Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element
Initial Study and
Negative Declaration

The following Initial Study and Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Prepared For:

City of Bell Gardens
7100 Garfield Ave.
Bell Gardens, CA 90201

Prepared By:

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I. INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration (collectively, the "IS/ND") has been prepared to analyze potential physical environmental impacts of the City of Bell Gardens' (City) Environmental Justice (EJ) Element (herein referenced as the "Project" or "EJ Element"). The EJ Element is intended to reflect the current demographics of the City's vulnerable populations and address public health risks and environmental concerns for the populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequities. The EJ Element would comply with Senate Bill (SB) 1000, which requires local governments to identify environmental justice communities in their jurisdictions and address environmental justice in their general plans. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Res. Code [PRC] § 21000 *et seq.*) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 *et seq.*) Section 15367, the City of Bell Gardens is identified as the Lead Agency.

1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element

Project Location: Citywide, City of Bell Gardens

Lead Agency: City of Bell Gardens
7100 Garfield Ave.
Bell Gardens, CA 90201

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This document consists of both the Initial Study (IS) for the Project and the Negative Declaration (ND). This IS/ND is composed of five sections, as follows:

I. **Introduction**: This section provides introductory information such as the Project title, the Project applicant, the lead agency for the Project, and background on CEQA.

II. **Project Description**: This section provides a detailed description of the environmental setting and the Project, including Project characteristics and environmental review requirements.

III. **Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis**: This section contains the completed Appendix G Initial Study Checklist. Each environmental issue identified in the Initial Study Checklist contains an assessment and discussion of impacts associated with each subject area.

IV. **References**: This section provides a listing of sources and information cited in this document.

V. <u>List of Preparers and Persons Consulted</u>: This section provides a listing of those involved in the preparation of this document and persons and agencies consulted.

1.3 PURPOSE OF AN INITIAL STUDY

An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis conducted by the Lead Agency, in consultation with other agencies (responsible or trustee agencies, as applicable), to determine whether there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the IS concludes that the Project, with mitigation, may have a significant effect on the environment, an EIR should be prepared; otherwise, the Lead Agency may adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

This IS/ND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and CEQA Guidelines. This IS/ND document evaluates potential environmental effects resulting from implementation of the Project.

Adoption of the proposed City of Bell Gardens EJ Element will not entitle, approve, or fund any specific projects; therefore, the Project would not result in any direct physical changes to the environment. The Project lists programs and policies that may be utilized by development projects that require approvals and review under CEQA and also proposes measures to support the Project that may be implemented at a later time. To the extent that potential future physical changes in the environment can be reasonably discerned, they are evaluated at the program level. Project-level analysis would occur as specific projects are proposed.

The IS determined that the EJ Element would not cause any potentially significant impacts on the environment. Consequently, the analysis contained herein concludes that an ND is the appropriate CEQA clearance documentation for the Project.

1.4 NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area are required to be consulted pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3.1. On November 7, 2023, Impact Sciences submitted a Sacred Lands File records search request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the Project. On December 4, 2023, the NAHC responded that no known records were identified and provided a list of tribes to contract for tribal consultation (please see **Appendix D**, **Cultural Resources Information**). On December 13, 2023, the City contacted the list of tribes by certified mail and email to offer the tribes an opportunity for tribal consultation on the Project. To date, no tribes have requested consultation.

1.5 SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

For evaluation of environmental impacts, each question from the Environmental Initial Study Checklist contained in Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* is stated and responses are provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the IS/ND.

1.5.1 Thresholds of Significance

The City has not adopted specific thresholds of significance and rather relies upon the specific questions relating to the topical environmental factors listed in Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines to assist in the determination of whether an identified impact is potentially significant. The City may, depending on the circumstances of a particular project, use specific thresholds of significance on a case-by-case basis. *Oakland Heritage Alliance v. City of Oakland* (2011) 195 Cal.App.4th 884.

For the analysis of transportation impacts, the City uses Los Angeles County's "Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines" which includes CEQA threshold of significance for vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

1.5.2 Impact Evaluation Methodology

The environmental impact methodology is described below.

Changes Not Evaluated - Construction Impacts. The Project does not authorize development or require physical changes to any existing development or infrastructure that would generate construction-related impacts. Therefore, they are excluded from the environmental analysis.

Indirect Impacts. The CEQA Guidelines require evaluation of reasonably foreseeable direct or indirect impacts to the environment which are caused by a project. Because these impact types must be related to a physical change in the environment and this CEQA analysis has not identified any impacts, they are excluded from the environmental analysis. Any subsequent proposed projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be individually reviewed to determine the appropriate level of CEQA review, or whether the project would be exempt from CEQA review.

Offsite Features. The CEQA Guidelines require evaluation of off-site features that are necessary to implement a project, which are typically associated with infrastructure or other physical improvements. Because the Project does not authorize development or require physical improvements, no offsite features were analyzed.

1.5.3 Impact Levels

There are four possible responses to the threshold of significance questions in each of the topical environmental factors in **Section 3, Environmental Evaluation**:

1. **No Impact**: No substantial evidence exists that the Project would have an impact on the environment.

2. **Less than Significant Impact**: Environmental impacts have been identified but are less than the thresholds of significance and do not include or require mitigation measures.

3. **Less than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**: Environmental impacts have been identified but are less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation measures thereby reducing an impact from Potentially Significant Impact to a Less Than Significant Impact.

4. **Potentially Significant Impact**: Potentially significant direct project-level impacts and have been identified and require preparation of an EIR.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (Leyva, 2016) and to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, the Project includes the adoption of the City's Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. The EJ Element is incorporated by reference into this document in its entirety, by reference, as **Appendix A**.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

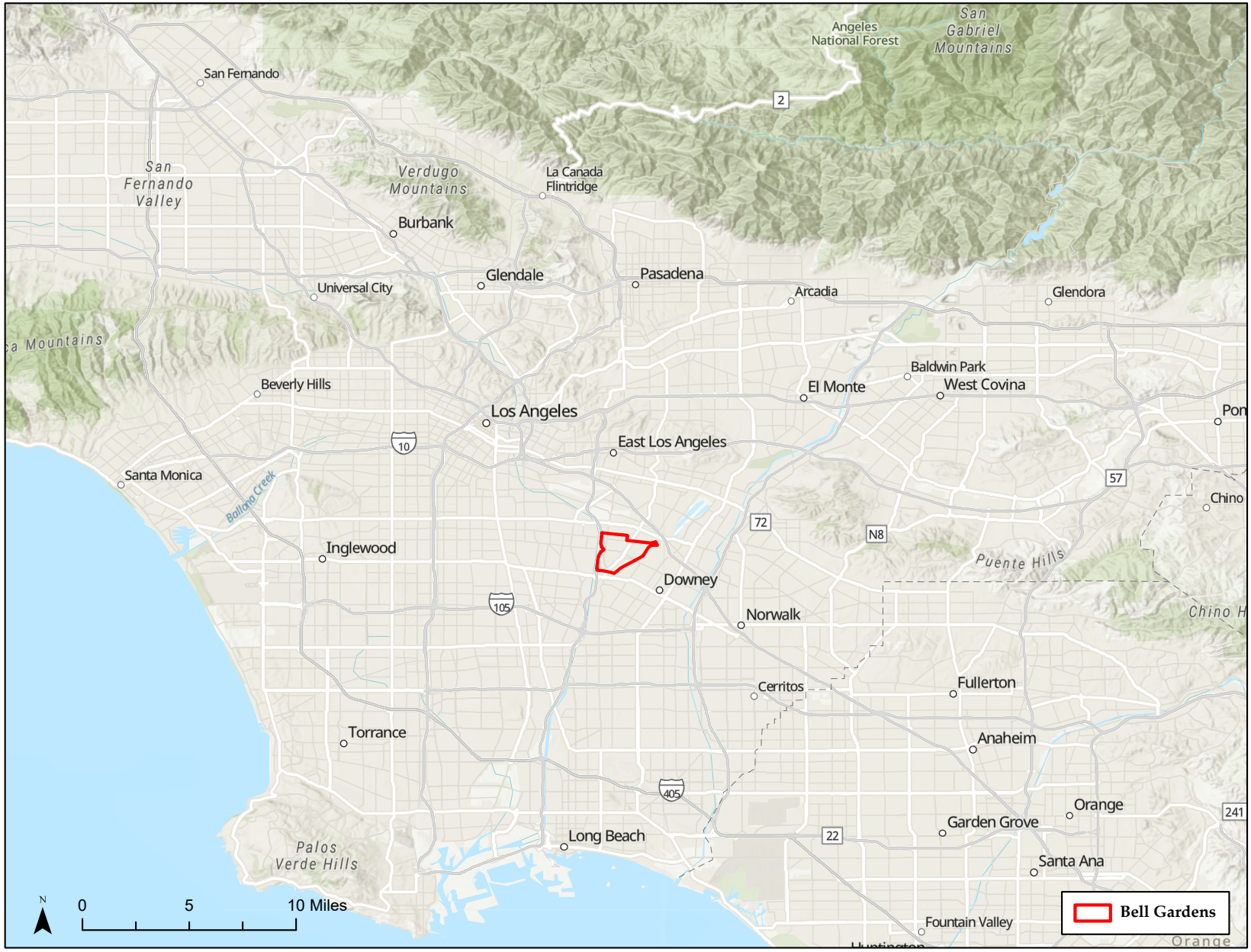
To adequately determine the significance of a potential environmental impact, the environmental baseline must be established. CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a) states in pertinent part that the physical environmental setting in the vicinity of the project will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions, by which a lead agency will determine if an impact is significant. Therefore, the environmental baseline for this Project constitutes the existing physical conditions as they currently exist, which represents the time that the environmental process commenced

Existing Conditions

The Project will apply to the entire geographic area located within the boundaries of the City of Bell Gardens. The City, located in southeast Los Angeles County, is approximately 2.5 square miles with a population of 38,447 people, according to a January 2023 estimate from the State of California's Department of Finance.[1] The City is highly developed with accessibility to major freeways, such as Interstate 710 (I-710) which runs along the City's eastern border. Surrounding jurisdictions include the City of Commerce, the City of Pico Rivera, City of Downey, City of Cudahy, City of Bell, and the City of Maywood. **Figure 2.0-1, Regional Project Location,** shows the City's boundaries.

The City's boundaries are generally delineated by man-made barriers, including the Electric Railway Company to the north and Southern Pacific Railroad to the south, Rio Hondo River flood control channel to the east, Los Angeles River flood control channel, and Interstate 710 to the west. Environmental considerations for the City include the large number of industrial uses in the western part of the City, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and the I-710 Freeway.

1 California Department of Finance, "E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2023 with 2020 Census Benchmark." Available online at: https://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/e-5/



SOURCE: Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-1**

Regional Location

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The southeast region of the County is an urbanized area characterized by industrial development and bedroom communities consisting of single-family dwellings and low-rise multi-family residential housing. This region, including the City, has one of the highest population densities in the United States, largely due to overcrowded conditions. The City, along with other cities in southeast Los Angeles, are considered "Gateway Cities" due to their location between the counties of Los Angeles and Orange.

The majority of the land uses in the City, as designated in the General Plan, is Residential (58%). Commercial uses make up approximately 10.1% of the land area and are generally concentrated along Florence Avenue and Eastern Avenue. Industrial uses make up 13% of land area and are clustered in the western and southern portion of the City. Commercial Manufacturing uses are clustered in nodes along Garfield Avenue, Eastern Avenue, and Gage Avenue. Institutional uses make up 7.4% of land area, and Open Space and Parks make up 11.5% of land area. Although the City is predominantly comprised of urbanized development with minimal vacant properties, the City also encompasses several existing natural resources. The Los Angeles River runs parallel with the City's western border. The Rio Hondo River is located east of the City and is partially adjacent to the City's southeastern boundary. The City also includes parks and recreational facilities. Notable recreational facilities within the City include Veteran's Park and the Neighborhood Youth Center.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The purpose of the EJ Element is to identify environmental justice communities (called "disadvantaged communities") and to address public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which has long suffered public health effects from geographical inequities. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has released recommendations on the definition of EJ communities, including analysis for a host of different environmental, socioeconomic, and public health issues related to EJ concerns.[2] Under SB 1000, EJ Elements include "related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, that identifies disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan of the city, county, or city and county, if the city, county, or city and county has a disadvantaged community."[3] The purpose of the EJ Element is to alleviate potential adverse effects of development on vulnerable populations and address gaps in existing policies in relation to disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities are defined by Government Code Section 65302(h)(4)(A) as low-income areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects through adverse environmental living conditions. Indicators for disadvantaged

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2 Office of Planning and Research, *General Plan Guidelines Environmental Justice Element*, June 2020. Available online at: https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf, accessed April 3, 2024.

3 Gov. Code, § 65302(h)(1)-(2).

communities include educational attainment, lack of employment, housing burdened low-income households, linguistic isolation, poverty, race and ethnicity, single-parent households, lack of American citizenship, violent crime rate, and inability to vote. Under these prerequisites, the entire City qualifies for prioritization of disadvantaged communities. The EJ Element is incorporated by reference into this document in its entirety, by reference, as **Appendix A.**

Background

To address health effects in low-income communities and communities of color, the California State Legislature passed SB 1000 into law in 2016, requiring local governments to identify environmental justice communities (also known as "disadvantaged communities") in their jurisdictions and address environmental justice within their General Plans. This law requires the inclusion of an EJ Element when a lead agency is updating two or more General Plan elements.

The purpose of the EJ Element is to address public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequities. Environmental Justice is guided by Government Code Section 65040.12, which aims to minimize the adverse effects of environmental hazards in order to create a healthy environment for all people, especially those groups, populations, and communities who had been impacted by pollution. The aim of Government Code Section 65040.12 is to reduce burdens for communities experiencing adverse effects, promote meaningful participation of those communities in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process, and providing meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

Indicators

Per the guidance of OPR's *General Plan Guidelines for Environmental Justice*, the EJ Element evaluated the City's existing policies and programs and followed the agency's recommended Completeness Checklist[4] for the required components of an EJ element. These components include the following:

- Identify disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan;
- Identify objectives and policies to reduce exposure to pollution including improving air quality in disadvantaged communities;

4 Office of Planning and Research, *General Plan Guidelines Environmental Justice Element*, June 2020. Available online at: https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

- Identify objectives and policies to promote public facilities in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote food access in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote safe and sanitary homes in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote physical activity in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to reduce any unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities; and
- Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Per OPR's recommendations, the EJ Element evaluated and identified the disadvantaged communities within Bell Gardens using several standard indicators such as, income level, environmental burden, and pollution exposure (inclusive of air quality, water quality, and land use compatibility). The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 interactive online tool was utilized to determine the specific indicators that identify the EJ communities within Bell Gardens. Based on the CalEnviroScreen data, the nine census tracts within the City have overall scores ranging from 79.7 to 99.6% and an average of 95.4%. The entire City has a score higher than the OPR recommended threshold of 75% to identify disadvantaged communities. Therefore, the entire City meets the definition as a disadvantaged community (please see **Appendix B, CalEnviroScreen Data**).[5] **Table 2-1**, **Analyzed Indicators**, lists the indicators provided by CalEnviroScreen as indicators analyzed in the EJ Element.

5 OEHHA and CalEPA. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. 2021.Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.Attached herein as **Appendix B.**

Table 2-1
Analyzed Indicators

Population Characteristics	Pollution Burden
Asthma	Children's Lead Risk from Housing
Cardiovascular Disease	Cleanup Sites
Low Birth Weight	Diesel Particulate Matter
Education	Drinking Water Contaminants
Housing Burden	Groundwater Threats
Linguistic Isolation	Hazardous Waste
Poverty	Impaired Waters
Unemployment	Ozone
	Pesticide Use
	PM2.5
	Solid Waste Sites
	Toxic Release from Facilities
	Traffic Impacts

Source: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. October 2021.

Analyzing each indicator that is listed above provides a general framework for the EJ Element to address the issues affecting disadvantaged communities within the City, such as reducing pollution exposure; improve access to public facilities and services; improving access to healthy foods; promoting access to physical activity and recreation; improving access to safe, sanitary and affordable housing; reducing exposure to climate hazards; and improving access to public transit, employment, and services.

In developing the EJ Element, the City also developed an Environmental Justice Element Outreach Plan (Outreach Plan) and conducted community outreach (please see **Appendix D**, **Community Engagement Report**). The Outreach Plan included the dissemination of flyers, factsheets, and surveys via Citywide bulletins, social media posts, community group emails, and public meetings with stakeholders. The City facilitated three public meetings with residents, businesses, and stakeholders on July 20, July 27, and August 3, 2023, at Veteran's Park. These meetings focused on gaining stakeholder input regarding the community's public health and environmental concerns. The online Community Survey was made available to residents and community members between June 22, 2023 and September 15, 2023 in both English and Spanish. The 101 responses to the online Community Survey helped further refine the indicators and helped guide the formation of the goals and policies contained within the EJ Element. Specifically, the Community Survey indicated that air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses; groundwater quality due to old and damaged pipes' housing access, affordability, and stability; and access to healthy food/grocery stores were primary areas of concern for the community.

Goals and Policies

The Bell Garden EJ Element Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.

Goal 3: Ensure that the existing and future housing stock includes accessible, well-maintained, and affordable housing.

Goal 4: Expand and provide new public services to accommodate persons of all ages and socioeconomic levels.

Goal 5: Enhance public outreach and increase opportunities for civic engagement.

Table 2-2, Goals and Polices, provides a list of the EJ Element policies, and identifies the associated goals they are related to.

Table 2-2
Goals and Policies

Policy	Goal 1: Environmental Pollution	Goal 2: Public Health	Goal 3: Housing Stock	Goal 4: Public Services	Goal 5: Public Outreach
1. Minimize resident's exposure to air pollution near high-volume roadways (ex, freeways) through site planning, building design, and other measures, focusing on the needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., families with children, people with disabilities, and seniors).	X	X			
2. Minimize siting sensitive receptors (i.e., residential and institutional uses) near pollution sources, such as freight-handling and manufacturing facilities.	X	X			
3. Promote the use of indoor air filtration systems on individual properties through education and exploration of grants or other funding incentives.	X				X
4. Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure.	X				
5. Protect potable water and groundwater resources from future contamination by implementing pollutant concentration standards and conducting routine testing to the City's potable water system.	X	X			

Policy	Goal 1: Environmental Pollution	Goal 2: Public Health	Goal 3: Housing Stock	Goal 4: Public Services	Goal 5: Public Outreach
6. Protect the existing groundwater quality by conducting annual testing and reporting of the Central Basin to confirm conformance with local, state, and federal standards.	X	X			
7. Ensure sufficient water availability and supply to meet current and future demand.	X			X	
8. Coordinate with the applicable public and non-profit agencies (i.e., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) to create/expand educational programs and campaigns regarding health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc.	X				X
9. Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions.		X			
10. Provide streamlining opportunities for grocery stores and farmers markets.		X			
11. Expand recreational opportunities and programs to be accessible to all residents		X			
12. Expand the existing pedestrian and bicycle network to be safe and accessible for all ages.		X			
13. Implement an occupancy inspection program that would ensure the health and sanitation of existing housing.		X	X		
14. Encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes owned/occupied by lower income households, including retrofitting for environmental sustainability.	X	X	X		
15. Support land use policies and programs that allow development of residential densities in a variety of sizes to accommodate all families.			X		
16. Encourage affordable and workforce housing through limited-equity housing cooperatives, community land trusts, nonprofit-run housing, and/or use of city-owned land.			X		
17. Encourage affordable housing by offering density bonuses, or fee waivers and relief from development standards, where appropriate.			X		
18. Increase outreach and educational services regarding tenant rights.			X		
19. Implement programs that support persons in transitional housing			X	X	X
20. Partner with non-profit organizations that address housing issues between the tenants and landlords.			X	X	

Policy	Goal 1: Environmental Pollution	Goal 2: Public Health	Goal 3: Housing Stock	Goal 4: Public Services	Goal 5: Public Outreach
21. Review public services through regular checkups in partnership with municipal, regional, and statewide agencies				X	X
22. Implement new and innovate outreach methods with the aim of expanding the City's current reach.				X	X
23. Publish City communication in English and Spanish.				X	
24. Promote recreational programs to all residents.				X	
25. Attract grocery stores that sell organic groceries to underserved areas through financial incentives, zoning changes, technical assistance, and other methods.				X	
26. Increase safety and emergency preparedness through an established short-list of designated emergency shelters in the City. Information would be available to all residents in English and in Spanish.				X	
27. Consider new start times for commission and council meetings to encourage increased participation.					X
28. Expand the Town Trolley bus service hours and bus stop locations to better accommodate City Council and Commission meetings.					X
29. Live stream City Council and Commission meetings at public facilities (i.e., recreational centers and childcare centers).					X
30. Circulate annual public surveys to gather input on important city-wide needs. These surveys should be used in consideration of City's annual budget.				X	X
31. Expand the use of social media to post important department and City information.					X

2.4 PROJECT APPROVALS

Following the completion of the mandatory public review period, the proposed EJ Element would be scheduled for a public hearing before the Bell Gardens Planning Commission followed by the City Council. The Planning Commission will review the IS/ND with the proposed Element and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Energy
☐	Geology and Soils	☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐	Hydrology and Water Quality	☐	Land Use and Planning	☐	Mineral Resources
☐	Noise	☐	Population and Housing	☐	Public Services
☐	Recreation	☐	Transportation	☐	Tribal Cultural Resources
☐	Utilities and Service Systems	☐	Wildfire	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance

3.2 DETERMINATION: (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the Proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	☒
I find that, although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the Project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	☐
I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	☐
I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment., but at least effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	☐

I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Proposed Project, nothing further is required.	☐

Printed Name	Title
Signature	Date

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

1. Aesthetics

Environmental Setting

Scenic Vistas and Scenic Resources

The City's General Plan does not define any designated scenic vistas or resources in the City. The General Plan includes an Open Space/Parks designation applied to areas that are public parks or private land reserved for open spaces. However, all these lands are either developed with park uses or utility infrastructure and surrounded by urbanized areas. The City is bounded by urban development to the north and south, the Rio Hondo River, a concrete lined channel, to the east, and the I-710 to the west.

Visual Character

The City is urbanized with very limited vacant land. The City has been fully developed since its incorporation in 1961. Very little undeveloped land remains and is limited to scattered vacant lots. The predominate land use in the City is residential, with 58% of the land in the City designated as residential. The remainder of land is designated either commercial, industrial, public/institutional, or park uses.

Light and Glare

The City is developed with established existing sources of light and glare, such as streetlights and parking lights, walkway lights, lighted recreational facilities, and light emitted from residential and nonresidential buildings. The City is surrounded by other urbanized development on all sides. Many of the City's residential neighborhoods are surrounded or flanked with commercial, light manufacturing uses, and highway uses which may create greater lighting effects.

Regulatory Setting

Regulations exist at state and local levels that guide development and influence the physical form and aesthetic character of the City and include:

- California Scenic Highway Program
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Goal 4: Expand and provide new public services accommodate persons of all ages and socioeconomic levels.

Policy 1: Minimize resident's exposure to air pollution near high-volume roadways (ex, freeways) through site planning, building design, and other measures, focusing on the needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., families with children, people with disabilities, seniors).

Policy 2: Minimize siting sensitive receptors (i.e., residential, and institutional uses) near pollution sources, such as freight-handling and manufacturing facilities.

Policy 4: Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure.

Policy 9: Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions.

Policy 25: Attract grocery stores that sell organic groceries to underserved areas through financial incentives, zoning changes, technical assistance, and other methods.

Policy 28: Expand the Town Trolley bus service hours and bus stop locations to better accommodate City Council and Commission meetings.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099:				
a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. A scenic vista is generally defined as a view of undisturbed natural characteristics exhibiting a unique feature that comprises an important or dominant portion of the viewshed.

Although scenic vistas are identified at the discretion of its jurisdiction, common examples of scenic vistas include open hillsides, mountain ranges, rivers/streambeds, and large bodies of water.

Public views are those experienced by the collective public. These include views of significant landscape features such the Pacific Ocean or mountain ranges, as seen from public viewing spaces, not privately owned properties. The analysis below addresses public views and not private views since obstruction of private views is not generally regarded as a significant environmental impact. (*See*, *Citizens for Responsible and Open Government v. City of Grand Terrace* (2008) 160 Cal.App.4th 1323; *Mira Mar Mobile Community v. City of Oceanside* (2004) 119 Cal.App.4th 477). Case law has established that protection of public views is generally emphasized.

The City of Bell Gardens has not identified any vistas or resources as scenic vistas or scenic resources. The Project is a policy document that will be part of the *City of Bell Gardens General Plan*. Project implementation does not grant any land use entitlements, authorize development of any specific development project, change base zoning districts, or require any direct physical changes to land or existing development. The EJ Element is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing environmental hazards to disadvantaged communities. Accordingly, future discretionary projects following the adoption of the EJ Element such as expansion of the Town Trolley system, new grocery stores, or affordable housing projects would be required to undergo a separate environmental review under CEQA to evaluate project-level scenic vista impacts and implement the required mitigation. However, meaningful environmental review cannot be conducted at this time because there is no certainty that development will occur or to what degree any given parcel will be developed, and any environmental analysis would therefore be speculative. As such, no impacts to any scenic vistas as a result of the EJ Element.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. The State Scenic Highways Program is designed to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors through special conservation treatment. The City

is not located near any designated or eligible state scenic highways per the State of California Department of Transportation.[6] The closest eligible state scenic highway would be State Route 1, located approximately 11.4 miles southeast of the City of Bell Gardens.[7] The closest officially designated National Scenic Byway is State Route 110 (Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway), which is located approximately 7.6 miles northwest of the City (please see **Figure 3.3-1, Scenic Highways**).[8] Due to these distances, the EJ Element would not have an impact on scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway within City limits or in the vicinity of City. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

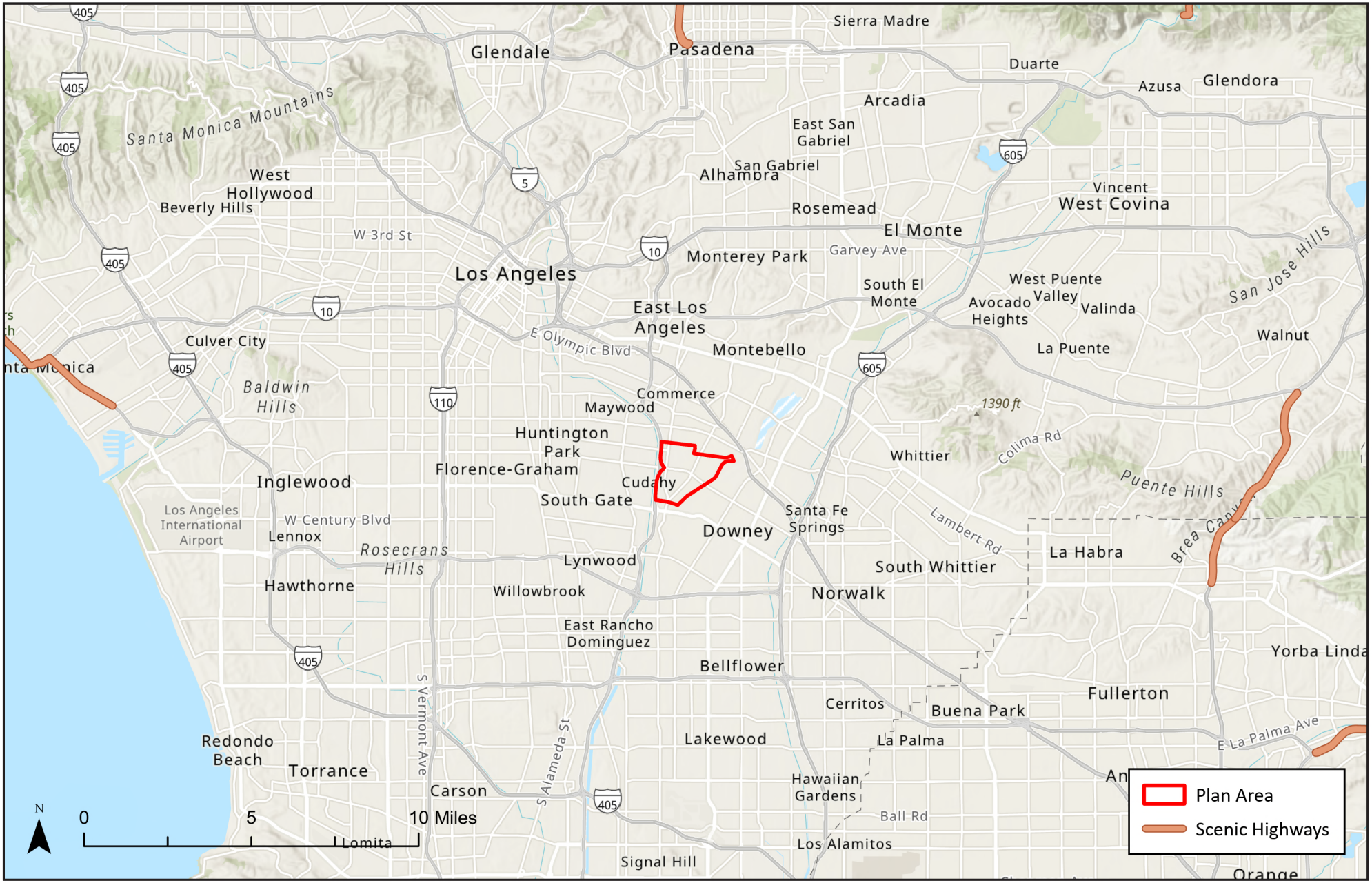
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant. Because the Project is located in an urbanized area, this analysis focuses on whether the Project would conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. The City of Bell Gardens is a dense and highly urbanized community with very limited vacant land.

