized pollution exposure through resource-efficient practices, renewable energy, and sustainable infrastructure.

Achieving environmental justice involves reducing pollution exposure in communities heavily burdened by it. Pollution exposure occurs when people encounter air, water, and soil contaminants, often due to incompatible land uses. Sensitive populations, such as children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems, are most vulnerable. Environmental Justice communities often face multiple pollution sources, increasing their risks. While air quality is just one type of pollution, improving it is crucial for health and the environment.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

CalEnviroScreen was used to assess pollution exposure and vulnerability in Glendale, using indicators that measure Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics. The overall CalEnviroScreen score is based on a weighted combination of the Pollution Burden score and the Population Characteristics score. The scores are representative of how vulnerable census tracts are to environmental “burdens”. A census tract with a high score is one that experiences higher pollution burden and vulnerability than census tracts with low scores. A summarized explanation of the CalEnviroScreen scoring methodology is provided in Appendix A, and a full explanation can be found in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Report.¹

Pollution Burden represents the potential exposures to pollutants and the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution and is measured using 13 different indicators. More than half (23) of all census tracts in Glendale have high Pollution Burden scores, with nearly all these tracts located within Environmental Justice Communities. Glendale has a high burden score for Drinking Water (81), and medium burden scores for all other indicators except Pesticides (0). Key issues include high pollution burdens from ozone, particulate matter, diesel particulate matter, and traffic, with Environmental Justice Communities experiencing the highest exposure, particularly in neighborhoods near major freeways and industrial areas.

Population Characteristics represent physiological traits, health status, or community characteristics that can result in increased vulnerability to pollution and are measured using eight indicators. Ten census tracts in Glendale have high overall Population Characteristics Burden indicator scores, and all of these are within Environmental Justice Communities. The City’s overall Population Characteristics indicator scores are shown below. Glendale has high burden scores for Linguistic Isolation (83) and Housing Burden (77), and medium burden scores for all other indicators. Several health burdens disproportionately affect Environmental Justice Communities, particularly in southern and western areas of the City, such as asthma, low birth weight, and cardiovascular disease. Socioeconomic issues such as linguistic isolation and housing cost burden are also prevalent, with many residents facing difficulties accessing affordable housing, particularly in low-income brackets.

Contributing factors to high burden scores are Glendale’s unique geography, proximity to major freeways, and historic and current industrial land uses. These disparities highlight the need for targeted policies and resources to address these inequities and improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations. The individual indicators and potential explanations for their scores in Glendale are described in more detail in Appendix A.

¹ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf>, pages 17-24.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents identified several environmental concerns affecting health and quality of life, with the most common being air pollution from vehicles, followed by illegal dumping, industrial air pollution, and water pollution. Residents also expressed concerns about noise and air pollution from gas powered yard maintenance equipment. There is a strong desire for improved City coordination on trash cleanup, particularly along the 134 freeway and Verdugo Road. Residents also expressed a desire for better water filtration technology.

EJ-1 Policies

- EJ-1.1 **CalEnviroScreen Scores.** Support measures to reduce potential exposure to pollutants and to reduce high scores for CalEnviroScreen indicators such as Drinking Water, Linguistic Isolation, and Housing Burden.
- EJ-1.2 **Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Support policies and programs that reduce the number of potential sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, especially those in Environmental Justice Communities. Encourage existing emitters of GHG emissions to use best available measures to minimize GHG emissions in Environmental Justice Communities and avoid new sources of significant GHG emissions in these communities, as feasible.
- EJ-1.3 **Multimodal Transportation.** Provide a network of complete streets and encourage active and multimodal public transportation options to help reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and subsequent air pollution impacts.
- EJ-1.4 **Green Industry.** Attract non-polluting industries and green technology companies in Glendale to promote a sustainable economy and reduce environmental impacts. Foster partnerships with businesses that prioritize sustainability and encourage workforce development programs to support green jobs.
- EJ-1.5 **Water Quality.** Advance equitable access to clean and safe water resources through comprehensive water quality improvement programs and water conservation initiatives. Prioritize reducing pollutants in waterways and storm drainage areas through stricter regulations, innovative green infrastructure, and public education campaigns tailored to Glendale's diverse communities.
- EJ-1.6 **Landscaping and Construction Equipment.** Explore feasible options for reducing noise and air pollution associated with gas powered landscaping and construction equipment.
- EJ-1.7 **Illegal Dumping.** Promote measures to prevent and address illegal dumping of solid waste (such as furniture), and of hazardous waste (such as pouring chemicals down storm drains), focusing on equitable regulations, enhanced enforcement, public education, and accessible waste disposal options to support a clean and healthy environment for all Glendale neighborhoods.
- EJ-1.8 **Sustainable Development.** Encourage sustainable and efficient development patterns that optimize existing infrastructure and minimize the need for expansion. Promote mixed-use, transit-oriented, and pedestrian-friendly land use patterns that prioritize walking, biking, and public transit, leading to shorter and fewer vehicle trips.
- EJ-1.9 **Energy Conservation and Efficiency.** Promote sustainable building practices and energy-efficient designs. Support the development of alternative fueling stations and infrastructure for electric vehicles, hydrogen, and other clean energy sources. Encourage energy-saving behaviors and prioritize equitable access to energy-efficient technologies and resources across Glendale's diverse neighborhoods.

