

City of Glendale

Environmental Justice Element

Appendix A: Existing Conditions Report

December 2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a baseline of existing conditions in Glendale related to Environmental Justice (EJ) to equip City staff and the public with a clearer understanding of the EJ-related challenges and opportunities affecting Glendale's diverse communities. It was developed according to guidance created by the California Environmental Justice Alliance. The findings are used to inform the goals, policies, and actions within the City's new Environmental Justice Element. In creating an EJ Element, the City of Glendale has identified strategies to reduce disproportionate impacts on Disadvantaged Communities (also referred to as EJ Communities) and ensure equal distribution of resources. While some of the information in this report may be incorporated into the Environmental Justice Element, the majority serves as background material that will remain on file with the City for reference, ensuring a more streamlined and focused General Plan.

The City of Glendale is made up of 34 distinct neighborhoods, each with its own unique history and character, defined by natural features like streets, washes, and mountain ridges. As these neighborhoods developed, they collectively formed the Glendale we know today, and each faces different challenges. Recognizing that no single policy document can fully resolve the complex EJ issues facing the City, this report and the Environmental Justice Element mark the initial steps in building a sustained, strategic approach to advancing EJ in Glendale. Though the Environmental Justice Element applies citywide, it emphasizes areas needing special attention, laying the groundwork for ongoing efforts to address systemic inequities and enhance environmental health and quality of life for all residents.

1.1 WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

At a high level, EJ is about making sure everyone has equal access to clean air, water, land, and other resources. EJ seeks to prevent and correct disproportionate environmental impacts on historically marginalized communities. The State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency have similar, yet nuanced, definitions of EJ, provided below.

The State of California defines EJ as: "The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."¹

The Environmental Protection Agency defines EJ as: "The just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and
- have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices."²

¹ <https://ceja.org/what-we-do/green-zones/ej-glossary-for-ehjp-release>.

² <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice#definitions>.

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL 1000

Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was signed into law by Governor Edmond G. Brown, Jr. on September 24, 2016. Per SB 1000, when a city revises two or more General Plan elements concurrently and has areas identified as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs, defined below), a city must address EJ in their General Plan. A city can choose to either adopt a new, stand-alone element or integrate EJ policies and goals into existing elements of the General Plan. (Government Code Section 65302[h][2]).

The City of Glendale is revising two or more General Plan elements concurrently (Land Use, Mobility, and Safety Elements) and has areas identified as DACs, therefore it is required to address EJ in the General Plan. The City has chosen to prepare a dedicated Environmental Justice Element so that all EJ-related goals and policies are easily accessible and to provide clear guidance on the fair and equitable distribution of community benefits.

1.3 IDENTIFYING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

The term “Disadvantaged Communities” 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 Disadvantaged Communities as follows:

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) are areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) 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.

The Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) produces General Plan Guidelines that provide guidance on preparing an Environmental Justice Element. According to LCI’s guidance, the first step in preparing an Environmental Justice Element is to identify DACs within city boundaries. Glendale used a multistep approach to identify DACs in the City, described below.

STEP 1

The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) version 4.0 was used as the first step to identify DACs within Glendale. This mapping tool was developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on behalf CalEPA. CalEnviroScreen helps identify communities disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. It is a science-based tool that uses existing environmental, health, and socioeconomic data to rank all census tracts in California with a CalEnviroScreen score.

CalEnviroScreen assigns overall scores to census tracts in California based on aggregate data from 21 indicators including potential exposures to pollutants, adverse environmental conditions, socioeconomic factors, and the prevalence of certain health conditions. Each census tract is also assigned scores for each of the 21 individual indicators. These individual scores are shown in [Tables 3.1.3 and 3.1.4](#) and explained in more detail in Section 3.

According to CalEPA, census tracts must meet at least one of the following criteria to be considered a DAC:

- 1) Receiving the highest 25% of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (meaning a score of 75 or higher)
- 2) Lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps, but receiving the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores
- 3) Identified in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2017 version) as a DAC, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0
- 4) Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

Figure 1.1 shows DACs in Glendale based on these criteria. There are 40 census tracts within City of Glendale boundaries. Based on overall CalEnviroScreen 4.0 scores, 21 out of 40 census tracts within Glendale have a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score of 75 or higher, classifying these areas as DACs. Tract #27 had an overall score of 78 and tract #29 had an overall score of 77 in CalEnviroScreen 3.0, classifying these two additional tracts as DACs, for a total of 23 DACs. All 23 DACs in Glendale based on CalEnviroScreen are shown as the hatched areas in Figure 1.1.

STEP 2

Under Assembly Bill (AB) 1550, low-income communities³ located within 1/2 mile of a DAC identified via CalEnviroScreen are also considered a DAC. These communities were identified using the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Priority Populations Mapping Tool. Based on this assessment, five more census tracts in Glendale (beyond the 23 identified via CalEnviroScreen) can be considered DACs and are shown as the dotted areas in Figure 1.1. Glendale has several neighborhoods generally located near downtown and the southern area of the City that are considered DACs.

STEP 3

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 EJ issues. This included an online survey that was available in English, Spanish, Armenian, Korean, and Tagalog.

Survey respondents were asked to review the DAC map created using CalEnviroScreen and the CARB Priority Populations Mapping Tool. Survey respondents then had the opportunity to identify additional DACs in the City beyond those shown on the map.

The Outreach Summary Report (Appendix B to the Environmental Justice Element) includes a map reflecting these suggestions. Each additional area was suggested by a single respondent. While this feedback is valuable, it does not justify designating entire census tracts as DACs. The Outreach Summary Report acknowledges these areas which the City may consider investigating further.

Although the scores and DAC status of specific census tracts may change over time (for example, as CalEnviroScreen is periodically updated), the EJ goals, policies, and actions identified in the General Plan generally apply citywide. Therefore, while certain census tracts may shift in their identification as a DAC, the City's commitment to promoting EJ throughout the community remains.

³ AB 1550 amends Section 39713 of the State of California Health and Safety Code. Section 39713(d)(2) defines "low-income communities" as census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093.

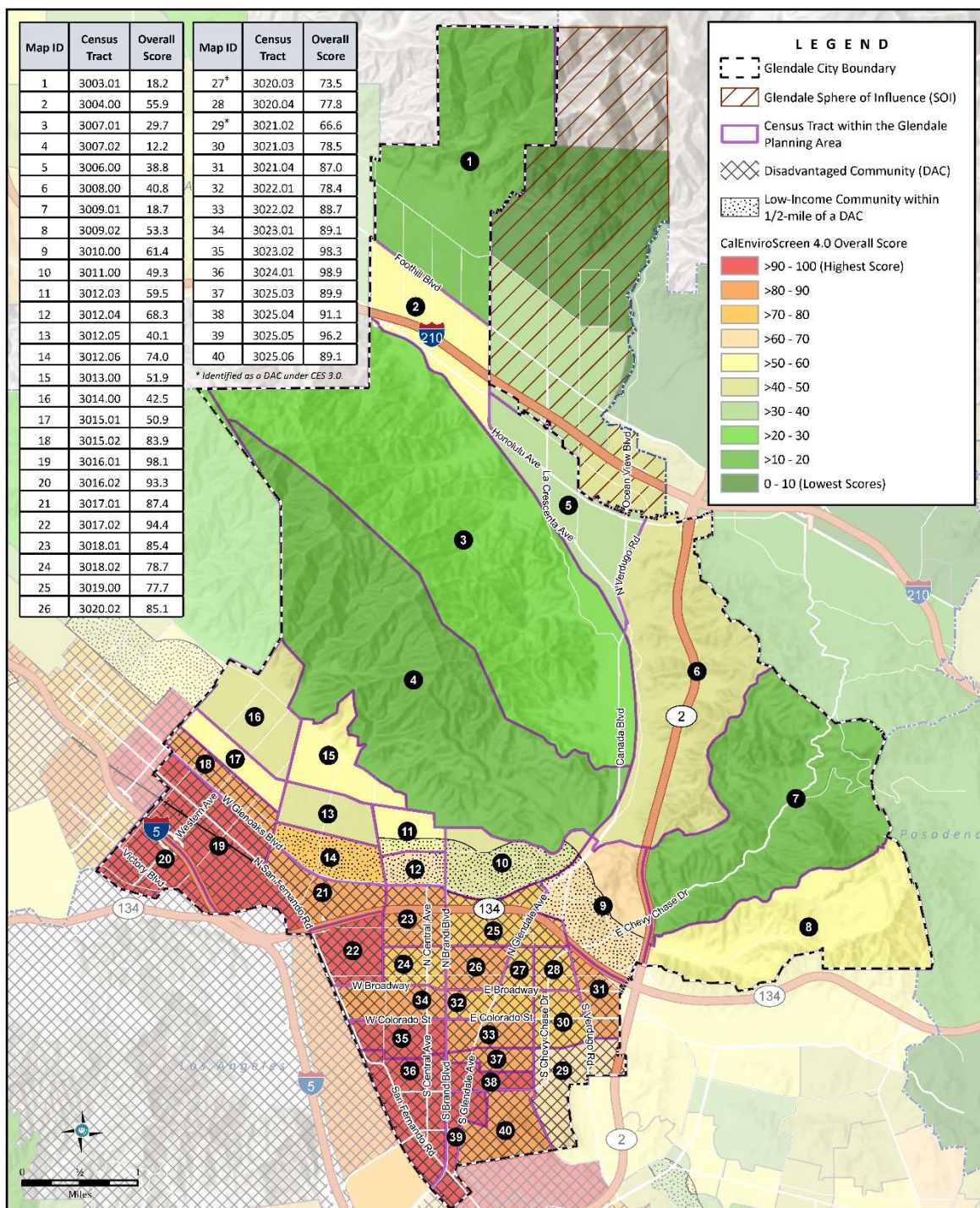
1.4 NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

While the state uses the term “Disadvantaged Communities,” the City of Glendale is opting to use the term “Environmental Justice Communities,” or “EJ Communities.” The term “disadvantaged” can have a negative connotation and undermine the fact that these communities are vibrant places with rich culture and history. It is also clearer and more consistent to say that the Environmental Justice Element is focused on Environmental Justice Communities.

Figure 1.2 shows the CalEnviroScreen identified DACs and AB 1550 identified DACs combined together as EJ Communities by census tract. Any references to EJ Communities in the remainder of this report refer to the communities shown in this figure.

Glendale has a total of 28 Environmental Justice Communities, shown in Figure 1.2.

FIGURE 1.1: DACS IN GLENDALE BASED ON OVERALL CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES

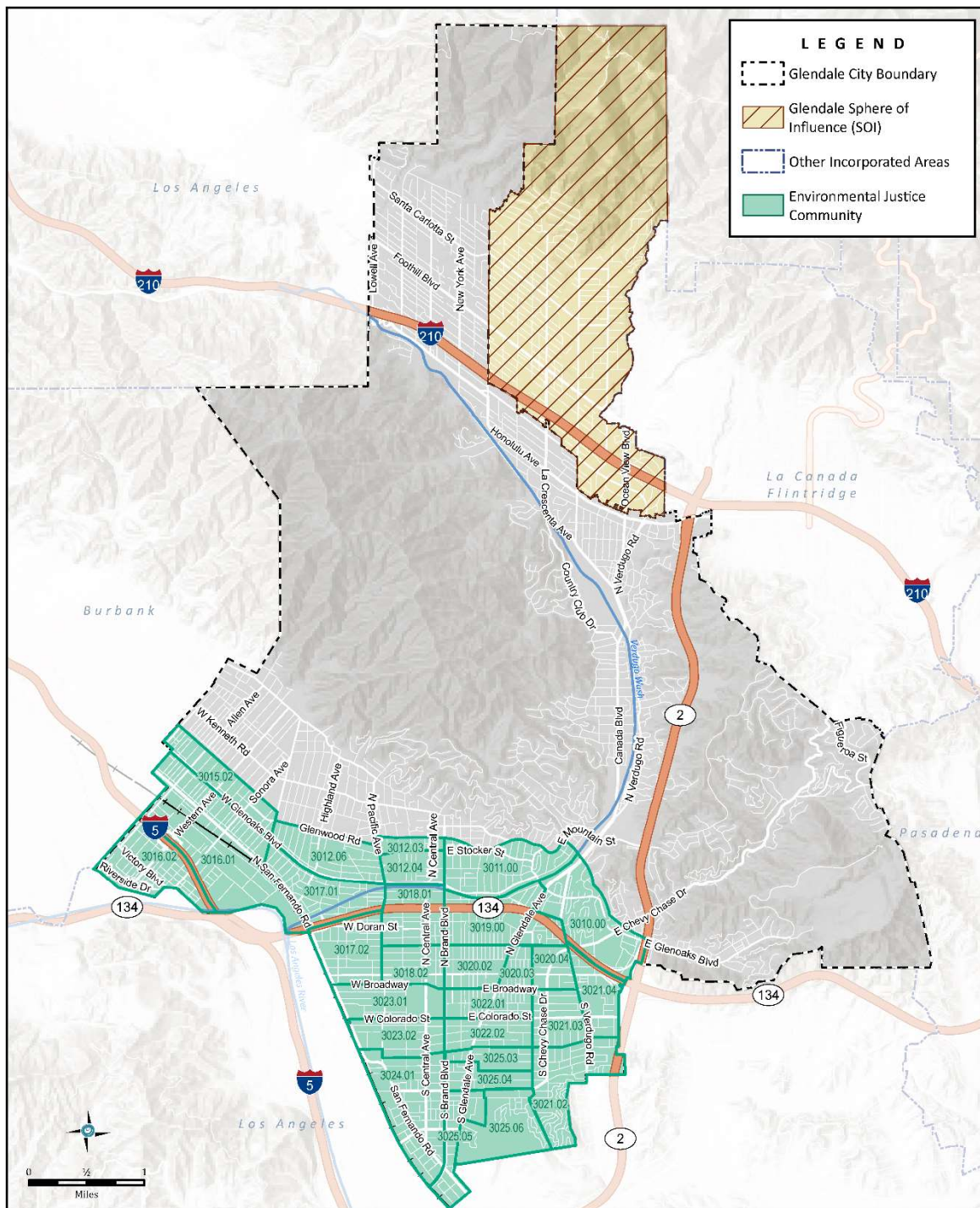


Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
April 29, 2025.

Sources: CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California Climate Investments
Priority Populations; City of Glendale; Los Angeles County.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

FIGURE 1.2: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES IN GLENDALE BY CENSUS TRACT



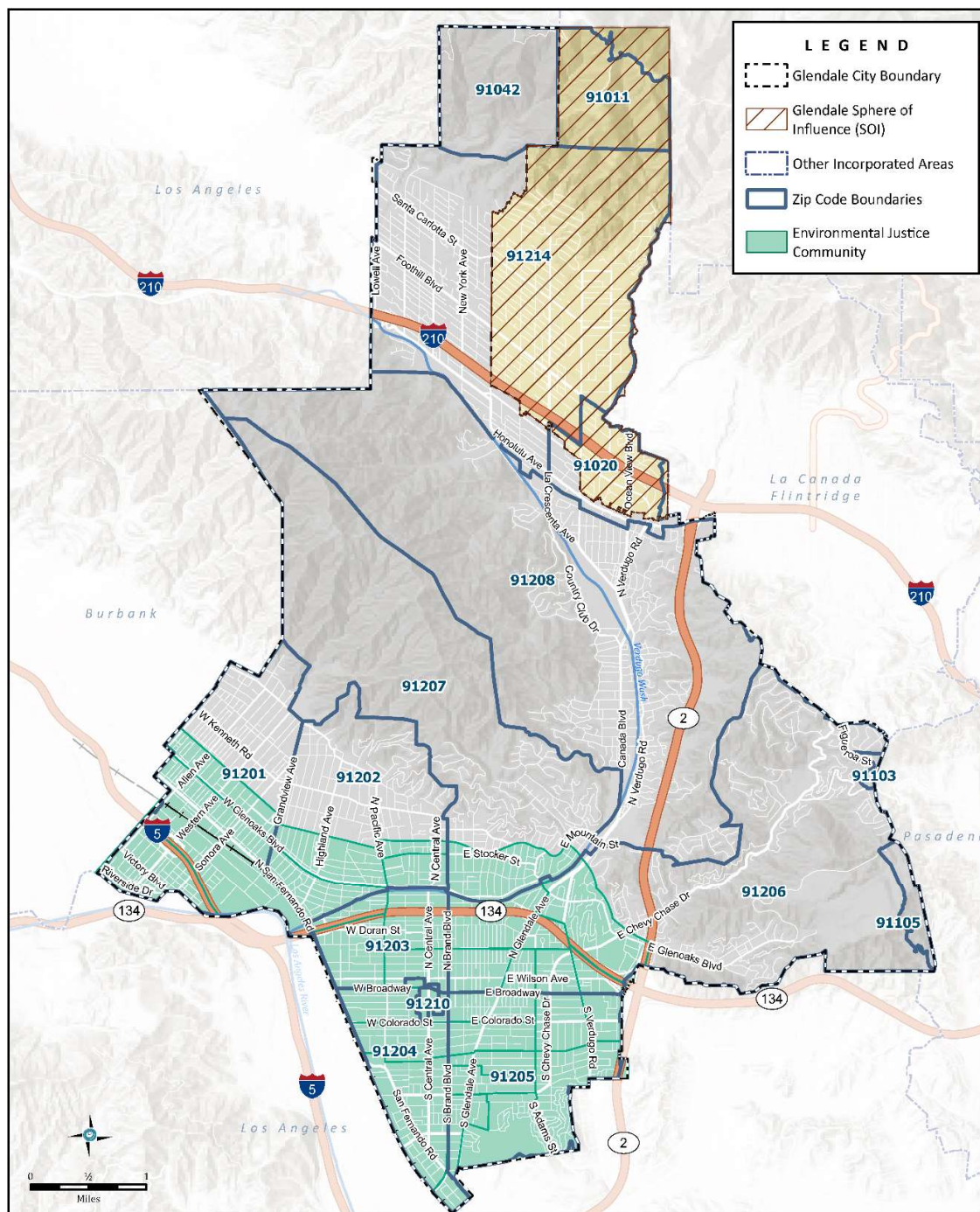
Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
November 8, 2024.

Sources: CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California Climate Investments
Priority Populations; City of Glendale; Los Angeles County.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

As previously mentioned, the City conducted an online survey to collect local data and knowledge regarding EJ issues. Survey respondents were asked for their zip code. For reference, Figure 1.3 shows the combined EJ Communities by zip code.

FIGURE 1.3: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES IN GLENDALE BY ZIP CODE



Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
November 11, 2024.

Sources: CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California Climate Investments
Priority Populations; ESRI; City of Glendale; Los Angeles County.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

1.5 BRIEF HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN GLENDALE

This Section provides a brief overview of Glendale's history with EJ and the City's actions to date. As noted earlier, this document represents one step in an ongoing commitment to advancing EJ in Glendale. By reflecting on the past and engaging with the present, the City is better positioned to build an equitable and inclusive future, working alongside the community to envision what a safe, just, and welcoming Glendale looks like for all.