6 City of Bell Gardens, *Bell Gardens General Plan*, 2010. Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/government/city-departments/community-development/planning/general-plan, accessed January 10, 2024.

7 California Department of Transportation, "List of Eligible and Designated Scenic Highways." Available online at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways, accessed April 5, 2024.

8 California Department of Transportation, "State Scenic Highway Map." Available online at: https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa, accessed April 5, 2024.



SOURCE: Caltrans, 2024; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-1 Scenic Highways

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The EJ Element contains goals and policies to address the disproportionate effects of environmental pollution on disadvantaged communities. The EJ Element is a policy-level document, and no specific physical improvements or development are proposed at this time. Future discretionary projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be subject to the City's policies and regulations, as well as appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA. This analysis would identify any project-specific impacts, and if necessary, mitigation would be applied to reduce the level of impact. Further, future projects would be required to comply with the applicable regulatory requirements outlined in Title 9 (Zoning and Planning Regulations) in the City of Bell Gardens Municipal Code (BGMC) pertaining to aesthetic quality and discretionary review. As such, impacts related to conflict with applicable zoning regulations related to visual quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. Sources of lighting or glare are typical in highly developed, urban environments (e.g., sunlight reflecting off building materials and glass windows). The City is developed with established existing sources of light and glare, such as streetlights and parking lights, walkway lights, lighted recreational facilities, and light emitted from residential and nonresidential buildings. The City is surrounded by similarly urbanized and developed cities. Many of the City's residential neighborhoods are surrounded or flanked with commercial, light manufacturing, and highway uses which create greater lighting effects.

As a policy document, the EJ Element does not include any site-specific development projects that may create new sources of substantial light or glare. Therefore, the Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare, and no impact would occur. Furthermore, future projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be constructed in already urbanized areas, as the City is predominantly built out and commonly includes existing light sources. Future discretionary projects that result in new sources of lighting or glare would be evaluated pursuant to CEQA and evaluated and identify any significant impacts and apply any required mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

2. Agricultural Resources

Environmental Setting

The City of Bell Gardens is urbanized and does not contain any agricultural resources. According to the General Plan, in the early years of the 20th century, gardeners and small farms in the Bell Gardens region thrived by producing quality vegetables for nearby markets. However, these agricultural communities were short-lived due to the rapid urbanization that occurred in the 1920s and 1930s. There are no Williamson Act parcels within the City.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, and local levels with regard to agricultural resources and include**:**

- Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
- California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act)

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to agricultural resources. No specific development projects are proposed as part of the EJ Element, and no changes in existing land use zones or densities, nor any changes to land use regulations are proposed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. The City of Bell Gardens is an urbanized environment with no agricultural land under commercial cultivation. However, according to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), approximately 42.1 acres of vacant land located in the center of the City is designated as "Unique

Farmland" as shown in **Figure 3.3-2, Farmland**.[9] Unique Farmland is defined by the DOC as "Lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date." On January 9, 2023, the City of Bell Gardens City Council updated the General Plan Land Use Map and Zoning Map, and there are no agricultural land located in the City. However, the California Department of Conservation Map has not been updated to reflect this change, as shown in **Figure 3.3-3, General Plan Land Use Map**. Currently, there are no agricultural nor farmland uses in the city. The General Plan Land Use map for the City of Bell Gardens reflects this change as the area is currently designated as "Open Space and Recreation."[10]

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in the approval of any physical improvements or development that would result in the conversion of Farmland as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Although there are areas of Unique Farmland within the City, the Project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, no impact would occur. Any future discretionary project that proposes to convert the City's Unique Farmland would be analyzed pursuant to CEQA and identify any project impact and apply any required mitigation measure.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. Only land located within an agricultural preserve is eligible for enrollment under a Williamson Act contract. According to the California Department of Conservation California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder,[11] there is no land in the City designated as enrolled under a

9 California Department of Conservation, "California Important Farmland Finder," Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/, accessed April 3, 2024.

10 Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), *General Plan Land Use in City of Bell Gardens*, 2019 (p. 23). Available online at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bellgardens.pdf?1604793107 , accessed April 3, 2024.

11 California Department of Conservation, *Williamson Act Program*. Available online at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca, accessed on April 8, 2024.

Williamson Act contract. As stated above, the City is highly urbanized.[12] As shown in **Figure 3.3-4, Williamson Act Land**, there is currently no land within the City located within an agricultural preserve nor enrolled under a Williamson Act contract. Additionally, the Project would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements and does not include any direct changes to the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or to any physical development standards. Therefore, the EJ Element would not conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act Contract, and no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220 (g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104 (g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. As shown in **Figure 3.3-5, Forests**, the City does not contain any forest land (as defined by PRC § 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned for Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g)).[13]

The EJ Element will not result in the approval of any physical improvements or development and does not include any changes to the General Plan Land Use Element or zoning designations. Approval of the Project would not conflict with the General Plan, existing zoning or cause rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

12 California Department of Conservation, *State of California Williamson Act Contract Land*. Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/WilliamsonAct/, accessed on April 8, 2024.

13 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Forests and Timberlands. Available online at: https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109919, accessed April 3, 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. See response to **Section 2.c**, above.

Forest land is defined as "…land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits."[14] Timberland is defined as: "land…which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees."[15] Bell Gardens is a developed urbanized environment, with few vacant parcels. There is no identified forest land or timberland within the City and implementation of the EJ Element would not result in a loss of forest land or timberland. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

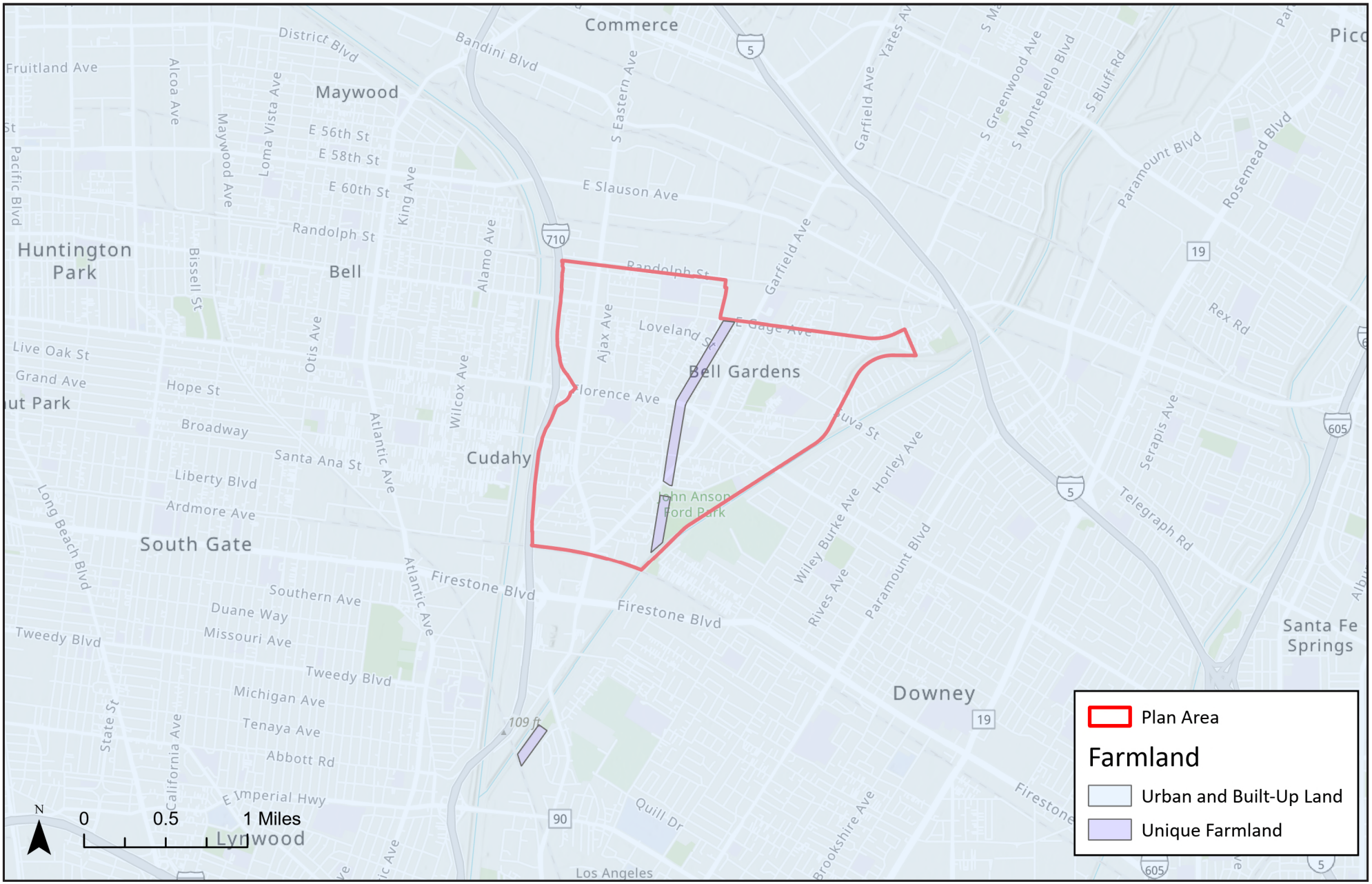
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. See responses to **Sections 2.a** through **d**, above. The City is located in an urbanized area, and there are no agricultural uses or related uses within the City. The Project will not result in the approval of any physical improvements and does not include any changes to the General Plan Land Use Element or zoning designations. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in the physical development or improvements resulting in the conversion of Farmland or forest lands to non-agricultural uses or non-forest uses, respectively, and therefore, no impact would occur.

14 California Public Resources Code, Section 12220(g).

15 PRC, § 4526.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

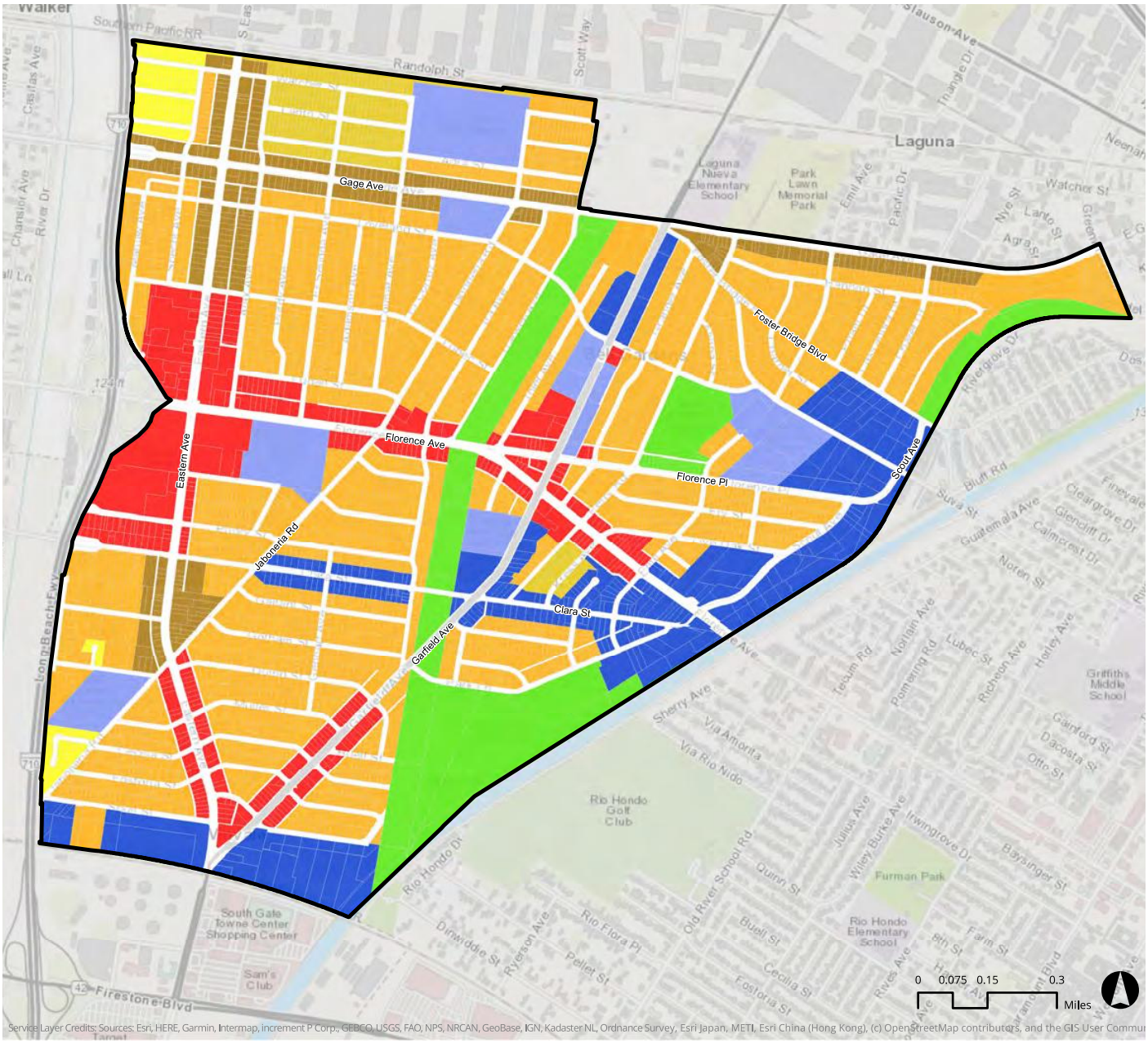


SOURCE: California Department of Conservation; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-2 Farmland

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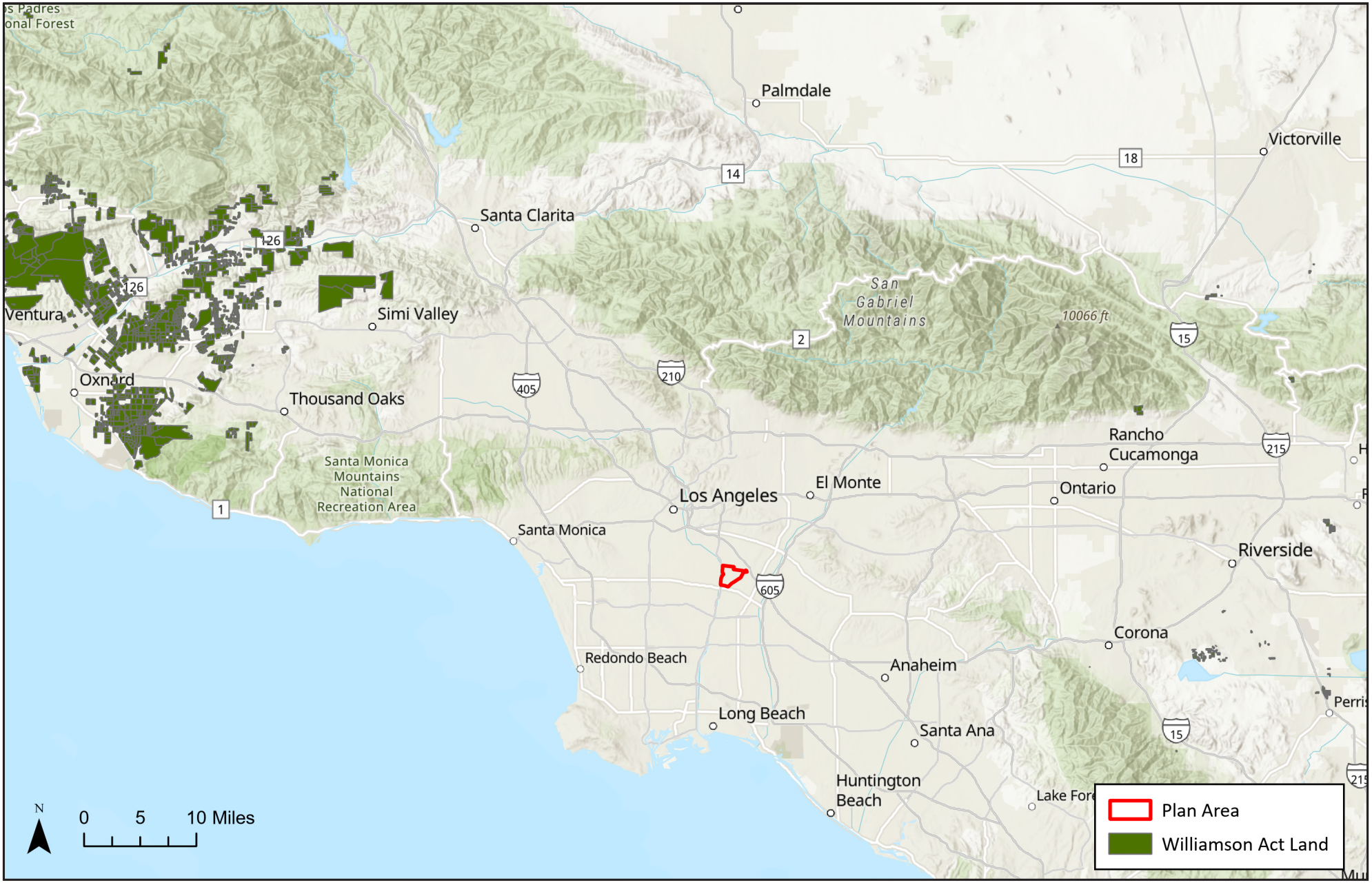


- Single Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Mobile Homes and Trailer Parks
- Mixed Residential
- Rural Residential
- General Office
- Commercial and Services
- Facilities
- Education
- Military Installations
- Industrial
- Transportation, Communications, and Utilities
- Mixed Commercial and Industrial
- Mixed Residential and Commercial
- Open Space and Recreation
- Agriculture
- Vacant
- Water
- Specific Plan
- Undevelopable
- Unknown

SOURCE: SCAG, 2019

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Figure 3.3-3 General Plan Land Use Map



SOURCE: California Department of Conservation; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-4 Williamson Act Land

1468.001•04/2024



SOURCE: CDFW, 2024

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Figure 3.3-5 Forests

1468.001•04/24

3. Air Quality

Environmental Setting

Existing Conditions

The City of Bell Gardens is located in the South Coast Air Basin (herein referenced as "SCAB" or the "Basin"), the air basin is an area of approximately 6,745 square miles bound by the Pacific Ocean to the west and south and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. The SCAB includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, in addition to the San Gorgonio Pass area in Riverside County. The terrain and geographical location determine the distinctive climate of the SCAB, which is a coastal plain with connecting broad valleys and low hills.

The SCAB lies in the semi-permanent high-pressure zone of the eastern Pacific. As a result, the climate is mild, tempered by cool sea breezes. The usually mild climatological pattern is interrupted infrequently by periods of extremely hot weather, winter storms, or Santa Ana winds. The extent and severity of the air pollution problem in the SCAB is a function of the area's natural physical characteristics (weather and topography) as well as human-made influences (development patterns and lifestyle). Factors such as wind, sunlight, temperature, humidity, rainfall, and topography all affect the accumulation and dispersion of pollutants throughout the SCAB, making it an area of high pollution potential.

The greatest air pollution impacts in the SCAB occur from June through September, mainly because of the combination of large amounts of pollutant emissions, light winds, and shallow vertical atmospheric mixing. This frequently reduces pollutant dispersion, causing elevated air pollution levels. Pollutant concentrations in the SCAB vary with location, season, and time of day. Ozone concentrations, for example, tend to be lower along the coast, higher in the near inland valleys, and lower in the far inland areas of the SCAB and adjacent desert.

Regulatory Framework

California Air Resources Board

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the regulatory agency charged with protecting the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and developing programs and actions to fight climate change. CARB's mission is to promote and protect public health, welfare, and ecological resources through effective reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering effects on the economy. CARB is the lead

agency for climate change programs and oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards.

South Coast Air Quality Management District

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality in the SCAB. The SCAQMD is responsible for controlling emissions primarily from stationary sources of air pollution. These can include anything from large power plants and refineries to the corner gas station. There are about 28,400 such businesses operating under SCAQMD permits. Many consumer products are also considered stationary sources; these include house paint, furniture varnish, and thousands of products containing solvents that evaporate into the air. About 25% of the SCAB's ozone-forming air pollution comes from stationary sources, both businesses and residences. The other 75% comes from mobile sources–mainly cars, trucks, and buses, but also construction equipment, ships, trains and airplanes.[16] Emission standards for mobile sources are established by state or federal agencies, such as the CARB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), rather than by local agencies such as SCAQMD.

Local Air Quality

Ambient air quality in Bell Gardens can be inferred from ambient air quality measurements conducted at nearby air quality monitoring stations. Existing levels of ambient air quality and historical trends and projections are documented by measurements made by the SCAQMD, the air pollution regulatory agency in the Basin. The SCAQMD maintains air quality monitoring stations which process ambient air quality measurements throughout the Basin.

The purpose of the monitoring station is to measure ambient concentrations of pollutants and determine whether ambient air quality meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). Ozone and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) are pollutants of particular concern in the Basin. While the City is located within SRA 5, there are no monitoring stations in SRA 5. At the recommendation of SCAQMD staff, the monitoring station located closest to the City and most representative of air quality for the area is CARB No.177, La Habra, North Orange County in SRA 16. The La Habra monitoring station provides data on only CO, Ozone, and Nitrogen Dioxide. Therefore, ambient data for PM2.5 was taken from CARB No. 112, Compton, South Central LA County. Ambient emission concentrations vary due to localized variations in emissions sources and climate and

16 SCAQMD, Air Quality Sensor Performance Evaluation Center – About South Coast AQMD. Available online at: https://www.aqmd.gov/aq-spec/aboutscaqmd, accessed April 3, 2024.

should be considered "generally" representative of ambient concentrations near the City. See **Table 2-3, Air Monitoring Station Ambient Pollutant Concentrations**.

Table 2-3
Air Monitoring Station Ambient Pollutant Concentrations

Pollutant	Standards[1]	Year		
		2020	2021	2022
Carbon Monoxide (CO)[a]				
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		2.10	2.30	2.5
Maximum 8-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		1.20	1.30	1.4
Number of days exceeding state 1-hour standard	20 ppm	0	0	0
Number of days exceeding federal 1-hour standard	35 ppm	0	0	0
Ozone (O_3)[a]				
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.171	0.103	0.106
Maximum 8-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.113	0.075	0.087
Number of days exceeding state 1-hour standard	0.09 ppm	15	2	1
Number of days exceeding federal/state 8-hour standard	0.070 ppm	23 / 23	2 / 3	3 / 4
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)[a]				
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.057	0.064	0.058
Annual average concentration monitored (ppm)		0.013	0.013	0.012
Number of days exceeding state 1-hour standard	0.18 ppm	0	0	0
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)[b]				
Maximum 24-hour concentration monitored ($\mu g/m^3$)		43.20	102.10	52.80
Annual average concentration monitored ($\mu g/m^3$)		13.57	13.41	12.25
Number of samples exceeding federal standard	35 $\mu g/m^3$	7	12	6

[a] *Data from CARB No. 177*
[b] *Data from CARB No. 112*
Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District. Historical Data By Year. Available online at: https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/historical-air-quality-data/historical-data-by-year, accessed October 2023.
[1] *Parts by volume per million of air (ppm), micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu g/m^3$), or annual arithmetic mean (aam).*
[2] *The 8-hour federal O_3 standard was revised from 0.075 ppm to 0.070 ppm in 2015. The statistics shown are based on the 2015 standard of 0.070 ppm.*

Regulations exist at federal, state, and local levels with regard to air quality and include:

Federal Clean Air Act

The 1970 Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) authorized the establishment of national health-based air quality standards and also set deadlines for their attainment. The FCAA Amendments of 1990 changed deadlines for attaining national standards as well as the remedial actions required of areas of the nation that exceed the standards. Under the FCAA, state and local agencies in areas that exceed the national standards are required to develop State Implementation Plans to demonstrate how they will achieve the national

standards by specified dates. The FCAA requires that all projects receiving federal funds demonstrate conformity to the approved State Implementation Plan and local air quality attainment plan for the region.

California Clean Air Act

The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) provides local air quality districts with authority to regulate indirect sources and mandates that air quality districts focus particular attention on reducing emissions from transportation and area-wide emission sources. CARB is the agency responsible for coordination and oversight of state and local air pollution control programs in California and for implementing the CCAA. Each nonattainment district is required to adopt a plan to achieve a five percent annual reduction, averaged over consecutive three-year periods, in district-wide emissions of each nonattainment pollutant or its precursors. A Clean Air Plan shows how a district would reduce emissions to achieve air quality standards. Generally, the state standards for these pollutants are more stringent than the national standards.

Criteria Air Pollutants

Concentrations of criteria air pollutants are used to indicate the quality of the ambient air. Criteria air pollutants include ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), particulate matter less than 10 micrometers (coarse or PM10), particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers (fine or PM2.5), and lead. However, ozone, PM10, and PM2.5 are the criteria air pollutants of primary concern in the SCAB due to their nonattainment status with respect to the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The SCAB is in nonattainment for 1-hour and 8-hour ozone CAAQS and NAAQS, 24-hour and annual PM10 CAAQS, and 24-hour and annual PM2.5 CAAQS and NAAQS. The SCAB is in attainment or unclassified for all other criteria pollutants.

SCAQMD 2022 Air Quality Management Plan

State Implementation Plans (SIP) are comprehensive plans that describe how an area will attain NAAQS. State law makes CARB the lead agency for all purposes related to the SIP. Local air districts and other agencies prepare SIP elements and submit them to CARB for review and approval. CARB then forwards SIP revisions to the U.S. EPA for approval and publication in the Federal Register. The 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (2022 AQMP) is the SIP for the Basin. The 2022 AQMP identifies the control measures that will be implemented to reduce major sources of pollutants. Implementation of control measures established in the previous AQMPs has substantially decreased the population's exposure to unhealthful levels of pollutants, even while population growth has occurred in the SCAB.