- EJ-1.10 **Coordinated Agency Efforts.** Continue to coordinate with regional agencies such as the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to reduce pollution.

EJ-1 Actions

- EJ-1a **Integrate Sustainable Innovations.** Continuously monitor advancements in sustainable development practices and technologies, integrating feasible and appropriate innovations into Glendale's policies and regulations.
- EJ-1b **Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Implement actions to reduce greenhouse gas emission such as those identified within the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).
- EJ-1c **VMT Measures.** Consider environmental justice goals and policies during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for new development projects by identifying opportunities to align vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction measures with equitable transportation, air quality, and community health outcomes.
- EJ-1d **Encourage Higher-Density Development.** Identify opportunities to encourage higher-density residential development along transit corridors and near multi-modal transportation options in conjunction with Land Use and Mobility Element updates.
- EJ-1e **Sustainable Industry.** Consider investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and/or other methods to accommodate environmentally friendly industry and business operations.
- EJ-1f **Groundwater Pollution Prevention.** Implement programs to prevent groundwater pollution by managing hazardous materials, collaborating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and complying with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), with a focus on industrial areas and landfills.
- EJ-1g **Protect Water Quality.** Protect groundwater recharge and surface water quality by looking for opportunities to expand percolation areas, promoting naturalized channels in development, and designing drainage systems that align with the natural environment.
- EJ-1h **Trade-In Incentives.** Consider a variety of incentives (such as discounts, subsidies, trade-in events) to encourage local contractors or residents to exchange gas-powered landscaping and construction equipment for electric alternatives.
- EJ-1i **Energy Efficiency Programs.** Provide all residents with information on available residential energy programs, continue implementing Glendale Water and Power (GWP) energy and water saving program, and promote the use of tools such as the My Connect app to monitor and optimize electrical usage.
- EJ-1j **Equitable Energy & Water Programs.** Maintain and expand programs including Smart Home Energy and Water Savings Surveys/Rebates, Smart Home Solar Solutions, Glendale Care, Guardian, and Helping Hand, promoting equitable access for low-income households.
- EJ-1k **Reduce Illegal Dumping.** Reduce the occurrence of illegal dumping through methods such as educating residents and businesses on the environmental and health impacts of illegal dumping, expanding access to free or low-cost bulky item pick-up and waste disposal services, and providing a user-friendly reporting system to enable residents to report illegal dumping anonymously.

GOAL EJ-2. PUBLIC FACILITIES

Ample access to public facilities and programs equitably distributed throughout the City.

Under SB 1000, “public facilities” is an umbrella term that includes “public improvements, public services, and community amenities.” If Environmental Justice Communities lack equal access to public facilities or if a city fails to provide sufficient public resources, these communities may face barriers to essential services. Such limitations can negatively impact health, reduce life expectancy, and harm mental well-being.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

Overall, Glendale has a wide variety of public facilities well-distributed throughout the City, many within Environmental Justice Communities, including transit facilities, hospitals, public safety facilities, daycare centers, community centers, City Hall, Civic Center, post offices, libraries, public schools, and parks. Regarding equitable distribution of and access to public transit, Glendale has good transit connectivity in its central and southern areas, with services like the Glendale Transportation Center, Beeline, and Metro buses, and there are opportunities for additional connections in western and northern areas of the City. Essential public services, including hospitals, fire and police stations, daycare centers, and libraries, are primarily concentrated in Environmental Justice Communities, though some areas of the City, particularly in the north and west, have limited access to these resources.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents expressed high satisfaction with emergency services, including fire, paramedic, and police response times, as well as access to healthcare services. However, areas for improvement include bicycle infrastructure and safety, as well as the condition of sidewalks and crosswalks, particularly for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and those with strollers.

EJ-2 Policies

- EJ-2.1 **Equitable Distribution of Public Facilities and Services.** Support opportunities to increase the number and quality of public facilities and services within or near Environmental Justice Communities that currently do not have any or are underserved.
- EJ-2.2 **Access to Parks and Recreation Facilities.** Maintain and improve existing park and recreation facilities, while exploring opportunities to expand access to safe, convenient, and inclusive parks and recreation centers in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved areas, to enhance community well-being and provide equitable outdoor spaces.
- EJ-2.3 **Access to Civic and Cultural Opportunities.** Investigate opportunities to expand access to local libraries, museums, and cultural centers to enhance equitable learning opportunities across all neighborhoods.
- EJ-2.4 **Accessible Transportation Options.** Ensure the availability of transportation options to public facilities and services, especially to those in Environmental Justice communities, and promote bus stop amenities and transit-supportive public right-of-way treatments that enhance the ridership experience.
- EJ-2.5 **Bicycle Lanes.** Explore opportunities to increase access to and improve the safety of bicycle lanes citywide.