2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT⁴

As part of the 2021-2029 Housing Element update, the City of Glendale prepared an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) to fulfill its U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirement and remove barriers to fair housing choice for all residents. The AI examined policies, procedures, and practices within the City that may limit a person's ability to choose their residence free from discrimination. The AI provided an overview of laws, regulations, conditions, or other possible obstacles that may affect an individual or a household's access to housing in the City. It also presented local and regional demographic profiles, assessed the extent of housing needs among specific groups, identified existing barriers or impediments that may limit housing choice, and proposed actions to overcome those barriers. The City's demographic and income profile, household and housing characteristics, housing cost and availability, and special needs populations are discussed in the Housing Element Background Report.

This information is important to include here because demographic history and trends regarding race, ethnicity, familial status, age, and income are crucial for understanding environmental justice in Glendale, as they highlight patterns of inequality and help identify communities that may face disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards, limited access to resources, or barriers to social and economic mobility. This data provides the foundation for analyzing how historical and systemic factors contribute to disparities in health, housing, and overall well-being, enabling more targeted and effective policy responses. The findings are summarized below, and more detailed information can be found in the 2021-2029 Housing Element.

GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE & EQUITY (GARE)

On July 21, 2020, in response to the nationwide dialogue on race and equity, and as part of a long-term effort to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion, City Council approved the City's membership in the local and regional Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE). GARE is a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Joining GARE provides staff with access to the organization's resources, network, and staff to develop and present an action plan for consideration and discussion by City Council. Part of the request from Council on this topic included an acknowledgement of Glendale's past with regard to race. As such, staff has been reviewing available historic documents to identify and understand Glendale's history as it pertains to its racist past.

SUNDOWN TOWN

James Loewen, sociologist, professor, and author of *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism*, defines sundown towns as "any organized jurisdiction that for decades kept African Americans or other groups from living in it and was thus 'all-white' on purpose," through formal and informal methods. Loewen identified over 100 sundown towns in California in his research, including Glendale.

⁴ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/city-wide-plans/housing-element>

Although no official ordinance or law of the City of Glendale has been found imposing sundown restrictions, oral and written history, public accounts, and newspaper articles plainly demonstrate Glendale's history as a "sundown town" for a significant portion of the 20th century. Such archival information was compiled and presented in a "sundown town" report to City Council on September 15, 2020, outlining Glendale's history of discrimination toward people of color. In a landmark, unanimous vote, City Council adopted a resolution acknowledging and apologizing for Glendale's racially exclusionary past as a "Sundown Town", the first resolution of its kind in the State of California and the third in the nation. The resolution also stated that the City of Glendale unequivocally rejects racism in all its forms and is committed to working towards building an antiracist Glendale where people of all races and cultural backgrounds are welcome to live and prosper. At that same September 15, 2020 meeting, City Council authorized staff to prepare and issue a Request for Proposal for preparation of a formal historical context statement to better understand and address the nexus between historical development patterns and racial disparities within the City; this historical context statement is in process.

Community groups have also undertaken efforts to promote racial equity. The Coalition for an Anti-Racist Glendale was formed in September of 2020 by a group of committed community members, parents, educators, and faith leaders who seek to move Glendale forward to become a more equitable community. The Coalition is currently focused on using the Glendale City Council's Sundown Town Resolution as an advocacy tool to address institutionalized and systemic racism in the areas of housing, policing and employment in Glendale.

REDLINING

Redlining was a federally sanctioned practice during the New Deal era in which neighborhoods were classified by risk levels for mortgage insurance, largely based on racial composition. The Home Owner's Loan Corporation (HOLC) created maps categorizing areas as green (Grade A; "best"), blue (Grade B; "desirable"), yellow (Grade C; "declining"), and red (Grade D; "hazardous"), with neighborhoods home to minorities, particularly African Americans, almost exclusively designated as red. This classification discouraged investment and lending in these areas, perpetuating economic and housing inequality.

In Glendale, original redlining maps from 1939, such as the "Redlining Security Map," explicitly marked neighborhoods in south Glendale as high-risk due to the presence of minorities, while areas in north Glendale were favored for lending due to racially restrictive deeds. These covenants, legal until 1968, reinforced racial segregation, enabling predominantly white communities to build wealth through homeownership while excluding minorities from economic opportunities, quality housing, and education.

Redlined neighborhoods were often adjacent to industrial or noxious land uses, exacerbating disparities in public health and economic stability. Though redlining was outlawed in the mid-20th century, its legacy persists: former "best" and "desirable" areas remain predominantly white, while "declining" and "hazardous" neighborhoods are largely minority communities. These historic policies established racial and economic divisions that continue to shape urban demographics and inequities today.

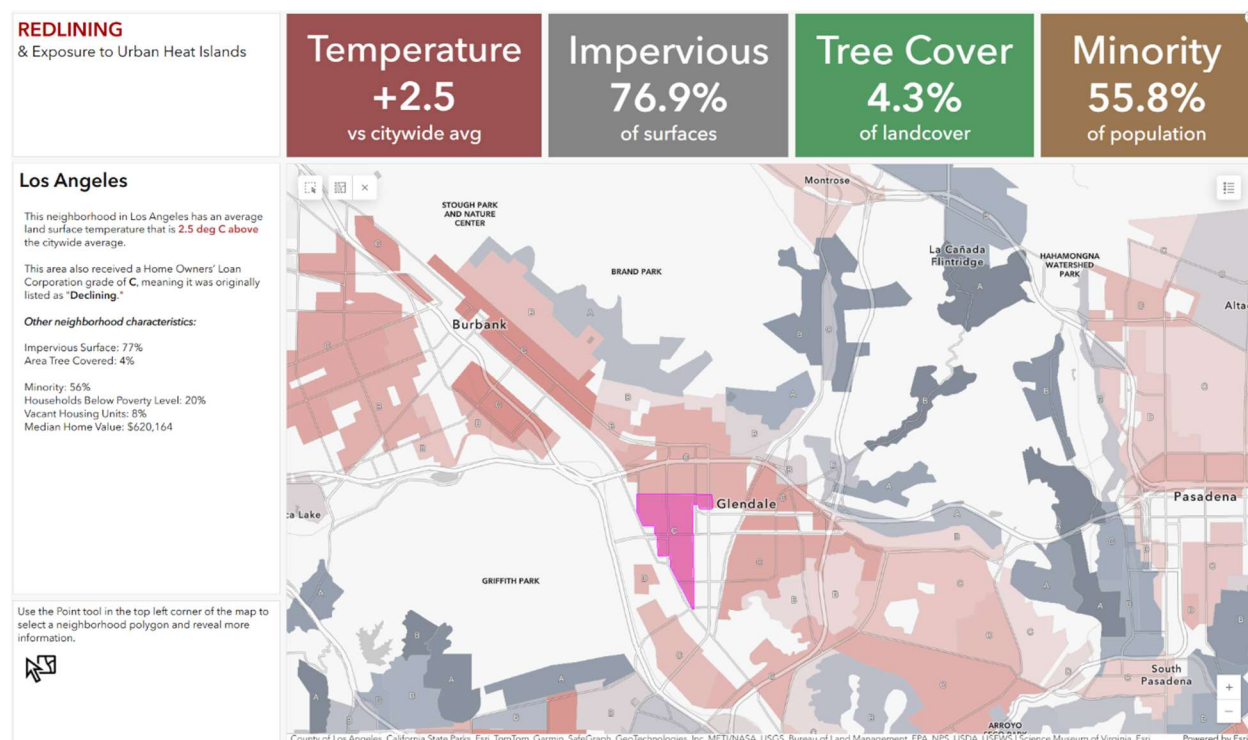
Redlined neighborhoods were often adjacent to industrial or noxious land uses, exacerbating disparities in public health and economic stability. Though redlining was outlawed in the mid-20th century, its legacy persists: former "best" (Grade A; green) and "desirable" areas (Grade B; blue) remain predominantly white, while "declining" (Grade C; yellow) and "hazardous" (Grade D; red) neighborhoods are largely minority communities. These historic policies established racial and economic divisions that continue to shape urban demographics and inequities today.

The Science Museum of Virginia and Esri prepared a dataset that evaluates redlining in relation to temperature. South Glendale, for instance, is primarily composed of areas that received an HOLC grade of C, originally designated as "Declining." Across 94% of cities, D-rated neighborhoods experience higher temperatures than their A-rated counterparts, with an average difference of 2.6 degrees Celsius (4.48 degrees Fahrenheit).

This temperature disparity is accompanied by a stark contrast in tree canopy coverage. Redlined neighborhoods, on average, have systematically less tree canopy and more impervious, hard surfaces compared to non-redlined areas, further compounding environmental inequities (Hoffman et al., 2020).

Figure 1.4 depicts the majority of neighborhoods in South Glendale with a "C" Classification. The neighborhood shown as a pink polygon in South Glendale is 2.5 degrees C above citywide average, with 76.9% impervious surfaces, 4.3% tree cover, and 56% minority population⁵.

FIGURE 1.4: REDLINING & EXPOSURE TO HEAT ISLANDS IN GLENDALE



ANALYSIS OF SEGREGATION AND INTEGRATION FOR RACE AND ETHNICITY

The 2021-2029 Housing Element includes an in-depth analysis of segregation and integration for race and ethnicity, by disability status, familial status, age, and income to identify the groups in Glendale that experience the highest levels of segregation.

Segregation generally means a condition in which there is a high concentration of persons of a particular race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, or having a disability or a particular type of disability when compared to a broader geographic area. The dissimilarity index is the most commonly used measure of segregation between two groups, reflecting their relative distributions across neighborhoods.

⁵ Percent of the population who do not self-identify as White based on data from the U.S Census.

Integration refers to a condition in which there is not a high concentration of persons of a particular race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, or having a disability or a particular type of disability when compared to a broader geographic area.

In general, Glendale is less dissimilar and more integrated for all of the identified racial and ethnic groups, and the community's most dissimilar communities (its Native Hawaiian and American Indian populations) reflect trends seen throughout the region. This analysis suggests that patterns of segregation at the local level reflect those at the regional level as well, and that partnerships with regional agencies and advocates may be an effective way to address local issues of moderate segregation.

Race and Ethnicity

Diversity Index

Tracking the diversity of cities and counties throughout California is crucial to understanding the shifting demographics of race and ethnicity in California and the United States. Esri's Diversity Index⁶ captures the racial and ethnic diversity of a geographic area in a single number, from 0 to 100. Scores less than 40 represent lower diversity in the jurisdiction while scores of greater than 85 represent higher diversity. Additionally, scores between 40-55 represent low diversity, 55-70 represent moderate diversity, and 70-85 represent high diversity.

There generally appears to be higher diversity index scores in the neighborhoods south of Colorado Street bordering the City of Los Angeles, such as Pacific-Edison, Mariposa, and Tropico, and along San Fernando Road north of the 134 Freeway, including the Grand Central, Pelanconi, and Fremont Park neighborhoods. Neighborhoods with low diversity index scores include areas around the Verdugo Mountains where census tract populations are low. While many census tracts across the City have higher density index scores in 2018 compared to 2010, the diversity index in the areas in and around the Verdugo Mountains do not show any significant change between 2010 to 2018.

Demographic Trends

Table 73 in the Housing Element Background Report (shown below) shows the demographic trends over time for the City and the larger region between 1990 and 2020 (shown as "Current" in the last column). According to the Housing Element Background Report, the growing ethnic diversity of Glendale is reflective of the overall changes occurring in Los Angeles County and Southern California as a whole. Until 1980, Glendale had a predominately White population (91.7%), however, the ethnic composition of the City has changed significantly since that time. The proportion of White residents in Glendale decreased to 63.4% in 1990 and again to 54.18% in 2000. By 2010 however, the City's proportion of White residents increased to 61.65%. Since 1990, the percentage of Hispanic residents in Glendale decreased from 21.22% to 17.48% compared to the region which has increased from 34.74% to 44.44%. In comparison, percentage of Asian or Pacific Islander residents has increased in the City at a similar rate when compared to the larger region, increasing from 13.71% to 16.07% in the City and from 10.18% to 14.72% in the region.

⁶ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a6066c9c757b49908961253754b01676>

Table 73 from Housing Element Background Report

Racial/Ethnic	1990	2000	2010	Current
Glendale				
White	63.40%	54.18%	61.65%	61.65%
Black	1.16%	1.38%	1.53%	1.22%
Hispanic	21.22%	19.78%	17.48%	17.48%
Asian or Pacific Islander	13.71%	17.20%	18.77%	16.07%
Native American	0.25%	0.34%	0.26%	0.10%
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Region				
White	45.86%	35.72%	31.62%	31.62%
Black	8.62%	8.10%	7.27%	6.70%
Hispanic	34.74%	41.38%	44.44%	44.44%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10.18%	13.35%	15.95%	14.72%
Native American	0.32%	0.53%	0.42%	0.20%

Source: HUD Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Database, 2020.

Armenian Population

Glendale is home to a substantial number of Armenian immigrants, who are an important part of the City's ethnic and cultural diversity. Although only a dozen Armenian families resided in Glendale in the 1950s, by the late 1970s, many Armenian businesses and families had settled in the City. During the 1980s, a new wave of Armenians from various countries settled in the community. By the 1990s, Armenians formed an important core of residents in most parts of Glendale and in the adjacent valleys that includes La Cañada Flintridge and Tujunga. According to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 72,060 persons (of those reporting their ancestry) are Armenian, which represents 36% of the City's population, making Glendale home to one of the largest communities of Armenian descent in the United States.

Other Patterns of Segregation and Integration

The Housing Element Background Report also considers patterns of segregation and integration by disability status, familial status, age, and income.

Disability Status

Persons with disabilities are present throughout the Glendale community, with higher concentrations in areas near transit and major activity centers. The highest concentrations of persons with disabilities exist along both sides of San Fernando Road north of the 134 Freeway, the Adams Hill neighborhood south of Chevy Chase Drive, and Downtown, north of Colorado Street. This pattern of higher concentrations of persons with disabilities near transit and major activity centers in Glendale follows the pattern in Los Angeles County. Generally, there are higher concentrations of persons with disabilities along the I-5 freeway throughout the County. Based on this analysis, the City finds that there are not significant patterns of segregation impacting persons with disabilities living in Glendale.

Familial Status

There is a higher concentration of population of married couples in east Glendale compared to west Glendale. Overall, the communities in east and north Los Angeles County have a much higher concentration of married households compared to the City of Los Angeles. This pattern continues for married couples with children. Glendale is also home to a number of female-headed households located throughout the community with limited discernible patterns of segregation. Although ratios are still low, census tracts with higher concentrations of female-

headed households are primarily located south of the 134 Fwy in neighborhoods with multifamily housing. However, female-headed households are located in a variety of census tracts with different incomes, access to opportunities, and resource levels. Countywide, there are higher concentrations of female-headed households in census tracts, particularly in the City of Los Angeles, that have lower median incomes and higher diversity scores.

Age

The community's older residents, persons 65 years of age or older, tend to be more highly concentrated in only one census tract in the City, in a neighborhood of single-family homes specifically within the Glenwood neighborhood north of Kenneth Road. This is an established neighborhood with some of the City's older single-family homes, which indicates that senior residents there are aging in place. An area of moderate concentration along San Fernando Road corresponds with a concentration of lower median household incomes, which may suggest that some senior residents are choosing to live in these areas as a result of the affordable home options available there. The concentration of senior residents in Glendale is consistent with the surrounding communities.

Income

Patterns of segregated economic wealth, as indicated by median household income, are not present in Glendale. Low and high median household incomes are dispersed throughout the community, with lower and higher levels generally coexisting. Block groups with lower median household incomes are found in three different parts of Glendale. One of the lower median household income block groups is located along the western edge of the City, north and south of San Fernando Road in an area with a concentration of commercial and manufacturing uses. Another is located between Glendale Avenue and San Fernando Road, north and south of Chevy Chase Drive where there is a mix of multifamily residential and single-family residential along with a concentration of commercial uses in the southern portion of the block group. A third group is in the Downtown, northwest of the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Colorado Street, where multifamily housing is mixed with commercial and office uses. Countywide, census tracts with lower median incomes are concentrated in central Los Angeles, including Downtown Los Angeles.

1.6 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CITY PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The City has several additional plans and programs beyond the General Plan that address environmental justice. A summary of these initiatives is provided below.

Office Of Sustainability⁷

The Office of Sustainability is a collaborative effort between various City departments and is also decentralized across the City. That means the Office of Sustainability plans and coordinates sustainability programs in partnership with City departments. The Office of Sustainability website aims to give those interested in the City's sustainability programs a central place at which to find comprehensive and up to date information.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)⁸

The City of Glendale is developing a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), which is a people-focused plan set to protect the community against increasingly frequent extreme weather such as heat waves, wildfires, and drought, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The CAAP is anticipated to go before the City Council for consideration in Spring 2025.

⁷ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/office-of-the-city-manager/office-of-sustainability>

⁸ <https://glendalecaap.rinconconsultants.com/home/get-involved/>

2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)⁹

Glendale Water & Power developed and published the 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which analyzes Glendale's future energy needs and determines the most suitable resources to fulfill those needs, taking into account factors such as reliability, cost, constraints, environmental responsibility, efficiency, and risk.

Greener Glendale Plan (GGP)

In March 2012, the City adopted its award-winning **Greener Glendale Plan** to assess actions taken by the City to be more sustainable through policies and action which could reduce consumption, waste, and associated costs, improve air quality, and provide other benefits for the City.¹⁰ GGP is composed of the following documents:

- In preparation for the planning process, the **2010 Report**¹¹ was completed to highlight the City's existing conservation programs, on which the Greener Glendale Plan would build.
- On Nov 1, 2011, City Council adopted the **Greener Glendale Plan for Municipal Operations**¹². This document addresses conservation efforts within internal government operations.
- On March 27, 2012, City Council adopted the **Greener Glendale Plan for Community Activities**¹³. This document addresses how the City of Glendale can help the community improve livability and conservation.

Green Building Code and Standards¹⁴

On Jan 1, 2011, the new CAL-Green Building Code went into effect for all California cities. On June 7, 2011, Glendale went a step further by adopting additional green building standards.

Clean Construction¹⁵

The City of Glendale requires demolition and/or construction projects to divert at least 65% of waste (by recycling, salvage or deconstruction) from going to landfills in accordance with AB 939. Contractors are expected to implement best management practices (BMPs) to prevent sediment and other materials from flowing into storm drains. These BMPs include dust control measures, sandbags, concrete washout areas and street sweeping.

Glendale Water & Power Residential Programs & Rebates¹⁶

Glendale Water & Power is committed to providing low-cost water and electricity in an environmentally sustainable manner by increasing local investments in water conservation and energy efficiency, developing renewable energy resources, and tracking greenhouse gas emissions. The department offers numerous energy and water saving grants, shade trees, EV charging stations, e-bikes, turf replacement, solar, and more.