On December 2, 2022, the SCAQMD Governing Board approved the 2022 AQMP that lays a path for improving air quality and meeting federal air pollution standards by 2037. The 2022 AQMP aims to, among other goals, reduce almost 70 percent of smog forming emissions by 2037 beyond existing regulations, require zero-emission technologies across all sectors, and lay out specific actions needed from the federal government to reduce emissions from ships, trains, aircraft, and other sources primarily under federal regulatory authority. The 2022 AQMP also focuses on communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution with a dedicated chapter on environmental justice.

The future air quality levels forecast in the 2022 AQMP are based on the most recent assumptions provided by both CARB and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for motor vehicle emissions and demographic updates and includes updated transportation conformity budgets. For example, future growth projections were based on demographic growth forecasts for various socioeconomic categories (e.g., population, housing, employment by industry) developed by SCAG for their 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (herein referenced as "Connect SoCal" or "2020 RTP/SCS"). The 2022 AQMP also assumes that development projects will include strategies (mitigation measures) to reduce emissions generated during construction and operation in accordance with SCAQMD and local jurisdiction regulations, which are designed to address air quality impacts and pollution control measures. The 2022 AQMP acknowledges that the most significant air quality challenge in the Basin is to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOX) emissions sufficiently to meet the upcoming ozone standard deadlines. The 2022 AQMP incorporates the latest scientific and technical information and planning assumptions, including SCAG's 2020 RTP/SCS, updated emission inventory methodologies for various source categories, and SCAG's latest growth forecasts. The 2022 AQMP includes integrated strategies and measures to attain the NAAQS.

SCAQMD Rules and Regulations

All projects are subject to adopted SCAQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction. Specific rules applicable to the construction of the project may include but are not limited to the following:

- Regulation IV, Rule 402: Nuisance. A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other materials which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause or have natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.

- Regulation IV, Rule 403: Fugitive Dust. The developer or contractor is required to implement Best Available Control Measures for all sources, and all forms of visible PM are prohibited from crossing any property line.

- Regulation XI, Rule 1113: Architectural Coatings. The manufacturer, distributor, and end user of architectural and industrial maintenance coatings to reduce VOC emissions from the use of these coatings, primarily by placing limits on the VOC content of various coating categories.

- Regulation XII, Rule 1186: PM10 Emissions from Paved and Unpaved Roads, and Livestock Operations. The purpose of this rule is to reduce the amount of PM entrained in the ambient air as a result of vehicular travel on paved and unpaved public roads.

- Regulation XIV, Rule 1403: Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities. The owner or operator of any demolition or renovation activity is required to have an asbestos study performed prior to demolition and to provide notification to SCAQMD prior to commencing demolition activities.

The SCAQMD recommends that its quantitative air pollution thresholds be used to determine the significance of project emissions. Projects in the SCAB would generate significant emissions if daily emissions exceed the regional thresholds of significance shown in **Table 2-4, SCAQMD Regional Thresholds of Significance.**

Table 2-4
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Construction (pounds per day)	Operations (pounds per day)
NOx	100	55
VOC	75	55
PM10	150	150
PM2.5	55	55
SOx	150	150
CO	550	550

Source: SCAQMD. 2023. South Coast AQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds. https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/south-coast-aqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=25, accessed April 8, 2024.

Sensitive Receptors

Some people are particularly sensitive to air pollution, including persons with respiratory illnesses or impaired lung function because of other illnesses, the elderly, and children. Facilities and structures where these people live or spend considerable amounts of time are known as sensitive receptors. The SCAQMD defines land uses considered to be sensitive receptors as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, and athletic facilities.

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.

Policy 1: Minimize resident's exposure to air pollution near high-volume roadways (ex, freeways) through site planning, building design, and other measures, focusing on the needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., families with children, people with disabilities, seniors).

Policy 2: Minimize siting sensitive receptors (i.e., residential, and institutional uses) near pollution sources, such as freight-handling and manufacturing facilities.

Policy 3: Promote the use of indoor air filtration systems on individual properties through education and exploration of grants or other funding incentives.

Policy 4: Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure.

Policy 8: Coordinate with the applicable public and non-profit agencies (i.e., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) to create/expand educational programs and campaigns regarding health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc.

Policy 9: Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions.

Policy 14: Encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes owned/occupied by lower income households, including retrofitting for environmental sustainability.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. As part of its enforcement responsibilities, the U.S. EPA requires each state with nonattainment areas to prepare and submit a SIP that demonstrates the means to attain the federal standards. The SIP must integrate federal, state, and local plan components and regulations to identify specific measures to reduce pollution in nonattainment areas, using a combination of performance standards and market-based programs. Similarly, under state law, the CCAA requires an air quality attainment plan to be prepared for areas designated as nonattainment with regard to the federal and State ambient air quality standards. Air quality attainment plans outline emissions limits and control measures to achieve and maintain these standards by the earliest practical date.

The Project contains environmental justice goals and policies that are consistent with and are also in support of the 2022 AQMP, such as the EJ Element Goal 1 of minimizing the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution and EJ Element Goal 2 of improving citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention. Policies 1, 2, and 14 of the EJ Element further support the 2022 AQMP.

The EJ Element is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequalities, however, the EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The Project would not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. The Project includes goals and policies such as minimizing the community's exposure to environmental pollution and promoting the use of indoor air filtration systems. As a result, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan; therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant. Cumulative impacts may result from individually minor but collectively significant projects, which "when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines § 15355).

The Project would be considered cumulatively significant if its impacts exceed SCAQMD project-specific significance thresholds.[17] The EJ Element is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequalities. The EJ Element contains goals (Goal 1 and 2) and policies (Policy 1, 2, and 14) that support cleaner air for the community. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The Project would not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. The Project would not directly result in physical development and therefore, would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds for regional emissions or localized impacts of criteria pollutants.

Indirect impacts could occur from improvements due to the goals and policies contained in the Project. For instance, Policy 14 encourages the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes owned/occupied by lower income households. Retrofitting homes for environmental sustainability would ultimately support more energy-efficient practices. Additionally, future development such as affordable housing projects or new grocery stores would need to conform with all applicable City standards and regulations regarding any potential increases in an existing or projected air quality violation and would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, identifying any significant impacts and applying required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project's contribution would not be considered cumulatively considerable, and impacts would be less than significant.

17 SCAQMD, *South Coast AQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds*, 2023. Available online at: https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/south-coast-aqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=25, accessed April 3, 2024.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant. The SCAQMD defines land uses considered to be sensitive receptors as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, and athletic facilities.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The EJ Element contains goals and policies that support cleaner air for the community, as shown above. As a result, the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The EJ Element is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequalities. Policies such as the promotion of indoor air filtration systems (Policy 3) and minimizing siting sensitive receptors near pollution sources (Policies 1, 2, and 9) would help reduce exposure to sensitive receptors. These efforts would help meet 2022 AQMP goals and reduce sensitive receptor exposure to pollutant concentrations. No goals and policies included in the EJ Element would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant. Odors are typically associated with industrial projects involving the use of chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, and other strong-smelling elements used in manufacturing processes, as well as sewage treatment facilities and landfills. Impacts would be considered potentially

significant if a project were to result in the creation of objectionable odors with the potential to affect substantial numbers of people, or if construction or operation of a project would result in the creation of nuisance odors that would be noxious to a substantial number of people as codified in SCAQMD Rule 402 (Nuisance).[18] The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The Project will not result in the approval of any physical improvements and will not alter any physical development standards. The EJ Element contains goals and policies that support cleaner air for the community. Any indirect impacts from development in accordance with the Project is not anticipated to create objectionable odors or other emissions adversely affecting a substantial number of people. Regardless, future discretionary projects following the approval of the EJ Element would be required to undergo a separate environmental review under CEQA to evaluate project-level impacts and implement required mitigation measures. As such, impacts from Project emissions such as those leading to odors would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

18 SCAQMD. *Rule 402: Nuisance* (adopted May 7, 1976). Available online at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-402.pdf.

4. Biological Resources

Environmental Setting

The City is urbanized with very limited vacant land. One area of the City is shown as Freshwater Emergent Wetland and Freshwater Pond on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory as shown in **Figure 3.3-6, Wetlands**.[19] This area is located in the northeastern area of the City and includes an arm of the Rio Hondo Coastal Spreading Grounds. The Rio Hondo Coastal Spreading Grounds serves as a water storage/groundwater recharge facility that retains and conserves local, imported, and reclaimed water to augment groundwater recharge in the groundwater basin. Other than this area, there are no sensitive habitats, riparian habitats, or wetlands in the City. The City does not have a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, and local levels with regard to biological resources and include:

- Federal Endangered Species Act
- Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Federal Clean Water Act
- California Endangered Species Act
- California Fish and Game Code
- Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Policy 4: Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure.

[19] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "National Wetlands Inventory." Available online at: https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/, accessed April 8, 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant. A significant impact would occur if the Project were to lead to adverse effects on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species according to any adopted plan, policy, or regulation. This includes effects caused by habitat modification.

The City of Bell Gardens is a highly urbanized environment, and the majority of the City is currently developed. The remaining number of undeveloped land remains is limited to scattered vacant parcels. The General Plan includes an Open Space/Parks designation applied to areas that are public parks or private properties reserved for open spaces. However, these properties are either developed with park uses or utility infrastructure and surrounded by urbanized areas. As demonstrated in **Figure 3.3-7, Significant Ecological Areas**, the County has not designated any Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) within the City limits.[20] The Project includes the development and implementation of an EJ Element as part of the City's General Plan. The Project would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development. Furthermore, the Project does not include any direct changes to the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or to any physical development standards. Rather, the EJ Element would implement policies intended to preserve existing open spaces and enhance natural landscapes that may serve as a natural habitat for sensitive species. Future discretionary infrastructure and development projects associated with the implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the protection of biological resources, as well as appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and identify project-specific impacts and any required mitigation measures. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

20 County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning, *County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035*, Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas Policy Map. Available online at: https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/9.1_Chapter9_Figures.pdf, accessed April 3, 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The County of Los Angeles has not designated SEAs within the City of Bell Gardens. As a highly urbanized City, the City's General Plan does not identify any existing riparian habitats or protected natural communities. However, as shown in **Figure 3.3-6**, a vacant property located within the northeastern perimeter of the City's boundary is identified in the National Wetlands Inventory as a Freshwater Emergent Wetland habitat.[21]

The EJ Element would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements and would not alter any physical development standards. The Project would not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. Rather, the Project would implement goals and policies that are intended to protect existing waterways from contamination. Future discretionary projects following the implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the protection of riparian and sensitive habitats. This includes Policy 2 of the City's Conservational Element, which states: "The City of Bell Gardens shall, to the extent possible, protect remaining ecological resources and enhance those resources through programs in the Open Space and Recreation Element and the Circulation and Transportation Element;" as well as appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and identify any required mitigation measures. Nevertheless, impacts to any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "National Wetlands Inventory." Available online at: https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/, accessed on April 8, 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City is a developed urbanized environment with few vacant parcels remaining. One vacant parcel located in the northeastern portion of the City is designated as a Freshwater Emergent Wetland habitat, as shown in **Figure 3.3-6**.[22] However, the EJ Element would implement goals and policies intended to protect and preserve existing natural habitats and waterways. Furthermore, future discretionary projects following the approval of the Project would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the protection of state and federally protected wetlands, as well as appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and identify project-specific impacts any required mitigation measures. Impacts related to wetlands would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant. As a highly urbanized and developed City, the City's existing infrastructure may serve as barriers to migratory fish and wildlife movement (i.e., bridges, roadways). Additionally, as stated above, there are no designated SEAs identified within the City limits. The EJ Element would implement policies intended to preserve existing biological resources that serve as habitat for migratory wildlife, such as trees and shrubs. This includes Policy 4, which intends to preserve and

22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "National Wetlands Inventory." Available online at: https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/, accessed April 8, 2024.

enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure. Future discretionary projects following the implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to policies and regulations related to the protection of habitats for migratory fish and wildlife, such as Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Section 3503.5 which states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto." In addition, fully protected species under the CFGC Section 3511 (birds), Section 4700 (mammals), Section 5515 (fish), and Section 5050 (reptiles and amphibians) are also considered special-status animal species.[23] Projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would also be subject to appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and apply required mitigation measures to any identified project-specific impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. The City does not have a tree preservation ordinance for trees on public or private property. The Project includes a tree preservation ordinance for public and private trees (Measure 2.3), which would be adopted at some point following the approval of the EJ Element. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policies or ordinances. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

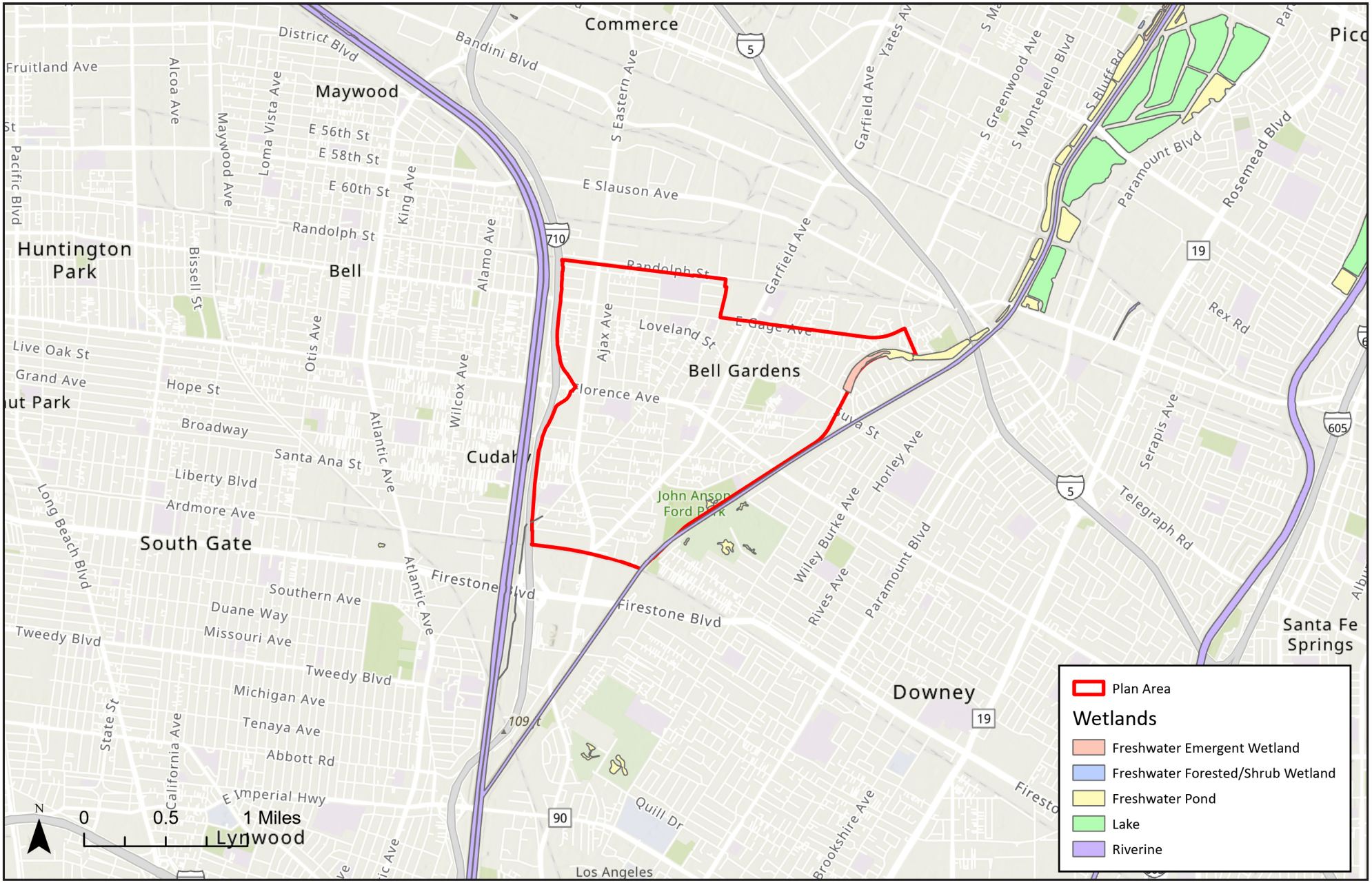
23 California Legislative Information, Fish and Game Code. Available online at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=FGC&tocTitle=+Fish+and+Game+Code+-+FGC, accessed April 4, 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. There are no adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans within the City.[24] Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

24 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, "NCCP Plan Summaries." Available online at: https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/nccp/plans, accessed January 10, 2024.



SOURCE: California Department of Conservation; Esri, 2024

IMPACT SCIENCES

Figure 3.3-6 Wetlands

1468.001•04/2024



SOURCE: Department of Regional Planning, 2019

IMPACT SCIENCES

Figure 3.3-7 Significant Ecological Areas

5. Cultural Resources

Environmental Setting

Bell Gardens has a history dating back to the late 1700's. In 1771 Antonio Lugo, a 35-year-old corporal in the Spanish army, was given a land grant of more than 29,514 acres, which today is known as the cities of Bell Gardens, Maywood, Vernon, Huntington Park, Walnut Park, Cudahy, South Gate, Lynwood, and Commerce. The City of Bell Gardens incorporated on August 1, 1961. The City was entirely developed at the time of incorporation and currently there is very little vacant land.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, and local levels with regard to cultural resources and include:

- National Historic Preservation
- National Register of Historic Places
- Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- California Register of Historic Resources
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5
- California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- California Public Resources Code Section 5097
- Assembly Bill 52
- Senate Bill 18
- Bell Gardens General Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to cultural resources. No specific development projects or improvements are included as part of the EJ Element, and no changes in existing land use zones or densities, nor any changes to land use regulations are proposed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The Conservation Element of the City's General Plan identifies five historic properties within the City.[25] However, the Project would not result in the approval of any physical improvements and would not alter any physical development standards that would impact any historical resources. The Project does not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. Future projects associated with the implementation of the EJ Element goals and policies, such as the development of a new grocery store or affordable housing project, could result in adverse changes to existing historical resources. However, future discretionary projects located in the City's Historic Overlay District would be subject to the development standards and regulations outlined in Chapter 9.18 (Overlay Districts) of the BGMC. Future discretionary projects would also be subject to appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA to identify any project-specific environmental impacts and apply required mitigation measures. Therefore, impacts related to historical resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Archaeological resources include material evidence of past human life and culture of previous ages. Section 15064.5 of the *CEQA Guidelines* states that if an archaeological site does not meet the criteria defined in subdivision (a) but does meet the definition of a unique archeological resource in PRC Section 21083.2, the site shall be treated in accordance with the

25 City of Bell Gardens, *General Plan Conservation Element*, p. 5-22 (2010). Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5721/637976183381030000, accessed January 10, 2024.

provisions of Section 21083.2. PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.

2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.

3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

The Project would adopt and implement a new EJ Element as part of the City's General Plan. The Project is a policy-level document and would not result in future development or the approval of any physical improvements that could substantially affect archaeological resources. Future excavation activities for projects associated with implementation of the EJ Element may encounter undiscovered archaeological resources. These projects would be subject to the appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA to identify project-specific impacts and any required mitigation measures. Accordingly, any Project impact to archaeological resources pursuant to PRC Section 15064.5 would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal ceremonies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. As a new element to the City's General Plan, the Project would not directly result in future development or the approval of any physical improvements. However, future discretionary projects involving excavation activities following the approval of the EJ Element may result in accidental discovery of human remains. These projects would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA to analyze project-level impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Furthermore, in the event that human remains are accidentally discovered during the

construction of any associated projects, those remains would be properly treated in accordance with the with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. As required by State law, the requirements and procedures set forth in PRC Section 5097.98 would also be implemented. Adherence to existing state laws would reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

6. Energy

Environmental Setting

Electricity in the City is provided by Southern California Edison. Natural gas is provided by Southern California Gas.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, and regional levels with regard to energy and include:

- Warren-Alquist Act
- California Energy Plan
- Renewable Portfolio Standards (SB 1078, SB 107, SB X 1-2, SB 100, SB 350)
- Assembly Bill 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and Senate Bill 32
- Energy Action Plan
- California Code of Regulations, Title 24 (Building Standards Code)
- Sustainable Communities Strategy (SB 375)
- SCAG, 2020 RTP/SCS

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to energy. No specific development projects are included as part of the EJ Element, and no changes in existing land use zones or densities, nor any changes to land use regulations are proposed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. The EJ Element is a policy level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The EJ Element contains goals and policies to address the disproportionate effects of environmental pollution on disadvantaged communities, and no specific projects are included at this time. As a result, the Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or

unnecessary consumption of energy resources during building construction or operation. Future projects associated with the EJ Element would be required to undergo environmental review under CEQA on a project-by-project basis and identify project-specific impacts and implement necessary mitigation measures. Future new development would be required to comply with the state's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, Part 6), as they may be amended from time to time, to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, and to enhance the outdoor and indoor environmental quality. These standards provide regulations for new buildings constructed in California to reduce energy demand and consumption. The Building Energy Efficiency Standards are updated every three years to accommodate new energy efficiency technologies and methodologies. Development made in accordance with the Project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, therefore the Project would not result in any impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. As noted above, the EJ Element is a policy level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The EJ Element contains goals and policies to address the disproportionate effects of environmental pollution on disadvantaged communities, and no specific projects are included at this time. The Project would not change any energy efficiency policies and would comply with all State and local plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency. As such, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct any State or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Future projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be required to undergo environmental review under CEQA on a project-by-project basis which would identify project-specific impacts and implement necessary mitigation measures. Adoption of the Project would have no impact with regard to a conflict with a State or local renewable energy or energy efficiency plan.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

7. Geology and Soils

Environmental Setting

There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the City of Bell Gardens. The nearest faults to the City include the Newport- Inglewood-Rose Canyon approximately 6 miles southwest of the City and the Whittier-Elsinore Faults located approximately 7 miles northeast of the City. Other potentially active faults approximately 5 to 15 miles from the City include the Norwalk, Raymond, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, Verdugo, and Palos Verdes Fault Zones[26].

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at state and local levels with regard to geology and soils and include:

- Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act
- Seismic Hazards Mapping Act
- California Code of Regulations, Title 24 (Building Standards Code) - Soil Investigation Requirements
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan, Safety Element

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to geology and soils. No specific development projects are included as part of the EJ Element, and no changes in existing land use zones or densities, nor any changes to land use regulations are proposed.

Discussion

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State	☐	☐	☐	☒

26 California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey, "Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/, South Gate Quad, or https://filerequest.conservation.ca.gov/?q=SOUTH_GATE_EZRIM.pdf, accessed August 30, 2023.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				

No Impact. Fault rupture is the displacement that occurs along the surface of a fault during an earthquake. The California Geological Survey designates Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, which are regulatory zones around active faults. An "active fault" has exhibited surface displacement with Holocene time (within the last 11,000 years) hence constituting a potential hazard to structures that may be located across it. As indicated by **Figure 3.3-8, Fault Hazard Areas**, the California Department of Conservation has not identified any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the City of Bell Gardens.[27]

Therefore, the EJ Element to the City's General Plan would not directly result in any ground disturbing activities which have the potential to exacerbate existing geologic conditions, including fault rupture. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. Southern California is an active seismic region, and moderate to strong earthquakes can occur on numerous faults. As is the case for most areas of California, the City is situated within a seismically active region. There are no major fault zones located within the City as indicated in **Figure 3.3-8**.[28] However, there are several faults within the region that could have an impact on

27 California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey, "Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/, South Gate Quad, or https://filerequest.conservation.ca.gov/?q=SOUTH_GATE_EZRIM.pdf, accessed August 30, 2023.

28 California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey, "Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/, South Gate Quad, or https://filerequest.conservation.ca.gov/?q=SOUTH_GATE_EZRIM.pdf, accessed August 30, 2023.

the City. The nearest faults to the City include the Newport- Inglewood-Rose Canyon approximately 6 miles southwest of the City and the Whittier-Elsinore Faults located approximately 7 miles northeast of the City. Other potentially active faults approximately 5 to 15 miles from the City include the Norwalk, Raymond, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, Verdugo, and Palos Verdes Fault Zones. The San Andreas Fault is approximately 36 miles northeast of the City and is considered the most seismically active fault in the southern California region. The intensity of ground shaking during a seismic event at any one location is determined by several factors, including: magnitude of the earthquake; distance from the epicenter (source); subsurface material beneath the location; and topography. Ground shaking could result in significant damage to buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, and may also result in associated safety hazards to people living and working in the vicinity. Considering the location of these faults to the City boundaries, the potential impact of seismic ground shaking is considered to be low.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document and would not result in future physical development or in the approval of any physical improvements. The Project does not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of the Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Liquefaction is the sudden decrease in the strength of cohesionless soils due to dynamic or cyclic shaking. Saturated soils behave temporarily as a viscous fluid (liquefaction) and, consequently, lose their capacity to support the structures founded on them. The potential for liquefaction decreases with increasing clay and gravel content but increases as the ground acceleration and duration of shaking increase. According to the California Department of Conservation, the majority of the land within the City are areas with liquefaction potential, and shown on **Figure 3.3-9, Liquefaction Zones**.[29]

29 California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey, Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/, South Gate Quad, or https://filerequest.conservation.ca.gov/?q=SOUTH_GATE_EZRIM.pdf, accessed August 30, 2023.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City. Future projects following implementation of the Project could occur within potential liquefaction zones in the City. All future projects would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project-specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. Additionally, future projects would be required to comply with the California Building Code as adopted in Title 6 (Building Code) of the BGMC, and may be amended from time to time, related to building safety to reduce potential liquefaction impacts. Therefore, implementation of the EJ Element would not expose people or structures to adverse liquefaction hazards and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. Landslides are movements of large masses of rock and/or soil. Landslide potential is generally the greatest for areas with steep and/or high slopes, low sheer strength, and increased water pressure. Seismically induced landslides and other slope failures are common occurrences during or soon after earthquakes.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City. All future projects would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project-specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. The City is located within a highly urbanized environment that is relatively flat in topography. As indicated in **Figure 3.3-10**, **Landslide Zones**, there are no identified landslide zones within the City as mapped for Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation by the California Geologic Survey.[30] As such, implementation of the EJ Element would not exacerbate environmental conditions that would result in landslides, and no impacts would occur.

30 California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey, "Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/, South Gate Quad, or https://filerequest.conservation.ca.gov/?q=SOUTH_GATE_EZRIM.pdf, accessed August 31, 2023

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Future projects associated with the EJ Element could occur on vacant, undeveloped sites where soil erosion is more likely to occur during construction activities. As such, future projects proposing physical development or earth movement following implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to CEQA review and identify project-specific impacts and implement required mitigation measures. Additionally, future construction activities would be required to comply with the requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) Program. In compliance with the NPDES program, projects involving one or more acres of site disturbance would be required to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and associated Best Management Practices (BMPs) in compliance with the Construction General Permit during grading and construction. Construction general permits are issued by the City of Bell Gardens Building and Safety Division. Typical BMPs include erosion prevention mats or geofabrics, silt fencing, sandbags, plastic sheeting, temporary drainage devices, and positive surface drainage to allow surface runoff to flow away from site improvements or areas susceptible to erosion. Adherence to the BMPs in the SWPPP would reduce, prevent, or minimize soil erosion from grading and construction activities. The Building and Safety Division is responsible for the enforcement of city and state codes including SWPP and BMP requirements. As stated above, the Project is a policy-level document and therefore, impacts related to erosion and loss of topsoil would be less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Impacts related to landslides and liquefaction are addressed under impact discussions Sections 7(a)(iii) and 7(a)(iv), above.