- EJ-2.6 **Sidewalks and Crosswalks.** Explore opportunities to improve the condition of sidewalks and crosswalks and increase safety for pedestrians, especially those who use mobility devices or strollers.
- EJ-2.7 **Fair Share of Infrastructure Costs.** Ensure that all new development provides and/or pays for its fair share of the costs for the expansion of public infrastructure and services, recreational amenities, and facilities.
- EJ-2.8 **Inter-Agency Cooperation.** Foster collaboration among Glendale Unified School District (GUSD), regional service providers, transit service operators, mountain conservancies, and other key stakeholders to maximize the collective use of resources, enhance service offerings, and expand opportunities for residents across jurisdictional boundaries.

EJ-2 Actions

- EJ-2a **Public Facility Assessment.** Conduct an inventory to highlight areas that are deficient in public facilities and services to inform policy and infrastructure investment decisions.
- EJ-2b **Joint Use Agreements.** Explore opportunities for joint use agreements with GUSD schools, prioritizing schools that serve high social sensitivity census tracts, to offer additional park space for residents.
- EJ-2c **Community Shuttle Program.** Consider a community shuttle program providing free or low-cost transportation from underserved neighborhoods to local libraries, museums, cultural centers, parks, and recreation centers.
- EJ-2d **Pedestrian and Bicycle Gaps.** Continue to work with community members during updates to the City's mobility plans to identify gaps and safety concerns in Glendale's pedestrian and bicycle network.

GOAL EJ-3. HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Equitable and convenient access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food options.

Food plays a critical role in the health of a community, and it is essential that all residents have access to food that is both healthy and affordable. Environmental Justice Communities may face challenges related to accessing nutritious food, and this lack of access can directly impact personal health and well-being.

Healthy food access encompasses the following three interrelated topics:

- 1) nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate, and affordable food;
- 2) income sufficient to purchase healthy food; and
- 3) proximity and ability to travel to a food source that offers affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate food.

Healthy food access is closely linked to individual food security, defined as one's ability to obtain enough food to lead an active, healthy life. It is also linked to community food security, which is when all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that encourages community self-reliance and social justice. Promoting healthy food access directly supports community food security.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

No comprehensive source of data regarding existing conditions on food insecurity and costs currently exists at the city level. As the best possible alternative, Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, produces the *Map the Meal Gap* report which offers insights on food insecurity and food costs at the county and congressional district level. Glendale is in Los Angeles County and within the 30th Congressional District. The 30th District has a slightly higher food insecurity rate than the County, and the average meal cost in Los Angeles County is higher than in the rest of the state and the nation. Slightly more than half of residents in the 30th District are eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

There are at least 17 supermarkets within Glendale, and thirteen of these are distributed throughout Environmental Justice Communities. **Supermarkets** are defined as larger food retailers that carry a wide selection of items and serve the community and surrounding area. Healthy food priority areas were identified using the USDA Food Access Research Atlas. They are defined as low-income census tracts with at least 500 people or 33% of the tract's population living more than 1/2 mile from the nearest supermarket. There are four healthy food priority areas in Glendale, all within Environmental Justice Communities.

Most supermarkets are concentrated downtown. Areas where there is a deficit of supermarkets generally overlap with healthy food priority areas. There is a deficit of supermarkets in the healthy food priority area southwest of San Fernando Road; in the healthy food priority area bound by Grandview Avenue, Glenwood Road, and Pacific Avenue, and Glenoaks Boulevard; and in the healthy food priority area bound by Glendale Avenue, CA-134, and CA-2. There is also a deficit of supermarkets south of CA-134, west of Brand Boulevard and as well as generally in the southern portion of the City, south of Colorado Street (where there is also a healthy food priority area).

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents expressed overall satisfaction with the availability, variety, and quality of healthy food options in their community. However, many expressed concerns about the affordability of healthy food options.

EJ-3 Policies

- EJ-3.1 **Food Insecurity and Meal Cost.** Support measures to reduce the food insecurity rate and average meal cost in Environmental Justice Communities as feasible.
- EJ-3.2 **Access to Healthy Food.** Promote equitable distribution of grocery stores throughout Glendale and strive to locate healthy food establishments so that all households are within walking distance (quarter- to a half-mile) of a store with healthy options, where feasible and appropriate.
- EJ-3.3 **Food Access in Residential Areas.** Consider allowing certain retail and restaurant uses in key areas in residential neighborhoods that could provide additional access to healthy food options.
- EJ-3.4 **Healthy Food Priority Areas.** Promote affordable access to healthy food within the healthy food priority areas in Glendale, as identified in the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix A).
- EJ-3.5 **Healthy Food Supply.** Encourage retailers to improve the quality and selection of healthy foods, provide nutritional information, and to stock fresh and healthy food at affordable prices.
- EJ-3.6 **Options for Healthy Food.** Prioritize healthy food supplies in economic development efforts and encourage the establishment and operation of farmers' markets, farm stands, ethnic markets, mobile health supermarkets, and convenience/corner stores that sell healthy foods, including fresh produce.
- EJ-3.7 **Community Gardens.** Support opportunities for neighborhood-run community gardens in Environmental Justice Communities including coordination with local school districts and non-profits.
- EJ-3.8 **Organic Waste Diversion.** Support policies and programs to divert organic waste from landfills into recycling activities and food recovery organizations that help provide healthy food to the local community.
- EJ-3.9 **Nutrition and Healthy Cooking.** Support local schools, non-profits, and community-based organizations that provide nutrition and healthy cooking instruction in Environmental Justice Communities.