Verdugo Wash: Active Transportation Vision Study¹⁷

The project envisions a linear park energizing the existing urban framework and fabric of Glendale with seamless connections and visually pleasing experiences. A reimagined Verdugo Wash, transformative in character, creating a 9.4-mile long linear park and nature trail for walking/cycling with access to business and entertainment venues while enjoying nature, people, places, and culture as it interweaves several important City centers, services, and a multitude of neighborhoods that make up a large core of Glendale.

⁹ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/glendale-water-and-power/reports-plans/integrated-resource-plan>

¹⁰ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/management-services/office-of-sustainability/greener-glendale>

¹¹ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/7164/635250794600570000>

¹² <https://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/6928/635250004174970000>

¹³ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/6934/635250004192330000>

¹⁴ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/6930/635250004180270000>

¹⁵ <https://ecode360.com/43347036#43347036>

¹⁶ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/glendale-water-and-power/residential-customers/residential-programs>

¹⁷ <https://www.verdugowash.com>

Bicycle Transportation Plan¹⁸

The City of Glendale has embarked on an update to the 2012 Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) to create a 20-year measurable blueprint for making biking safer, easier, and more attractive while also identifying biking-related strategies that help support broader goals, such as economic development, public health, climate change, and equity. The updated BTP will be a roadmap for creating a safe and enjoyable all-age and all-abilities bicycle network that connects local destinations within the City as well as to the region, while also addressing bicycle parking, programming and education, and new technologies.

Downtown Mobility Study¹⁹

The Downtown Mobility Study was adopted by City Council on March 6, 2007, and complements the Downtown Specific Plan approved by City Council in November 2006. The Mobility Study was developed to accommodate expected growth in downtown Glendale, achieving Glendale's vision of a vibrant multi-use downtown, without significantly increasing auto congestion or impacting quality of life. The Downtown Mobility Study focuses on establishing transit and pedestrian-friendly policies within the Downtown Specific Plan area.

Citywide Pedestrian Plan²⁰

The ATP award winning Citywide Pedestrian Plan is a long-term plan for Glendale with near-term steps for action. The Plan established a comprehensive, centralized, and coordinated approach to improving pedestrian infrastructure, safety, and demand. The Glendale Citywide Pedestrian Plan will make Glendale a safer, more pleasant, and more convenient place for walking.

Safe & Healthy Streets Plan²¹

Adopted in April 2011, the Glendale Safe and Healthy Streets Plan was developed to create a healthier community and provide transportation options for people who do not drive. It has the potential to boost levels of physical activity and help reverse current obesity trends among residents. It provides policies to make Glendale a safer and friendlier City for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Citywide Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Program

The City's Public Works Department has developed a Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program to encourage students to walk and bike to school while reducing injuries and fatalities. The program includes constructing facilities and enhancing the safety of pathways, trails, sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians and bicyclists who are primarily in grades K-12.

Be Street Smart Glendale²²

Be Street Smart Glendale represents the Citywide Safety Education Initiative and Safe Routes to School Program that consolidates existing City and community safety programs into a combined and coordinated effort that will reach out to all sectors of the Glendale population. This includes senior citizens, who are disproportionately affected by pedestrian accidents in the community.

¹⁸ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/plans-for-mobility/bicycle-transportation-plan>

¹⁹ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/plans-for-mobility/mobility-study>

²⁰ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/plans-for-mobility/pedestrian-plan>

²¹ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/plans-for-mobility/safe-and-healthy-streets-plan>

²² <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/plans-for-mobility/be-street-smart-glendale>

Vision Zero Action Plan²³

City of Glendale streets and intersections should be safe for everyone. The City recently launched its Vision Zero Action Plan, which outlines how the City can eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy and equitable options for getting around Glendale. The Vision Zero Action Plan will build upon the work of the Citywide Pedestrian Plan and Bicycle Transportation Plan update using a data-based approach to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities through the four E's: education, engineering, enforcement, and encouragement.

Be the Change Series²⁴

Be The Change is the Glendale Library's promise to build collective understanding of systemic racism, elevate the voices and stories of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and inspire our community to be the change through lectures, exhibits, and programming.

Urban Art Program²⁵

The Urban Art Program seeks to promote a diverse and stimulating cultural environment to enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors. The Program encourages the creative interaction of artists, developers, designers, City officials and community members during the design of development projects, in order to develop public art that is meaningful to the site and to the community. The Program anticipates a diverse range of art experiences throughout the City's commercial districts, enlivening the public space available during the everyday routines of walking to work, eating at a sidewalk café, or shopping.

Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Program²⁶

The City's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Department, in partnership with ReCreate, FoodCycle LA, and Carelt, is committed to advancing sustainable food practices and addressing food insecurity within our community. IWM is responsible for implementing a comprehensive food recovery program to help alleviate hunger, reduce food waste, and comply with organic waste disposal mandates. The City partners with businesses to evaluate their food recovery needs, including transporting surplus food to recovery organizations using platforms like the Carelt app and FoodCycle LA. These free apps also help businesses track donations and report them to CalRecycle.

Fresh Air Program²⁷

Glendale's Fresh Air smoking ordinance is an example of Glendale's commitment to clean air and healthy residents alike. To limit the impact of secondhand tobacco smoke on non-smokers, the City has adopted regulations to provide smoke-free air in public places and areas where smokers and nonsmokers might interact.

1.7 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

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.

An overview of how other General Plan Elements and City plans or programs are related to each of the eight EJ topics listed below is provided in Table 1.1.

²³ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/plans-for-mobility/vision-zero-action-plan>

²⁴ <https://www.e-glendalelac.org/bethechange>

²⁵ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/city-wide-plans/urban-art>

²⁶ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/public-works/integrated-waste-management/businesses/edible-food-recovery>

²⁷ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/neighborhood-services/fresh-air-program>

1.8 REPORT ORGANIZATION AND TOPICS ADDRESSED

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. This report is organized according to the eight EJ topics included in California Government Code Section 65302(h), listed below. A summary of findings is included in Section 2 of this report and a detailed analysis of each topic is provided in Section 3.

1. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
2. Promote public facilities
3. Promote healthy food access
4. Promote safe and sanitary homes
5. Promote physical activity
6. Reduce any unique or compounded health risks not otherwise addressed
7. Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process
8. Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of EJ Communities

TABLE 1.1: OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS AND CITY PLANS OR PROGRAMS SUPPORTING EJ EFFORTS

Environmental Justice Topic	General Plan Element	City Plan or Program
1. Reduce pollution exposure and improve 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. Promote 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. Promote healthy food access	N/A	Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Program
4. Promote safe and sanitary homes	Historic Preservation, Housing, Safety	Glendale Water & Power Residential Programs & Rebates, Code Enforcement
5. Promote 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, Vision Zero Action Plan, Verdugo Wash: Active Transportation Vision Study
6. Reduce any unique or compounded health risks not otherwise addressed	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. Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process	Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, Safety	Be the Change Series, Urban Art Program
8. Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of EJ Communities	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, Vision Zero Action Plan, Verdugo Wash: Active Transportation Vision Study

2. KEY TAKEAWAYS

Below is a summary of key takeaways for each of the eight EJ topics presented in this report. More details about each topic are included in Section 3, Detailed Analysis.

2.1 REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

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 (21) have high CalEnviroScreen scores, qualifying these tracts as EJ Communities. More information is provided in Section 3.1 explaining how CalEnviroScreen scores are derived.

Key issues include high pollution burdens from ozone, particulate matter, diesel particulate matter, and traffic, with EJ Communities experiencing the highest exposure, particularly in neighborhoods near major freeways and industrial areas. Several health burdens disproportionately affect EJ 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 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.

2.2 PROMOTE PUBLIC FACILITIES

Under SB 1000, “public facilities” is an umbrella term that includes “public improvements, public services, and community amenities.” If EJ 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. Overall, Glendale has a wide variety of public facilities well-distributed throughout the City, many within EJ Communities, including transit stations, hospitals, public safety facilities, daycare centers, community centers, City Hall, post offices, libraries, public schools, and parks. Glendale can utilize options for dual purpose or joint use facilities to help address public needs. 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 EJ Communities, though some areas, particularly in the north and west, have limited access to these resources.

2.3 PROMOTE HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Healthy food access encompasses the following three interrelated topics:

- Nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate, and affordable food;
- Income sufficient to purchase healthy food; and
- 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. No comprehensive source of data regarding existing conditions on food insecurity and costs currently exists at a 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 distributed throughout EJ 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 EJ 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).

2.4 PROMOTE SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

Housing conditions in EJ Communities can harm residents' health due to factors like poor indoor air quality, toxic materials, overcrowding, and structural instability, often linked to older housing. Financial strain exacerbates these issues, limiting access to repairs, healthcare, and nutritious food.

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. 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). 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

In Glendale, more renters (57%) than homeowners (37%) are cost burdened, meaning they spend over 30% of their income on housing. Cost-burdened renters are more concentrated in

western Glendale, where multi-family housing and renter-occupied units are more prevalent, while cost-burdened homeowners are distributed citywide.

2.5 PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Residents in EJ Communities often face limited opportunities for physical activity, contributing to negative health outcomes and an increased risk of chronic illnesses. Enhancing access to physical activity opportunities in these areas can significantly improve residents' physical health and overall well-being. The nonprofit organization Trust for Public Land provides data on park access levels for every urban city and town in the United States. They report that 77% of Glendale residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Their ParkServe® mapping platform helps pinpoint priority areas, defined as areas outside a 10-minute walk to a park, for new park investments. These priority areas in Glendale are primarily located along the northern boundary of the EJ Communities and slightly beyond. There are some additional priority areas scattered throughout the EJ Communities. Park priority areas will be further analyzed in the Open Space and Conservation Element and Recreation Element updates. Furthermore, the City has several plans and programs to continue improving and expanding the bicycle and pedestrian network, as detailed in Section 1, "Relationship Other City Plans and Programs". Access to existing and planned parks in Glendale is expected to improve as the City implements these plans, programs, and Element updates.

2.6 REDUCE ANY UNIQUE OR COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED

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. This Report did not reveal any specific situations that would significantly compound health risks; however, certain unique characteristics of Glendale are important to consider, such as.

- Historically underrepresented groups
- Car-centric development patterns and air quality
- Vulnerability to natural disasters & climate change
- History of discriminatory practices

2.7 PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

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.

- The City has a diverse age distribution, with 43.5% of the population aged 45 and older, 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 EJ 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 EJ 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.

2.8 PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF EJ COMMUNITIES

It is essential to prioritize projects, programs, and investments that directly serve and benefit residents within EJ Communities. Opportunity maps 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 target policies and investments. These maps measure and visualize place-based characteristics linked to critical life outcomes, such as educational attainment, earnings from employment, and economic mobility. The map also 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.

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 EJ Communities are considered high resource areas, though there are eight moderate resource tracts, mostly concentrated in the southern portion of the City. There are no low resource areas in the City.

3. DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was used to determine pollution exposure and vulnerability in Glendale.

WHAT IS CALENVIROSCREEN?

CalEnviroScreen is a science-based mapping tool that helps identify California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution, and that are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental health, and socioeconomic information to produce a numerical score for each census tract in the state. The results are depicted on maps so that different communities can be compared to one another. A census tract with a high score is one that experiences higher pollution burden and vulnerability than census tracts with low scores. CalEnviroScreen ranks census tracts based on data that are available from state and federal government sources. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is the most current version and was released in October 2021.

The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 model is made up of four components: Two Pollution Burden components: Exposures and Environmental Effects; and two Population Characteristics components: Sensitive Populations and Socioeconomic Factors. Each component is made up of a set of indicators. There are 13 Pollution Burden indicators and eight Population Characteristics indicators, for a total of 21 indicators. Each indicator is described in more detail in Section 3.1.1.

Pollution Burden Indicators

Represent the potential exposures to pollutants and the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution.

EXPOSURES

1. Ozone
2. Particulate Matter 2.5
3. Diesel Particulate Matter
4. Pesticides
5. Toxic Releases
6. Traffic
7. Drinking Water
8. Children's Lead Exposure Risk From Housing

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

9. Cleanup Sites
10. Groundwater Threats
11. Hazardous Waste
12. Impaired Water Bodies
13. Solid Waste

Population Characteristics Indicators

Represent physiological traits, health status, or community characteristics that can result in increased vulnerability to pollution.

SENSITIVE POPULATIONS

1. Asthma
2. Low Birth Weight
3. Cardiovascular Disease

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

4. Education
5. Linguistic Isolation
6. Poverty
7. Unemployment
8. Housing Burden

HOW ARE CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES CALCULATED?

The overall CalEnviroScreen score is based on a combination of the Pollution Burden score and the Population Characteristics score, but it is not a direct multiplication of the two. Instead, a weighted formula is used to account for the different factors that influence environmental and health vulnerabilities. Because of this weighting, the overall CalEnviroScreen score does not equal the simple product of the individual Pollution Burden score and Population Characteristics score. A summarized explanation is provided below, and a full explanation of the calculation methodology can be found in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Report.²⁸

For a given census tract, scores for the Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics are calculated as follows:

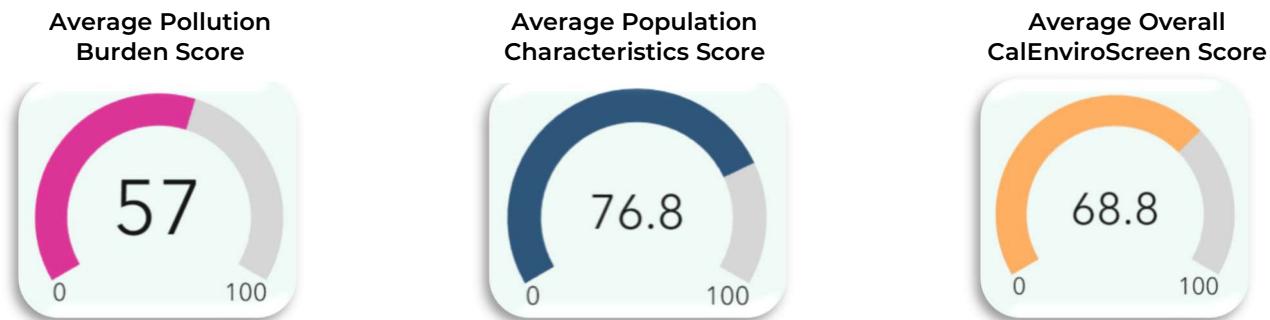
- First, the percentiles for all the individual indicators in a component are averaged. This becomes the score for that component. When combining the Exposures and Environmental Effects components, the Environmental Effects score was weighted half as much as the Exposures score. This was done because the contribution to possible pollutant burden from the Environmental Effects component was less than those from sources in the Exposures component. More specifically, the Environmental Effects components represent the presence of pollutants in a community rather than exposure to them. Thus, the Exposure component receives twice the weight as Environmental Effects component.
- The Population Characteristics score is the average of the Sensitive Population score and Socioeconomic Factors score.
- The Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores are then scaled so that they have a maximum value of 10 and a possible range of 0 to 10. A value of zero typically implies that monitoring or reporting was conducted, but no impacts were present.
- Each average was divided by the maximum value observed in the state and then multiplied by 10. The scaling ensures that the pollution component and population component contribute equally to the overall CalEnviroScreen score.

Since each group has a maximum score of 10, the maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. Each census tract in the state is assigned a score between 0 to 100 for as many of the 21 indicators as possible based on available data. Some census tracts will not have scores for every one of the indicators. The scores represent the degree of pollution exposure and vulnerability, or “burdens,” facing each census tract.

- Scores between 75 to 100 are considered a high burden
- Scores between 25 to 74 are a medium burden
- Scores between 0 to 24 are a low burden

²⁸ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf>, pages 17-24.

The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 website includes a “Data Dashboard” which provides summary data for each city in California.²⁹ Average scores for the City of Glendale are shown below.



Tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 show the citywide Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores for each indicator. Glendale has high scores for Drinking Water (81), Linguistic Isolation (83), and Housing Burden (77).

TABLE 3.1.1: CITYWIDE POLLUTION BURDEN INDICATOR SCORES

Pollution Indicators	Score
1. Ozone	74
2. Particulate Matter 2.5	67
3. Diesel Particulate Matter	63
4. Pesticides	0
5. Toxic Releases	71
6. Traffic	57
7. Drinking Water	81
8. Lead Exposure	61
9. Cleanup Sites	62
10. Groundwater Threats	34
11. Hazardous Waste	47
12. Impaired Water Bodies	43
13. Solid Waste	47

TABLE 3.1.2: CITYWIDE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS INDICATOR SCORES

Population Indicators	Score
1. Asthma	34
2. Low Birth Weight	43
3. Cardiovascular Disease	62
4. Education	45
5. Linguistic Isolation	83
6. Poverty	51
7. Unemployment	59
8. Housing Burden	77

Table 3.1.3 presents the scores for each of the 13 Pollution Burden indicators by census tract. Out of 40, **23 census tracts in the City of Glendale have high total Pollution Burden scores.**

Table 3.1.4 presents the scores for each of the eight Population Characteristics indicators by census tract. Out of 40, **10 census tracts in the City of Glendale have high total Population Characteristics scores.**

Table 3.1.5 presents the total Pollution Burden scores, total Population Characteristics scores, and the overall CalEnviroScreen scores by census tract. Out of 40, **21 census tracts in the City of Glendale have high overall CalEnviroScreen scores, qualifying these tracts as EJ Communities.** These are depicted in Figure 1.1 in Section 1.

²⁹ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6b863505f9454cea802f4be0b4b49d62>

TABLE 3.1.3: POLLUTION BURDEN INDICATOR SCORES BY CENSUS TRACT

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0
EJ Communities are in **bold**.