However, the Project is a policy-level document that would not result in future development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City. All future projects would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project-specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. Lateral spreading occurs as a result of liquefaction; accordingly, liquefaction-prone areas would also be susceptible to lateral spreading. Subsidence occurs at great depths below the surface when subsurface pressure is reduced by the withdrawal of fluids (e.g., groundwater, natural gas, or oil) resulting in sinking of the ground. As discussed, several areas within City boundaries are areas with liquefaction potential. As such, soils in these areas are susceptible to instability due to lateral spreading.

Future projects associated with the EJ Element would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to evaluate project specific impacts related to lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Additionally, future projects would be required to comply with all applicable regulations of the City Building Code. Based on the foregoing, the impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant. Expansive soils are characterized by their ability to undergo significant volume changes (shrink or swell) due to variations in moisture content. Changes in soil moisture content can result from precipitation, landscape irrigation, utility leakage, roof drainage, perched groundwater, drought, or other factors and may result in unacceptable settlement or heave of structures or concrete slabs supported on grade. Depending on the extent and location below finish subgrade, expansive soils can have a detrimental effect on structures.

EJ Element policy-level document and Project implementation would not result in future physical development or redevelopment, nor would it result in the approval of any physical improvements. Future projects associated with the EJ Element would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project specific impacts to any existing expansive soils in the City and implement required mitigation measures. Additionally, future projects would be required to comply with all applicable regulations of the City Building Code. Based on the foregoing, Project impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

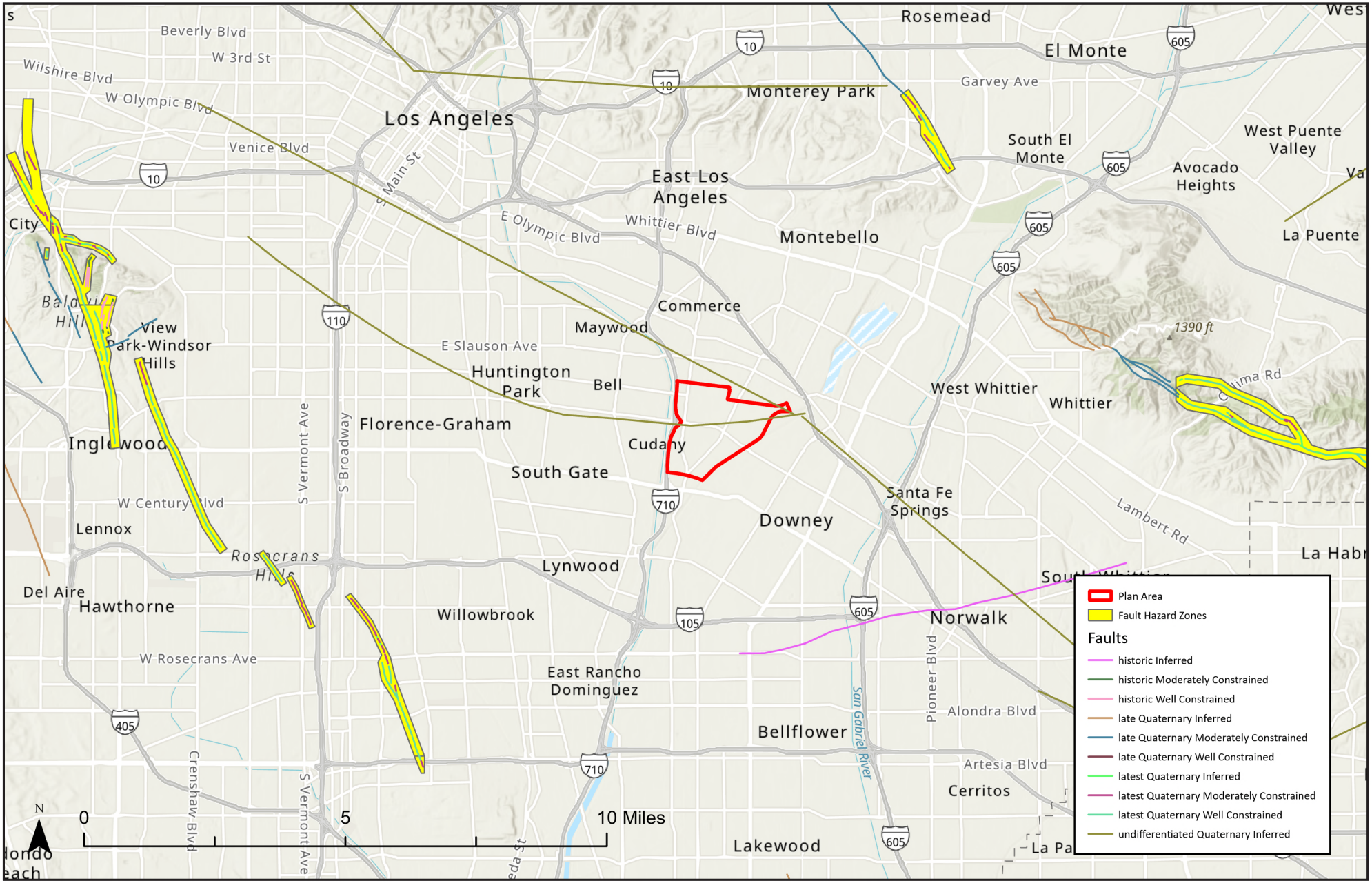
No Impact. The City is served by existing sewer infrastructure. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City and would not directly result in new physical development involving the installation or use of septic tanks. Therefore, the EJ Element would result in no impacts to soils supporting septic tanks or alternative wastewater systems.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Paleontological resources include fossil remains or traces of past life forms, including both vertebrate and invertebrate species, as well as plants. Paleontological resources are generally found within sedimentary rock formations. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements but is intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities. Future projects following the implementation of the EJ Element may include ground disturbing activities that may uncover paleontological resources or unique geological features. However, these projects would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to evaluate project specific impacts and identify any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the EJ Element would not interfere with policies or regulations protecting paleontological or geologic features. Thus, the impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

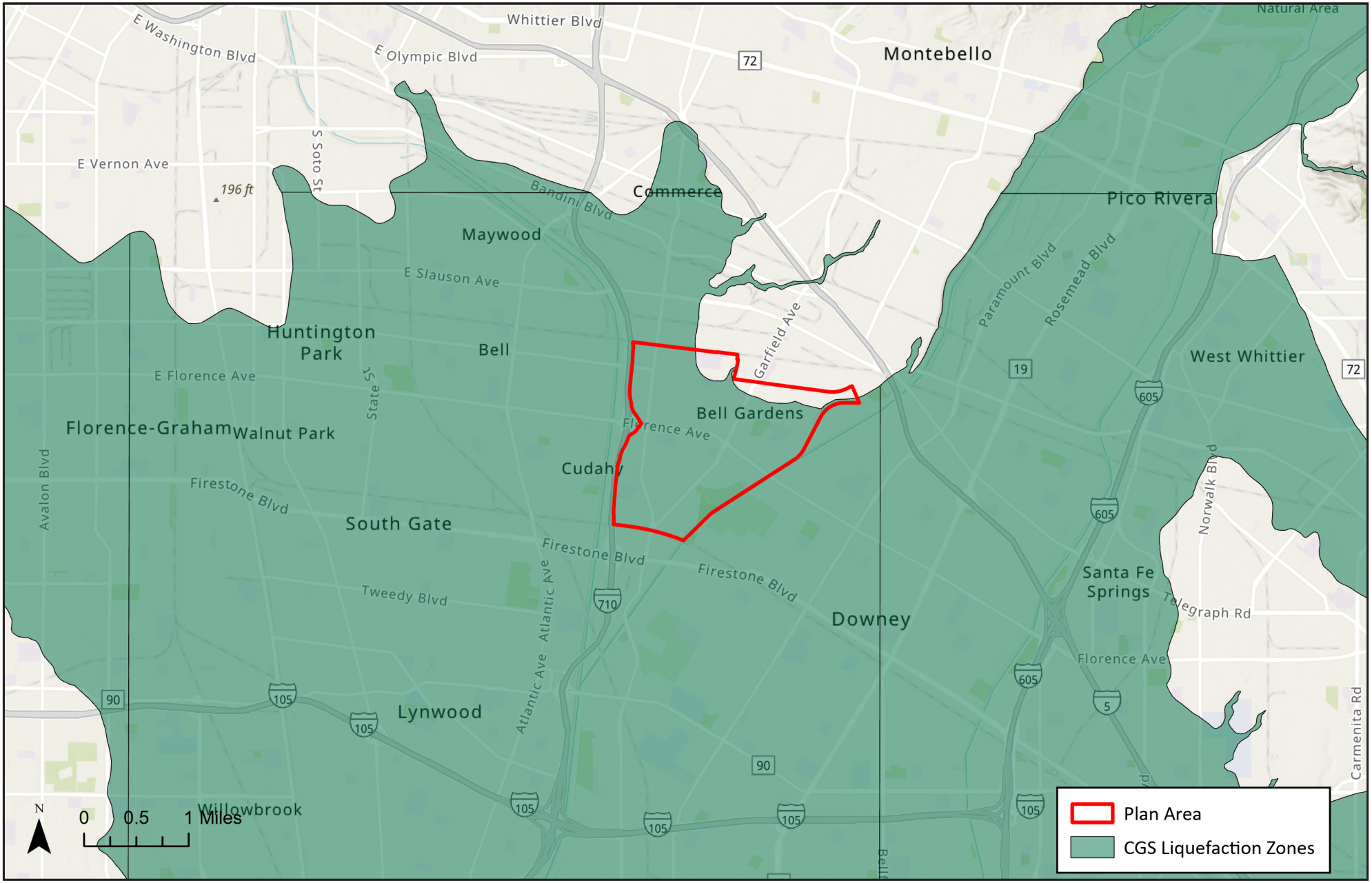


SOURCE: California Geololgical Survey, 2024; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-8 Fault Hazard Areas

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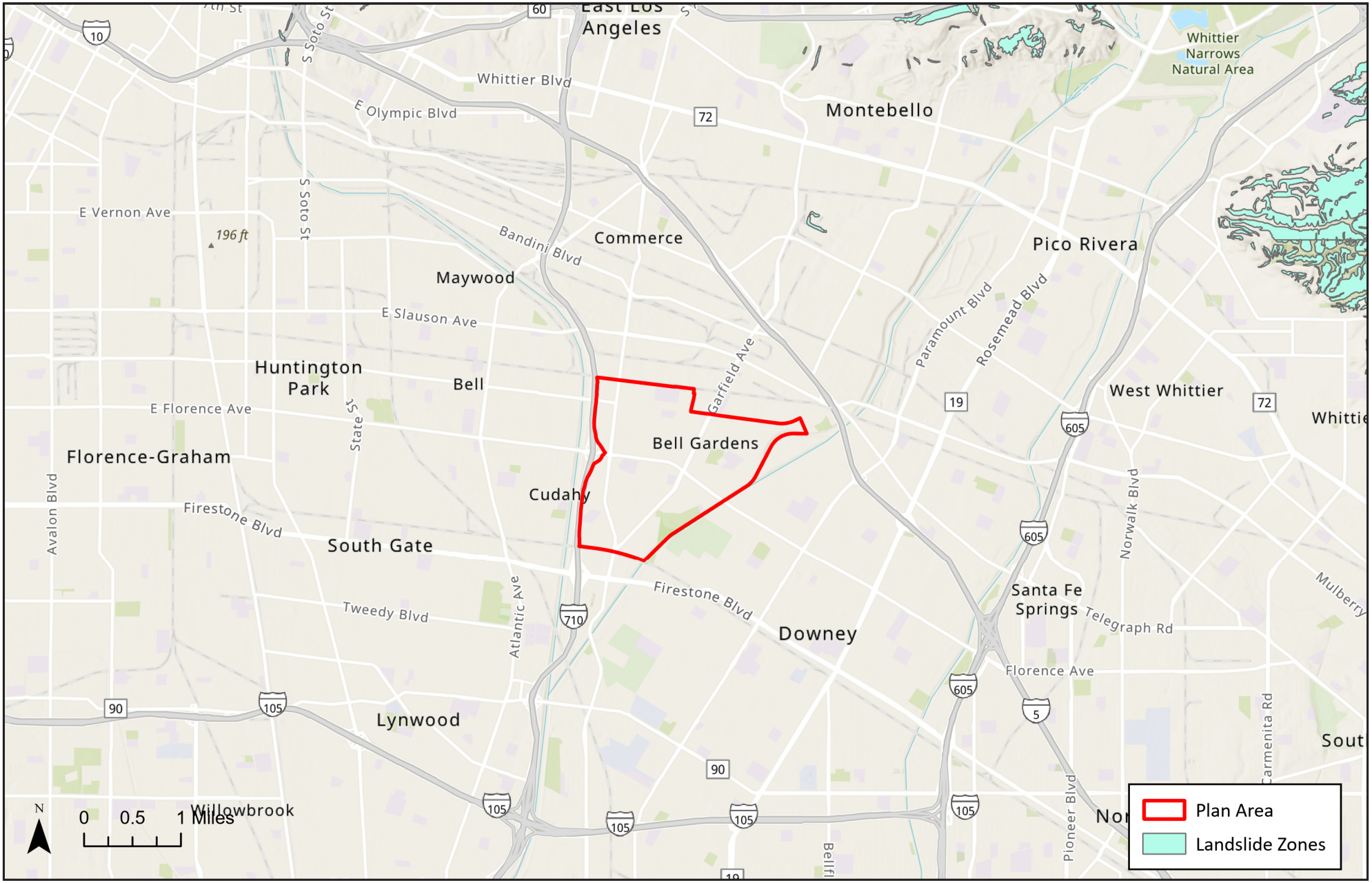


SOURCE: California Geololgical Survey, 2024; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-9 Liquefaction Zones

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SOURCE: California Department of Conservation, 2024; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-10 Landslide Zones

1468.001•04/2024

8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Environmental Setting

Global temperatures are moderated by naturally occurring atmospheric gases known as greenhouse gases (GHGs). GHGs, as defined under California's Assembly Bill (AB) 32, include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). GHG emissions are primarily associated with the burning of fossil fuels, electricity generation, natural gas consumption, industrial activity, manufacturing, and other activities.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, regional, and local levels with regard to GHGs and include:

- Executive Order S-3-05
- Executive Order S-01-07 (Low Carbon Fuel Standard)
- Assembly Bill 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and Senate Bill 32
- Executive Order B-30-15
- Executive Order B-55-18
- Assembly Bill 1279
- Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (Senate Bill 375)
- Renewable Portfolio Standards (SB 1078, SB 107, SB X 1-2, and SB 100)
- Assembly Bill 1493
- Senate Bill 743 (SB 743)
- Senate Bill 350 (SB 350)
- Climate Change Scoping Plan
- SCAQMD Draft Guidance Regarding Interim CEQA GHG Significance Thresholds
- SCAG, 2020 RTP/SCS

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.

Policy 1: Minimize resident's exposure to air pollution near high-volume roadways (ex, freeways) through site planning, building design, and other measures, focusing on the needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., families with children, people with disabilities, seniors).

Policy 2: Minimize siting sensitive receptors (i.e., residential, and institutional uses) near pollution sources, such as freight-handling and manufacturing facilities.

Policy 3: Promote the use of indoor air filtration systems on individual properties through education and exploration of grants or other funding incentives.

Policy 4: Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure.

Policy 8: Coordinate with the applicable public and non-profit agencies (i.e., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) to create/expand educational programs and campaigns regarding health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc.

Policy 9: Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element would not result in any physical developments or improvements, rather it is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequalities. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The Project would not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. Implementation of the Project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that would have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, impacts related to the generation of GHG emissions would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant. As discussed earlier, the EJ Element is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequalities, however, the EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development. The Project would not change the General Plan Land Use Element, base zoning designations, or any physical development standards. The Project would not result in the approval of any physical development. As such, the Project does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation that has been adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Environmental Setting

Hazardous materials encompass a wide range of substances, some of which are naturally occurring and some of which are man-made. Examples of hazardous materials include pesticides, herbicides, petroleum products, metals (e.g., lead, mercury, arsenic), asbestos, and chemical compounds used in manufacturing. Hazardous materials are used for a variety of purposes, including service industries, various small businesses, medical uses, schools, and households. Many chemicals used in household cleaning, construction, dry cleaning, film processing, landscaping, and automotive maintenance and repair are considered hazardous. Small-quantity hazardous waste generators include facilities such as automotive repair, dry cleaners, and medical offices. Hazardous materials could pose a substantial present or future hazard to human health or the environment when improperly handled, disposed, or otherwise managed. According to Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the City is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.[31]

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, and local levels with regard to hazards and hazardous materials include:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
- Resources Conservation and Recovery Act
- Hazardous Materials Transportation Act
- Federal Aviation Regulations Part 77
- California Code of Regulations, Part V
- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Act
- Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- California Government Code Section 65962.5
- Department of Toxic Substances Control Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Los Angeles County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

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31 See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 702A for a definition of "fire hazard severity zones."

Policy 26: Increase safety and emergency preparedness through an established short-list of designated emergency shelters in the City. Information would be available to all residents in English and in Spanish.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant. Exposure of the public or the environment to hazardous materials typically occurs the improper mishandling or use of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes. Particularly, this could occur by untrained personnel, a transportation accident, environmentally inappropriate methods of disposal, fire, explosion, or other emergencies. The severity of potential effects varies with the activity conducted, the concentration and type of hazardous material or wastes present, and the proximity of sensitive receptors.

The EJ Element would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that may result in exposure of the public to hazardous materials. Rather, implementation of the EJ Element would assist in improving safety of residents and overall City emergency response. Future projects following the implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the remediation of hazardous materials, as well as an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Under CEQA, project-specific impacts would be identified and required mitigation measures would be applied to the Project. Future projects would additionally be required to comply with multiple State and regional regulatory programs and requirements involving the handling, transport, and disposal of any hazardous materials that may be used. Additionally, future discretionary projects may require consultation with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to ensure compliance with the applicable state and regional regulatory programs. Because the Project is a policy-level document that includes goals and policies to minimize risks with regard to the handling, use, storage, release, or emissions of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that may result in an accidental release of hazardous materials because it is merely a policy-level document. The EJ Element has a goal to minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution (Policy 1). Future projects following the implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the remediation of hazardous materials, as well as an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify project specific impacts and implement necessary mitigation measures to reduce the level of significance of such impacts. Additionally, future infrastructure would be required to comply with the appropriate State and Federal laws in the event that any materials released are appropriately contained and remediated. As such, impacts related to upset and accident conditions would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed, the EJ Element is a policy level document that would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that may result in hazardous emissions within a 0.25-mile distance of an existing or proposed school. It should be noted the Project would implement policies that would protect sensitive receptors (ex. schools) from emissions of hazardous pollutants. Future development project would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the remediation of hazardous materials, as well as an appropriate

environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify project specific impacts and implement necessary mitigation measures to reduce the level of significance of such impacts. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development. All future discretionary projects following the implementation of the EJ Element would be subject to the appropriate state, federal, and local laws, policies, and regulations. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City, Future discretionary projects, including any projects are located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, would be analyzed to determine whether the proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and be subject to the application of any required mitigation measures. impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. There are no public or private airports located within the City of Bell Gardens. The closest airport to the City is the Compton/Woodley Airport, located approximately 6 miles southwest of the City in the City of Compton. Therefore, the EJ Element would not result in any impacts related to airport safety hazards and excessive noise.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. According to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan, the City has a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) that outlines the responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency or City-wide disaster.[32] In addition, the City of Bell Gardens is located within the Los Angeles County Operational Area and maintains mutual aid agreements for emergency situations. The County's Emergency Response Plan, adopted in 2023, establishes a coordinated emergency management system, which includes prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation within the Operational Area.[33] The EJ Element would support these emergency response plans through Policy 26 which would establish a short list of designated emergency shelters in the City, to be provided both in English and Spanish.

The Project includes the development and implementation of the EJ Element as part of the City's General Plan. The Project includes goals and policies that would enhance public safety and promote healthy and equitable outcomes. Implementation of the EJ Element would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that may impede the procedures outlined in the MHFP or County Emergency Response Plan. Construction and operational activities associated with future projects following the implementation of the Project would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the emergency response as well as appropriate environmental

32 City of Bell Gardens, *General Plan Safety Element*, pp. 6-5 (July 27, 1995). Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5723/637976183394330000, accessed January 2, 2024.

33 County of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan*, p. 2 (2023). Available online at: https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/County-of-Los-Angeles-OAEOP-2023-Final-for-Website.pdf, accessed April 4, 2023.

review pursuant to CEQA and identify any project-specific impacts and required mitigation measures, as needed. As such, impacts to adopted emergency response plans or evacuation plans would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

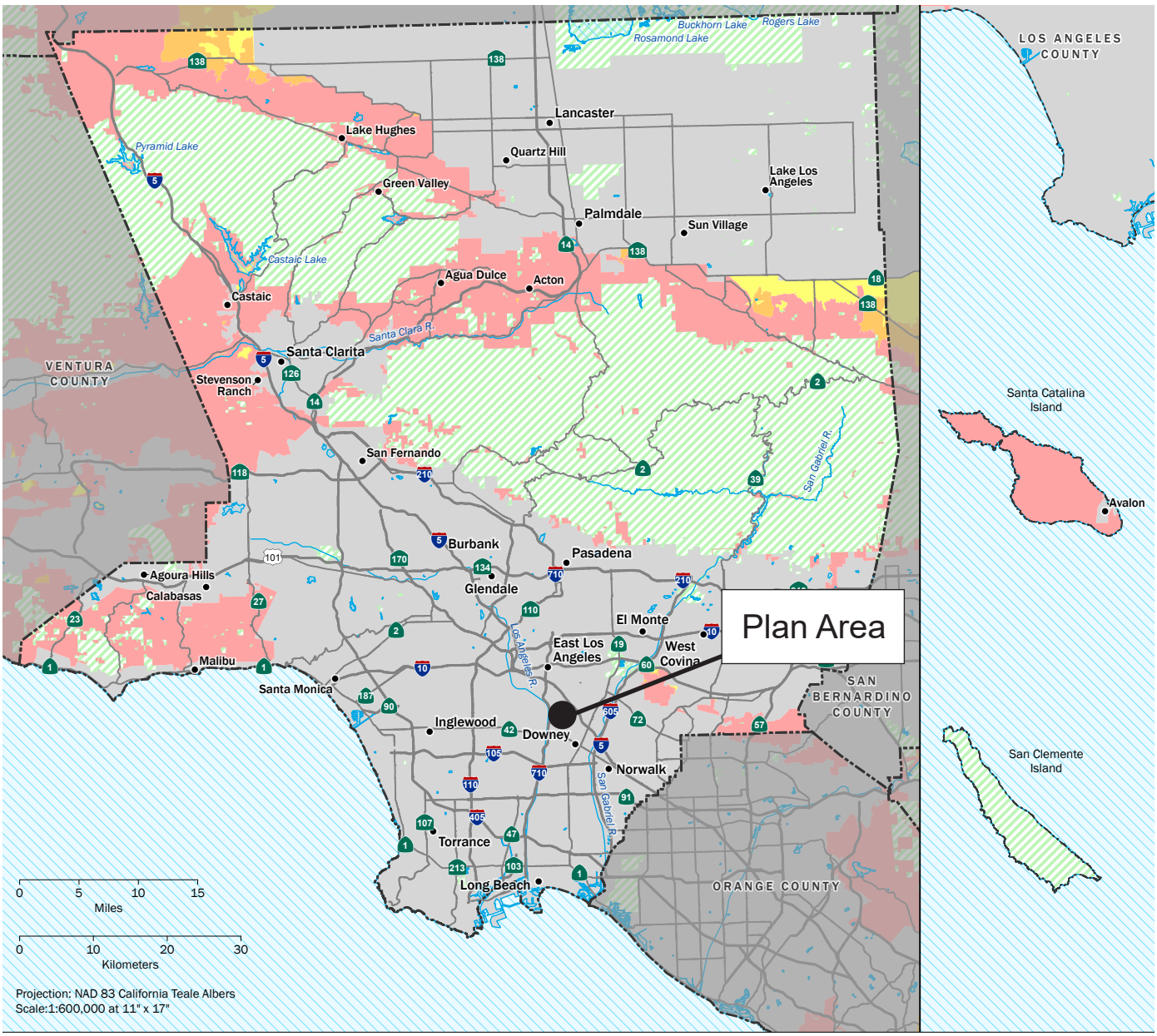
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. CAL FIRE identifies, and maps areas of significant fire hazard based on fuels, terrain, and other relevant factors. Wildfire risks in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) are called Fire Hazard Severity Zones and are grouped into unzoned, moderate, high, and very high zones.[34] According to CAL FIRE, and shown in **Figure 3.3-11**, **Fire Severity Zones**, the City is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.[35] In addition, the EJ Element does not include any site-specific development projects. Therefore, implementation of the EJ Element would not directly or indirectly be subject to any wildfire risks as it is merely a policy-level document. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

34 See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 702A for a definition of "fire hazard severity zones."

35 CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjjf2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf, accessed November 1, 2023.



SOURCE: Cal Fire, 2024

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Figure 3.3-11 Fire Severity Zones

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10. Hydrology and Water Quality

Environmental Setting

The City is located within the Central Groundwater Basin (CGB). Water enters the CGB from countless natural and man-made locations, including natural recharge and recharge through surface spreading at the Whittier Narrows Dam, Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds (MFSG), which consists of the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds and San Gabriel Coastal Spreading Grounds, infiltration in the unlined portions of the Lower San Gabriel River, and via direct injection at the Alamitos Barrier Project (ABP).

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at federal, state, regional, and local levels with regard to hydrology and water quality and include:

- Clean Water Act
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Statewide Construction General Permit
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Policy 5: Protect potable water and groundwater resources from future contamination by implementing pollutant concentration standards and conducting routine testing to the City's potable water system.

Policy 6: Protect the existing groundwater quality by conducting annual testing and reporting of the Central Basin to confirm conformance with local, state, and federal standards.

Policy 7: Ensure sufficient water availability and supply to meet current and future demand.

Policy 8: Coordinate with the applicable public and non-profit agencies (i.e., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) to create/expand educational programs and campaigns regarding health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc.

Discussion

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City of Bell Gardens is subject to Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) water quality regulations. The SARWQCB is authorized to implement a municipal stormwater permitting program as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) authority granted under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Under the NPDES program, development projects that disturb more than one acre of land must apply for a General Construction Permit (CGP) prior to the initiation of construction activities. The CGP would require prospective applicants to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would minimize the incidence of construction-related pollutants entering the storm water system. Among the items required in a SWPPP are pollution prevention Best Management Practices (BMP) that must be implemented in development projects.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City. Future projects with the adoption of the Project would be required to comply with all applicable SARWQCB requirements and would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, meaning that project-specific impacts would be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures would be applied. As a result, impacts associated with violation of any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City is located within the CGB. Water enters the Basin from countless natural and man-made locations, including natural recharge and recharge through surface spreading at the Whittier Narrows Dam, Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds (MFSG), which consists of the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds and San Gabriel Coastal Spreading Grounds, infiltration in the unlined portions of the Lower San Gabriel River, and via direct injection of imported water at the ABP, which is a seawater intrusion barrier located in the southeastern portion of the CGB. The ABP protects groundwater supplies for the Central and Orange County basins and its facilities include injection wells to form a freshwater pressure ridge.