EJ-3 Actions

- EJ-3a **Food Insecurity.** Continue to advance sustainable food practices and address food insecurity through the City of Glendale's Integrated Waste Management (IWM), in partnership with ReCreate, FoodCycle LA, and Carelt, by implementing the following:
- **Alleviate hunger:** Redistribute recovered food to local organizations and individuals experiencing food insecurity.
 - **Reduce food waste:** Divert surplus edible food from landfills, thereby conserving resources and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.
 - **Comply with state regulations:** Meet the requirements of SB 1383, which mandates the reduction of organic waste disposal.
- EJ-3b **Senior Meal Program.** Continue to implement the City of Glendale's Senior Meal Program.
- EJ-3c **Incentives.** Consider ways to incentivize grocery stores to locate in Environmental Justice Communities, whether through land use zoning regulations or economic incentives.

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- EJ-3d **Food Delivery Services.** Consider partnerships with food delivery services (such as Instacart) as a method to increase healthy food access, especially to mobility-limited residents.
- EJ-3e **Farmer's Markets.** Continue to support the existing farmers markets in Glendale.
- EJ-3f **Community Gardens.** Promote development of new community gardens in Environmental Justice Communities and support existing community gardens through coordination with non-profits, such as the Los Angeles Community Garden Council (LACGC), who can help establish and manage community gardens.
- EJ-3g **City-Sponsored Events.** Set an example in City of Glendale facilities and at City-sponsored events by providing healthy food and beverage options.
- EJ-3h **Surplus Food.** Encourage local markets, restaurants, and food recovery organizations to donate surplus food to residents in need.
- EJ-3i **Food Assistance Information.** Prepare and distribute information on the benefits of healthy eating and on the availability of food assistance programs.
- EJ-3j **Subsidized Produce Delivery Service.** Partner with local non-profits and community organizations to establish a subsidized produce delivery service for low-income households, improving access to affordable, fresh foods in underserved areas.
- EJ-3k **Free or Reduced Cost Lunches.** Encourage local organizations and community groups to provide free or reduced cost lunches to children after the school year ends.

GOAL EJ-4. SAFE & SANITARY HOMES

Healthy and safe living conditions for people of all backgrounds and incomes.

Housing conditions in Environmental Justice Communities can negatively impact residents' health due to factors like poor indoor air quality, toxic materials, extreme temperatures, inadequate ventilation, and structural instability. Older housing, common in Environmental Justice Communities, increases the risk of exposure to lead, asbestos, and other hazardous materials. Additional issues such as overcrowding further contribute to unsafe living conditions. Affordable housing also plays a critical role in maintaining safe homes, as financial strain often leaves families unable to afford repairs or other essentials like healthcare and nutritious food. The policies and actions in this section of the Environmental Justice Element are primarily focused on the issues of resident safety and health in housing. Topics such as affordable housing, financial assistance, housing development, accessory dwelling units, housing design standards, and equal housing are further discussed and addressed in the Housing Element of this General Plan.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

HOUSING STOCK CONDITIONS

A large proportion of housing stock that is over 30 years old typically indicates that most of the City's housing stock could require major rehabilitation. This does not include properties within historic districts that have been well-preserved. According to the City of Glendale 2021-2029 Housing Element, only about a third of the housing in Glendale is less than 50 years old; 36.6% of units were built in 1970 or later. The majority (63.4%) of housing units were built prior to 1970, with 30.6% built prior to 1950.

OVERCROWDING

The U.S. Census defines overcrowded households as more than one occupant per room (excluding bathrooms, kitchens, hallways, and porches). The City of Glendale 2021-2029 Housing Element reported that about 3.1% of owner-occupied homes and 6.6% of renter-occupied homes are overcrowded, and a total of 5.5% of all households in Glendale are overcrowded.

COST BURDEN

A household paying more than 30% of its total income toward housing costs is cost burdened. The City of Glendale 2021-2029 Housing Element shows that more renters are cost burdened than owners, with 57% of renters in Glendale being cost burdened compared to 37% of homeowners. These cost burdened renters are located throughout Glendale, with increased concentrations in census tracts located in western Glendale. Overall, these census tracts have a higher percentage of households in renter-occupied housing units and include more multi-family housing. Like cost-burdened renters, cost-burdened homeowners are located throughout Glendale.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents expressed significant concern about the affordability and access to air conditioning and heating, as well as issues related to unsafe or unhealthy housing conditions, overcrowding, and other housing challenges. Some residents feel that rising housing costs and the lack of rent control are making the City unaffordable, especially for low-income families. They expressed concerns about overcrowding and a lack of parking in older buildings, perhaps due to multigenerational households. High-density developments are perceived as adding to traffic, pollution, and infrastructure strain, while rising utility costs challenge residents' ability to maintain comfortable homes. Many are calling for tenant protections, improved amenities, and thoughtful planning to address these issues. Most residents have access to air conditioning and heating in their homes. Some rely on private or public facilities to cool off during hot days or warm up in colder weather, while a small portion of respondents do not have a designated place for temperature relief.