Color Key

High Burden: 75 – 100

Medium Burden: 25 – 74

Low Burden: 0 – 24

#	Census Tract	ZIP	Assembly District	Population	Ozone	Particulate Matter 2.5	Diesel Particulate Matter 2.5	Pesticides	Toxic Releases	Traffic	Drinking Water	Lead Exposure	Cleanup Sites	Groundwater Threats	Hazardous Waste	Impaired Water Bodies	Solid Waste	TOTAL POLLUTION BURDEN SCORE
1.	6037300301	91214	44	6,024	91	56	17	0	61	13	97	52	0	65	31	24	10	46
2.	6037300400	91214	44	5,986	89	59	70	0	64	83	97	61	0	67	36	24	53	83
3.	6037300600	91208	44	9,609	83	60	51	0	66	60	98	54	69	76	24	24	10	77
4.	6037300701	91208	44	5,835	80	57	9	0	67	55	76	62	19	17	6	59	53	54
5.	6037300702	91207	44	5,430	78	60	11	0	68	49	76	44	0	0	39	33	53	44
6.	6037300800	91208	44	7,280	77	59	53	0	67	81	98	64	31	78	36	24	0	78
7.	6037300901	91206	44	6,540	75	58	15	0	67	40	94	32	0	4	11	24	85	43
8.	6037300902	91206	44	1,981	74	60	35	16	67	100	76	57	0	25	31	0	90	71
9.	6037301000	91206	44	5,230	74	63	86	0	68	90	76	73	0	4	29	33	22	71
10.	6037301100	91207	44	7,114	74	67	60	0	68	68	76	51	0	0	55	33	13	58
11.	6037301203	91202	44	4,711	74	69	33	0	69	25	76	41	80	0	27	59	13	54
12.	6037301204	91202	44	5,284	73	69	53	0	69	46	76	33	91	0	39	59	26	68
13.	6037301205	91202	44	2,106	75	68	27	0	69	14	76	74	91	28	10	59	27	65
14.	6037301206	91202	44	5,281	74	70	74	0	70	40	76	55	91	42	50	59	64	89
15.	6037301300	91202	44	1,894	77	67	15	0	68	8	76	77	34	0	7	59	36	47
16.	6037301400	91201	44	4,190	78	66	59	0	68	5	94	79	34	0	2	59	53	63
17.	6037301501	91201	44	1,790	77	68	54	0	69	11	76	81	81	32	27	59	26	74
18.	6037301502	91201	44	6,750	77	68	65	0	69	35	76	49	93	77	67	59	55	91
19.	6037301601	91201	44	6,112	75	69	94	0	70	91	76	59	97	96	93	77	98	100
20.	6037301602	91201	44	4,446	74	70	94	0	69	97	94	79	95	83	87	77	71	100

#	Census Tract	ZIP	Assembly District	Population	Ozone	Particulate Matter 2.5	Diesel Particulate Matter 2.5	Pesticides	Toxic Releases	Traffic	Drinking Water	Lead Exposure	Cleanup Sites	Groundwater Threats	Hazardous Waste	Impaired Water Bodies	Solid Waste	TOTAL POLLUTION BURDEN SCORE
21.	6037301701	91202	44	2,962	74	70	89	0	71	86	76	75	95	75	84	59	89	99
22.	6037301702	91203	52	5,835	72	70	97	0	79	90	76	69	97	89	94	59	95	100
23.	6037301801	91203	44	5,258	72	69	92	0	70	85	76	41	91	51	65	59	39	94
24.	6037301802	91203	52	4,516	70	70	96	0	73	55	76	38	82	51	86	59	59	94
25.	6037301900	91206	44	8,192	72	68	98	0	69	90	76	39	34	0	72	33	64	85
26.	6037302002	91206	52	3,949	70	68	100	0	71	56	76	65	94	0	72	33	65	90
27.	6037302003	91206	52	3,665	70	68	93	0	71	57	76	43	86	0	53	33	42	81
28.	6037302004	91206	52	4,151	72	68	94	0	70	75	76	63	62	2	38	24	13	77
29.	6037302102	91205	52	5,946	69	69	61	0	72	82	94	60	34	11	10	0	36	66
30.	6037302103	91205	52	5,430	70	69	63	0	72	35	76	64	62	4	30	0	22	57
31.	6037302104	91205	52	4,288	72	68	87	0	70	90	97	80	0	22	24	0	36	77
32.	6037302201	91205	52	4,019	69	68	67	0	73	54	76	44	95	0	63	0	43	73
33.	6037302202	91205	52	5,510	69	69	69	0	76	54	76	74	95	0	48	59	26	84
34.	6037302301	91204	52	3,985	69	71	79	0	93	55	76	54	95	88	96	59	84	98
35.	6037302302	91204	52	5,337	69	72	71	0	93	57	76	73	95	60	95	59	84	98
36.	6037302401	91204	52	7,395	67	72	73	0	77	58	76	77	96	82	92	59	92	98
37.	6037302503	91205	52	4,290	69	71	49	0	75	43	76	73	93	0	27	59	43	78
38.	6037302504	91205	52	4,273	68	71	41	0	77	39	76	75	92	0	19	59	43	74
39.	6037302505	91205	52	4,376	67	70	73	0	75	57	76	74	92	89	72	59	44	96
40.	6037302506	91205	52	3,262	67	70	58	0	74	43	79	61	91	51	46	59	14	82

TABLE 3.1.4: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS INDICATOR SCORES BY CENSUS TRACT

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0
EJ Communities are in **bold**.

Color Key

High Burden: 75 – 100

Medium Burden: 25 – 74

Low Burden: 0 – 24

#	Census Tract	ZIP	Assembly District	Population	Asthma	Low Birth Weight	Cardiovascular Disease	Education	Linguistic Isolation	Poverty	Unemployment	Housing Burden	TOTAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS SCORE
1.	6037300301	91214	44	6,024	15	25	26	22	56	14	16	13	11
2.	6037300400	91214	44	5,986	23	65	39	36	53	29	21	55	36
3.	6037300600	91208	44	9,609	8	8	16	31	76	30	28	88	21
4.	6037300701	91208	44	5,835	7	87	11	13	53	15	25	19	20
5.	6037300702	91207	44	5,430	3	5	18	11	67	14	N/A	24	7
6.	6037300800	91208	44	7,280	10	30	22	21	70	25	47	54	23
7.	6037300901	91206	44	6,540	12	14	23	26	72	3	35	24	12
8.	6037300902	91206	44	1,981	29	76	57	24	47	6	62	21	39
9.	6037301000	91206	44	5,230	21	34	50	47	73	50	67	83	50
10.	6037301100	91207	44	7,114	10	17	58	15	84	46	61	92	41
11.	6037301203	91202	44	4,711	27	13	75	56	90	42	85	80	57
12.	6037301204	91202	44	5,284	27	33	75	43	95	53	57	97	61
13.	6037301205	91202	44	2,106	27	9	75	10	63	5	68	16	27
14.	6037301206	91202	44	5,281	27	2	75	54	93	64	54	92	55
15.	6037301300	91202	44	1,894	21	88	65	7	51	11	88	58	51
16.	6037301400	91201	44	4,190	26	11	47	26	42	25	73	64	30
17.	6037301501	91201	44	1,790	33	18	58	39	81	29	2	68	35
18.	6037301502	91201	44	6,750	32	23	57	65	99	77	87	98	68
19.	6037301601	91201	44	6,112	33	71	59	77	99	75	73	96	79
20.	6037301602	91201	44	4,446	27	73	47	68	83	44	67	77	63

#	Census Tract	ZIP	Assembly District	Population	Asthma	Low Birth Weight	Cardiovascular Disease	Education	Linguistic Isolation	Poverty	Unemployment	Housing Burden	TOTAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS SCORE
21.	6037301701	91202	44	2,962	18	97	58	46	74	38	28	70	57
22.	6037301702	91203	52	5,835	40	26	78	57	87	63	70	91	67
23.	6037301801	91203	44	5,258	33	50	72	47	95	59	56	91	67
24.	6037301802	91203	52	4,516	34	10	71	45	96	53	56	96	56
25.	6037301900	91206	44	8,192	34	54	70	41	97	50	39	95	63
26.	6037302002	91206	52	3,949	39	49	75	36	96	64	70	92	70
27.	6037302003	91206	52	3,665	30	48	60	52	94	62	32	99	61
28.	6037302004	91206	52	4,151	42	25	80	54	98	76	62	95	70
29.	6037302102	91205	52	5,946	54	52	79	30	73	30	44	77	60
30.	6037302103	91205	52	5,430	58	50	88	59	99	74	82	98	85
31.	6037302104	91205	52	4,288	47	85	79	55	97	66	79	93	86
32.	6037302201	91205	52	4,019	39	35	68	75	99	89	56	97	73
33.	6037302202	91205	52	5,510	69	25	96	68	98	84	59	96	83
34.	6037302301	91204	52	3,985	35	32	46	59	90	73	80	91	63
35.	6037302302	91204	52	5,337	77	61	89	67	97	71	66	86	89
36.	6037302401	91204	52	7,395	74	42	85	66	98	86	95	99	90
37.	6037302503	91205	52	4,290	64	64	93	54	97	81	75	99	90
38.	6037302504	91205	52	4,273	63	69	92	63	97	92	91	99	94
39.	6037302505	91205	52	4,376	47	63	66	75	98	89	86	99	85
40.	6037302506	91205	52	3,262	59	88	85	61	90	73	44	79	85

TABLE 3.1.5: TOTAL POLLUTION BURDEN, POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS, AND OVERALL CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES BY CENSUS TRACT
Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0
*EJ Communities are in **bold**.*

Color Key

High Burden: 75 – 100 Medium Burden: 25 – 74 Low Burden: 0 – 24

#	Census Tract	ZIP	Assembly District	Population	TOTAL POLLUTION BURDEN SCORE	TOTAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS SCORE	OVERALL CALENVIROSCREEN SCORE
1.	6037300301	91214	44	6,024	46	11	18
2.	6037300400	91214	44	5,986	83	36	56
3.	6037300600	91208	44	9,609	77	21	39
4.	6037300701	91208	44	5,835	54	20	30
5.	6037300702	91207	44	5,430	44	7	12
6.	6037300800	91208	44	7,280	78	23	41
7.	6037300901	91206	44	6,540	43	12	19
8.	6037300902	91206	44	1,981	71	39	53
9.	6037301000	91206	44	5,230	71	50	61
10.	6037301100	91207	44	7,114	58	41	49
11.	6037301203	91202	44	4,711	54	57	60
12.	6037301204	91202	44	5,284	68	61	68
13.	6037301205	91202	44	2,106	65	27	40
14.	6037301206	91202	44	5,281	89	55	74
15.	6037301300	91202	44	1,894	47	51	52
16.	6037301400	91201	44	4,190	63	30	43
17.	6037301501	91201	44	1,790	74	35	51
18.	6037301502	91201	44	6,750	91	68	84
19.	6037301601	91201	44	6,112	100	79	98
20.	6037301602	91201	44	4,446	100	63	93

#	Census Tract	ZIP	Assembly District	Population	TOTAL POLLUTION BURDEN SCORE	TOTAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS SCORE	OVERALL CALENVIROSCREEN SCORE
21.	6037301701	91202	44	2,962	99	57	87
22.	6037301702	91203	52	5,835	100	67	94
23.	6037301801	91203	44	5,258	94	67	85
24.	6037301802	91203	52	4,516	94	56	79
25.	6037301900	91206	44	8,192	85	63	78
26.	6037302002	91206	52	3,949	90	70	85
27.	6037302003	91206	52	3,665	81	61	73
28.	6037302004	91206	52	4,151	77	70	78
29.	6037302102	91205	52	5,946	66	60	67
30.	6037302103	91205	52	5,430	57	85	78
31.	6037302104	91205	52	4,288	77	86	87
32.	6037302201	91205	52	4,019	73	73	78
33.	6037302202	91205	52	5,510	84	83	89
34.	6037302301	91204	52	3,985	98	63	89
35.	6037302302	91204	52	5,337	98	89	98
36.	6037302401	91204	52	7,395	98	90	99
37.	6037302503	91205	52	4,290	78	90	90
38.	6037302504	91205	52	4,273	74	94	91
39.	6037302505	91205	52	4,376	96	85	96
40.	6037302506	91205	52	3,262	82	85	89

3.1.1. INDICATOR DESCRIPTIONS

This Section includes descriptions of the individual Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics indicators mentioned above. Even for census tracts that are not within EJ Communities, examining how different areas are impacted by the individual indicators can help identify areas of vulnerability within Glendale, providing valuable insight to guide future decision-making.

POLLUTION BURDEN INDICATORS

More than half (23) of census tracts in Glendale have high overall Pollution Burden indicator scores, and 20 of these are within EJ Communities, particularly in neighborhoods near major freeways and industrial areas. Key issues include high pollution burdens from ozone, particulate matter, diesel particulate matter, and traffic, with EJ Communities experiencing the highest exposure. Other concerns include drinking water, children's lead exposure risks, hazardous waste sites, and impaired water bodies, particularly in the southern and western parts of the City. These environmental burdens are compounded by the presence of cleanup sites, groundwater threats, and solid waste facilities in EJ Communities. There also some concerns over aging infrastructure, including old housing stock and contamination from past industrial activities, particularly along the San Fernando Road corridor. Out of the 13 individual Pollution Burden indicators, there are at least some census tracts with high burden scores for the 11 indicators shown in [Table 3.1.6](#):

TABLE 3.1.6: POLLUTION BURDEN INDICATORS WITH HIGH BURDEN SCORES

Indicator	Total Census Tracts With High Burden Scores	Census Tracts Within EJ Communities
1. Ozone	13	2
2. Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	13	13
3. Toxic Release Burden Scores	8	1
4. Traffic Impacts	13	10
5. Drinking Water	40	21
6. Children's Lead Risk	8	5
7. Cleanup Sites	23	21
8. Groundwater Threats	10	8
9. Hazardous Waste	8	8
10. Impaired Water Bodies	2	2
11. Solid Waste	8	6

More details about all 13 Pollution Burden indicators are included below.

1. OZONE

Thirteen census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for ozone and two of these are within EJ Communities. Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, trains, factories, construction, and dry cleaners. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Higher temperatures can increase surface ozone concentrations as increased water vapor in the air can trap ozone in already polluted areas. Higher future temperatures will likely increase the production of ground-level

ozone. Communities with high burden scores for ozone pollution are concentrated in the northern Glendale in the neighborhoods of Sparr Heights, Whiting Woods, Montrose and Crescenta Highlands. The high scores may be due to their proximity to major freeways, exposing them to higher levels of vehicle exhaust as well as their location in the valley between the Verdugo, San Gabriel Mountains and San Rafael Hills. Ozone can irritate the lungs, cause inflammation, and make chronic illnesses worse, even at low levels of exposure. Children and the elderly are sensitive to the effects of ozone. Ozone levels are highest in the afternoon and on hot days. People who spend a lot of time outdoors may also be more affected by ozone.³⁰

2. PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5

All census tracts in Glendale have medium burden scores for particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}). PM_{2.5} is a very small airborne particle, less than 2.5 micrometers, which is less than the thickness of a human hair. PM_{2.5} is a mixture of particles that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot, and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities. **Direct contributors of PM_{2.5} within Glendale varies for each community but can be attributed to factors such as local geography, proximity to major freeways, and industrial land uses in the City.** PM_{2.5} particles can travel deep into the lungs because they are so small and cause various health problems including heart and lung disease. Children, the elderly, and people suffering from heart or lung disease, asthma, or chronic illness are most sensitive to the effects of PM_{2.5} exposure.³¹

3. DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER

Thirteen census tracts in Glendale have high diesel particulate matter (DPM) burden scores, and all of these are within EJ Communities in southern and western Glendale. Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, and other equipment with diesel engines contain a mixture of gases and solid particles. The solid material in diesel exhaust is known as DPM. **Glendale is traversed by four major freeways transporting millions of vehicles through the City every year, including Interstate 210 (Foothill Freeway) in the north, State Route 2 in the east, State Route 134 (Ventura Freeway) in the south, and Interstate 5 in the southwest corner of the City. These major traffic corridors expose certain neighborhoods to higher DPM pollution levels.** More than 90% of DPM is less than 1 micrometer in diameter (about 1/70th the diameter of a human hair) and thus is a subset of PM_{2.5}.³² DPM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of DPM are usually near rail yards, ports, and freeways. The particles in DPM can reach deep into the lung, where they can contribute to health problems including eye, throat and nose irritation, heart and lung disease, and lung cancer. Children and the elderly are most sensitive to the effects of DPM.³³

4. PESTICIDES

All census tracts in Glendale have low burden scores for pesticides. Wind erosion, drift, or volatilization of pesticides from agricultural fields can be a source of pesticide exposure and can spread pesticides over a greater distance than the immediate area.³⁴ **Exposure to pesticides is typically more of an issue in communities near agricultural operations, so this is not a significant issue in Glendale.**

5. TOXIC RELEASES

All census tracts in Glendale have at least a medium burden score for toxic releases. Eight census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for toxic releases and these are all within

³⁰ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Ozone>

³¹ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=PM2.5>

³² <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/overview-diesel-exhaust-and-health#:~:text=The%20solid%20material%20in%20diesel,5>

³³ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Diesel-Particulate-Matter>

³⁴ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=79>

EJ Communities. Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air and these chemicals are sometimes detected in the air of communities nearby. **The census tracts with high burden scores are near industrial communities such as Vineyard, Moorpark, Pacific Edison, and Tropico neighborhoods.** People living near these facilities may be more prone to breathing contaminated air.³⁵

6. TRAFFIC

Thirteen of Glendale's census tracts have high burden scores for traffic impacts, which includes air pollution.³⁶ Out of these, ten are within EJ Communities, primarily located adjacent to freeways. While California has strict vehicle-emissions standards, exhaust from cars and trucks is still one of the main sources of air pollution in much of the state. Major roads and highways can bring air pollutants and noise into nearby neighborhoods. As mentioned above, Glendale is traversed by four major freeways transporting millions of vehicles through the City every year. Communities near these freeways may be exposed to higher levels of air pollution from traffic. Children who live or go to school near busy roads have higher rates of asthma than children in areas farther from roads.