Although the majority of the land in Bell Gardens has been developed with impervious surfaces, subsequent construction activities following the adoption of the EJ Element could include landscaping (i.e., turf, trees, and plantings) that could provide additional pervious surfaces, which would be beneficial for groundwater recharge. Further, the EJ Element, a policy-level document, provides policies that support the protection of groundwater (Policies 6 & 8). As such, impacts to groundwater supplies and recharge would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner, which would:	☐	☐	☒	☐

i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or off-site?

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City. Projects following the adoption of the EJ element would likely take place on existing developed sites, therefore the amount of pervious surfaces would not change. Additionally, all projects would be required to comply with SAWQCB requirements. If development projects disturb one or more acres of land, the project would be subject to the stormwater discharge requirements of a General Construction Permit. Project applicants must also prepare a SWPPP that outlines the BMPs for the future project. Furthermore, future projects would be required to comply with the landscape watering requirements outlined in Chapter 11.03 (Water Conservation Plan) of the BGMC. Specific projects proposed following the adoption of the EJ Element would be required to undergo a separate environmental review pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. Adherence to federal and local regulations pertaining to soil erosion management would reduce future project impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii. Result in flooding on-or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) As shown in **Figure 3.3-12, Flood Hazard Areas**, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the City of Bell Gardens is 06037C1810, which shows that the City is located in within areas of 0.2-percent annual chance of

flood hazard.[36] Additionally, a portion of the southwestern corner is located within an "Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee." Therefore, the City is located within a minimal or moderate flood hazard area. Therefore, the City would only be subject to moderate or minimal risk from flooding.

The Project is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements that would result in flooding on or off site. Future projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be required to comply with SAWQCB requirements. Further, future projects must adhere to the design requirements outlined in the City Building Code and Chapter 6.25 (Floodplain Management) of the BGMC. All future projects would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project-specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. Therefore, impacts related to flooding would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii. Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that would not result in future physical development or other physical improvements, but instead sets a series of policies intended to address health effects on disadvantaged communities in the City. Future projects associated with the implementation of the EJ Element could potentially result in an increase in impervious surface area overall in the City. However, the City is urbanized and built out and drainage is accommodated by existing storm drain improvements and drainage channels. All future projects would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate project-specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. Furthermore,

36 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), "FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Viewer," Available online at: https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd

adherence to State and local regulations would be adhered to for all future development projects. Therefore, impacts to the City's stormwater drainage system would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. As stated, although the City is located within an area of flood hazard risk (Zone X). However, future projects would be required to adhere to State and local regulatory requirements to minimize impacts associated with flooding. Adherence to these requirements would reduce impacts related to flood flows to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City is located approximately 14.9 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean or near any bodies of water that could create tsunami or seiche. The City is bounded by the Rio Hondo River, a concrete lined channel, to the east. The Rio Hondo River is bounded by levees and does not hold water for extended periods.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified the City as located within Zone X, as it relates to potential flooding hazards, as indicated in **Figure 3.3-12**.[37] Zone X is an area of moderate or minimal hazard from the principal source of flood in the area. However, according to the City's General Plan, the City is located within an inundation area for the Hansen and Sepulveda Dams and within a Los Angeles River Flood Hazard area presented in US Army Corps of engineer dam

[37] Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Map Services Center. Available online at: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=bell%20gardens%2C%20ca, accessed on April 8, 2024.

inundation maps[38, 39]. Therefore, the City would only be subject to moderate or minimal risk from flooding. However, the EJ Element is a policy-level document and would not result in any physical development or improvements. Any future projects following the implementation of the Project would not result in physical development or improvements and also would not result in a risk of release of pollutants and would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify any project-specific impacts and implement any required mitigation measures. Therefore, impacts related to flood, tsunami, or seiche would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

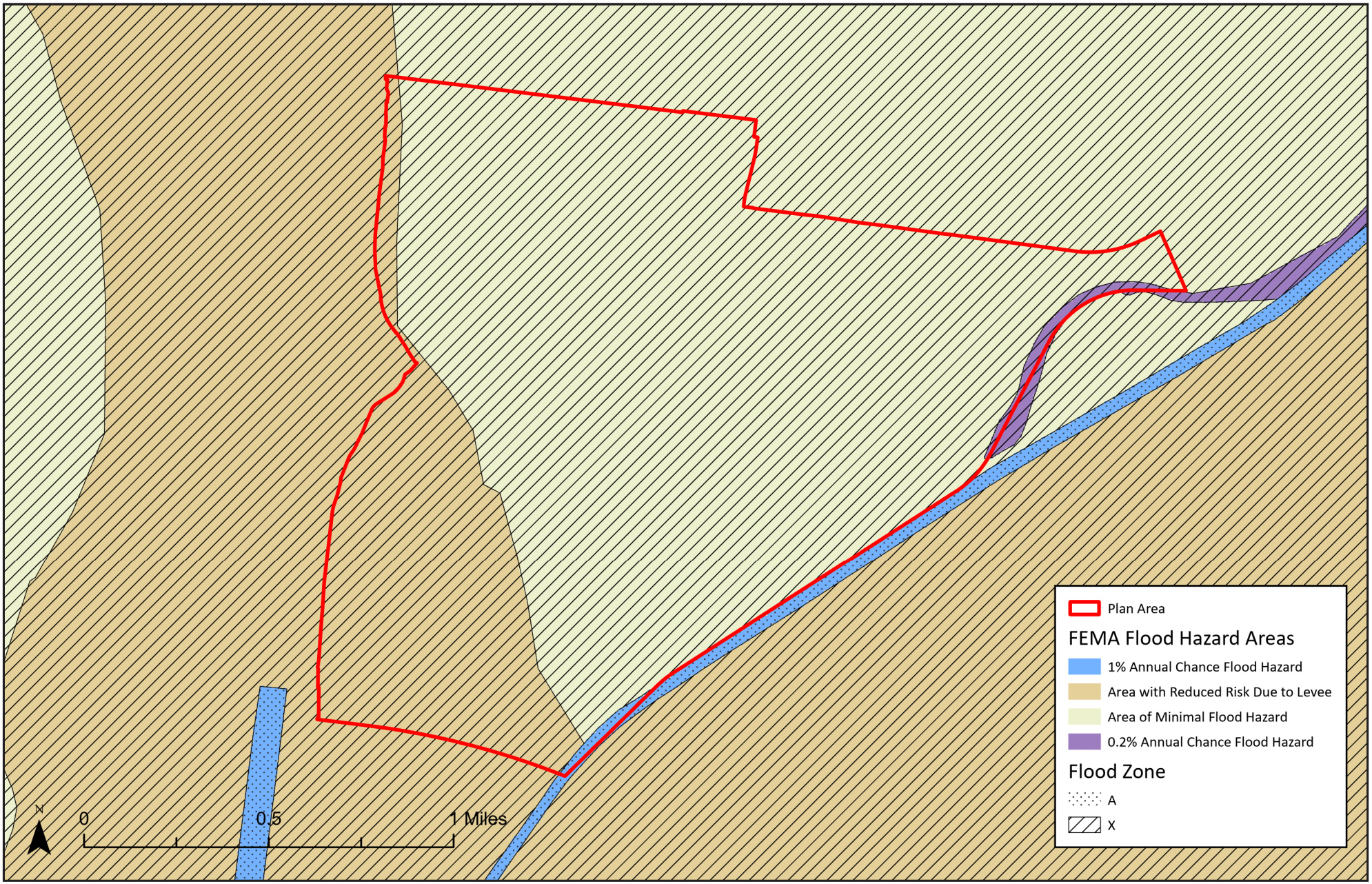
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of future projects associated with the implementation of the EJ Element would increase the overall impervious surfaces in the City and can increase the amount of stormwater runoff that would be treated prior to discharge. However, Project compliance with mandatory SWPPP BMPs and with City building standard requirements. Additionally, as stated above, implementation of the EJ Element would not substantially increase the impervious surfaces to the point of interfering substantially with groundwater recharge. Therefore, impacts to a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

38 National Inventory of Dams, "Sepulveda Dam." Available online at: https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/viewer/index.html?dsLibrary=NID-CA10025&x=-118.447&y=34.087&z=10, accessed on April 8, 2024.

39 National Inventory of Dams, "Hansen Dam." Available online at: https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/viewer/index.html?dsLibrary=NID-CA10019&x=-118.387&y=34.261&z=11, accessed on April 8, 2024.



SOURCE:FEMA, 2024; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-12 FEMA Flood Hazard Area Map

11. Land Use and Planning

Environmental Setting

The City of Bell Gardens has a total land area of 1,536 acres, or 2.4 square miles. The City is located in the southern portion of Los Angeles County, approximately 13 miles southeast of the Los Angeles Civic Center. The City is bound by the cities of Commerce to the north, Downey to the east, South Gate to the south, and the I-710 to the west with the cities of Bell and Cudahy located further west. The City has over 732.5 acres designated as residential land use, encompassing 58% of the City's total area. Few residential areas have retained their identity as lower density residential areas, despite historic development practices. The majority of residential neighborhoods zoned high-density residential (R-3) are redeveloped as a mix of single-family, duplex, triplex, and multiple-family developments.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations exist at state and local levels with regard to land use and include:

- California Planning and Zoning Law, (Government Code § 65000 et seq.)
- SCAG, 2020 RTP/SCS
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan – Land Use Element
- City of Bell Gardens Municipal Code, Title 9 (Zoning and Planning Regulations)

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Policy 9: Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions.

Policy 15: Support land use policies and programs that allow development of residential densities in a variety of sizes to accommodate all families.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. Projects with the potential to divide a community include highways, railways, and large buildings or infrastructure projects that change the street grid. Implementation of the EJ Element would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development. The Project would not implement measures that would result in projects that physically divide established communities. The EJ Element is a policy-level document, the Project would implement measures that would expand pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure (Measures 5.6), which would encourage bicycle trips (Measure 5.4), reduce vehicle congestion (Measures 5.4 and 5.6), and improve community connectivity (Measures 2.1 and 2.2). Future projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify any project-specific impacts and require any necessary mitigation measures. As such, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document which will become a part of the City's General Plan intended to support other elements of the General Plan and the BGMC. Because the IS/ND does not identify any significant impacts, there is no opportunity for any mitigation to conflict with any applicant policy, plan, or regulation. The Project would implement policies that call for land use policies and programs that allow the densities for residential families to vary in size (Policy 15). The policies are intended to allow more affordable housing to be developed. Accordingly, future residential development projects associated with the implementation of the Project may conflict with the City's allowed development densities per its designated land use. Future development projects that follow the adoption of the EJ Element would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, inclusive of consistency with applicable land use policies, plans, and regulations. Any project-specific impacts would be identified, and applicable mitigation measures would be required. Accordingly, the impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

12. Mineral Resources

Environmental Setting

According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Mine Reclamation, the City Bell Gardens has no active mines, as shown on **Figure 3.3-13, Mines**.[40]

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and responsible agencies exist at the state level with regard to mineral resources and include:

- Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
- DOC, California Geologic Management Division (CalGEM)
- DOC, Division of Mine Reclamation
- DOC, State Mining and Geology Board

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to mineral resources. No specific development projects are included as part of the EJ Element.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. According to the DOC, Division of Mine Reclamation, and further indicated on **Figure 3.3-13**, the City has no active mines.[41] Further, the City of Bell Gardens is located in a Mineral Resource Zone-1 (MRZ-1), as shown in **Figure 3.3-14, Mineral Resources,** which is an area where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little

40 California Department of Conservation, "Mines Online." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html. Accessed on December 6, 2023.

41 California Department of Conservation, "Mines Online." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html. Accessed on December 6, 2023.

likelihood exists for their presence.[42] The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any development or physical improvements. The policies, goals and measures proposed within the EJ Element do not address nor impact mineral resources. The Project would therefore have no impact on the availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

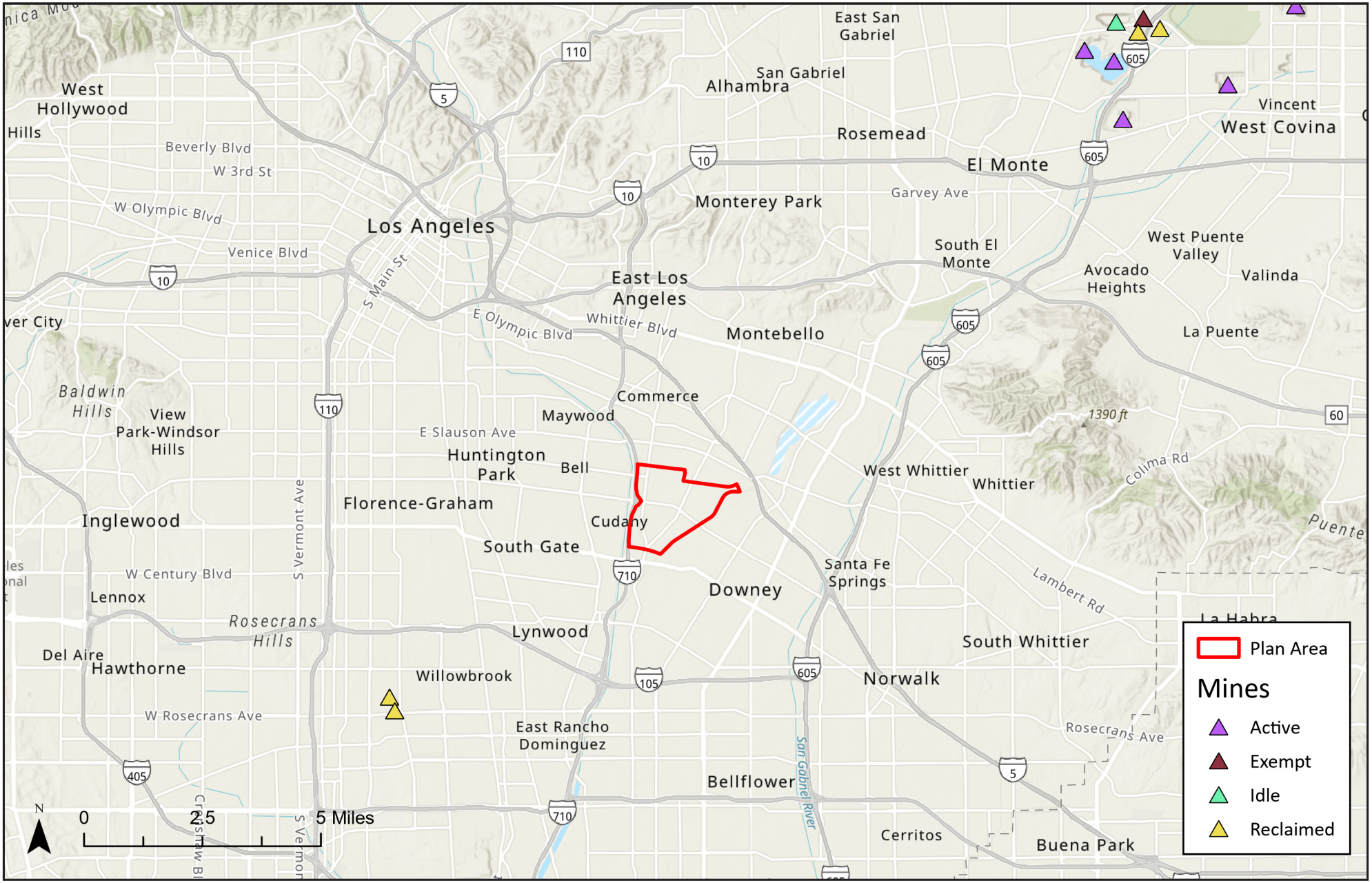
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. According to the DOC and shown in **Figure 3.3-13**, there are no active mines identified within the City.[43] Additionally, there are no areas in the City that are classified as mineral resource deposit areas. The Project is a policy-level document. Any subsequent project that proposes development or physical improvements would not include oil or mineral extraction activities, because none have been identified within the Project area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

42 California Department of Conservation, "Mines Online." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html. Accessed on December 6, 2023.

43 California Department of Conservation, "Mines Online." Available online at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html. Accessed on December 6, 2023.

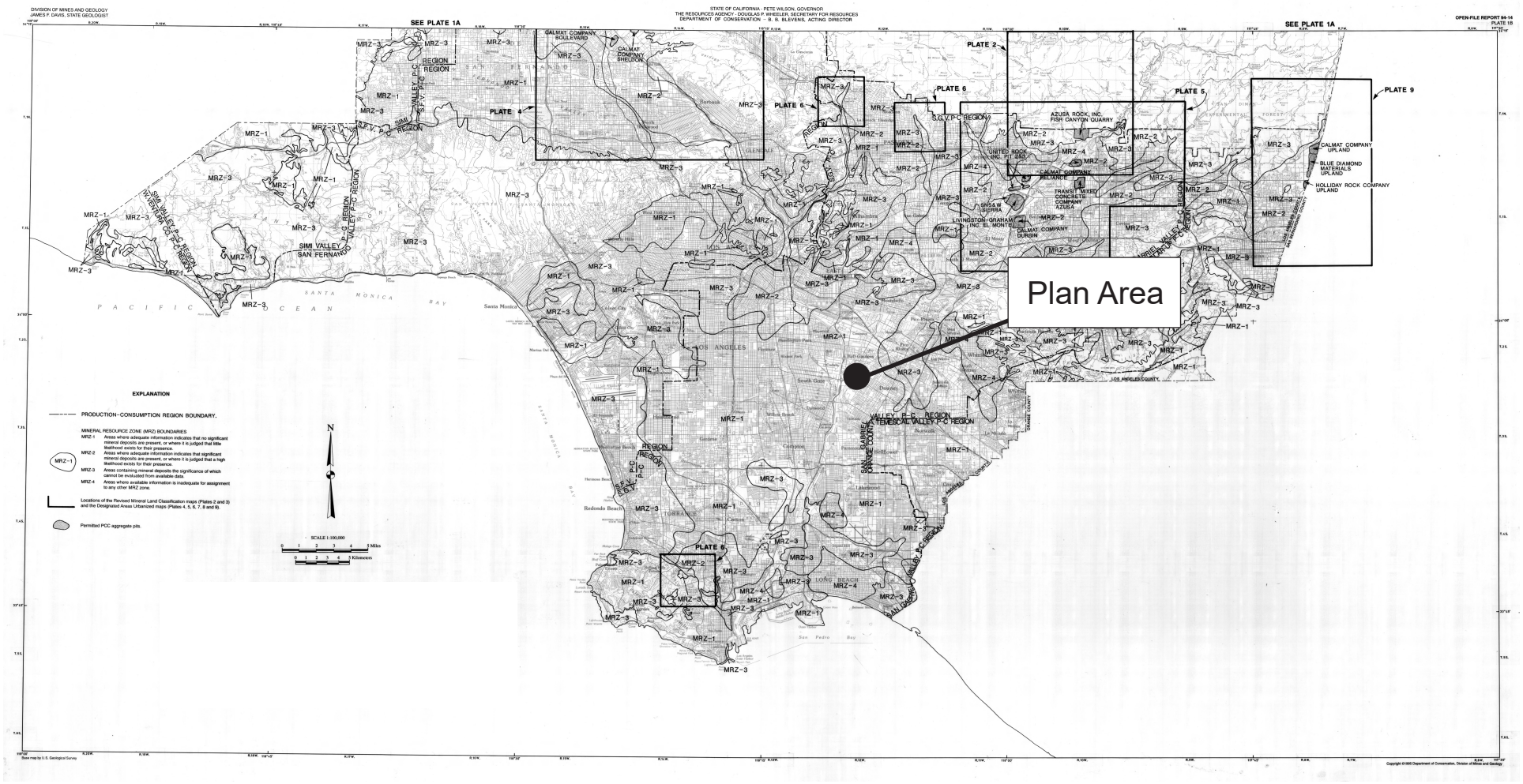


SOURCE: California Department of Conservation; Esri, 2024

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Figure 3.3-13 Mines

1468.001•04/2024



SOURCE: County of Los Angeles

IMPACT SCIENCES

Figure 3.3-14 Mineral Resources

1468.001•04/2024

13. Noise

Environmental Setting

All noise level or sound level values presented herein are expressed in terms of decibels (dB), with A-weighting (dBA) to approximate the hearing sensitivity of humans. All references to dB in this analysis will be A-weighted unless noted otherwise. Time-averaged noise levels are expressed by the symbol Leq, with a specified duration. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is a 24-hour average, where noise levels during the evening hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. have an added 5 dB weighting, and noise levels during the nighttime hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. have an added 10 dB weighting. This is similar to the Day Night sound level (L_{dn}), which is a 24-hour average with an added 10 dB weighting on the same nighttime hours but no added weighting on the evening hours. These metrics are used to express noise levels for both measurement and municipal regulations, as well as for land use guidelines and enforcement of noise ordinances.

Regulatory Framework

City of Bell Gardens General Plan Noise Element

The Noise Element of the General Plan is a comprehensive program for including noise management in the planning process, providing a tool for planners to use in achieving and maintaining land uses that are compatible with existing and future environmental noise levels. The Noise Element follows Government Code Section 65301(f) and Health and Safety Code Section 46050.1. It quantifies the community noise environment by establishing noise exposure contours for both near-and long-term levels of growth and noise-generating activity.

The policies from the General Plan Noise Element are listed below.

Policy 1: The City of Bell Gardens shall discourage the incompatible use of property along major transportation lines and encourage noise reduction measures for existing uses.

Policy 2: The City of Bell Gardens shall ensure that the noise caused by sources other than traffic are at acceptable levels.

City of Bell Gardens Municipal Code

Construction within the City is regulated under the BGMC Chapter 16.24 (Noise Regulation). Section 16.24.120 (Construction of buildings and projects – Restriction) of the BGMC establishes construction noise

standards stating "Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. of one day and 8:00 a.m. of the next day, it is unlawful for any person within a residential zone, or within a radius of 500 feet therefrom, to operate equipment, or perform any outside construction or repair work on buildings, structures, or projects, or operate any pile driver, steam shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, steam or electric hoist, or other construction device in such a manner that a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness residing in the area is caused discomfort or annoyance, unless beforehand a permit therefore has been duly obtained from the officer or body of the city having the function to issue permits of this kind. No permit shall be required to perform emergency work." Chapter 9.18 of the BGMC additionally sets forth development criteria stating, "No new building shall be located nearer than 100 feet to a declared historical structure." This provision safeguards existing historical assets from potential vibration disturbances caused by future developments.

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Will the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development or approval for any activities that would otherwise generate noise. As a result, adoption of the EJ Element would not result in exposure of persons to noise in excess of established standards or ground borne noise or vibration, nor would it result in a temporary, periodic, or permanent increase in ambient noise levels above existing levels. Any subsequent projects to implement the measures in this EJ Element would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify any significant impacts and implement required mitigation measures. Impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, proposals, nor does it grant any entitlement for development or the approval for any activities that would otherwise generate noise. As a result, adoption of the EJ Element would not result in exposure of persons to excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels, nor would it result in a temporary, periodic, or permanent increase in ambient noise levels above existing levels. Chapter 9.18 of the Bell Garden Zoning and Planning Regulations also establishes development standards requiring new buildings be no nearer than 100 feet from a historical resource, which would limit existing historical resources from vibration impacts due to future development. Any subsequent projects to implement the measures in this EJ Element would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify any significant impacts and implement required mitigation measures. The implementation of measures listed in the EJ Element would not result in any groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels but would otherwise be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, any project-specific impacts would be identified and required mitigation measures would be applied. Because the Project would not result in any vibration impacts, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. The City is not within the vicinity of a public airport or private airstrip, or within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The closest airport to the

City is the Compton/Woodley Airport, located approximately six miles southwest of the Project location in the City of Compton. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

14. Population and Housing

Environmental Setting

The City of Bell Gardens has an estimated population of 37,297 people according to the US Census Bureau[44] and 9,633 housing units according to SCAG Local Housing Data.[45]

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and plans exist at state, regional, and local levels related to populations and housing and include:

- California Government Code Sections 65583 and 655849(a)(1)
- Senate Bill 375
- SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan – 2021-2029 Housing Element

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.

Goal 3: Ensure that the existing and future housing stock includes accessible, well-maintained, and affordable housing.

Policy 14: Encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes owned/occupied by lower income households, including retrofitting for environmental sustainability.

Policy 15: Support land use policies and programs that allow development of residential densities in a variety of sizes to accommodate all families.

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44 U.S. Census Bureau, "Bell Gardens City," Available online at: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/bellgardenscitycalifornia/PST045222 , accessed on April 3, 2024.

45 SCAG, *Local Housing Data*, 2021. Available online at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-gardens-he-0421.pdf?1620801178#:~:text=Bell%20Gardens's%20housing%20stock%20consists,%2D2018%205%2Dyear%20estimates, accessed April 4, 2024.

Policy 16: Encourage affordable and workforce housing through limited-equity housing cooperatives, community land trusts, nonprofit-run housing, and/or use of city-owned land.

Policy 17: Encourage affordable housing by offering density bonuses, or fee waivers and relief from development standards, where appropriate.

Policy 18: Increase outreach and educational services regarding tenant rights.

Policy 19: Implement programs that support persons in transitional housing.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document and would not result in the construction of new residential development or any infrastructure that could result in unplanned population growth. However, the Project contains policies that support result in future residential development projects, which would potentially facilitate growth in the City and increase its population. Future residential development projects would be required to comply with the applicable policies in the City's General Plan (including but not limited to the Land Use Element and Housing Element) and BGMC. Future discretionary residential development projects would also be subject to an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA to determine if the Project would induce a substantial growth in population and if a significant impact is identified, the project would be required to implement mitigation measures. As such, impacts related to inducing unplanned growth would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document and does not include new development of any infrastructure. Implementation of the EJ Element policies would preserve the existing housing stock and provide opportunities for additional affordable housing. Specifically, Policy 14 of the EJ Element encourages the preservation of existing housing stock and rehabilitation of substandard housing to ensure residents have safe, well maintained, and affordable housing. In addition, Policies 15, 16, and 17 of the EJ Element encourage the development of affordable housing through increased densities and use of city-owned land. The increase in affordable housing stock will prevent the displacement of low-income households. In addition, the EJ Element supports the goals and policies contained within the Housing Element of the City's General Plan. The 2021-2029 Housing Element aims to conserve and improve the condition of the existing affordable housing stock; assist in the development of housing for those with limited incomes or special needs; identify adequate residential sites; and address and remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing.[46] Therefore, the Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere; rather the Project would support the preservation of existing housing. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

46 City of Bell Gardens, *2021-2029 Housing Element*, February 14, 2022. Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5633/637951304163200000, accessed on January 3, 2024.

15. Public Services

Environmental Setting

The City provides a number of public services as describes in further detail below:

Fire Protection

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides the City of Bell Gardens with fire suppression and emergency medical services from Fire Station 29, Battalion 3, Division 6, located at 7000 Garfield Avenue, within the City boundaries.

Police Protection

The Bell Gardens Police Department provides law enforcement services to residents and businesses in the City of Bell Gardens and is located at 7110 S. Garfield Avenue.

Schools

Schools in the City are under the Montebello Unified School District. The City has four elementary schools, two intermediate schools, and one high school. The District also has two adult education centers in Bell Gardens.

Parks

The City has five parks and a golf course that provide a variety of recreation opportunities. Parks include the Bell Gardens John Anson Ford Park (includes the Bell Gardens Sports Complex and Bell Gardens Golf Course), Bell Gardens Veterans Park, Gallant Park, and the Julia Russ Asmus Park, Marlow Park. The City has two senior centers, the Bell Gardens Senior Center, and Veterans Park Senior Center. The City also has a Youth Center and a community garden.