EJ-4 Policies

- EJ-4.1 **Efforts to Minimize Overcrowding.** Support the development of affordable, safe, and appropriately sized housing options to help reduce overcrowding.
- EJ-4.2 **Affordable Utility Pricing and Access.** Advocate for affordable utility pricing and support equitable access to affordable air conditioning and heating and expand weatherization services for low-income households, especially those in Environmental Justice Communities.
- EJ-4.3 **Lead-Based Paint.** Raise awareness about the risks associated with lead-based paint and other housing hazards, including by distributing information about remediation of lead and best practices to reduce and eliminate other housing hazards.
- EJ-4.4 **Indoor Air Quality.** Encourage measures to reduce indoor air quality impacts (e.g., air filtration systems, kitchen range hood exhaust fans, low-VOC paint and carpet) for new developments.
- EJ-4.5 **Property Maintenance.** Support the upkeep and maintenance of rental properties throughout Glendale, especially in Environmental Justice Communities, and promote increased awareness of the importance of property maintenance to long-term housing quality.
- EJ-4.6 **Code Enforcement.** Continue to utilize the City's code enforcement program to ensure properties comply with the health and safety standards and to bring substandard units into compliance with City codes, with special emphasis on Environmental Justice Communities and those neighborhoods within lower income census tracts.
- EJ-4.7 **Target Areas.** Consider "target areas" in need of attention as a strategy to foster safe, sanitary and secure housing by improving such neighborhoods through focused neighborhood and community planning programs and prioritized investment strategies, as feasible.
- EJ-4.8 **Cooling Infrastructure.** Explore cooling infrastructure options, such as shade trees, cool pavement, and porous surfaces in "target areas" and Environmental Justice Communities.

EJ-4 Actions

- EJ-4a **Affordable Housing Barriers.** Assess barriers to affordable housing preservation and construction in areas of Glendale where overcrowding is an issue.
- EJ-4b **Energy Efficiency.** Continue to implement GWP's reduced utility charge program for low-income households. Consider collaboration with other utility providers to create a rebate program for low-income households to install energy-efficient air conditioning or heating systems and offer free or low-cost home weatherization services.
- EJ-4c **GWP Program Assistance.** Where feasible, expand GWP programs to increase leakage detection systems and repairs; drought tolerant landscaping; low-flow fixtures, fitting, and appliances; greywater capture and reuse; leakage repairs; and financing and technical resources to subsidize costs to landlords and low-income households.
- EJ-4d **Water Rates.** Where feasible, implement a program to conduct an energy/water nexus study to inform the City's future public water rate structure and to directly assist low-income households with high utility burdens during water rate structure changes to avoid inequitable outcomes.
- EJ-4e **Lead Based Paint Testing.** Property owners of Section 8 housing in the City shall continue to consult with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health about any occurrences they have encountered with lead-based paint positive test results in children.

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- EJ-4f **Lead Hazard Information.** As required by the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Section 8 Program, continue to distribute information about remediation of lead to all new HCV program participants.
- EJ-4g **Property Owner Outreach.** Continue to distribute educational mailers to all landlords in the City informing owners of their legal requirements to maintain and upkeep their rental properties.
- EJ-4h **Tenant Rights Information.** Continue to distribute information through the Rental Rights Program about protecting tenant rights, so tenants are not penalized for reporting or living in a dwelling unit that does not meet health and safety standards.
- EJ-4i **Increase Cooling Solutions.** Prioritize cooling infrastructure at public facilities and surrounding “target areas.” Expand the functionality and availability of cooling centers and distribute low-cost cooling resources to reduce the impacts of extreme heat and poor air quality on climate vulnerable populations.

GOAL EJ-5. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Equitable and safe access to diverse recreational and active transportation opportunities for all residents, supporting healthy lifestyles.

Physical activity plays a key role in the physical and mental health of Glendale residents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, active individuals tend to live longer and have a lower risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and certain cancers. The built environment can encourage physical activity by providing spaces for walking, biking, and exercise, such as parks, trails, green spaces, and active transportation networks. Expanding green spaces and recreational opportunities in underserved areas is essential for fostering environmental equity, improving physical health, and supporting mental well-being across Glendale. The topics of parks, recreation, open space, and active transportation are extensively addressed in other General Plan Elements, including Land Use, Mobility, Open Space and Conservation, and Recreation. The policies and actions listed in this section supplement existing policies and actions within other Elements.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

According to the nonprofit Trust for Public Land, which tracks park access across urban areas in the United States, 77% of Glendale residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Their ParkServe® mapping platform identifies priority areas for new park investments, which are mainly located along the northern boundary of Glendale's Environmental Justice Communities and slightly beyond. Additional priority areas are scattered within these communities, as well as in the northern part of Glendale within its sphere of influence.