7. DRINKING WATER

Glendale has a high burden score overall for drinking water (81), and all census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for drinking water. The drinking water contaminant index used to calculate CalEnviroScreen scores is a combination of contaminant data that considers the relative concentrations of different contaminants and whether multiple contaminants are present.³⁷ **The indicator does not indicate whether water is safe to drink.**³⁸ **Most drinking water in California meets health standards, and Glendale Water and Power (GWP) provides safe, reliable, and cost-effective water to City of Glendale residents.** The City is required to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and update it every five years. This plan supports GWP's long-term resource planning to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs. The 2020 City of Glendale UWMP states that 60% to 70% of Glendale's water supply comes from imported water provided by Metropolitan Water District (MWD) via the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project, which imports water from the Sacramento Delta. The remainder of Glendale's supply comes from local groundwater and recycled water.³⁹

Glendale's drinking water burden scores are in line with those of surrounding communities such as Los Angeles, Burbank, and Pasadena. This could potentially be related to the San Fernando Valley (Area 2) Superfund Site, described below in #9. **Ongoing coordination with the State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the developer of CalEnviroScreen, may be needed to understand why Glendale and other cities in the region have high drinking water burden scores.**

8. CHILDREN'S LEAD EXPOSURE RISK FROM HOUSING

Eight census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for children's lead exposure risk from housing, and five of these are within an EJ Communities. Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the environment. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing. **Most census tracts with high burden scores are in**

³⁵ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Toxic-Releases-from-Facilities>

³⁶ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Traffic-Impacts>

³⁷ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Drinking-Water-Contaminants

³⁸ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=54>

³⁹ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/62412/638562960022130000>

communities in southern portions of the City with older housing stock. Exposure to lead through paint is the most significant source of lead exposure for children. There are no known safe levels of lead exposure. Young children are especially susceptible to the effects of lead exposure and can suffer adverse health effects, particularly in the brain and nervous system. This increased susceptibility is due to children's unique exposure pathways, developing brains, and differences in the absorption of ingested lead. Children's exposure to lead even at low levels can lead to a higher likelihood of lower IQ and educational performance outcomes, and symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).⁴⁰

9. CLEANUP SITES

More than half (23) of census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for cleanup sites. All but two of these are within EJ Communities. Most cleanup sites within Glendale are concentrated in industrial areas along San Fernando Road. One cleanup site is located in the Montrose neighborhood. As previously mentioned, there is one active Superfund Site that traverses the City of Glendale, referred to as San Fernando Valley, Area 2.⁴¹ This 6,680-acre area traverses multiple cities. Within Glendale boundaries, it is mostly located in the Riverside Rancho, Grand Central, and Pelanconi neighborhoods.⁴² Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with hazardous chemicals and require clean up by the property owners or government. The Department of Toxic Substances Control tracks cleanups of contaminated sites in California. Chemicals at cleanup sites can move through the air or groundwater. People living near these sites have greater potential to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods.⁴³ The land may take many years or decades to clean up, reducing possible benefits to the community from potential public facilities.⁴⁴

10. GROUNDWATER THREATS

Ten census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for groundwater threats. All but two of these are within EJ Communities. Groundwater threats in Glendale are concentrated along San Fernando Road as well as the communities of Montrose and La Crescenta. Groundwater threats include the storage and disposal of hazardous materials on land and in underground storage tanks at various types of commercial, industrial, and military sites. Groundwater threats may occur when leaks from containers and tanks that contain hazardous chemicals spill and contaminate the soil and pollute water sources. Hazardous chemicals are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Leaks from tanks can contaminate soil and groundwater. Common soil and groundwater pollutants include gasoline and diesel fuels at gas stations, as well as solvents, heavy metals, and pesticides.⁴⁵

There are two active locations within the Planning Area that are listed in the GeoTracker database for Leaking Underground Storage Tanks ("LUST") as shown in [Table 3.1.7, *GeoTracker Database Sites*](#). Most LUST sites in the Planning Area have a status of Completed – Case Closed. However, one location has an open case. Interstate Brand Corporation located at 6841 San Fernando Rd is open with remediation measures.

⁴⁰ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Children%E2%80%99s-Lead-Risk-from-Housing

⁴¹ <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.Cleanup&id=0902252#bkground>

⁴² <https://map22.epa.gov/cimc/superfundZoom¶ms=0902252&15>

⁴³ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=106>

⁴⁴ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Cleanup-Sites

⁴⁵ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Groundwater-Threats

TABLE 3.1.7: GEOTRACKER DATABASE SITES

Site Name	Address	Site Type	Status
Interstate Brands Corporation	6841 San Fernando Rd	Lust Cleanup Site	Open - Remediation

Source: California State Water Resource Control Geotracker Database. Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=Glendale>. Accessed February 5, 2025.

11. HAZARDOUS WASTE

Eight census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for hazardous waste which are all within EJ Communities, primarily located along San Fernando Road. Hazardous waste can range from used automotive oil to highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Hazardous waste is transported from businesses that generate waste to permitted facilities for recycling, treatment, storage, or disposal. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poor neighborhoods and communities of color. Hazardous waste facilities often are cause for concern about effects on health and the environment in communities where they operate. There are seven active hazardous waste sites in the City according to the Cortese List, listed below:

TABLE 3.1.8: CORTESE LIST SITES

Site / Facility Name	Envirostor Id	Program Type	Status	Address Description	Site Code
Central Cleaners	60003360	Evaluation	Active	1100 So Central Ave #C	308053
Elite Cleaners	60003362	Evaluation	Active	1242 W Glenoaks Blvd	308055
Palace Cleaners Glendale	60002013	State Response	Active	201 South Glendale Avenue	301655
San Fernando Valley (Area 2)	19990012	Federal Superfund - Listed	Active	Crystal Springs Wellfield Area	300127
The Drilube Co.	71002199	State Response	Active	711 W. Broadway	402089
Windsor Cleaners	60003368	Evaluation	Active	730 S Central Ave #114	308059
Windsor Cleaners	60003369	Evaluation	Active	721 S Central Ave Ste D	308060

Source: Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor Database. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov> Accessed November 1, 2024

12. IMPAIRED WATER BODIES

Two census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for impaired water bodies, both in EJ Communities in western Glendale. These two census tracts are within the neighborhoods of Riverside Ranch, Grand Central, and Grandview. Within these neighborhoods, there are several impaired water bodies that intersect including the Burbank Western Channel and Los Angeles River Reach 4 (Sepulveda Drive to Sepulveda Dam), Los Angeles River Reach 3 (Figueroa Street to Riverside Drive), Verdugo Wash Reach 1 (Los Angeles River to Verdugo Road). This indicator is calculated by considering the number of pollutants in water bodies listed as impaired (contaminated by pollutants) and the water bodies' distance to the census tract. Water bodies like streams, rivers, or lakes are used for recreation and fishing or may provide

water for drinking or irrigation. These impairments can harm wildlife habitats and prevent recreational and other uses of the water body.⁴⁶

13. SOLID WASTE

Eight census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for solid waste, and all but two of these are within EJ Communities. Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and similar kinds of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills and composting or recycling facilities. The waste material may come from homes, factories, or businesses. Most of these operations require permits. Regulated facilities as well as illegal sites that do not comply with the law can harm the environment and potentially expose people to hazardous substances. Solid waste facilities can also raise concern in a community about odors, insect pests, vermin, and truck traffic.⁴⁷

California’s Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (“CalRecycle”) maintains the Solid Waste Information System (SWIS), which is a database of solid waste facilities. The SWIS database identifies active, planned and closed sites. It shows **there are five active solid waste facilities located within the Planning Area**, although Scholl Canyon has a planned closure for 2027.⁴⁸

TABLE 3.1.9: SOLID WASTE FACILITIES IN GLENDALE

Name	Address	Activity	Classification
City of Glendale MRF and TS	540 W. Chevy Chase Dr	Limited Volume Transfer Operation	Solid Waste Operation
City of Glendale Corporation Yard	541 Chevy Chase Blvd.	Limited Volume Transfer Operation	Solid Waste Operation
Scholl Canyon Landfill	3001 Scholl Canyon Road	Solid Waste Landfill	Solid Waste Facility
City of Glendale Brand Park T.S.	1602 West Mountain Street	Limited Volume Transfer Operation	Solid Waste Operation
Road Division 514	3916 Dunsmore Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214	Limited Volume Transfer Operation	Solid Waste Operation
Glendale Recycling Center	540 W. Chevy Chase Dr.	Recycling Facility	Recycling Facility

Source: CalRecycle, 2024, SWIS Facility/Site Search. Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Search>. Accessed November 1, 2024.

⁴⁶ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Impaired-Waters

⁴⁷ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Solid-Waste-Sites

⁴⁸ <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-services-parks/capital-improvement-program/scholl-canyon-landfill-project>

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS INDICATORS

Ten census tracts in Glendale have high overall Population Characteristics burden indicator scores, and all of these are within EJ Communities. Several health and socioeconomic burdens disproportionately affect EJ Communities, particularly in southern and western areas of the City. The most prevalent of which include cardiovascular disease, linguistic isolation, and housing burden. These disparities highlight the need for targeted policies and resources to address these inequities and improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations. There are at least some census tracts with high burden scores for all eight individual Population Characteristics indicators, shown in [Table 3.1.10](#):

TABLE 3.1.10: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS INDICATORS WITH HIGH BURDEN SCORES

Indicator	Total Census Tracts With High Burden Scores	Census Tracts Within EJ Communities
1. Asthma	1	1
2. Low Birth Weight	6	3
3. Cardiovascular Disease	16	15
4. Education	3	3
5. Linguistic Isolation	27	25
6. Poverty	9	9
7. Unemployment	10	9
8. Housing Burden	28	27

More details about all eight Population Characteristics indicators are included below.

1. ASTHMA

There is one census tract in Glendale within EJ Communities that has a high burden score for asthma. This census tract encompasses the industrial neighborhoods of Tropico, Pacific Edison, and Moorpark in southern Glendale. Asthma is a chronic disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but both genetic and environmental factors can be involved, such as emissions from industrial land uses. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives. People with asthma can be especially susceptible to pneumonia, flu, and other illnesses. Outdoor air pollution can trigger asthma attacks.⁴⁹

2. LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Six census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for low birth weight in southern Glendale. Three of these are within EJ Communities. Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (or 2,500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight. Poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress, and smoking by the mother are known to increase the risk of having a low-birth-weight baby. Studies suggest that pollution could also be a factor. Low-birth-weight babies may face a greater risk of developing asthma or other chronic diseases later in life. They are also more likely to die as infants than babies who are not born low weight.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Asthma

⁵⁰ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Low-Birth-Weight

3. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Sixteen census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for cardiovascular disease, and most (15) of these are within EJ Communities located in southern Glendale. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking, and exposure to air pollution. Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels of the heart which can result in a heart attack or other heart problems. Many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, but quality of life may be reduced.⁵¹ In addition to people with a past heart attack, the effects of air pollution may also be greater in the elderly and people with other preexisting health conditions.⁵²

4. EDUCATION

Three census tracts in south and west Glendale have high burden scores for education, all within EJ Communities. The education indicator in CalEnviroScreen is based on the percentage of the population over age 25 with less than a high school education.⁵³ A higher education percentile indicates a higher number of residents in that tract without a high school diploma. Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. Many studies have found that the health effects of air pollution are worse among people with low educational attainment due to corresponding socioeconomic disparities associated with exposure to polluted areas and limited access to healthcare.^{54 55}

5. LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

Glendale has a high burden score overall for linguistic isolation (83). More than half (27) of census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for linguistic isolation, and most (25) of these are within EJ Communities in south and west Glendale. Linguistic isolation is a term used by the U.S. Census Bureau for limited English-speaking households. As previously discussed, the City of Glendale is very diverse and has a large population of immigrant communities from Armenia, Philippines., Korea, and Latin America. Adults who are not able to speak English well often have trouble communicating with people who provide social services and medical care. Linguistically isolated households may also not hear or understand important information when there is an emergency like an accidental chemical release or spill.⁵⁶ According to the U.S. Census, nearly 33% (61,074) of households in Glendale are considered limited English-speaking. [Table 3.1.11](#) includes a breakdown of languages spoken by households in Glendale considered to be limited-English speaking.

⁵¹ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=156>

⁵² https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Cardiovascular-Disease

⁵³ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=168>

⁵⁴ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Education

⁵⁵ <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/who-is-at-risk/disparities>

⁵⁶ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Linguistic-Isolation

TABLE 3.1.11: LANGUAGES OF LIMITED-ENGLISH SPEAKING HOUSEHOLDS

Language	Percent
Armenian	57.5%
Spanish	16.4%
Korean	6.3%
Tagalog	4.6%
Farsi	4.3%
Russian	3.1%
Arabic	1.7%
Japanese	0.8%
Vietnamese	0.6%
Mandarin	0.5%
Thai	0.5%
Chinese	0.5%
Filipino	0.4%
Polish	0.4%

Source: State of California Department of Finance, DRU Data Hub, Web Mapping Application. Available at <https://dru-data-portal-cacensus.hub.arcgis.com/apps/edaf9becf66d4a16be9844726c29cf2f/explore>. Accessed March 26, 2024.

6. POVERTY

Nine census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for poverty⁵⁷, all within EJ Communities in south and west Glendale. The U.S. Census Bureau determines the federal poverty level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the age of family members. If a person or family's total income before taxes is less than the poverty level, the person or family are considered in poverty. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses the federal poverty level from 2021. The federal poverty level in 2021 was \$14,097 for one person under age 65 and \$12,996 for one person aged 65 and older.⁵⁸ CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses a threshold of twice the federal poverty level because California's cost of living is higher than many other parts of the country. This equates to \$28,194 for one person under age 65 and \$25,992 for one person aged 65 and older. According to studies cited in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Report⁵⁹, people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution.

7. UNEMPLOYMENT

Ten census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for unemployment and nine of these are within EJ Communities in south and west Glendale. The U.S. Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work but not working as unemployed. This does not include students, active-duty military, retired people, or people who have stopped looking for work. Stress from long-term unemployment can lead to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, and can shorten a person's life.⁶⁰

8. HOUSING BURDEN

Glendale has a high score overall for housing burden (77). More than half (28) of census tracts in Glendale have high scores for housing burden. Most (27) of these are within EJ Communities in south and west Glendale. According to the City's 2021-2029 Housing Element, housing in Glendale is still relatively affordable, especially with multifamily units, when compared to some areas in Los Angeles County. However, housing is not affordable for all income levels, particularly the very-low and low-income households. Housing-burdened low-

⁵⁷ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Poverty

⁵⁸ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>

⁵⁹ <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=187>

⁶⁰ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Unemployment

income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housing costs. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing affordability is an important determinant of health and well-being. Low-income households with high housing costs may suffer adverse health impacts.⁶¹ Housing is also discussed further in Section 3.4 below.

⁶¹ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Housing-Burden

3.2 PROMOTE PUBLIC FACILITIES

Access to and availability of public facilities is an aspect of the built environment that may disproportionately limit the opportunities of EJ Communities. If EJ Communities have unequal access to public facilities, or if a city does not provide adequate facilities for public use, EJ Communities may be limited in their ability to access essential resources. Limited access to these resources can lead to reduced lifespans, poorer health outcomes, and diminished mental well-being. Intentional planning of parks and transportation infrastructure can help provide equal access to resources for all communities within a city. The current locations of public facilities within Glendale including transit stations, hospitals, public safety facilities, daycare centers, community centers, City Hall, post offices, libraries, public schools, and parks are shown in [Figure 3.2.1](#).

OVERVIEW OF ALL PUBLIC FACILITIES

Essential public services and facilities, including hospitals, fire and police stations, daycare centers, and libraries, are primarily concentrated in EJ Communities, though some areas, particularly in the north and west, have limited access to these resources. Regarding the equitable distribution of and access to public transit, Glendale has good transit connectivity in central and southern Glendale, 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 EJ Communities, though some areas, particularly in the north and west, have limited access to these resources. The distribution of all public facilities is summarized below.

HOSPITALS

There are three hospitals within the City, and two are located in EJ Communities. While communities in northern, southern, and east/central Glendale are able to easily access hospital facilities, there is a lack of hospital facilities in western Glendale.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES.

- The City operates its own fire department and there are nine fire stations within city boundaries. Five of the fire stations are within EJ Communities. The fire stations are evenly distributed within the Planning Area.
- The City operates its own police department and there is one police station within city boundaries, also located within an EJ Community.

DAYCARE CENTERS

- There are dozens of daycare centers throughout the City, primarily located within EJ Communities. However, areas north and west Glendale lack childcare facilities.

CITY HALL

- City Hall is located at 613 East Broadway, which is within an EJ Community.

POST OFFICES

- There are six post offices within city boundaries, and five of them are within EJ Communities.

LIBRARIES

- There are eight libraries within the City, and five of these are within EJ Communities.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- There are dozens of schools distributed throughout the City, and many are located within EJ Communities. Two schools currently have joint use agreements (Cerritos & Thomas

Edison Elementary Schools). Joint use agreements open school sites after hours for the public, allowing for part time access to extra amenities.

PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS.

- There are dozens of parks throughout the City, many located within EJ Communities. Many of the parks also have community centers and other sports amenities. More detailed information about parks and recreation facilities is included in Section 3.5.

TRANSIT

While Glendale has good transit connectivity in its central and southern areas, with services like the Glendale Transportation Center, Beeline, and Metro buses, though there are fewer connections in the northern and western parts of the City.

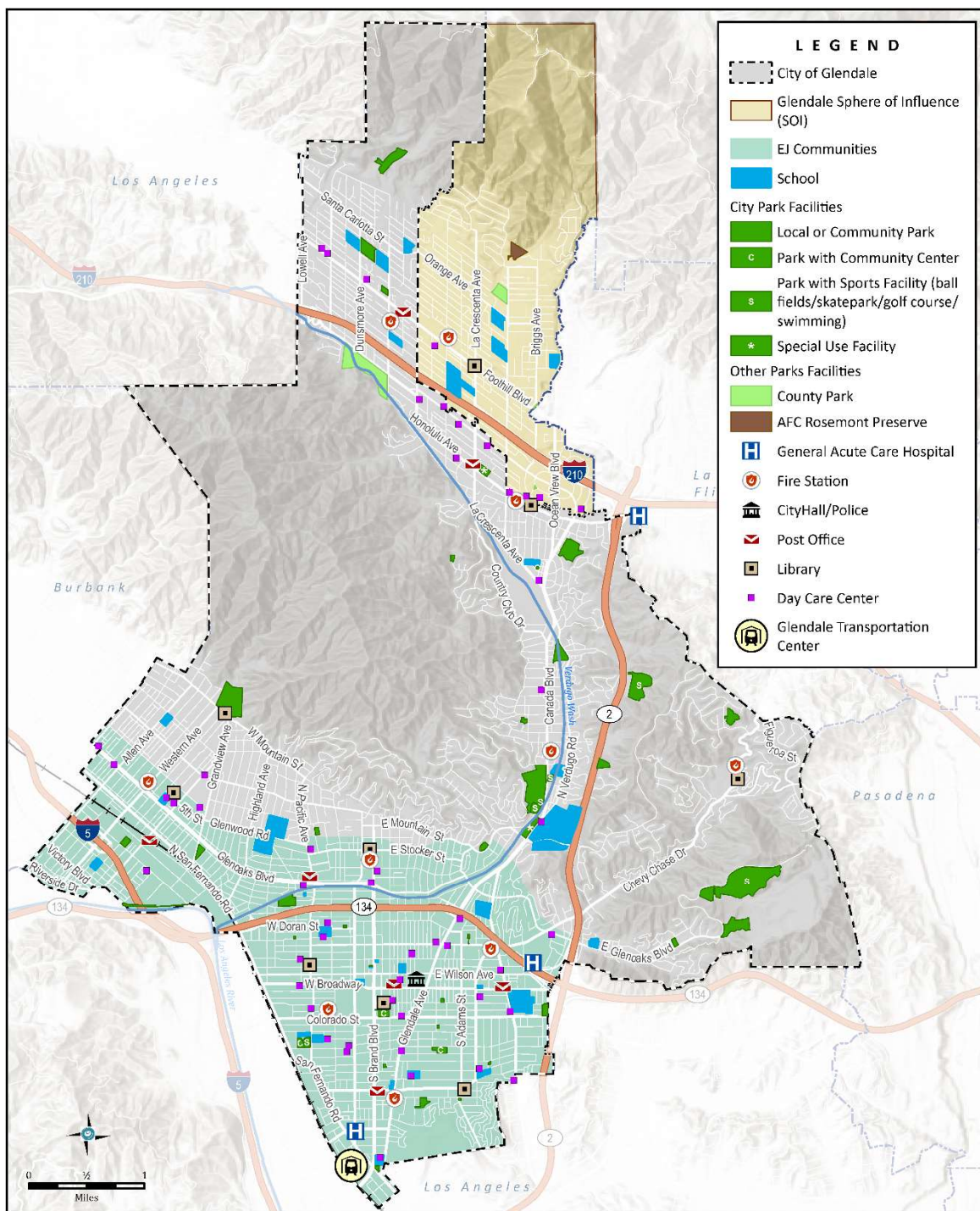
- **Train Service.** Glendale Transportation Center (GTC) is a regional transportation hub located in the southernmost portion of the City and is located within EJ Communities. GTC is serviced by the Amtrak Pacific Surf liner and Metrolink Ventura County and Antelope Valley Lines.
- **Bus Service.** Glendale has two major bus providers that operate routes within the Planning Area. While the routes provide decent connectivity between neighborhoods in Glendale, service frequency is somewhat low, particularly on weekends and late evenings.
 - **Glendale Transit.** Glendale Beeline operates twelve fixed bus routes serving the cities of Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge and the unincorporated areas of La Crescenta and Montrose. The Beeline functions primarily as a community circulator system that complements the regional transit service provided to Glendale residents by Metro. The Beeline has the following operating hours.⁶²
 - Monday - Friday: All routes operate from approximately 6:00 am to 6:30 pm.
 - Saturday: The only routes that operate on Saturdays are Routes 1-8 from approximately 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.
 - Sunday: The only routes that operate on Sundays are Routes 1 and 4 from approximately 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.
 - **Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).** Metro operates a mix of transit services including bus, light rail, heavy rail, and bus rapid transit throughout Los Angeles County.
 - Bus lines including, but not limited to, 180, 127, 81, 251 and 103 run within the Planning Area which complement the City's Glendale Beeline.⁶³
 - The NoHo to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Project is a future bus rapid transit (BRT) line that will connect Los Angeles (North Hollywood and Eagle Rock communities), Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena. It is forecasted to begin operating in 2028.⁶⁴
- **Dial-a-Ride.** A curb-to-curb transportation service is made available by the City of Glendale to its residents who are 65 years of age or older. Disabled residents of any age are also served.