Libraries

The City has one public library, operated by Los Angeles County, located at 7110 S. Garfield Avenue.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and policies exist at the state and local level with regard to public services and include:

- California Mutual Aid Plan
- Senate Bill 50 (Gov. Code § 65995)
- The Quimby Act (Gov. Code § 66477)
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Policy 21: Review public services through regular checkups in partnership with municipal, regional, and statewide agencies.

Policy 23: Publish City communication in English and Spanish.

Policy 24: Promote recreational programs to all residents.

Policy 26: Increase safety and emergency preparedness through an established short-list of designated emergency shelters in the City. Information would be available to all residents in English and in Spanish.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☒	☐

i. Fire Protection?

Less than Significant Impact. Fire protection for the City is provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). The LACFD operates more than 30 fire stations throughout Los Angeles County, with one station located within the City at 7000 Garfield Avenue. The Project is a policy-level document that establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations. The Project does not include any site-specific development and would not result in an increase in demand for additional fire services. In addition, as discussed in **Section 14, Population and Housing,** the Project would not induce unplanned population growth in the City. Future discretionary development projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be required to undergo separate environmental review pursuant to CEQA to

identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City operates the Bell Gardens Police Department (BGPD). The BGPD has one police station located at 7100 Garfield Avenue. The EJ Element is a policy-level document and does not call for additional police protection nor would it require any new or redeveloped government facilities. The EJ Element establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations. In addition, as discussed in **Section 14 (Population and Housing),** above**,** the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. Future discretionary development projects following the implementation of the Project would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, less than significant impacts to police protection would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City is served by the Montebello Unified School District which operates approximately 12 schools within the Project boundaries. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The Project does not include any site-specific development nor result in population increases, as discussed in **Section 14 (Population and Housing),** and therefore, would not result in an increase in demand for additional schools. Future projects associated with Project implementation would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation

measures. Therefore, the Project would result in a less than significant impact on school facilities and services.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City operates one park in Bell Gardens, Veterans Park located at 6662 Loveland Street. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The Project does not include any site-specific development and would not result in an increase in demand for additional parks. As discussed in **Section 14 (Population and Housing),** the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. Future discretionary projects following Project approval would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts related to parks.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The Project does not include any site-specific development and would not result in an increase in demand for additional library services. In addition, as discussed in **Section 14 (Population and Housing),** the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. Future discretionary projects associated with approval of the Project would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

16. Recreation

Environmental Setting

Please refer to Environmental Setting above **Section 15 (Public Services)**.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and policies exist at the state and local level with regard to recreation and include:

- The Quimby Act (Gov. Code § 66477)
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Policy 24: Promote recreational programs to all residents.

Policy 29: Live stream City Council and Commission meetings at public facilities (i.e., recreational centers and childcare centers).

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City operates Veteran's Park, located at 6662 Loveland Street and the Neighborhood Youth Center, located at 7117 El Selinda Avenue. As discussed in **Section 14, Population and Housing,** Project implementation would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. However, the EJ Element contains policies that may result in increased use of the City's parks and recreational facilities, by promoting recreational programs to all residents (Policy 24) and live streaming City meetings at recreational centers (Policy 29). As such, adoption of the Project would result in less that significant impacts to the substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities or otherwise cause the acceleration of deterioration. Future discretionary projects following

the approval of the Project would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify any project-specific impacts and apply required mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The Project does not include physical improvements, nor any recreational facilities or site-specific developments that would require the expansion of recreational facilities. Specifically, the Project establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations that would support the City's General Plan. Future discretionary development projects following Project approval would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to evaluate project specific impacts and identify any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts to the expansion of recreational facilities.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

17. Transportation

Environmental Setting

The City is currently served by a system of major highways, secondary highways, collector streets, and local streets that extend beyond the City boundaries into neighboring cities. The City is served by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), that provides bus routes that travel through Gage Avenue, Eastern Avenue, Garfield Avenue, and Florence Avenue, as well as bus lines administered by the cities of Montebello and Commerce. The City has its own trolley service, the citywide fixed route public transportation service provides connections to Ford Park, Veterans Park, the Civic Center, Library, US Postal Office, Neighborhood Youth Center, and Eastern Avenue shopping center.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and policies exist at the state, regional, and local levels as follows:

- Senate Bill 743
- SCAG, 2020 RTP/SCS
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan – Circulation Element

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Policy 11: Expand recreational opportunities and programs to be accessible to all residents.

Policy 12: Expand the existing pedestrian and bicycle network to be safe and accessible for all ages.

Policy 28: Expand the Town Trolley bus service hours and bus stop locations to better accommodate City Council and Commission meetings.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City is currently served by a system of major highways, secondary highways, collector streets, and local streets that extend beyond the City boundaries into neighboring cities. The City is served by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), that provides bus routes that travel through Gage Avenue, Eastern Avenue, Garfield Avenue, and Florence Avenue, as well as bus lines administered by the cities of Montebello and Commerce. The City has its own trolley service, the citywide fixed route public transportation service provides connections to Ford Park, Veterans Park, the Civic Center, Library, US Postal Office, Neighborhood Youth Center, and Eastern Avenue shopping center.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that may conflict with the policies regarding circulation, transit, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian facilities. Rather, the Project contains policies that are intended to improve the City's bicycle and pedestrian experience. Specifically, Measure 5.4 calls for coordination with the City's Recreation and Community Department to implement programs that encourage City residents to bike more. However, future projects associated with the implementation of the Project, inclusive of Measure 5.4, may involve revisions to the City's existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian network outlined in the Circulation Element of the City's General Plan. As such, future infrastructure and development projects associated with the EJ Element would be subject to the City's policies and regulations, as well as an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which would identify any project-specific impacts and apply required mitigation measures if there are any conflict with any circulation plan, ordinance or policy addressing circulation. Therefore, the EJ Element would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, and less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with *CEQA Guidelines* section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. *CEQA Guidelines* section 15064.3 (b)(2) requires the use vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to evaluate a project's transportation impacts. VMT analyzes the number of trips and number of miles traveled by motor vehicles associated with a development program or project. The EJ

Element is a policy-level document that intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and does not conflict with or otherwise be inconsistent with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3(b). Projects associated with the implementation of the EJ Element would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis pursuant to CEQA and make a determination of whether the project is in conflict with or inconsistent with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3(b). Project policies such as Policy 12 (Expand the existing pedestrian and bicycle network to be safe and accessible for all ages), Policy 15 (Support land use policies and programs that allow development of residential densities in a variety of sizes to accommodate all families), and Policy 28 (Expansion of Town Trolley bus service hours and bus stop locations) could potentially result in a decrease in VMT. Future site-specific projects, including but not limited to affordable housing and residential development projects following the approval of the EJ Element would be required to undergo an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and identify any project-specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures, as needed. As such, impacts related to VMT would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that would increase geometric design hazards and incompatible uses. Future projects following the adoption of the EJ Element would be subject to City's design guidelines, and standards would also be subject to an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and identify any project-specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. As such, impacts related to increasing hazards due to design would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the EJ Element is a policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and would not result in any physical development or improvements and would not otherwise impact emergency access. Future projects associated with the implementation of the Project may include revisions to the City's existing and planned roadway network outlined in the Circulation Element of the City's General Plan pursuant to Measure 5.4. Such projects would be subject to an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA and identify any project-specific impacts and apply required mitigation measures. Further projects would also be subject to the City's design guidelines and standards and the final design must be approved by the City prior to the issuance of development permits in order to ensure adequate emergency access. As such, impacts related to emergency access would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

18. Tribal Cultural Resources

Environmental Setting

On November 7, 2023, Impact Sciences, on behalf of the City, submitted a Sacred Lands File records search request to the NAHC for the Project requesting to determine if there are any tribal cultural resources within the City. On December 4, 2023, the NAHC responded that no known tribal cultural resources were identified and provided a list of tribes to contract for tribal consultation (please see **Appendix D**, **Cultural Resources Information**). On December 13, 2023, the City contacted the list of tribes by certified mail and email to offer the tribes an opportunity for tribal consultation on the Project. To date, the City has not received a request for tribal consultation.

Regulatory Framework

The regulations that guide the consideration and treatment of tribal cultural resources include:

- Assembly Bill 52 and SB 18 (Tribal Consultation)
- Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5
- PRC Sections 5097-5097.994

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to tribal cultural resources. No specific development projects or physical improvements are included as part of the EJ Element, and no changes in existing land use zones or densities, nor any changes to land use regulations are proposed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?				

Less than Significant Impact. The EJ Element is a policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and would not result in any physical development or improvements, nor does it contain any policies or goals that address or would otherwise impact tribal cultural resources. On November 7, 2023, Impact Sciences, on behalf of the City, submitted a Sacred Lands File records search request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the Project requesting to determine if there are any tribal cultural resources within the City. On December 4, 2023, the NAHC responded that no known tribal cultural resources were identified and provided a list of tribes to contract for tribal consultation (please see **Appendix D**, **Cultural Resources Information**). On December 13, 2023, the City contacted the list of tribes by certified mail and email to offer the tribes an opportunity for tribal consultation on the Project. To date, the City has not received a request for tribal consultation.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. PRC Section 5024.1(c) considers a resource to be culturally significant if it (1) is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattens of California's history and cultural heritage; (2) is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; (3) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or (4) has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

As discussed in **Section 5**, **Cultural Resources**, the City is largely developed and has been determined to have a low potential for archaeological resource discovery in the area. Further, the EJ Element is a policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and would not result in any physical development or improvements, nor does it contain any policies or goals that address or would otherwise impact tribal cultural resources. The Project would adopt and implement a new EJ Element in the City's General Plan. The Project will not result in the approval of any physical improvements. Future projects following the adoption of the Project could potentially unearth tribal cultural resources during construction and/or operations. However, all future discretionary projects would be subject to individual environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which triggers a tribal consultation process and would also require a project level analysis of potential tribal cultural resource impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. As such, the Project would have a less than significant impact to a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register or Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined by PRC Section 5024.1.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

19. Utilities and Service Systems

Environmental Setting

The City is served by the following utility and service systems:

Water

The City and Golden State Water Company deliver water to residents in the City.[47] Potable water is supplied from two main sources: local groundwater pumped from the Central Basin and purchased water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Recycled water is also supplied to the City.

Wastewater

Wastewater in the Bell-Bell Gardens System is collected by gravity sewers and lift stations owned by the City and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD).[48] The wastewater is transported out of the service area through trunk sewers to LACSD's Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Cerritos for treatment.

Stormwater

The City's storm water system is designed to prevent flooding on streets and sidewalks by capturing flows and conveying them to the nearest storm drain. The City's stormwater system is maintained by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.[49]

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47 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

48 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

49 Los Angeles County Public Works, "Los Angeles County Storm Drain System." Available online at: https://pw.lacounty.gov/fcd/StormDrain/index.cfm, accessed May 2, 2023.

Solid Waste

The City contracts with Athens Services for disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and green waste. Most solid waste (69 %) is disposed of at three landfills: El Sobrante Landfill, Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill, and the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill.[50]

Electricity, Gas, and Telecommunications

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) provides gas service within the City.[51, 52] Telecommunication services are provided by a variety of service providers, such as AT&T and Spectrum.

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and policies exist at the state and local level with regard to utilities and service systems and include:

- Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act (Water Code §§ 79000 – 79222)
- California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939)
- California Green Building Standards Code
- City of Bell Gardens, 2020 Urban Water Management Plan
- City of Bell Gardens General Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

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50 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "Jurisdiction Disposal by Facility: Bell Gardens 2019." Available online at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DisposalReporting/Destination/DisposalByFacility, accessed May 2, 2023.

51 Southern California Gas Company, "List of Cities and Communities Served," Available online at: https://tariff.socalgas.com/regulatory/tariffs/tm2/pdf/CITIES.pdf?_ga=2.260165455.312924021.1639588899-1879876423.1636571672, accessed December 5, 2023.

52 Southern California Edison, "Southern California Edison's Service Area," Available online at: https://download.newsroom.edison.com/create_memory_file/?f_id=5cc32d492cfac24d21aecf4c&content_verified=True , accessed December 5, 2023.

Policy 5: Protect potable water and groundwater resources from future contamination by implementing pollutant concentration standards and conducting routine testing to the City's potable water system.

Policy 6: Protect the existing groundwater quality by conducting annual testing and reporting of the Central Basin to confirm conformance with local, state, and federal standards.

Policy 7: Ensure sufficient water availability and supply to meet current and future demand.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City and Golden State Water Company deliver water to residents in the City.[53] Potable water is supplied from two main sources: local groundwater pumped from the Central Basin and purchased water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Recycled water is also supplied to the City. According to the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, water supplies are estimated to meet demands in normal, single dry years, and five consecutive dry year conditions through the year 2045.[54]

Wastewater in the Bell-Bell Gardens System is collected by gravity sewers and lift stations owned by the City of Bell Gardens, and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD).[55] The wastewater is transported out of the service area through trunk sewers to LACSD's Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Cerritos for treatment. The Los Coyotes WRP provides primary, secondary, and tertiary

53 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

54 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

55 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

treatment for an average dry weather flow (DWF) design capacity of 37.5 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd).

The City's storm water system is designed to prevent flooding on streets and sidewalks by capturing flows and conveying them to the nearest storm drain. The City's stormwater system is maintained by Los Angeles County Flood Control District.[56]

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) provides gas service within the City.[57, 58] Telecommunication services are provided by a variety of service providers, such as AT&T and Spectrum.

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The EJ Element does not propose and would not result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Policies 5, 6, and 7 merely relate to ensuring the quality of the City's groundwater and potable water supplies, Future discretionary development projects that propose physical improvements would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts to the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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56 Los Angeles County Public Works, "Los Angeles County Storm Drain System." Available online at: https://pw.lacounty.gov/fcd/StormDrain/index.cfm, accessed May 2, 2023.

57 Southern California Gas Company, "List of Cities and Communities Served," Available online at: https://tariff.socalgas.com/regulatory/tariffs/tm2/pdf/CITIES.pdf?_ga=2.260165455.312924021.1639588899-1879876423.1636571672, accessed December 5, 2023.

58 Southern California Edison, "Southern California Edison's Service Area," Available online at: https://download.newsroom.edison.com/create_memory_file/?f_id=5cc32d492cfac24d21aecf4c&content_verified=True , accessed December 5, 2023.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City of Bell Gardens and Golden State Water Company deliver water to residents in the City.[59] Potable water is supplied from two main sources: local groundwater pumped from the Central Basin and purchased water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Recycled water is also supplied to the City. According to the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, water supplies are estimated to meet demands in normal, single dry years, and five consecutive dry year conditions through the year 2045.

EJ Element is a policy-level document that establishes goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The Project does not include any site-specific development nor propose any physical improvements and therefore would not result in an increase in demand for water. As discussed in **Section 14, Population and Housing,** the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. Furthermore, the Project would implement policies that would regularly test and protect quality potable water and groundwater resources (Policies 5, 6, and 7) in Bell Gardens and ensure sufficient water availability. As such, adoption of the Project would result in less that significant impacts to water availability and supply in the City.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

59 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. Wastewater in the Bell-Bell Gardens System is collected by gravity sewers and lift stations owned by the City of Bell Gardens, and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD).[60] The wastewater is transported out of the service area through trunk sewers to LACSD's Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Cerritos for treatment. The Los Coyotes WRP provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for an average dry weather flow (DWF) design capacity of 37.5 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd).

The EJ Element is a policy-level document intended to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The Project does not propose any physical development or improvements and would not result in an increase in demand for utility services and/or result in the need for new wastewater facilities. In addition, as discussed in **Section 14, Population and Housing,** the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. Future development projects following the adoption of the Project would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

60 Tully and Young, Inc. & Zanjero, *Bell-Bell Gardens Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808, accessed May 2, 2023.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City contracts with Athens Services for disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and green waste. The majority of solid waste (69 percent) is disposed of at three landfills: El Sobrante Landfill, Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill, and the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill.[61] The three landfills where a majority of solid waste from the City is disposed have a remaining capacity of: 143,977,170 cubic yards (CY) for El Sobrante Landfill;[62] 205,000,000 CY for Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill;[63] and 54,219,377 CY for the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill.[64]

The EJ Element is a policy-level document intended to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities. The Project does not propose any physical improvements or development and would not result in an increase in solid waste. In addition, as discussed in **Section 14, Population and Housing,** the Project would not induce unplanned population growth in the City. Future discretionary projects following the approval of the Project would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to evaluate and identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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61 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "Jurisdiction Disposal by Facility: Bell Gardens 2019." Available online at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DisposalReporting/Destination/DisposalByFacility, accessed May 2, 2023.

62 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "SWIS Facility/Site Activity Details El Sobrante Landfill." Available online at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteActivity/Details/2280?siteID=2402, accessed April 3, 2024.

63 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "SWIS Facility/Site Activity Details Frank R. Bowerman Landfill." Available at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/2103 , accessed April 3, 2024.

64 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "SWIS Facility/Site Activity Details Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill." Available online at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteActivity/Details/1880?siteID=2662 , accessed April 3, 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant. The City contracts with Athens Services for disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and green waste.[65]The majority of solid waste (69 percent) is disposed of at three landfills: El Sobrante Landfill, Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill, and the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill.[66] The three landfills where a majority of solid waste from the City is disposed have a remaining capacity of: 143,977,170 cubic yards (CY) for El Sobrante Landfill; 205,000,000 CY for Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill; and 61,219,377 CY for the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill.[67]

The Project does not include any site-specific development and would not result in an increase in solid waste. In addition, as discussed in **Section 14, Population and Housing,** the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the City. Future development projects would be required to adhere to federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste, such as California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). In addition, future discretionary projects following the approval of the Project would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to evaluate and identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

65 City of Bell Gardens, "Contracts (Monitoring and Administration)." Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/government/city-departments/public-works/contract-services#:~:text=The%20residential%20waste%20management%20services,agreement%20with%20Athens%20Services%2C%20Inc. accessed April 3, 2024.

66 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "Jurisdiction Disposal by Facility: Bell Gardens 2019." Available online at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DisposalReporting/Destination/DisposalByFacility, accessed May 2, 2023.

67 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), "SWIS Facility/Site Search." Available online at: https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Search, accessed May 2, 2023.

20. Wildfire

Environmental Setting

According to CAL FIRE, the City of Bell Gardens is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.[68] According to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan, the City has a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) that outlines the responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency or City-wide disaster.[69] In addition, the City of Bell Gardens is located within the Los Angeles County Operational Area and maintains mutual aid agreements for emergency situations. The County's Emergency Response Plan, adopted in 2012, establishes a coordinated emergency management system, which includes prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation within the Operational Area.[70]

Regulatory Framework

Regulations and policies exist at the state and local level with regard to wildfire and include:

- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Gov. Code §§ 51177 and 51178)
- California Fire Code, Chapter 47 (Occupancy Based Requirements)
- Defensible Space Regulation (PRC § 4291) –
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14 (Building Standards Code)
- California Mutual Aid Plan
- City of Bell Gardens, Multi-Hazard Functional Plan
- Los Angeles County, Emergency Response Plan

Discussion

List of Applicable EJ Goals and Policies

The EJ Element does not contain any goals or policies related to wildfire. No specific development projects are included as part of the EJ Element, and no changes in existing land use zones or densities, nor any changes to land use regulations are proposed.

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68 CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjjf2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf, accessed November 1, 2023.

69 City of Bell Gardens, *Safety Element,* July 27, 1995. Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5723/637976183394330000, accessed January 2, 2024.

70 County of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan*. Available online at: https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/OAERP-Approved-Adopted-Version-6-19-2012.pdf, accessed September 21, 2023.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) identifies, and maps areas of significant fire hazard based on fuels, terrain, and other relevant factors. Wildfire risks in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) are called Fire Hazard Severity Zones and are grouped into unzoned, moderate, high, and very high zones.[71] According to CAL FIRE, the City of Bell Gardens is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.[72] According to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan, the City has a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) that outlines the responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency or City-wide disaster.[73] In addition, the City of Bell Gardens is located within the Los Angeles County Operational Area and maintains mutual aid agreements for emergency situations. The County's Emergency Response Plan, adopted in 2012, establishes a coordinated emergency management system, which includes prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation within the Operational Area.[74]

The EJ Element is a policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and would not directly result in the approval of any physical improvements or future development that would substantially impair an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Specifically, the Project includes goals and policies that would enhance public safety and promote healthy and equitable outcomes. The Project does not propose any physical improvements or future development that may impede the procedures outlined in the MHFP or County Emergency Response Plan. Future discretionary projects following the approval of the Project would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to the emergency response as well as appropriate environmental review pursuant

71 See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 702A for a definition of "fire hazard severity zones."

72 CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjjf2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf, accessed November 1, 2023.

73 City of Bell Gardens, *Safety Element*, July 27, 1995. Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5723/637976183394330000, accessed January 2, 2024.

74 County of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan*. Available online at: https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/OAERP-Approved-Adopted-Version-6-19-2012.pdf, accessed September 21, 2023.

to CEQA and identify significant impacts and apply any required mitigation measures pursuant to CEQA, as needed. Therefore, the Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact. The City of Bell Gardens is located within a highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County. According to CAL FIRE, the City is not located within an identified Fire Hazard Severity Zone.[75] In addition, the topography of the City of Bell Gardens is relatively flat, and the Project is a policy-level document that does not propose any physical improvements or developments. Therefore, there would be no impact with regards to the exposure of people to pollutant concentration from wildfires.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

75 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), "Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer." Available online at: https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/, accessed on January 17, 2023.

No Impact. The City of Bell Gardens is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.[76] The Project policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and does not propose any physical improvements or development. Future projects following the approval of the Project would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews pursuant to CEQA to evaluate and identify project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. As such, impacts related to the installation of temporary infrastructure would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact. The City of Bell Gardens is located within a minimal or moderate flood hazard area and would be subject to moderate or minimal risk from flooding.[77] The Project policy-level document that is intended to establish goals and policies to address public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities and does not propose any physical improvements or development. Future projects following Project approval would be required to undergo separate environmental reviews to identify and evaluate project specific impacts and apply any required mitigation measures. As such, impacts related to downslope and downstream flooding and landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire instability, or drainage changes would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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76 CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjjf2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf, accessed November 1, 2023.

77 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), "FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Viewer," Available online at: https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd

21. Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact. The City is predominantly comprised of urbanized development with minimal vacant properties. The Rio Hondo River borders the City to the east and the I-710 to the west. However, there are no SEAs, riparian habitats, or protected natural communities identified within the City. The Project is a policy-level document that will be incorporated into the City's General Plan and is intended to reflect the City's efforts in addressing environmental hazards to disadvantaged communities. The EJ Element does not propose physical improvements or developments resulting in environmental impacts, as defined by CEQA. Specifically, the Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory because the EJ Element would not directly result in physical environmental changes.

Future projects following approval of the Project would be subject to the City's policies and regulations related to preserving biological, cultural, and paleontological resources, as well as an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Under CEQA, any project specific impacts would be identified and apply any required mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact. As a policy document, the EJ Element would not directly result in physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA. Furthermore, the Project intended to establish goals and policies to improve public health risks and environmental concerns for the City's environmental justice communities, which would indirectly improve the surrounding environmental conditions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant. As part of the environmental review for associated future projects, the potential for cumulative impacts associated with a specific project associated with the implementation of the EJ Element would be assessed on a project-by-project basis. Future infrastructure and development projects would be subject to a separate as well as an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact. As identified throughout the analysis, the EJ Element would have no significant impacts that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings directly or indirectly. Rather, implementation of the Project, which is a policy-level document, is intended to improve the environmental health and safety for disadvantaged communities in the City of Bell Gardens as defined by OPR. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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APPENDIX A

Environmental Justice Element



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

City of Bell Gardens

April 2024

CITY OF BELL GARDENS

Environmental Justice Element

Prepared for:

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April 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an introductory discussion of the priorities, policies, and actions regarding environmental justice and its relation to the City of Bell Gardens.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

To address health effects in low-income communities and communities of color, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (Leyva, 2016), requiring local governments to identify environmental justice communities (called "disadvantaged communities") in their jurisdictions and to address public health risks and environmental concerns for vulnerable populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequities. The priorities, policies, and actions addressing environmental justice (EJ) must be documented in the jurisdiction's general plans. Specifically, this law requires the inclusion of an EJ Element when a lead agency is updating two or more elements of their General Plan.

Environmental Justice is guided by Government Code Section 65040.12, which aims to minimize the adverse effects of environmental hazards in order to create a healthy environment for all people, especially those groups, populations, and communities who had been impacted by pollution. The aim of EJ is to reduce burdens for communities experiencing adverse effects, promote meaningful participation of those communities in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process, and providing meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

A. RELATIONSHIP TO THE GENERAL PLAN

The City of Bell Gardens (City) General Plan is a long-range comprehensive plan to control and regulate land uses and development in the City. The individual elements of the General Plan contain policies and programs that will guide future development in the City. Government Code Section 65302 et seq. requires that a general plan contains seven elements to address land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. State law requires every city and county to prepare and adopt a comprehensive general plan to serve as a guide for land use and development.

The General Plan was adopted in 1995. Various elements have since been updated, with the 2021-2029 Housing Element being adopted in 2022. The Housing Element identifies EJ as a key issue and states that, based on the pollution data for the City, the entire City (a.k.a., community) is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution. As described above, EJ is a concept that calls for the impacts of plans, initiatives, and developments which are critical to the shared economic wellbeing of the region. For instance, lower income or minority communities are often located near less desirable areas that have higher rates of pollution than elsewhere (e.g., transportation corridors and industrial yards). Development of the General Plan and the elements thereto aim for an open, transparent, and collaborative process to promote the full participation of the residents, business owners, and the property owners into the planning process.

The EJ Element will be consistent with other elements of the General Plan. The EJ Element for the City is prepared in accordance with the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) General Plan Guidelines for Environmental Justice.[1]

Based on Government Code Section 65040.12, SB 1000, OPR Guidance, and outreach undertaken on behalf of the City, this EJ Element identifies policies related to the following topics:

(1) Reduce pollution exposure and promote land use compatibility;
(2) Reduce unique or compounded health risks;
(3) Promote public facilities; including access to public transit, employment and services;
(4) Promote physical activity;
(5) Promote food access;
(6) Promote safe and sanitary homes;
(7) Promote civic and community engagement; and
(8) Prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities

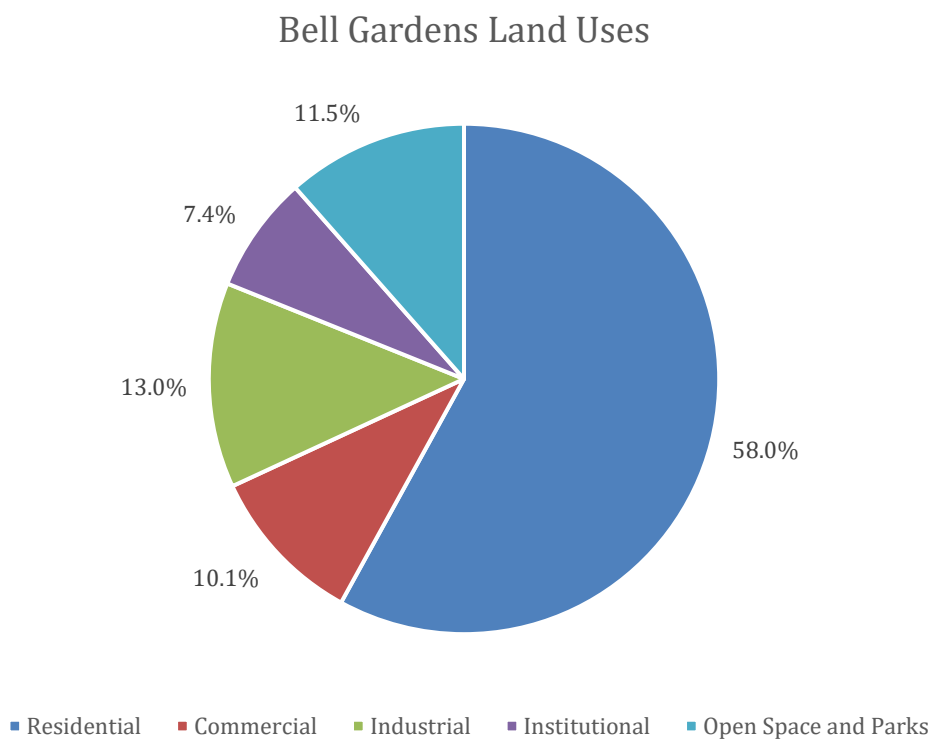
B. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City is located in the southeast portion of Los Angeles County, approximately 13 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. The City is bound by the City of Commerce to the north, the City of Downey to the east, the City of South Gate to the south, and the cities of Bell and Cudahy to the west.