Glendale features several miles of established hiking and riding trails in its mountainous central area, providing valuable recreational opportunities. An existing bike lane runs along Glenoaks Boulevard within the Environmental Justice Communities. Additionally, the City has plans for numerous proposed bikeways, including bike routes and bike lanes throughout the Environmental Justice Communities, as well as other hiking and riding trails to enhance access and connectivity. Furthermore, the City has several plans and programs to continue improving and expanding the bicycle and pedestrian network, as detailed in the Report.

Glendale boasts scenic natural spaces like Deukmejian Wilderness Park, Verdugo Mountains, and San Rafael Mountains, however, access to parks and open spaces is not evenly distributed, particularly in densely populated, urbanized neighborhoods. To help expand accessibility to nearby regional parks, the City is planning the Garden River Bridge Project which will connect the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk to Griffith Park.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

When asked about their satisfaction levels with various aspects of local parks and recreation centers, most residents expressed satisfaction with easy access to parks and recreation centers, as well as with the availability of suitable spaces for physical activity. A majority also felt safe at these facilities and were satisfied with the amenities offered. However, there was more variation in responses regarding opportunities for affordable activities and the availability of activities for people of different ages and abilities, with most respondents being neutral. A small portion expressed strong dissatisfaction with these areas.

EJ-5 Policies

EJ-5.1 Equitable Distribution. Encourage the equitable distribution of and safe access to park and recreation amenities and natural resources such as public parks, recreation centers, and community fitness programs, consistent with the goals, policies, and actions of the City's other General Plan Elements.

- EJ-5.2 **Park Priority Areas.** Give additional consideration to park priority areas identified in the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix A) when updating the Open Space and Conservation Element and the Recreation Element.
- EJ-5.3 **Community Greening Program.** Identify and map opportunities to expand and/or install new mini-parks, parks, and green spaces around the City.
- EJ-5.4 **Affordable and Inclusive Activities.** Expand access to affordable, inclusive recreational activities at local parks and recreation centers, offering a wide variety of facilities and programs for all age groups, abilities, and income levels. This includes active and passive spaces, such as parks, sports fields, multi-use indoor facilities, urban bikeways, and hiking trails, to meet diverse community needs.
- EJ-5.5 **Active Transportation.** Promote bicycling, walking, and other forms of active transportation by supporting connected networks, making physical improvements to bicycle lanes, bikeways, and related infrastructure, and enhancing pedestrian-oriented, accessible sidewalks to encourage physical activity and increase walking and bicycling for commuting, errands, school, and recreational trips.
- EJ-5.6 **Alternative Transportation Modes.** Expand access to parks and other key destinations (such as schools, retail centers, and jobs) via alternative modes of transportation.
- EJ-5.7 **Public Health Education.** Educate the public on the merits and health benefits of physical activity and active lifestyles and educate residents on safe walking and bicycling.
- EJ-5.8 **Interjurisdictional Coordination.** Continue to coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and regional partners to provide connected bicycle and pedestrian facilities and regional trails.

EJ-5 Actions

- EJ-5a **Parks & Open Spaces.** Explore opportunity areas and joint use agreement options to create new or expand parks and open spaces in areas that generally lack parks or open spaces, especially in Environmental Justice Communities.
- EJ-5b **Repurpose Public Spaces.** Explore the option of repurposing underutilized public spaces into community fitness zones with exercise equipment, walking trails, and designated sports areas, focusing on neighborhoods with limited access to recreational facilities.
- EJ-5c **Urban Greening.** Explore opportunity areas to create new green spaces and/or incorporate art in areas that generally lack cooling and/or green infrastructure, such as along freeways, parking structures, concrete channels, and vertical walls.
- EJ-5d **Subsidized Passes.** Partner with local non-profits and businesses to offer discounted or free passes for low-income families and individuals with disabilities to access recreation programs, sports leagues, and fitness classes at parks and community centers.
- EJ-5e **Inclusive Programs.** Collaborate with community organizations to offer inclusive programming that caters to all abilities and age groups.
- EJ-5f **Connected and Sustainable Trails.** Expand and enhance a sustainable trail system with features like trailheads, rest stops, and scenic views, while integrating trail improvements into recreation programs and open space preservation efforts. Collaborate with regional partners to connect trails, promote maintenance, and improve transportation access to trailheads and recreational areas.

- EJ-5g **Integrated Bikeway Linkages.** Strengthen bikeway linkages by combining bikeway alignments with scenic roadways and hikerways, and working with adjacent jurisdictions to connect city bikeways to local and regional systems, as outlined in the City's Bicycle Transportation Plan.
- EJ-5h **Active Mobility Infrastructure.** Enhance streetscapes along commercial, mixed-use, and transit-oriented corridors, prioritizing pedestrian-friendly design on bicycle and transit-priority streets. Establish a network of multimodal thoroughfares and collector streets that emphasize walking access and apply Complete Streets principles to ensure transportation projects serve all users and abilities.
- EJ-5i **Bicycle Parking.** Highly encourage retail and commercial property owners and businesses to install bicycle amenities such as bike racks, lockers, or repair stations.
- EJ-5j **Transit Access.** Coordinate with local transit agencies to expand service options, including Bus Rapid Transit, improve transit access and connectivity, and enhance amenities such as bus shelters and real-time information.
- EJ-5k **Public Education.** Collaborate with community organizations such as Glendale Healthier Community Coalition and Walk Bike Glendale to promote walking and biking through safety education and outreach campaigns such as the Be Street Smart Campaign and Safe Routes to School Program.
- EJ-5l **Local Partnerships.** Work with private schools, utility right of ways, and Caltrans to identify and transition areas within their right of ways that could be transitioned into parks, open spaces, and/or beautification projects.
- EJ-5m **Local Sponsorships.** Engage with businesses to gain sponsorship for the parks and/or open spaces to expand access to enhanced transportation and more park space.