⁶² <https://www.glendaletransit.com/tools/system-map/beeline-timetables-route-maps>

⁶³ https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tddy41w6vt9g6ykcjciui/25-0924_blt_system_map_47x47.5_DCR.pdf?rlkey=4jomgpiuql4o78wxrmccifuah&e=1&st=imtnbfct&dl=0

⁶⁴ <https://www.metro.net/projects/noho-pasadena-corridor>

FIGURE 3.2.1: PUBLIC FACILITIES



Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
December 12, 2024.

Sources: CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California Climate Investments
Priority Populations; California Department of Social Services;
OSHPD; City of Glendale; Los Angeles County.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

3.3 PROMOTE HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Healthy food access encompasses the following three interrelated topics:

- Nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate, and affordable food;
- Income sufficient to purchase healthy food; and
- Proximity and ability to travel to a food source that offers affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate food.

Ensuring adequate access to healthy food is challenging in many communities. Many communities, especially those in low-income areas, lack retailers with a sufficient selection of healthy or fresh foods which exacerbates public health challenges. 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.

FOOD INSECURITY AND COST

Food insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life.⁶⁵ 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, has released a report entitled, *Map the Meal Gap*, for the past eleven years to offer insights on how food insecurity and food costs vary at the county and congressional district level. The latest *Map the Meal Gap* report, which uses the most recent data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Census Bureau, is based on data from 2021. Glendale is in Los Angeles County and within the 30th Congressional District.

Another important data set highlighting food insecurity is the federal Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRLP) program. In South Glendale, several schools have over 50% of their student population enrolled in this program, with five schools exceeding 70%. Communities within these tracts or within half a mile of these schools could be considered food insecure, further emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to support these areas.

Furthermore, the majority of Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) schools qualify for Title I federal funds, which are used to supplement instructional programs. The U.S. Department of Education's Title I, Part A (Title I) program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families. Title I funds are allocated based on the number of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, ensuring resources are directed toward students who need them most. Notably, 17 of GUSD's 18 Title I schools have earned recognition as Title I Achieving Schools, highlighting the district's commitment to leveraging these resources effectively. An additional opportunity to address food insecurity while providing students with hands-on educational experiences and access to fresh produce would be to provide community gardens within GUSD's schools.

Table 3.3.1 compares food insecurity rates for individuals in the U.S., the State of California, Los Angeles County, and the 30th Congressional Districts. The table also provides estimated nutrition program eligibility among food insecure people, as well as information about average meal cost and annual food budget shortfalls. Average meal cost and annual food budget shortfalls are not

⁶⁵ See notes at <https://map.feedingamerica.org>

available at the congressional district level. 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.

TABLE 3.3.1: FOOD INSECURITY⁶⁶

Location	Food Insecure People	Food Insecurity Rate ⁶⁷	Estimated Program Eligibility Among Food Insecure People ⁶⁸		Average Meal Cost ⁶⁹	Annual Food Budget Shortfall ⁷⁰
			Above SNAP threshold of 200% poverty	Below SNAP or other nutrition programs threshold of 200% poverty		
United States	33,844,000	10.4%	32%	49%	\$3.59	\$21.4B
California	4,104,060	10.5%	42%	58%	\$3.67	\$2.6B
Los Angeles County	1,132,600	11.3%	27%	73%	\$3.88	\$775M
30 th District	90,170	11.8%	47%	53%	N/A	N/A

Source: Feeding America – Map the Meal Gap report, 2023.

⁶⁶ For additional information about Map the Meal Gap methodology, please visit <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data>

⁶⁷ To calculate the food insecurity rate, the relationship between food insecurity and its closely linked indicators (poverty, unemployment, homeownership, disability prevalence, etc.) are first analyzed at the state level. Then, the coefficient estimates from this analysis are used with the same variables for every county and congressional district. Together, these variables generate estimated food insecurity rates for individuals and children at the local level.

⁶⁸ Nutrition program eligibility is defined as the percentage of the estimated food-insecure population by income category, according to the eligibility thresholds of the major federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP (at or below 130% of the federal poverty line or the state-specific threshold, when it is a higher multiple) and other programs such as WIC (185% of poverty or the state-specific threshold).

⁶⁹ The average weekly dollar amount food-secure individuals report spending on food, as estimated in the Current Population Survey, divided by 21 (assuming three meals a day, seven days a week). This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

⁷⁰ The total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs. This amount is based on responses in the Current Population Survey and the USDA assumption that individuals in households that are food insecure experience food insecurity, on average, seven months out of the year. This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

ACCESS TO FOOD RETAILERS

Healthy food access includes physical and economic accessibility. Consumer choices about food spending and diet are likely to be influenced by the accessibility and affordability of food retailers—travel time to shopping, availability of healthy foods, and food prices. Some people and places, especially those with low incomes, may face greater barriers in accessing healthy and affordable food retailers, which may negatively affect diet and food security. Even within supermarkets (defined below), fresh produce can be more expensive than processed items. This can make less nutritious pre-packaged foods and fast-food options more attainable for families on a budget. The location of supermarkets and healthy food priority areas within the City are illustrated in [Figure 3.3.1](#).

Supermarkets are defined as larger food retailers that carry a wide selection of items and serve the community and surrounding area. There are at least 17 supermarkets within Glendale, and thirteen of these are distributed throughout EJ Communities. Most supermarkets are concentrated in downtown Glendale. [Figure 3.3.1](#) reveals areas where there are a deficit of supermarkets. These areas generally overlap with healthy food priority areas identified using the USDA Food Access Research Atlas. **Healthy food priority areas** 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 the City, all within EJ Communities.

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).

One alternative to purchasing fresh produce at a supermarket is farmers' markets. The Planning Area has a total of three farmers' markets:

- Glendale Farmers Market: Thursdays, 9:30am - 1:30pm year-round, located at the 100 block of North Brand Blvd between Broadway and Wilson.
- Glendale Artsakh Farmers Market: Sundays, 9:00am – 2:00pm year-round, located at the Glendale Central Library, 222 E. Harvard Street.
- Montrose Harvest Market: Sundays, 8:00am – 1:00pm year-round, located in the Montrose Shopping Park, 2300-2314 Honolulu Avenue.

The Glendale Farmers Market and Glendale Artsakh Farmers Market are both located within EJ Communities and Montrose Harvest Market is located in the SOI. While farmers markets can help improve food access and support the local economy, they can be prohibitively expensive, especially for low-income residents.

Another low-cost way that Glendale has been encouraging the local production of food is by sponsoring community gardens. Glendale residents can apply for plots at one of three community gardens within Maryland Avenue Park, Verdugo Park, and Palmer Park, which are City-owned and managed. Maryland Ave Park and Palmer Park are located in EJ Communities in southern and central Glendale. Additionally, three community-led community gardens have been established on vacant parcels, known collectively as the Monterey Road Eco Community Gardens (870 Monterey Road (East), 827 Monterey Road (West) and 634 Geneva Street (Geneva); these are member-managed and led by the Monterey Road Eco-Community Gardens Steering Committee, and not only provide access to fresh food and green space to Glendale residents,

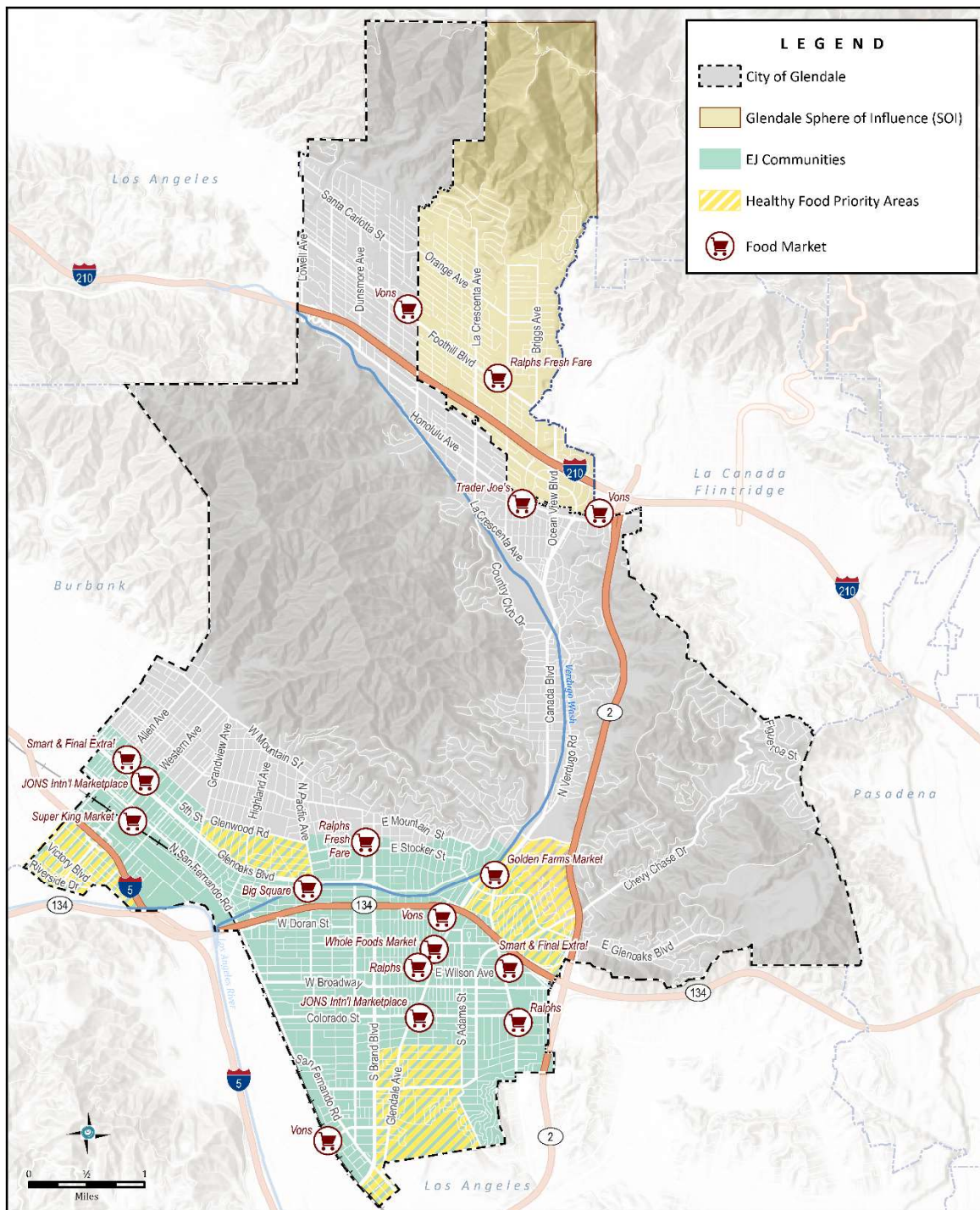
but also serve as hubs for community building, social interaction, and grassroots democracy. All three gardens are located within EJ Communities.

The lack of proximate food retailers has a greater impact on residents who do not own vehicles. It is not only more challenging to get to and from the market, but they are also limited by the number of items they can carry with them whether they are taking transit, riding a bike, or walking. According to the American Community Survey, 9,625 units (13%) of Glendale's occupied housing units do not have any vehicles available.⁷¹ Research shows that food delivery apps such as Instacart can help expand access to healthy nutritious foods and groceries for people who are mobility limited.⁷² However, additional fees can make this a cost prohibitive for some households.

⁷¹ American Community Survey, Table DP04, 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

⁷² <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/delivering-to-deserts-new-data-reveals-the-geography-of-digital-access-to-food-in-the-us>

FIGURE 3.3.1: FOOD ACCESS



Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
November 12, 2024.

Sources: USDA Food Access Research Atlas 7/6/2023; Google Maps; CalEnviroScreen 4.0;
California Climate Investments Priority Populations; City of Glendale; Los Angeles County;

FOOD ACCESS

3.4 PROMOTE SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

The condition of homes in EJ Communities may have negative health impacts on its residents. These health impacts stem from issues such as poor indoor air quality, toxic building materials, exposure to climate variation such as excess heat or cold, improper ventilation, and structural insecurity. Unsafe housing conditions can be a result of the age of the dwelling, which increases the likelihood of the presence of dangerous materials like lead and asbestos that have significant negative health impacts. EJ Communities often have a larger number of older units within their housing stock and therefore residents of these communities are more likely to be exposed to the harmful health impacts that are associated with older housing. Other factors that can contribute to unsafe housing conditions include improper regulation and overcrowding. Prioritizing the safety and sanitation of housing stock within a community helps create proper living conditions for all residents, including those living in EJ Communities.

HOUSING STOCK CONDITIONS

Housing age may affect the structural integrity of a house and can be an indicator of overall housing quality within a community. Housing that is over 30 years old is typically in need of some major rehabilitation, such as a new roof, foundation, plumbing, etc. Many federal and state programs also use the age of housing as a factor in determining housing rehabilitation needs. A large proportion of older housing stock 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 the City 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. In addition to structural deficiencies and standards, the lack of infrastructure and utilities often serves as an indicator for substandard conditions.

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. Figure 3.4.1 adds the boundaries of all EJ Communities in Glendale to *Figure 33: Overcrowded Households by Census Tract*, from the Housing Element. Figure 3.4.2 is a more zoomed in view of the EJ Communities. Two census tracts, 3017.02 and 3025.05, have over 20% of households which are overcrowded, but neither census tract is considered severely overcrowded.

According to the California Department of Housing and Community Development's *Building Blocks: A Comprehensive Housing-Element Guide*⁷³, several factors may cause overcrowding, including a lack of affordable housing (which forces more than one household to live together) and/or a lack of available housing units of adequate size, especially for multigenerational households. Overcrowding in households may lead to neighborhood deterioration, due to the intensive use of individual housing units which results in excessive wear and tear, and the potential for exceeding infrastructure and service capacity. According to the article, "Can your neighborhood make you sick?" published by the Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University⁷⁴, overcrowding in neighborhoods may lead to an overall decline in social cohesion and environmental quality. Such decline may spread geographically and affect the quality of life, the economic value of property, and the vitality of commerce within a city. The combination of lower incomes and high housing costs may result in households living in overcrowded housing conditions.

⁷³ <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/planning-and-community-development/housing-elements/building-blocks>