The southeast region of the County is an urbanized area characterized by industrial development and bedroom communities consisting of single-family dwellings and low-rise multi-family residential housing. This region, including the City, has one of the highest population densities in the United States, largely due to overcrowded conditions. The City, along with other cities in southeast Los Angeles, are considered "Gateway Cities" due to their location between the counties of Los Angeles and Orange.

The City's boundaries are generally delineated by man-made barriers, including the Southern Pacific Railroad to the north, Rio Hondo River flood control channel to the east, Los Angeles River flood control channel, and Interstate 710 to the west. Environmental considerations for the City include the large number of industrial uses in the western part of the City, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and the I-710 Freeway.

1 Office of Planning and Research, *General Plan Guidelines Environmental Justice Element*, June 2020. Available online at: https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.



Source: City of Bell Gardens, Land Use Element, 1995.

The majority of the land uses in the City, as designated in the General Plan, is Residential (58%). Commercial uses make up approximately 10.1% of the land area and are generally concentrated along Florence Avenue and Eastern Avenue. Industrial uses make up 13% of land area and are clustered in the western and southern portion of the City. Commercial Manufacturing uses are clustered in nodes along Garfield Avenue, Eastern Avenue, and Gage Avenue. Institutional uses make up 7.4% of land area, and Open Space and Parks make up 11.5% of land area.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE HISTORY GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

The EJ movement was born from impoverished neighborhoods that experienced environmental injustices throughout decades of policy and institutional neglect. EJ was recognized early on as a planning issue, and in 1991 delegates who attended the First National People of Color Environmental Justice Leadership Summit came up with 17 Principles of Environmental Justice.[2] These principles have served as a foundational document for the growing grassroots EJ movement.

D. FEDERAL

In the 1990s, a number of federally funded programs and initiatives addressing environmental injustices in

2 Energy Justice Network, *The Principles of Environmental Justice*, First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, October 24-27, 1991. Available online at: Principles of Environmental Justice / Environmental Justice Principles (ejnet.org), accessed December 5, 2023.

underserved communities led to President Bill Clinton signing Executive Order 12898 to focus federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions of minority and low-income populations with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities.[3] This Executive Order produced guidance at the federal level on how to incorporate EJ into National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documents.[4] The approach identified in federal guidelines focuses on income and minority status.[5] Lower-income and ethnic minority populations in the communities are evaluated on whether they would bear disproportionate health or environmental effects in comparison to the general population.

E. STATE

In an effort to address health effects on disadvantaged communities, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1000 into law in 2016, requiring local governments to identify environmental justice communities in their jurisdictions and address EJ in their general plans. SB 1000 requires local governments to take into account pollution burdens and other hazards experienced by communities within their jurisdiction that are disproportionately exposed to such hazards.

If a city or county adopts or updates two or more elements of its General Plan after January 1, 2018, SB 1000 requires the local government to first identify any "disadvantaged communities" in its jurisdiction.[6] To support this law, OPR has released recommendations on indicators and policies to implement in EJ communities.

Based on review of OPR Guidelines, Government Code Section 65040.12(e)(2), environmental justice includes but is not limited to the following:

(A) The availability of a healthy environment for all people;

(B) The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities;

(C) Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process; and

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3 Environmental Protection Agency, *Executive Order 12898*, February 11, 1994. Available online: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice, accessed December 5, 2023.

4 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*, December 10, 1997. Available online at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-02/documents/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Guidance for Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA's NEPA Compliance Analysis*, April 1998. Available online at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-08/documents/ej_guidance_nepa_epa0498.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

6 (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (h)(1)-(2).)

(D) At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

Senate Bill 1000 amended Government Code Section 65302 to require that both cities and counties that have disadvantaged communities to incorporate Environmental Justice policies into their general plans, either in a separate element or integrated throughout the other elements. Disadvantaged communities, as defined by Government Code Section 65302(h)(4)(A), are defined as:

- Areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; or
- Areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment;
- Areas that are low-income that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

F. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Over the last century, Southern California has experienced more frequent heat waves, snow melting earlier, sea level rise, and less rain fall because of climate change. Over the next few decades, Southern California is likely to experience a decrease in the supply of water, increase in the risk of wildfires, and higher temperatures.[7] Climate change may have negative health effects or increase the severity of existing hazards to disadvantaged communities such as flooding, drought, wildfire, or extreme heat.

In order to respond to the increasingly frequent and severe climate impacts ranging from wildfires to sea level rise; SB 379 (Jackson, 2015) amended Government Code Section 65302(g) to require local governments to address climate change adaptation and resilience when updating their general plan's safety element. SB 379 requires local jurisdictions to include a climate change vulnerability assessment that identifies risks associated with climate change, measures to address vulnerabilities, and establishes a comprehensive hazard mitigation and emergency response strategy. While not required, local jurisdictions should consider the effects of climate change on vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to create more equitable and resilient communities

7 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *What Climate Change Means for California*, August 2016. Available online at: https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-ca.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

that provide equal access to resources and safe spaces.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

OPR has developed the California Adaptation Planning Guide as a guide for local governments to plan for and adapt to climate change. The Guide includes four phases to analyze Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience:[8]

1. Explore, define, and initiate;
2. Assess vulnerability;
3. Define adaptation framework and strategies; and
4. Implement, monitor, evaluate, and adjust.

Climate change will likely increase the severity of existing hazards such as wildfires, extreme heat, flooding, and drought. Disadvantaged communities are likely to be disproportionately affected due to poor housing conditions.

Climate vulnerability describes the degree to which natural, built, and human systems are at risk of exposure to climate change impacts. Vulnerable communities experience heightened risk and increased sensitivity to climate change and have less capacity and fewer resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts. These disproportionate effects are caused by physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factors, which are exacerbated by climate impacts. These factors include, but are not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality.[9]

8 Governor's Office of Emergency Services, *California Adaptation Planning Guide*, 2020. Available online at: https://resilientca.org/apg/intro/, accessed February 13, 2023.

9 Governor's Office of Planning and Research, *Defining Vulnerable Communities in the Context of Climate Adaptation,* July 2018. Available online at: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20180723-Vulnerable_Communities.pdf, accessed March 21, 2023.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The following provides an overview of the definition and identification of disadvantaged communities; as well as a comprehensive description of the environmental conditions, existing settings, and population characteristics in the City of Bell Gardens.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The purpose of Environmental Justice (EJ) policies and regulations is to alleviate potential adverse effects of development on vulnerable populations. Planning policies play an instrumental role in protecting these communities as well as providing restorative justice for populations who have long suffered under adverse living conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

"The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." ***Government Code Section 65040.12(e)(1)***

This EJ Element to the City of Bell Gardens' (City) General Plan provides guidance to implement planning policies to improve existing communities as well as build capacity and infrastructure in the planning process. This movement, which was born out of protests in afflicted communities across the United States, is gaining momentum and recognition nationwide. As stated, in **Section 1.0, Introduction**, the Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) has released recommendations on the definition and identification of EJ communities, as well as a host of issues for analysis to address EJ concerns.[1] In addition, the EJ Element aims to address the disproportionate effects of climate change on disadvantaged communities. This section discusses the environmental conditions and existing settings in the City that support the need for the goals and policies contained in **Section 4.0, Goals and Policies**.

OPR's General Plan Guidelines provides a Completeness Checklist for the required components of an EJ Element:

- Identify disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan;
- Identify objectives and policies to reduce exposure to pollution including improving air quality in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote public facilities in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote food access in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote safe and sanitary homes in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to promote physical activity in disadvantaged communities;
- Identify objectives and policies to reduce any unique or compounded health risks in

[1] Office of Planning and Research, *General Plan Guidelines Environmental Justice Element*, June 2020. Available online at: https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above;

- Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities; and

- Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

A. PRIORITIZATION OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

EJ communities, referred to as "disadvantaged communities," are identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code[2] or defined as or an area that is 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. Disadvantaged communities are defined as low-income areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards, including climate change, that can lead to negative health effects through adverse environmental living conditions. Indicators for disadvantaged communities include low-income areas, educational attainment, lack of employment, housing burdened low-income households, linguistic isolation, poverty, race and ethnicity, single-parent households, lack of American citizenship, violent crime rate, and inability to vote. Low-income areas are further defined as "an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with 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."

OPR recommends the following methods for identifying disadvantaged communities:

1. Use CalEnviroScreen to examine whether the planning area for the general plan contains census tracts that have a combined score of 75% or higher.[3]

2. Map the household median incomes by census tract in the planning area at or below statewide median income and examine for disproportionate pollution burden.

3. Map the household median incomes by census tract in the planning area at or below the Department of Housing and Community Development's state income limits and examine

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2 Section 39711 also states: "These communities shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:
(1) Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.
(2) Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment."

3 Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711, CalEPA designates a census tract that scores at or above 75 percent on the agency's CalEnviroScreen tool as a disadvantaged community. For more information on how the CalEnviroScreen tool relates to CalEPA's designation of disadvantaged communities visit: https:// oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535

for disproportionate pollution burden.

4. Incorporate and analyze community-specific data and examine for additional pollution burden and health risk factors.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND EXISTING SETTINGS

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed and maintains the CalEnviroScreen[4] tool on behalf of the CalEPA. CalEnviroScreen provides a science-based method for identifying impacted communities by taking into consideration pollution exposure and its effects, as well as health and socio-economic status, at the census-tract level. The mapping tool helps identify California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution, and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects. On December 1, 2022, CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was released. The interactive online tool provides 21 indicators:

- Population Characteristics
  - Asthma
  - Cardiovascular Disease
  - Low Birth Weight
  - Education
  - Housing Burden
  - Linguistic Isolation
  - Poverty
  - Unemployment
- Pollution Burden
  - Children's Lead Risk from Housing
  - Cleanup Sites
  - Diesel Particulate Matter
  - Drinking Water Contaminants
  - Groundwater Threats
  - Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities
  - Impaired Waters
  - Ozone
  - Pesticide Use
  - PM2.5
  - Solid Waste Sites and Facilities
  - Toxic Release from Facilities
  - Traffic Impacts

Based on the CalEnviroScreen data, the nine census tracts[5] within the City have overall scores ranging from 79.7 to 99.6% and an average of 95.4%. The entire City has a score higher than the OPR recommended threshold of 75% to identify disadvantaged communities (see **Figure 2.0-1, CalEnviroScreen Percentiles**). In addition, the household median income for the City was

4 California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. "About CalEnviroScreen." Available online at: https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/about-calenviroscreen#:~:text=CalEnviroScreen%20is%20a%20mapping%20tool,especially%20vulnerable%20to%20pollution's%20effects.&text=An%20area%20with%20a%20high,than%20areas%20with%20low%20scores, Accessed December 5, 2023.

5 City of Bell Gardens census tracts include: 6037533901, 6037533902, 6037534001, 6037534002, 6037534101, 6037534102, 6037534201, 6037534202, and 6037534203.

$50,311,[6] which was below the state median of $90,100.[7] Therefore, the entire City meets the definition as a disadvantaged community.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the most recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau (July 2021), the City has a total population of 38,552[8]. This is lower than the population count of 42,072 recorded in 2010. The City has a population density of 16,063 people per square mile, among the highest densities for the region and the County. From 2010 to 2020, the City's population decreased by 8.3% compared to a 1.9% increase for Los Angeles County.[9] 2021 Census data shows that City's population is more than 95.6% Hispanic. The population of the City that is under 18 years of age is 29%, which is higher than the regional share of 21.1%, while seniors (65 and above) account for 8.3% of the population, which is lower than the regional share of 14.6%.[10]

The Department of Housing and Community Development's revised state income limits for 2021, identified that the Los Angeles County median income was $80,000[11]. The median household income in 2021 for the City was $50,311,[12] which was below the Los Angeles County's median of $80,000 (see **Figure 2.0-2, Median Household Income**). Approximately one-quarter of the City's residents live below the poverty line which was $$27,479 for a family of four with two children under 18.[13] In addition, the homeowner occupied housing unit rate is at 21.1%, which is below the County's rate of 46.2%.

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic lung disease characterized by breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are both genetic and caused by environmental factors such as outdoor air pollution exposure. Asthma increases an individual's sensitivity to air pollutants and can increase susceptibility to other respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia, influenzas, and COVID-

6 U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City, California. Available online at: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/bellgardenscitycalifornia, accessed December 15, 2022.

7 California Department of Housing and community Development. *Revised State Income Limits for 2021*. 2021. Available online at: https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/income-limits/state-and-federal-income-limits/docs/income-limits-2021.pdf, accessed February 14, 2023.

8 *Id*. U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City, California.

9 *Id*. U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City, California.

10 *Id*. U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City, California.

11 California Department of Housing and community Development. Revised State Income Limits for 2021. 2021. Available online at: https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/income-limits/state-and-federal-income-limits/docs/income-limits-2021.pdf, accessed February 14, 2023.

12 *Id*. U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City, California.

13 *Id*. U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City, California.

19.[14,15] Asthma rates provide a good indicator of population sensitivity to environmental stressors because asthma is caused by and worsened by air pollution. Asthma rates within a community are measured through emergency room visits from asthma symptoms and deaths from asthma. CalEnviroScreen collects this information and spatially models' asthma prevalence as the age-adjusted rate of emergency room visits for asthma per 10,000 people averaged over a two-year period.[16] Within the City, the census tract asthma percentiles ranged from 35 to 62% (representing 36 to 54 per 10,000 people visited the emergency room due to asthma) with the highest rates within the census tracts located in the western and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-3, Emergency Room Visits Due to Asthma**). The average asthma rate of emergency room visits for asthma in the City is 50 per 10,000 people which is 0.1% lower than the County average of 54 per 10,000 people[17]. However, it should be noted that the dataset does not capture all individuals burdened with asthma because not everyone with asthma requires emergency care.[18]

Cardiovascular Disease

Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels of the heart. A heart attack is the most common result of cardiovascular disease. Many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, but their quality of life may be reduced. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution.

Exposure to outdoor air pollution following a heart attack has been shown to increase the risk of death. 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. Within the City, the census tract cardiovascular disease percentiles ranged from 69 to 95% (representing 15 to 24 people per 10,000 people visited the emergency room for a heart attack), with the highest rates within the western and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-4, Cardiovascular Disease Rates**). The average rate of emergency room visits for cardiovascular disease in the City is 22 per 10,000 people which is 57% higher than the County average of 14 per 10,000 people[19].

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14 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

15 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *COVID-19: People with Moderate to Severe Asthma*, 2021. Available online at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/asthma.html.

16 OEHHA and CalEPA, *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*, 2021. Available online at: https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf, accessed December 16, 2022.

17 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

18 *Id.* OEHHA and CalEPA, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2021.

19 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

Low Birth Weight

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 baby with a low birth weight. Studies suggest that pollution (from traffic, industry, or agriculture) 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. Within the City, the census tract low birth weight percentiles ranged from 6 to 86% (representing that 3 to 7 per 10,000 babies were born with low birth weights), with the highest rates within the center of the City (see **Figure 2.0-5, Low Birth Weight Rates**). The City's average rate of babies born with low-birth-weight is 4 per 10,000, which is 20% lower than the County average of 5 per 10,000. However, this data does not take into account out-of-state births and births with no known residential addresses.[20]

Education

Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. California has a high percentage of people without high school degrees compared to the rest of the United States, which makes education important to consider. Many studies have found that the health effects of air pollution are worse among people with low educational attainment. At least 50.5% of City residents have a high school degree, which is below Los Angeles County's average of 80%.[21] The population of the City that is under 18 years of age is 29%, which is higher than the County's share of 21.1%, while seniors (65 and above) account for 8.3% of the population, which is lower than the regional share of 14.6%.[22] Within the City, the education percentiles for the census tract ranges from 94 to 98% (representing that 46 to 54% of adults have less than a high school education), with the highest percentiles within the eastern and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-6, Educational Attainment Percentile**). The average percentage of the population over 25 with less than a high school education for the census tracts in the City is 96% which is 127% higher than the County average of 22%.[23]

Housing Burden

Housing-burdened low-income households are households that are both low income (making less than 80% of the HUD Area Median Family Income) and highly burdened by housings costs (paying greater than 50% of their income to housing costs). California has very high housing costs relative

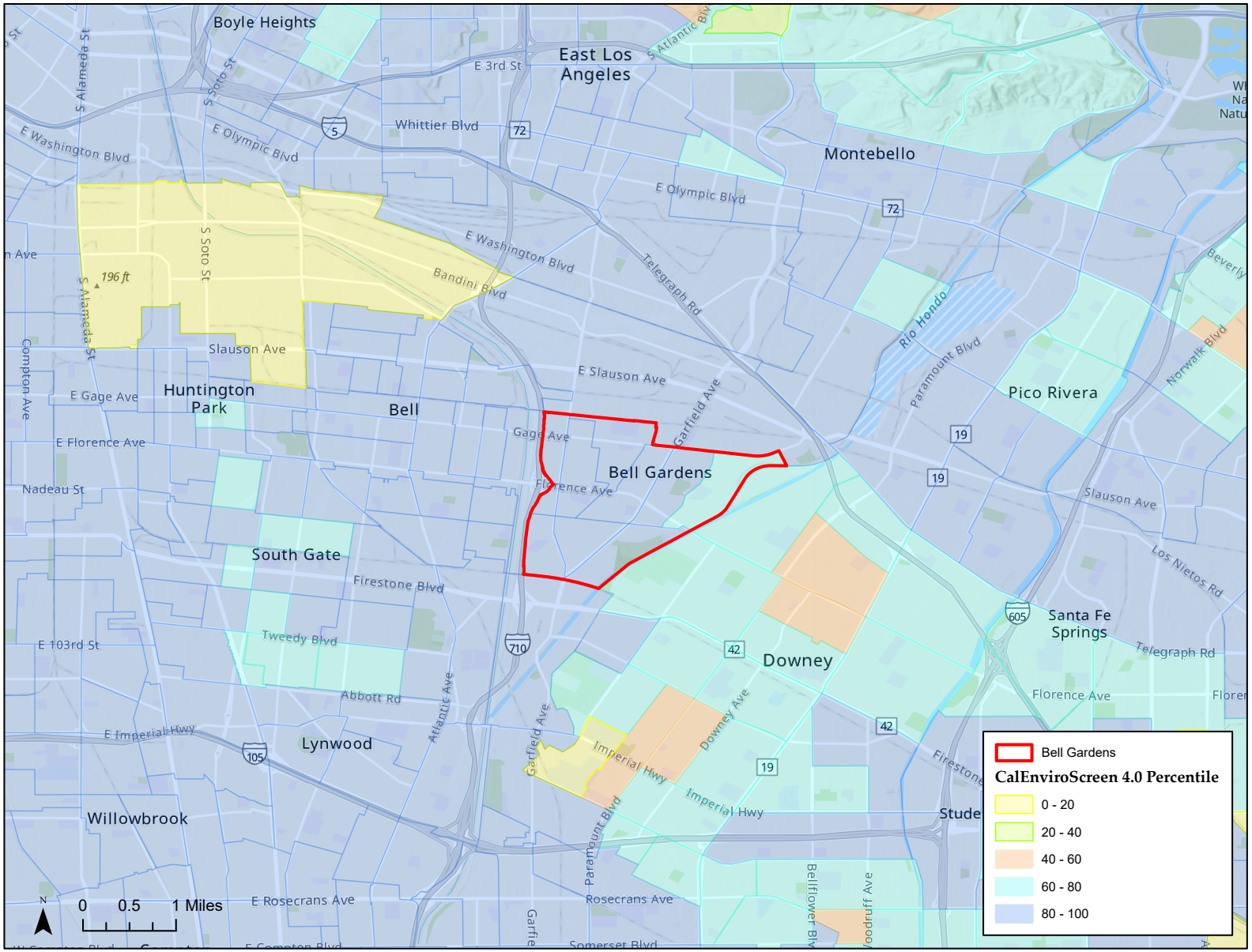
20 *Id.* OEHHA and CalEPA, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2021.

21 U.S. Census Bureau, "Population estimates updated July 2021. State of California, Education." Available online at: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia,CA/PST045221, accessed December 5, 2023.

22 *Id.* U.S. Census Bureau, Bell Gardens City.

23 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. *CalEnviroScreen 4.0.* Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. 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 due to a greater likelihood to postpone medical services for financial reasons. Furthermore, as climate change continues, and heat waves become more frequent, the increased cost of energy may further exacerbate poverty levels.



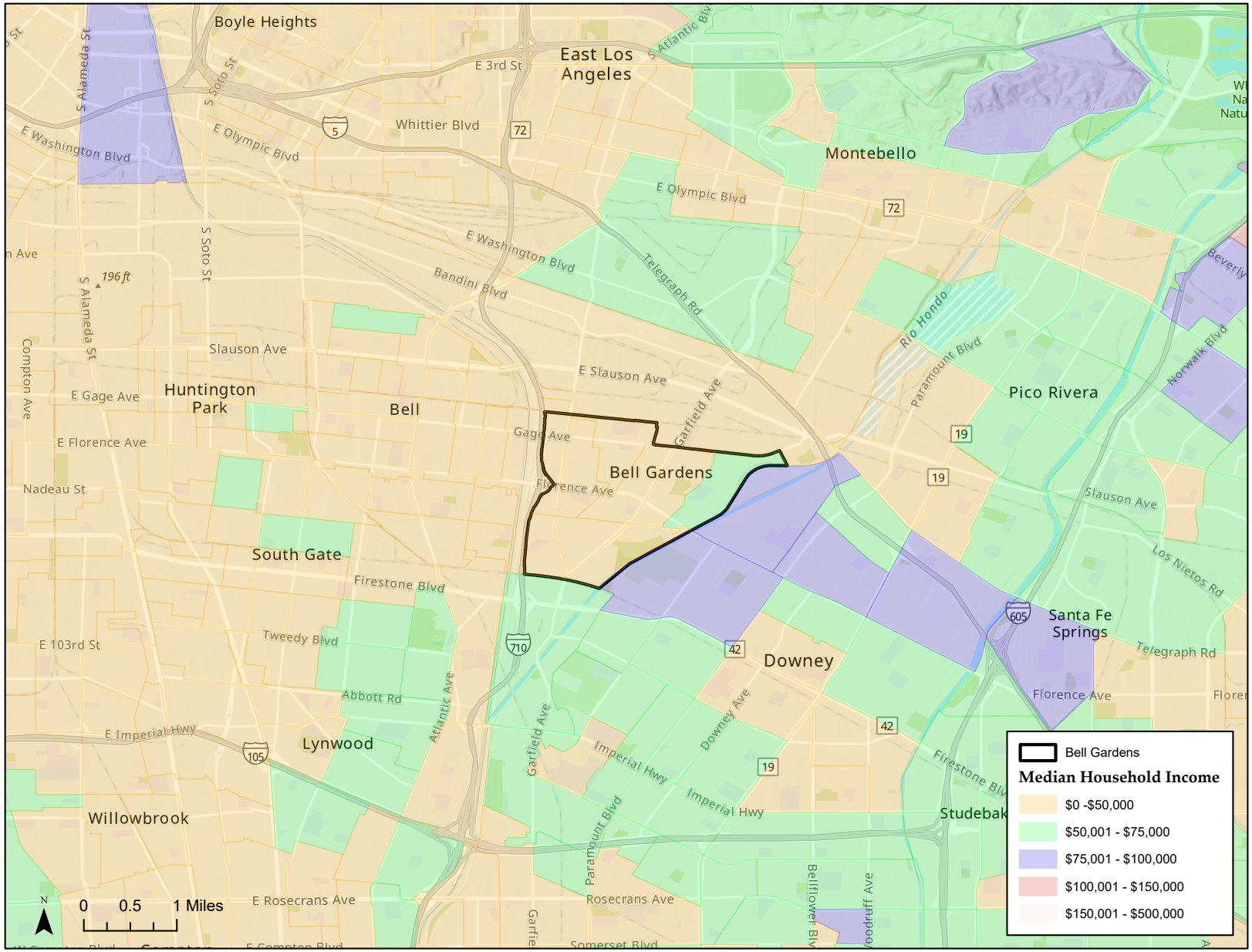
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE **2.0-1**

CalEnviroScreen Percentiles

IMPACT SCIENCES

1468.001•12/22



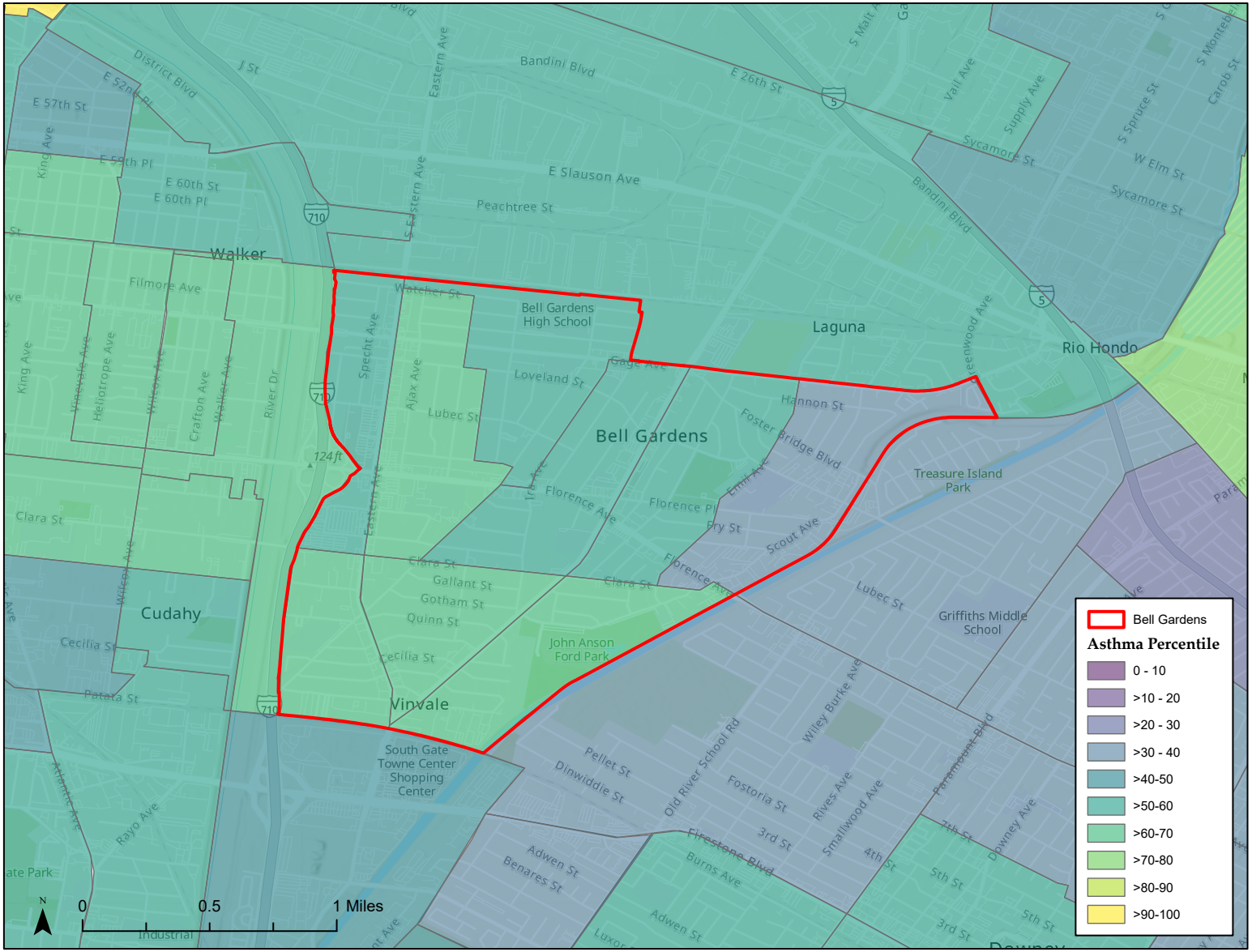
SOURCE: SCAG, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE **2.0-2**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Median Household Income