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.

GOAL EJ-7. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Inclusive, culturally sensitive outreach to better inform residents and encourage active participation in decision-making, shaping a community reflective of diverse voices.

Civic engagement is crucial for local planning, fostering a sense of place and investment in neighborhood improvements. In EJ Communities, engaging low-income, minority, and linguistically isolated stakeholders is essential to address their unique needs. Effective engagement strengthens the City's relationship with the community and ensures decisions reflect community needs, leading to better investments in the future. Glendale offers various opportunities for civic engagement; however, residents may face challenges in identifying and accessing information about these opportunities as the information is dispersed across various departmental webpages. The demographic assessment of Glendale reveals key factors influencing civic participation and engagement.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

The demographic assessment of Glendale reveals key factors influencing civic participation and engagement. The City has a diverse age distribution, with adults aged 45 to 64 representing 21.8% of the population, seniors (65 and over) comprising 21.7% of the population, and a significant portion of families with children under 15 (14.8%). The presence of many seniors suggests higher participation in conventional civic activities, while younger families may require outreach through virtual tools and community events.

Linguistic isolation is prevalent in Glendale, particularly within Environmental Justice Communities, with 33% of households speaking limited English, indicating a need for translation services and culturally tailored engagement.

Three census tracts in Glendale have high CalEnviroScreen burden scores for education, all within Environmental Justice Communities. Only eight census tracts have low burden scores. All other census tracts in Glendale have medium burden scores. Educational attainment can impact civic participation, with lower education correlating with reduced engagement due to underemployment or lack of time.

Glendale's population is predominantly White (36%), with significant Armenian, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander communities, highlighting the importance of inclusive outreach to ensure all voices are heard and policies reflect the diverse needs of the City.

Glendale offers various opportunities for civic engagement; however, residents may face challenges in identifying and accessing information about these opportunities as the information is dispersed across various departmental webpages. Encouraging the use of virtual outreach tools, such as social media and online surveying, and outreach approaches at other community events, such as farmers markets, fairs, and sporting events, can help increase participation among groups who have not participated in traditional in-person meetings.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

When asked to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of City communication and engagement, many residents expressed satisfaction with the availability of information in their preferred language. However, responses were generally mixed across the other categories, including ease of finding information about City meetings, plans, and programs, as well as the ability to participate in City meetings in a convenient way. While some respondents felt their input on City decisions was fairly considered, there was a noticeable level of dissatisfaction with this area and with the ease of accessing information about City activities.

EJ-7 Policies

- EJ-7.1 **Inclusive Input.** Foster an inclusive decision-making process by actively seeking and genuinely considering community input on City decisions, encouraging all voices to be heard and valued, particularly those from underserved and Environmental Justice Communities, and integrating their input into planning and policy development.
- EJ-7.2 **Multifaceted Approach.** Support a multifaceted approach to civic engagement and public outreach on local planning and decision-making processes to facilitate a variety of participation opportunities and methods.
- EJ-7.3 **Information Accessibility.** Continue efforts to increase transparency of City processes and to promote accessibility and organization of information.
- EJ-7.4 **Information Distribution.** Distribute City information in Environmental Justice Communities, such as numbers to call for code enforcement, programs offered through the City, housing needs, and general City information.
- EJ-7.5 **Targeted Outreach.** Perform targeted outreach to historically excluded groups, including multicultural communities, limited-English speakers, youth, seniors, and those with disabilities in Glendale to help make sure that policies reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire community, not just those of the majority population.
- EJ-7.6 **Representation.** Specifically invite residents from traditionally underrepresented demographic groups to become board, commission, and committee members as openings occur.
- EJ-7.7 **Community Events.** Continue to promote, sponsor, and support a variety of community events to strengthen social cohesion and the overall identity of Glendale such as Earth Day, Fire Service Day, Fall Festival, and National Night Out.
- EJ-7.8 **Partnerships.** Partner with and support the efforts of any community-based organizations or non-profits that focus on programs and activities for the Environmental Justice Communities.

EJ-7 Actions

- EJ-7a **Participation Opportunities.** Promote the City's public meeting portal and City calendar so residents can easily find all participation opportunities on City decisions.
- EJ-6f **Foster Relationships.** Identify stakeholders and foster relationships with individuals and organizations within Environmental Justice Communities to encourage participation in the decision-making process.
- EJ-6a **Community Surveys.** Conduct periodic community surveys to determine if the General Plan and other City documents are fulfilling the residents' vision for Glendale and how satisfied residents are with community engagement efforts by the City overall.
- EJ-6b **Cross-Cultural Participation.** Promote meaningful cross-cultural participation in local planning and decision-making processes by:
- Continuing to provide City-sponsored material in multiple languages.
 - Organizing outreach events and conducting surveys directly to specific demographic groups.
 - Partnering with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust, and cultural competency with target communities to conduct outreach for local initiatives and issues.