⁷⁴ <https://www.housingstudies.org/blog/can-your-neighborhood-make-you-sick>

FIGURE 3.4.1: OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS BY CENSUS TRACT WITHIN EJ COMMUNITIES

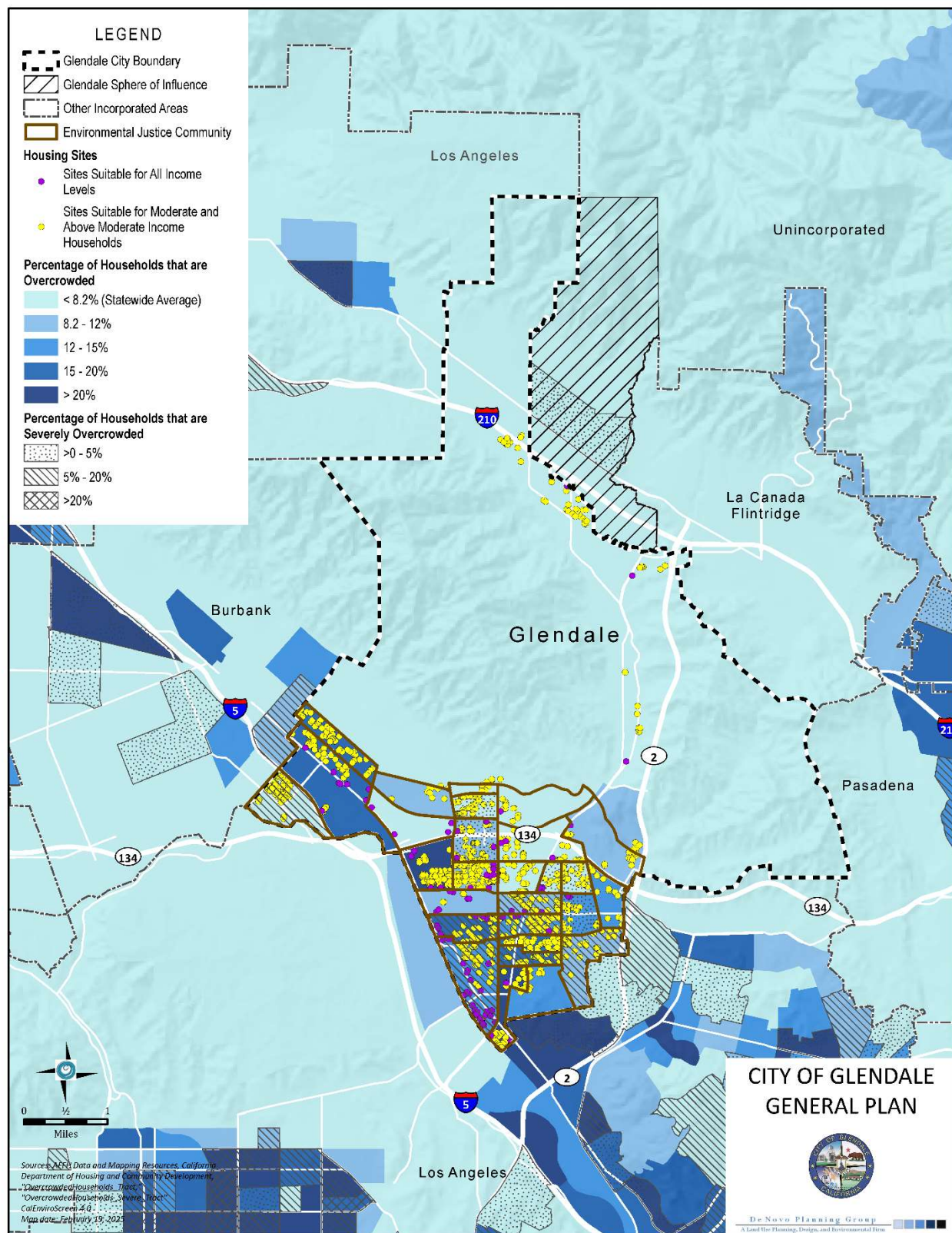
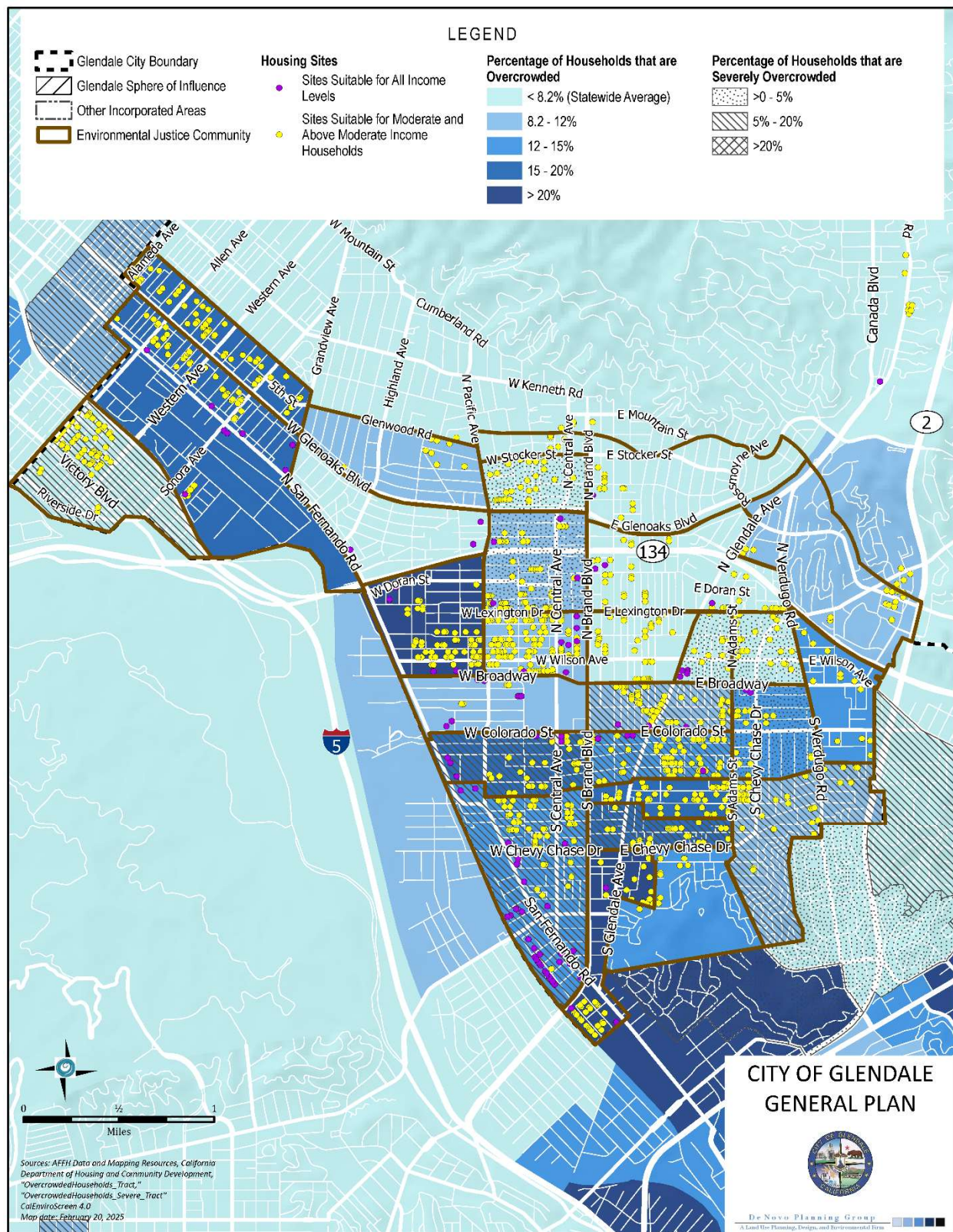


FIGURE 3.4.2: OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS BY CENSUS TRACT WITHIN EJ COMMUNITIES (ZOOMED IN)



COST BURDEN

State and federal standards define cost burden households as households paying more than 30% of its income for housing costs. A household that allocates greater than 50% of total income toward housing costs is severely cost burdened. This indicator is an important measurement of local housing market conditions as it reflects the affordability of housing in the community and is used by federal and state agencies to determine the amount of funding allocated to a community to assist with housing opportunities. Cost burden provides an indicator of the ability to sustain a household budget in consideration of other factors beyond housing costs (utilities, food, maintenance, etc.). Whenever households pay an excessive amount of their income on costs directly related to housing, it decreases the amount of income available for other needs.

The majority of homeowners with a cost burden greater than 30% are those who have a household income between 50% and 80% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Median Family Income (MFI). This HUD MFI is the median family income calculated by HUD for each county, to determine Fair Market Rents (FMRs) and income limits for HUD programs. MFI will not necessarily be the same as other calculations of median incomes (such as a simple Census number), due to a series of adjustments that HUD makes to these numbers. Of owner-households with a cost burden over 50%, most have earned below 30% of the MFI.

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.

3.5 PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Residents in EJ Communities often face limited opportunities for physical activity, contributing to negative health outcomes and an increased risk of chronic illnesses. Enhancing access to physical activity opportunities in these areas can significantly improve residents' physical health and overall well-being. While Glendale boasts scenic natural spaces like Deukmejian Wilderness Park, Verdugo Mountains, and San Rafael Mountains, access to parks and open spaces is not evenly distributed, particularly in densely populated, urbanized neighborhoods within EJ Communities. Expanding green spaces and recreational opportunities in underserved areas is essential for fostering environmental equity, improving physical health, and supporting mental well-being across the City. 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.

FACILITIES CONDUCTIVE TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Glendale has 286 acres of developed park land and over 5,000 acres of open space. The Community Services & Parks department manages 47 parks and park facilities, including 37 parks, the Civic Auditorium, four community centers, six sports facilities, and four historic buildings.⁷⁵

The nonprofit organization Trust for Public Land provides data on park access levels for every urban city and town in the United States. They report that 77% of Glendale residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Their ParkServe® mapping platform helps pinpoint priority areas for new park investments. Park priority areas will be further analyzed in the Open Space and Conservation Element and Recreation Element updates.

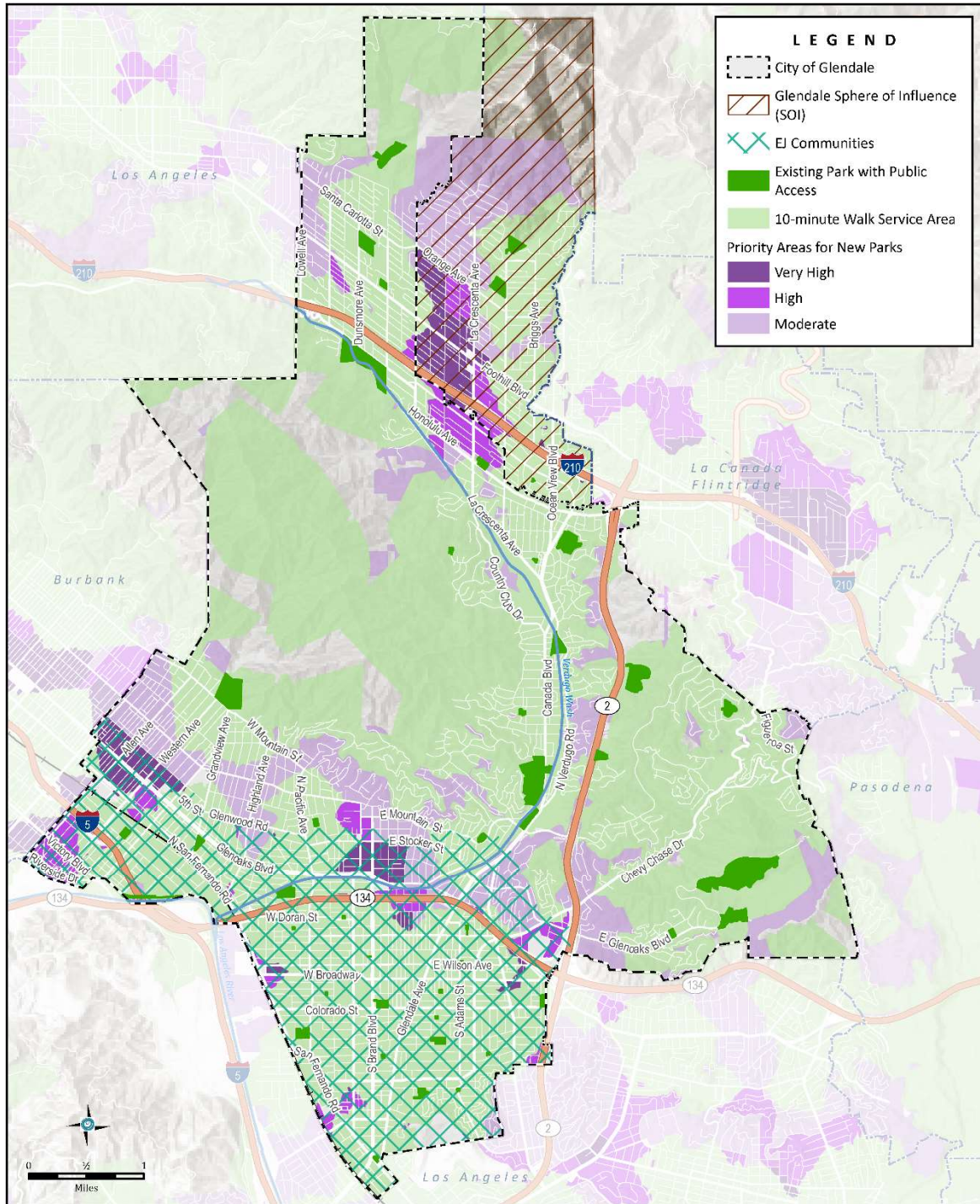
Figure 3.5.1 depicts these priority areas which are outside a 10-minute walk to a park and identified based on seven variables including 1) low-income households, 2) people of color, 3) heat islands, 4) air pollution, 5) population density, 6) poor mental health, and 7) lack of physical activity. The areas shown in dark purple on the map indicate very high priority areas for new parks; medium purple indicates high priority areas; and light purple indicates moderate priority areas. These priority areas are primarily located along the northern boundary of the EJ Communities and slightly beyond. There are some additional priority areas scattered throughout the EJ Communities. There are also priority areas identified in the northern portion of the City within the sphere of influence.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FACILITIES

Walking and biking, whether for recreation or as a mode to get to work, are excellent forms of exercise. Providing safe and accessible places for residents to walk and bike encourages people to switch their mode of transportation from auto-centered to more active uses. Reducing vehicular travel can result in several significant benefits, including a reduction in emissions and improvement in traffic congestion. One method to reduce automotive travel is through the addition of bicycle lanes, which have been shown through previous studies to shift travel from automobiles to bicycles. The City has several plans and programs to continue improving and expanding the bicycle and pedestrian network, as noted in Section 1, Relationship Other City Plans and Programs. Figure 3.5.2 shows the location of existing and proposed bikeways, hiking, and riding trails in the City. There is an existing bike lane along Glenoaks Boulevard within the EJ Communities. There are also many proposed bike routes and some proposed bike lanes throughout the EJ Communities. There are several miles of hiking and riding trails in the mountainous central portion of the City.

⁷⁵ Per the OSCR RFP prepared by Community Services and Parks

FIGURE 3.5.1: PARK PRIORITY AREAS

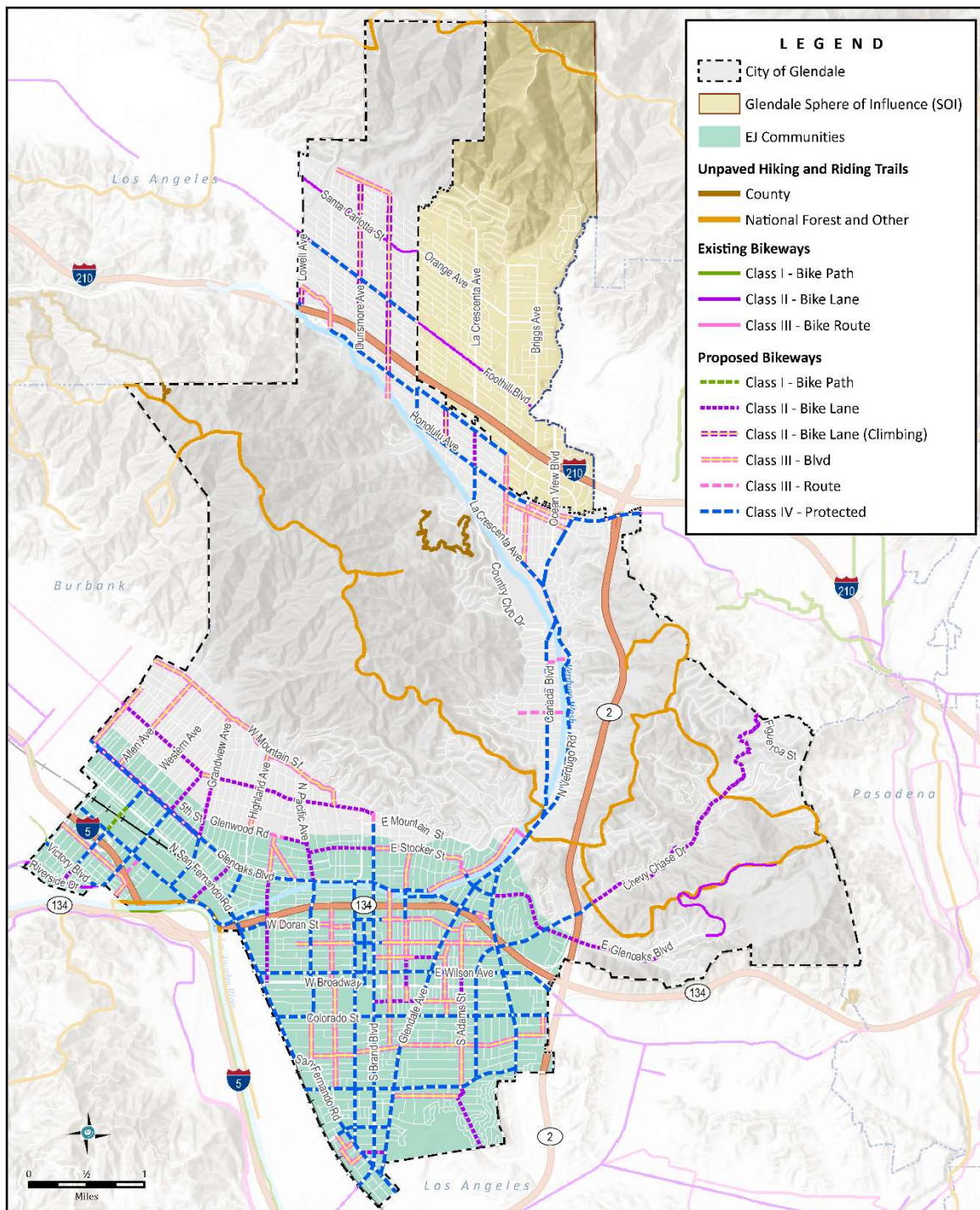


Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
November 11, 2024.

Sources: The ParkServe Database; CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California Climate
Investments Priority Populations; City of Glendale; Los Angeles County.

PARK PRIORITY AREAS

FIGURE 3.5.2: BIKEWAYS AND HIKING TRAILS



Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
December 10, 2024.

Sources: LA County Bikeways Map (pw.lacounty.gov/bike/map.cfm);
CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California Climate Investments Priority Populations;
City of Glendale, Los Angeles County.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FACILITIES

3.6 REDUCE ANY UNIQUE OR COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED

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 community survey did not reveal any specific situations that would significantly compound health risks; however, certain unique characteristics of Glendale and their ramifications are worth noting, as summarized below.

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, Korean, 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 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.

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 adjacent neighborhoods, many of which are located in especially EJ Communities, to air pollutants such as ozone, DPM, PM₁₀, and PM₅.

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.

In fact, no other category of hazardous weather event in the United States has caused more fatalities over the past few decades than extreme heat. Urban landscapes, such as those found in South Glendale, amplify the effects of extreme heat through the urban heat island effect, which intensifies the duration and severity of heat waves. Human-caused climate change further exacerbates these conditions, disproportionately impacting historically underserved communities. Vulnerable populations within urban areas, as highlighted by Hoffman et al., (2020), face a heightened state of precarity due to their increased exposure to extreme heat and limited adaptive capacity. The City has prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) to address these interconnected risks and build resilience and equity across all neighborhoods. The CCVA is included as Appendix B to the recently updated Safety Element, which was adopted by the City Council on April 1, 2025.

LEGACY OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

Like many urban areas, and as mentioned in Section 1, Introduction, 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.

Understanding this historical context helps frame current EJ efforts to address disparities in neighborhood quality and access to resources.

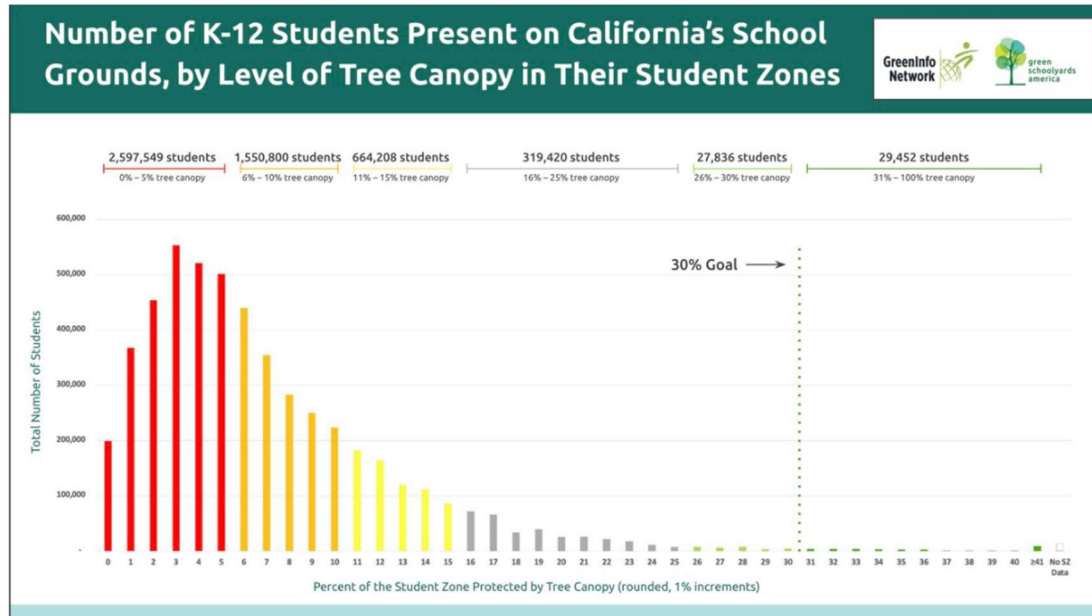
Research by the Science Museum of Virginia highlights how the legacy of redlining continues to impact communities today. In 94% of studied areas, formerly redlined neighborhoods exhibit elevated land surface temperatures—by as much as 7°C—compared to non-redlined areas. These hotter urban areas are often home to resource-limited residents and communities of color, underscoring the connection between environmental justice and urban climate change. As Hoffman et al. (2020) note, vulnerable populations in these areas are disproportionately exposed to extreme heat and its associated risks, making climate adaptation an urgent priority for cities like Glendale.

Recognizing these challenges, Glendale’s proposed Climate Action & Adaptation Plan identifies the need to reduce community vulnerability to climate change. The plan emphasizes that primary public health impacts include an increase in hospitalizations and deaths due to more frequent and extreme heat events, as well as health impacts from higher ground-level ozone pollution facilitated by rising average temperatures. Addressing these compounding issues requires a commitment to equitable climate adaptation measures that prioritize historically underserved communities.

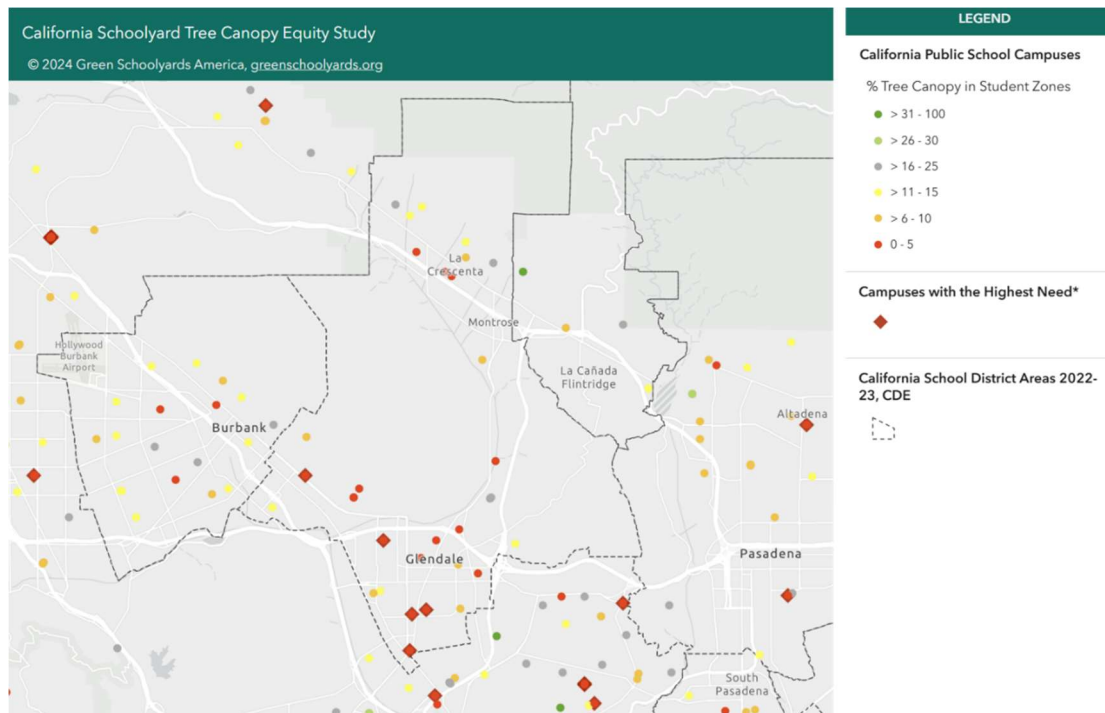
Statewide, millions of California’s K-12 public school students face a critical lack of shade on their campuses. More than 2.5 million students attend schools with less than 5% tree canopy coverage in “student zones”—the areas where they spend the majority of their school day. Alarming, over 1.5 million of these students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, highlighting a clear overlap between economic disadvantage and insufficient shade. This widespread issue affects nearly all K-12 public schools in California, underscoring the urgent need for Glendale to prioritize equitable solutions that mitigate urban heat, enhance tree canopy coverage, and ensure healthier, more sustainable school environments for its students.

Furthermore, the California Department of Education and Green Schoolyards America have identified 5 public schools in Glendale where over 70% of the student population qualifies for free or reduced-price meals—all located in South Glendale. These school populations are not only economically disadvantaged but also disproportionately exposed to higher urban heat levels. This exposure is directly tied to the correlation between low tree canopy coverage in school play areas and historically redlined neighborhoods in South Glendale. These compounding inequities exacerbate environmental injustices that Glendale must prioritize.

The graph below shows the number of students present on campuses with varying levels of tree canopy—and illustrates how far California is from the goal of 30% tree canopy.



The following map depicts campuses with low levels of tree canopy and high percentage of students qualifying for free/reduced-priced meals are concentrated in South Glendale. Campuses marked with a red diamond have $\leq 5\%$ tree canopy in student zones AND $\geq 70\%$ of students who qualify for free/reduced-priced meals. These campuses are labeled “Highest Need” on the map.



Source: [Interactive GIS Map - Green Schoolyards Tree Canopy Equity Study](#)

3.7 PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

A key pillar of EJ is creating policies and programs that empower all residents to participate meaningfully in local decision-making processes. SB 1000 emphasizes that community engagement must be promoted in a local jurisdiction through the development of objectives and policies that seek to specifically involve residents of EJ Communities. Prioritizing the voices of these communities in shaping decisions ensures that policies address their unique needs and challenges, resulting in more equitable and effective outcomes.

EXISTING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

The City of Glendale offers various opportunities for civic engagement, as summarized below. However, residents may face challenges in identifying and accessing information about these opportunities as the information is dispersed across various departmental webpages.

- A webpage devoted to transparency which includes an explanation of how the City functions; links to the budget and other reports; request form for public records; links to sign up to receive various newsletters, press releases, agenda notifications, and other news and event updates; links to view City Council agendas and minutes; and contact information for City officials.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/transparency>
- A calendar that shows public meetings and other City-sponsored events.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/residents/calendar>
- A public meeting portal.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/public-meeting-portal>
- The Community Development Department posts public meetings and notices online.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning/public-meetings-and-notices>
- The Communications and Community Relations Department works to ensure the public is informed of what's happening in the City by disseminating information through social media platforms, including X, Facebook, and Instagram. Residents can also stay connected via MyGlendaleCityNews.org, YouTube, and the City's monthly newsletter, City Connection.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/management-services/communications-community-relations>
- Glendale TV (GTV6) is the City of Glendale's official government access channel, featuring a live video stream of City meetings, public affairs and educational programs.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/office-of-the-city-manager/glendale-tv/live-video-stream>
- Beginning in 2024, the City Manager prepares a memo highlighting key activities, events, commendations and announcements that is shared weekly with the City Council, City staff, and the community in an effort to increase community awareness.
 - <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/office-of-the-city-manager/city-manager-weekly-reports>
- Report a problem online or with the MyGlendale app.

- o <https://www.glendaleca.gov/residents/how-do-i/contact-the-city/report-a-problem-online>
- The City of Glendale's Fact Page is dedicated to eliminating misconceptions and bringing residents the facts about varying issues and concerns within the community.
 - o <https://www.glendalefactpage.com/>
- Meetings, events, and resources related to the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan.
 - o <https://glendalecaap.rinconconsultants.com/home/get-involved/>
- 24 Hour Hotline for residents and businesspeople to be able to access a “live” City representative 24 hours a day, including weekends, by calling 818-550-4400.
- Request non-emergency police services such as parking violations, blocked driveways/alleys, and 72 hour violations by calling 818-548-4840.
- GlendalePlan.com provides ongoing General Plan element updates and mobility plans, including outreach activities and survey links.
- VerdugoWash.com provides information on the Verdugo Wash Visioning Report and upcoming Master Plan.

DEMOGRAPHICS THAT MAY INFLUENCE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Certain demographic categories can help predict a community's level of civic engagement. This Section assesses four demographic categories: resident age, language spoken at home, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity.

RESIDENT AGE

According to the City of Glendale 2021-2029 Housing Element, adults aged 45 and older comprise 43.5% of the population. Children under fifteen years of age comprise 14.8% of the City's population, teens and young adults (15 to 24) represent 10.1%, and adults in family-forming age groups (25-44) comprise 29.0%. Adults aged 45 to 64 represent 21.8% of the population and seniors (65 and over) comprise 21.7%. In 2019, the median age in Glendale (41.9 years) was higher than that of Los Angeles County, 37.0 years, and the Statewide median age of 37.0 years.

Age distribution can help predict the likelihood of a community participating in civic activities and identify constraints associated with engaging different members of the community. A disproportionately high percentage of residents under the age of 18 suggests the significant presence of families. Parents of minors are generally busy raising their children, reducing their likelihood of engaging in civic activities. 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 this group. Conversely, a disproportionately high percentage of seniors, a group that generally has fewer commitments and less time constraints, suggests that the community may participate in conventional civic activities at a higher rate. Because seniors are less familiar with technology than their younger counterparts, the group is less likely to utilize virtual outreach tools. However, patterns of civic participation have changed significantly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Populations previously reluctant to use online methods of communication are now more aware and comfortable with these tools, presenting new opportunities to engage all members of the community.

LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

Glendale has a high CalEnviroScreen burden score overall for linguistic isolation. More than half of census tracts in Glendale have high burden scores for linguistic isolation, and most of these are within EJ Communities. Nearly 33% (61,074) of Glendale households are limited English-speaking. [Table 3.1.4](#) includes a breakdown of languages spoken by these households. Language is a critical signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Non-native English speakers, and especially those individuals with limited English fluency, are less likely to participate in civic activities. Translation services are critical to reaching and actively communicating with these individuals. In addition, the metric assessing households who speak languages other than English can help identify the cultural diversity of a community. Civic activities, and the venues where they take place, can be tailored to accommodate the cultural preferences of individual racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Three census tracts in Glendale have high CalEnviroScreen burden scores for education, all within EJ Communities. Only eight census tracts have low burden scores. All other census tracts in Glendale have medium burden scores. Educational attainment is a strong signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Higher educational attainment generally correlates with increased civic participation. This is reflective of individuals with less educational attainment experiencing underemployment circumstances, such as working for less than a living wage and/or on a part-time basis. This may require individuals to seek out additional employment, reducing the time that they can commit to civic activities. In addition, individuals with lower educational attainment generally make less money. Those individuals who cannot afford to own or otherwise have limited access to an automobile, may be unable to attend civic events. This may also be reflective of individuals with less educational attainment lacking the sufficient literacy level and/or a formal education in civics and government to feel comfortable participating in civic matters.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Numerous studies have shown that race and ethnicity are important predictors of civic engagement, and that white populations are more likely to be civically engaged than other groups.⁷⁶ As mentioned in the Introduction, the 2021-2029 Housing Element provides demographic trends over time for the City and the larger region, including race and ethnicity. While most Glendale residents identify as White, it is important to acknowledge that 36% of the City's population also identifies as Armenian. There are also sizeable Hispanic (17%) and Asian or Pacific Islander (16%) populations, along with a number of Black (1%) and Native American or other races and ethnicities. It is essential to engage with all Glendale residents to create an inclusive, equitable, and thriving city. Specifically reaching out to multicultural and historically excluded groups in the City helps make sure that policies reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire community, not just those of the majority population.

⁷⁶ For example, see Foster-Bey, J. (2008, December). *CIRCLE Working Paper #62: Do Race, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Socio-economic Status Determine Civic-Engagement?* Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505266.pdf>, accessed March 26, 2024.

3.8 PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF EJ COMMUNITIES

An integral component of EJ planning is prioritizing projects and investments that directly benefit EJ Communities. These communities may have specific needs that are distinct from those of the greater community, which may require taking actions to help improve existing conditions. These kinds of actions may not be applicable across the entire City but may be needed due to the special circumstances EJ Communities face. Considering EJ Communities for future investments would help community benefits and programs achieve implementation in a timely fashion. Additionally, identifying and considering improvements and programs for EJ Communities may also help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that is targeted for vulnerable groups.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) created an opportunity map to measure and visualize place-based characteristics linked to critical life outcomes, such as educational attainment, earnings from employment, and economic mobility. Opportunity maps can be used to inform the City how to target investments and policies in a way that is conscious of the independent and inter-related effects that research has shown places have on economic, educational, and health outcomes. 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.

Figure 3.8.1 shows the HCD/CTCAC Opportunity Map⁷⁷ for Glendale using 2024 data. All census tracts in the northern portion of the City are considered highest resource areas. Many census tracts within the EJ Communities are considered high resource areas, though there are eight moderate resource tracts, mostly concentrated in the southern portion of the City. There are no low resource areas in the City.

Table 3.8.1 shows the individual scores for the eight moderate resource areas. Each indicator value that falls above the regional median adds one point to the overall opportunity score. To account for areas with high levels of environmental burden, one point is deducted if a tract ranks in the highest 5% of regional environmental burden. Using this method, the final scores are divided into four primary categories:

- 9 or 8 = “Highest Resource”
- 7 or 6 = “High Resource”
- 5 or 4 = “Moderate Resource”
- 3 or lower = “Low Resource”

TABLE 3.8.1: INDIVIDUAL SCORES FOR MODERATE RESOURCE AREAS

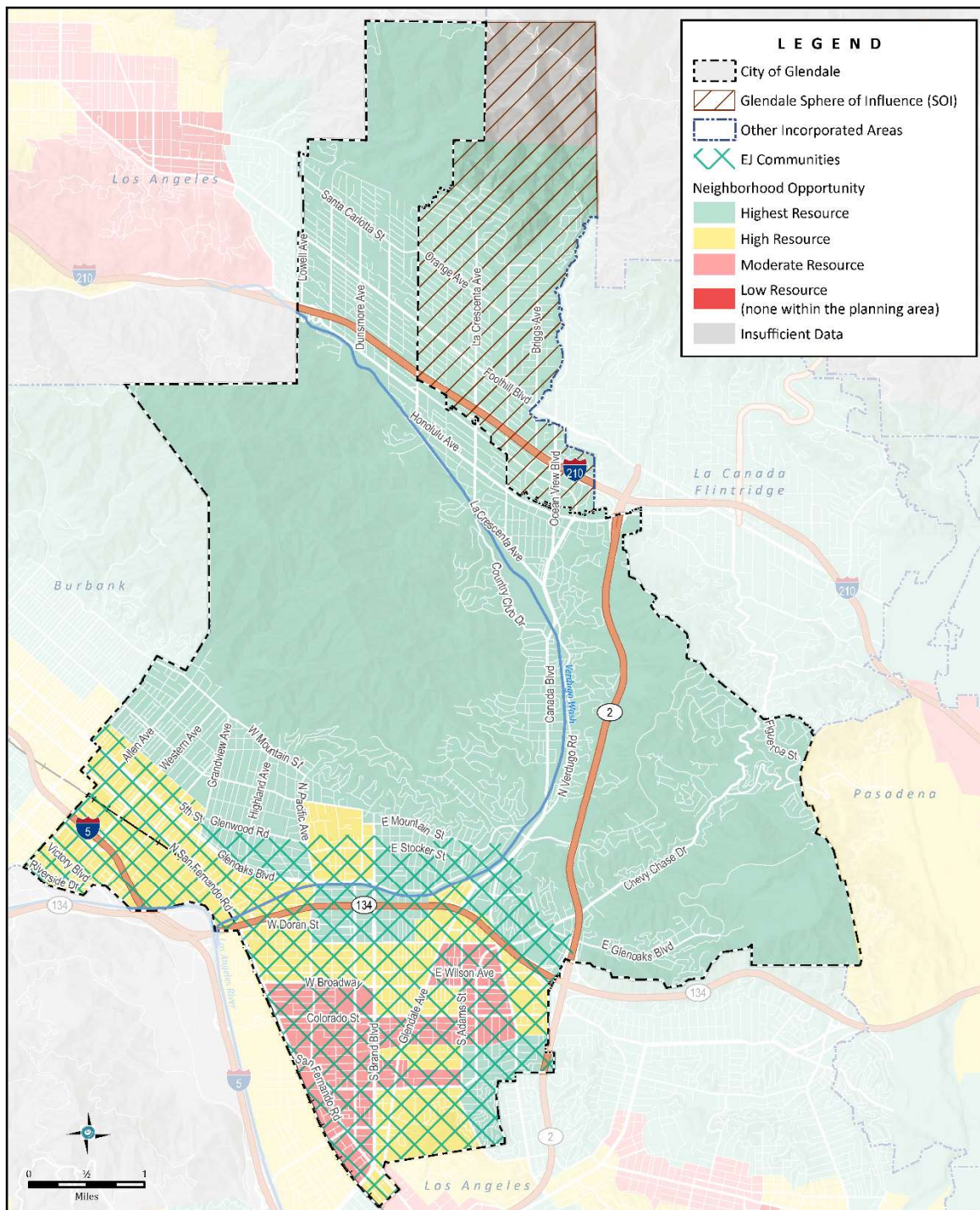
Census Tract	Resource Score	Census Tract	Resource Score
06037302301	5	06037302202	4
06037302302	5	06037302103	5
06037302401	4	06037302004	5
06037302504	5	06037302003	5

Source: HCD/CTCAC Opportunity Map, 2024. See the methodology document for more details.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/final-2024-ctcac-hcd-opportunity-map>

⁷⁸ <https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac/opportunity/2024/draft-2024-opportunity-mapping-methodology.pdf>

FIGURE 3.8.1: HCD/CTCAC OPPORTUNITY AREAS



Produced for the City of Glendale by De Novo Planning Group
November 11, 2024.

Sources: 2024 HCD/CTCAC Opportunity Areas Map; CalEnviroScreen 4.0; California
Climate Investments Priority Populations; City of Glendale, Los Angeles County.

HCD/CTCAC OPPORTUNITY AREAS

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