- Tailoring activities and the venues where they take place to accommodate the cultural preferences of different racial/ethnic groups.

EJ-6c

Accessible Meetings. Make meetings and other public engagement forums accessible to a wide range of residents and encourage greater attendance by:

- Ensuring any materials are distributed far enough in advance of meetings to allow sufficient time for review and comment.
- Using communication methods that convey complex or technical information in an easily understandable manner.
- Facilitating meetings using diverse methods that can engage all participants and can appeal to multiple styles of learning.
- Focusing on methods to effectively engage younger residents.
- Encouraging the use of virtual outreach tools, such as social media and online surveying and implementing new communications technologies as they evolve.
- Consider outreach at community events, such as farmers markets, fairs, and sporting events, to help increase participation among groups who have not participated in traditional in-person meetings.

GOAL EJ-8. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS PRIORITIZATION

Public improvements and programs that proactively meet both current and future community needs and priorities, with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities.

An essential component of the Environmental Justice Element is prioritizing projects, programs, and investments that directly serve and benefit residents within Environmental Justice Communities. Effective prioritization requires coordination and alignment across departments, agencies and shared jurisdictional partners along with consistent and sustained engagement with stakeholders within Environmental Justice Communities. Additionally, identifying and considering improvements and programs for Environmental Justice Communities may help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that is targeted for these areas.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

The opportunity map created by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) can be used to inform the City how to further target policies and investments since they provide additional insight into an area's critical life outcomes. Examples of critical life outcomes include educational attainment, earnings from employment, and economic mobility. The opportunity map identifies areas that score better across nine economic, educational, and environmental indicators relative to other areas in the same region. The scores classify areas into four resource categories: highest, high, moderate, and low. Low resource areas are those most in need of investment because they have low access to amenities, such as good quality schools and employment and have high levels of pollution burden.

The HCD/CTCAC opportunity map for Glendale shows that all census tracts in the northern portion of the City are considered highest resource areas. Many census tracts within Environmental Justice Communities are considered high resource areas, though there are eight moderate resource tracts, mostly concentrated in the southern portion of the City that lack access to better educational, economic, and environmental outcomes. There are no low resource areas in the City as of 2025.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents expressed a desire for more trees, shade canopies, and vegetation barriers, especially in the southern portion of the City. They also advocated for community solar, more EV charging stations, and more park bathrooms. Residents identified the top three most desired programs as: 1) improving the condition and safety of sidewalks and crosswalks, 2) installing new bicycle facilities, including bike lanes and safety features, and 3) expanding and promoting public transit options.

EJ-8 Policies

- EJ-8.1 **Investment Prioritization.** Continue to work with the community to prioritize the expansion of a variety of public facilities and services, starting with the preferences identified by the community in the Outreach Summary (Appendix B).
- EJ-8.2 **Equitable Improvements and Programs.** Promote the equitable provision of public improvements and community programs throughout Glendale with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities and moderate resource areas (and low resource areas if identified in the future) shown in the HCD/CTCAC opportunity map (Figure 3.8.1) in the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix A).

- EJ-8.3 **Collaboration.** Collaborate with adjacent agencies and jurisdictions to identify regional approaches to provide adequate and appropriate levels of service in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.
- EJ-8.4 **Programs for Urban Greening and Shade Infrastructure.** Expand tree canopy coverage, shade structures, and vegetation barriers throughout the City to improve public health, reduce heat island effects, and enhance the quality of life for residents, particularly in Environmental Justice Communities and other areas with limited greenery.
- EJ-8.5 **Equitable Economic Development.** Continue to implement economic development programs that support business attraction, retention and expansion efforts particularly in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas to ensure a diverse, equitable, inclusive and resilient economy.

EJ-8 Actions

- EJ-8a **Improvement Assessments and Prioritizations.** Focus on ensuring equitable access to high-quality public facilities and amenities—such as parks, trails, sidewalks, public transit, libraries, and other infrastructure—by prioritizing their location, distribution, and condition based on community needs.
- EJ-8b **Targeted Programs.** Engage with the community to identify desired community programs that would benefit targeted segments of the population such as youth, women, and small business owners in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.
- EJ-8c **Funding for Programs.** Apply for grants and external funding opportunities to support projects and programs addressing key issues in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.
- EJ-8d **Neighborhood Greening.** Identify priority areas for greening and tree planting, particularly in Environmental Justice Communities and neighborhoods with limited green spaces, especially along walking routes, such as by removing impervious surfaces, planting trees, and increasing shade structures. Partner with local environmental organizations, schools, and residents to implement greening projects and host tree-planting events.
- EJ-8e **Economic Development Programs.** Consider the business needs of Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas when establishing new economic development programs.
- EJ-8f **Workforce Training.** Offer tools, resources, and networks that provide workforce training, apprenticeships, mentorship, career development, management opportunities, and facilitate business ownership, with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.