1468.001•12/22



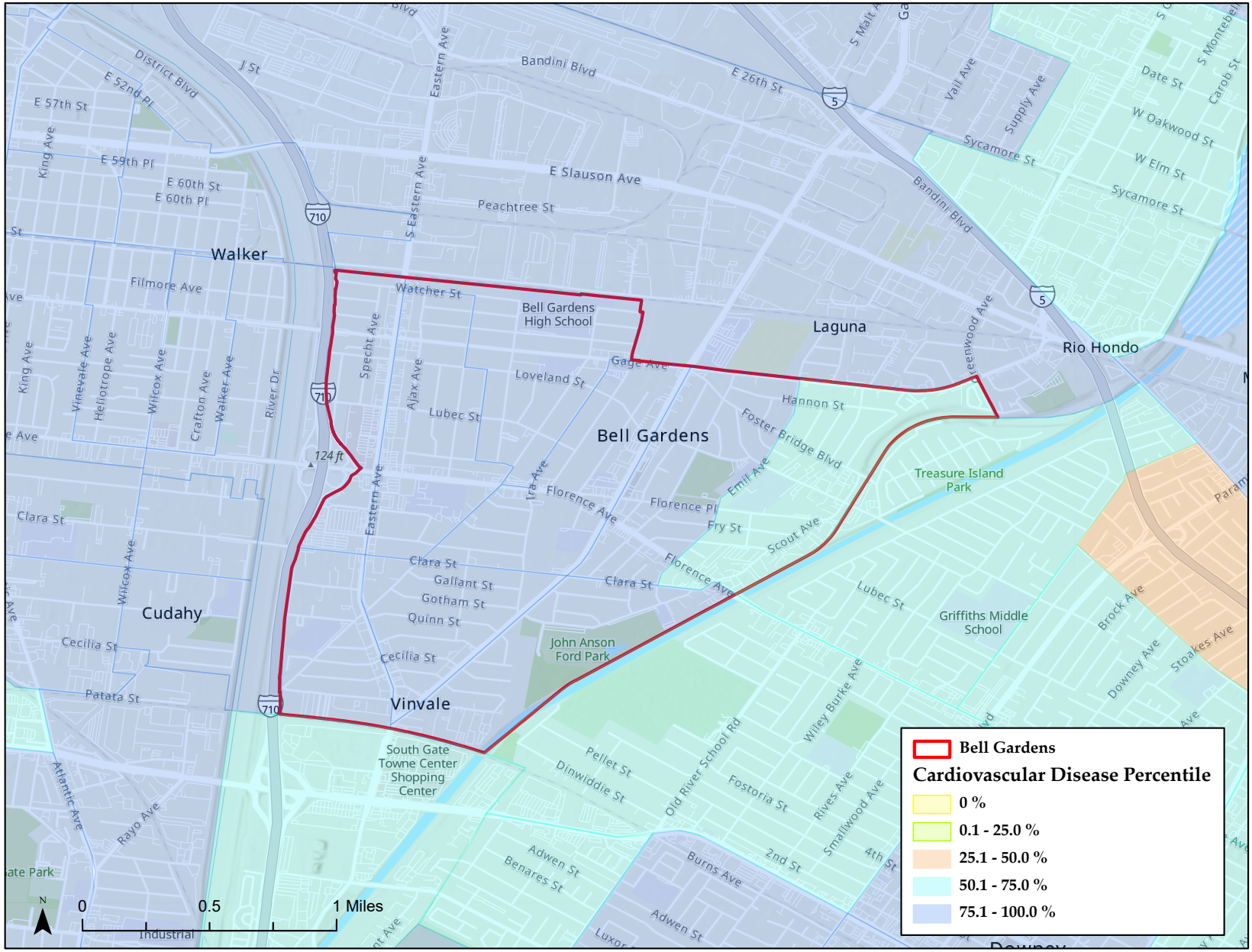
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE **2.0-3**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Emergency Room Visits Due to Asthma in Bell Gardens

1468.001•12/22



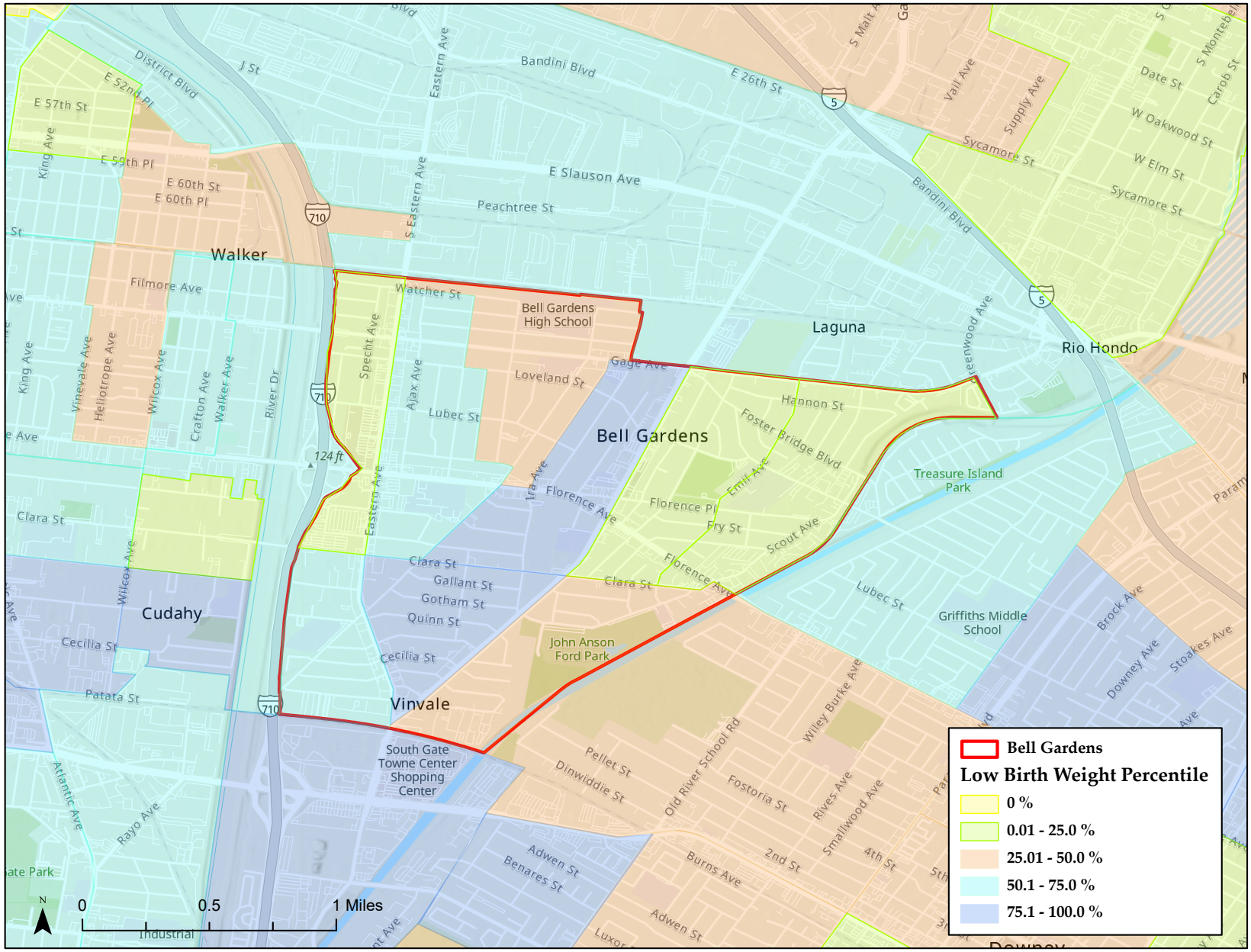
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-4**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Cardiovascular Disease Percentile

1468.001•04/23



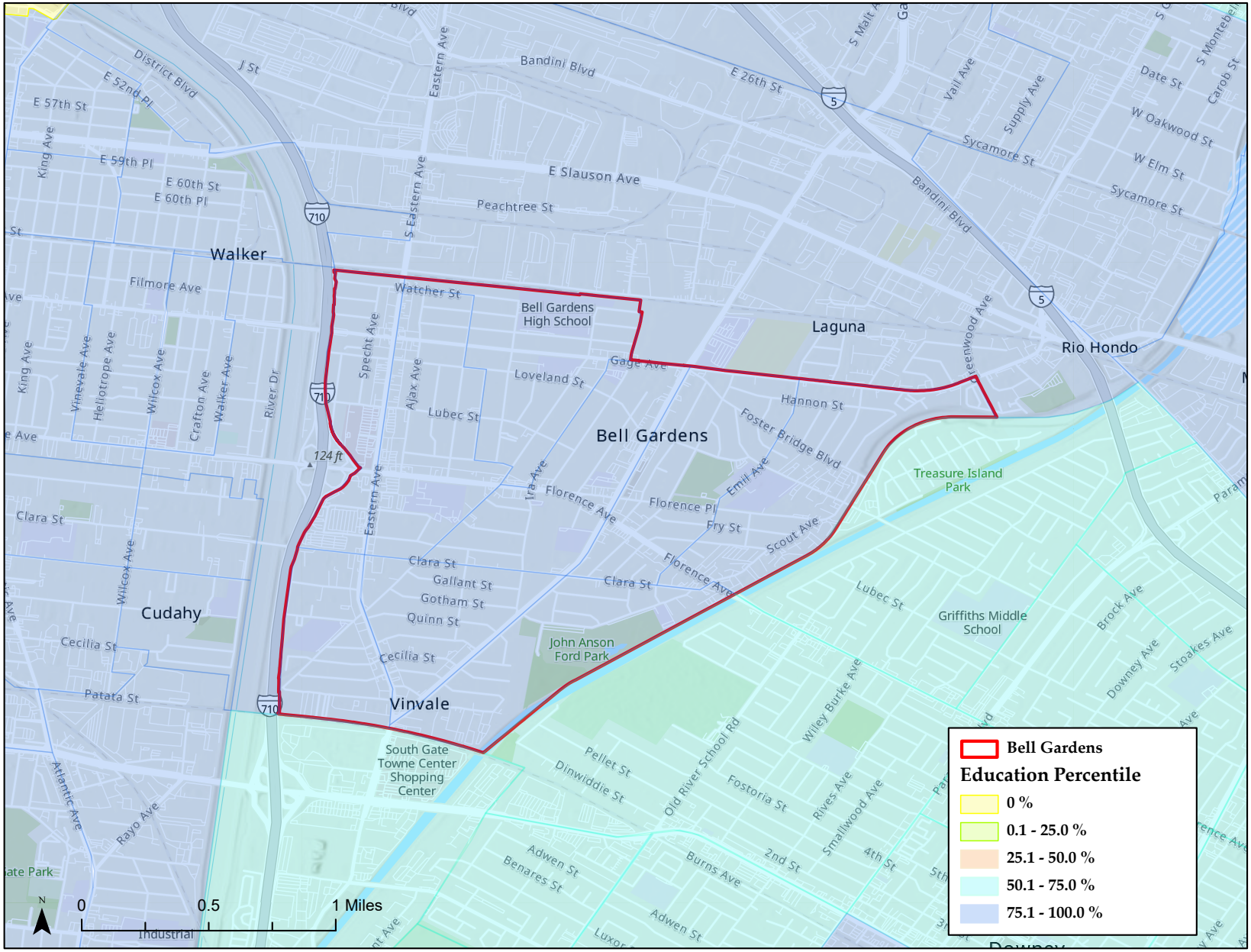
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-5**

Low Birth Weight Percentile

IMPACT SCIENCES

1468.001•04/23



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-6**

Educational Attainment Percentile

IMPACT SCIENCES

1468.001•04/23

Safe and Sanitary Homes: Providing safe and sanitary homes is a required element of Environmental Justice under Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A). The EJ Element of a general plan evaluates the safety and sanitation of homes based on housing location, quality, and affordability. Poorly maintained conditions can lead to unsafe living conditions such as pest infestation, water intrusion, mold, poor insulation, and exposure to toxins (such as mold or lead). These conditions can exacerbate respiratory illnesses including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, while exposure to lead can have lifelong health consequences for young children. Age of housing stock is a consideration in the evaluation of safe and sanitary homes. The housing in the City is relatively older than the surrounding Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) region[24]. The highest share of the City's housing units was built between 1940-1949, while in the SCAG region more units were built during 1970-1979 than any other period.[25] In the City 80.5% of all housing units were constructed prior to 1979. Moreover, only 4.7% of the City's housing were constructed since the year 2000, compared to 12.6% housing units built within the SCAG region.

Overcrowding*:* American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey distributed by the US Census Bureau to provide vital statistics to assist public officials and planners in public service decisions.[26] In the City, 413 owner-occupied and 2,514 renter-occupied households, or 29% of all available housing units, had more than one occupant per room, which meets the ACS's definition for "overcrowding."[27] 79 owner-occupied households and 714 renter-occupied households, or 8% of all available units, had more than 1.5 occupants per room, which meets the ACS definition for "severe overcrowding."

Affordable Units*:* Financing for affordable housing developments, including low- and moderate-income housing units, is provided by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA). LACDA provides financing for rental assistance, development of affordable housing, homeowner assistance, community development, and construction management. The LACDA administers the Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCC), CDBG, and the Housing Choice Vouchers for the City. The City also partners with a number of nonprofit housing developers to provide affordable housing opportunities.

Owner/Renter: According to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) most recent analysis for the City (from 2016-2020), the City consists of 9,825 residential dwelling

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24 Southern California Association of Governments is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura; and 191 cities.

25 Southern California Association of Governments, *Pre-Certified Local Housing Data for the City of Bell Gardens*. Housing Units by Structure Built, Updated April 2021. Available online at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-gardens-he-0421.pdf?1620801178, accessed December 5, 2023.

26 U.S. Census Bureau, "About the American Community Survey," Available online at: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html, accessed December 5, 2023.

27 Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), *Pre-Certified Local Housing Data for the City of Bell Gardens,* American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates, Updated April 2021. Available online at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-gardens-he-0421.pdf?1620801178, accessed December 5, 2023.

units.[28] Of those, 2,095 (21%) are owner occupied while 7,725 (79%) are rented. Approximately 68% of the housing units in the City are experiencing at least one housing problem. This includes incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than 1 person per room, or a housing cost burden greater than 30% of the household income.

Housing Cost Burden: Cost burden is the ratio of housing costs to household income. For renters, the "housing cost" includes the gross rent (contract rent plus utilities). For owners, housing cost is "select monthly owner costs", which includes mortgage payment, utilities, association fees, insurance, and real estate taxes.[29] HUD's consolidated planning and Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data measures households by share of income spent on housing cost by less than 30% of Housing Urban Development Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), between 30-50% HAMFI and more than 50% of HAMFI to housing.[30] HUD determines the median family income for each jurisdiction in order to determine Fair Market Rents (FMRs) and income limits for HUD programs. This means that the threshold for "cost burden" is 30% of a household's gross income spent on housing and the threshold for "severe cost burden" is 50% of the household income. However, a lower-income household spending the same percent of income on housing as a higher-income household will likely experience truer "cost burden."[31] According to CHAS data, of the 9,825 households (inclusive of renters and homeowners) in the City, 28% of the households (2,775) are considered housing cost burdened and 30% are considered severe cost burdened (3,020), for a total of 58% (5,795) of all units experiencing a housing cost burden.[32] Renters experience cost burdens at a higher rate than homeowners with 4,910 (63%) of rental units compared to 885 (42%) of homes experiencing some sort of housing cost burden. The housing burden percentiles of the census tracts within the City range from 71 to 97% (representing that 22 to 36% of residents in the City are housed in burdened low-income households). With the greatest concentration of cost burden concentrated in the center of the City (see **Figure 2.0-7, Housing Burden Percentile**). The average percentage of housing burdened low-income households for the census tracts in the City is 28% which is 22% higher than the County average of 23%.

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28 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research, City of Bell Gardens, 2016-2020. Accessed June 9, 2023, available at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html, accessed December 5, 2023.

29 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research, City of Bell Gardens. HUD User. Consolidated Planning / CHAS Data. Accessed on June 9, 2023, available at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html, accessed December 5, 2023.

30 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. "CHAS Background." HAMFI – HUD Area Median Family Income. Available online at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/bg_chas.html, accessed December 5, 2023.

31 Southern California Association of Governments, *Pre-Certified Local Housing Data for the City of Bell Gardens*, Cost Burden by Income. Updated April 2021. Available online at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-gardens-he-0421.pdf?1620801178accessed December 5, 2023.

32 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, "Consolidated Planning/CHAS Data," Housing Cost Burden Overview. HUD User. Available online at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html. Accessed on June 9, 2023.

Linguistic Isolation

Linguistic isolation is a term used by the U.S. Census Bureau for limited English-speaking households (all members 14 years of age or above that have a least some difficult speaking English). More than 40% of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those use a language other than English as their primary language. Adults who are not able to speak English well often have trouble talking to the 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. Approximately 41.3% of the population in the City is foreign born, in comparison to 33.5% countywide.[33]

The linguistic isolation percentiles of the census tracts within the City range from 68 to 99% (representing that 12 to 33% of residents in the City that are over the age of 14 speaks limited English). With the greatest concentration towards the center and eastern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-8, Linguistic Isolation Percentile**). The average percentile of linguistic isolation for the census tracts in the City is 21% which is 54% higher than the County average of 14%.[34]

Poverty

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 (two times the federal poverty level[35]), the person or family is considered to be living in poverty. Many studies have found that people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution. The poverty percentiles of the census tracts within the City range from 80 to 99% (representing that 48 to 80% of residents in the City are living below the federal poverty level). With the greatest concentration towards the center and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-9, Poverty Percentile**). The average percentile of people living below twice the federal poverty level for the census tracts in the City is 60% which is 71% higher than the County average of 35%[36].

Unemployment

The U.S. Census Bureau defines an "unemployed individual" as a person who is over 16 years old, out of work and able to work but not working. This definition does not include students, active-duty military, retired people, or people who have stopped looking for work. Stress from long-term

33 *Id*. U.S. Census Bureau, City of Bell Gardens

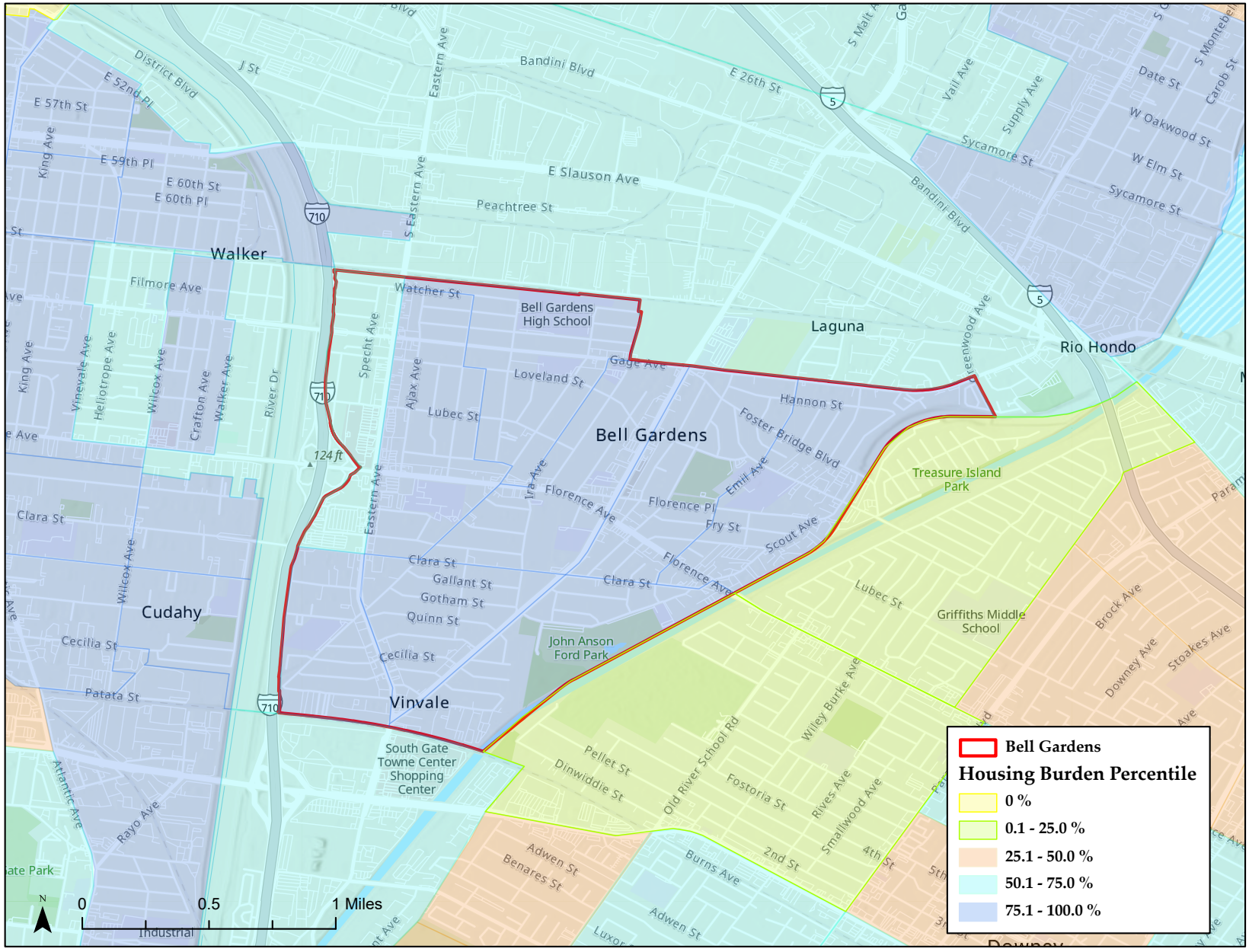
34 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

35 U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States:2022. Available online at: https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.pdf, accessed on April 2, 2024.

36 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

unemployment can lead to chronic illness, such as heart disease and can shorten a person's life. The City has 18,063 workers living within its borders who work across 13 major industrial sectors, with the most prevalent sector being Manufacturing (17.7% of the total employees) and Retail Trade (15.1% of the total).[37] The unemployment percentiles of the census tracts within the City range from 13 to 92% (representing that 3 to 12% of adults are eligible for the workforce and are unemployed)(see **Figure 2.0-10, Unemployment Percentile**). The average percent of the population over the age of 16 that is unemployed and eligible for the labor force for the census tracts in the City is 7% which is 17% higher than the County average of 6%.[38]

37 SGAG. Pre-Certified Local Housing Data. April 2021.
38 *Id.* OEHHA and CalEPA, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2021.



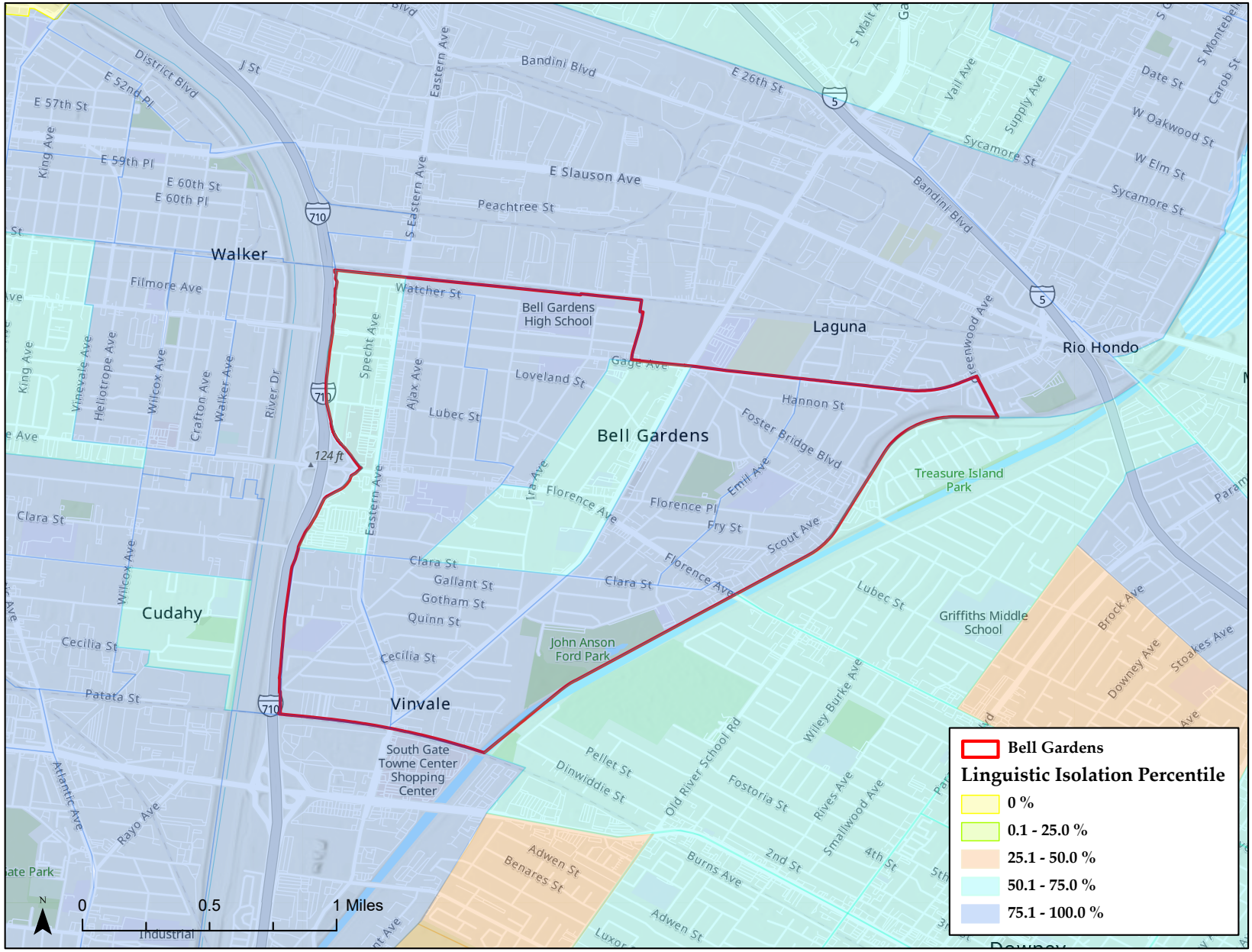
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-7**

Housing Burden Percentile

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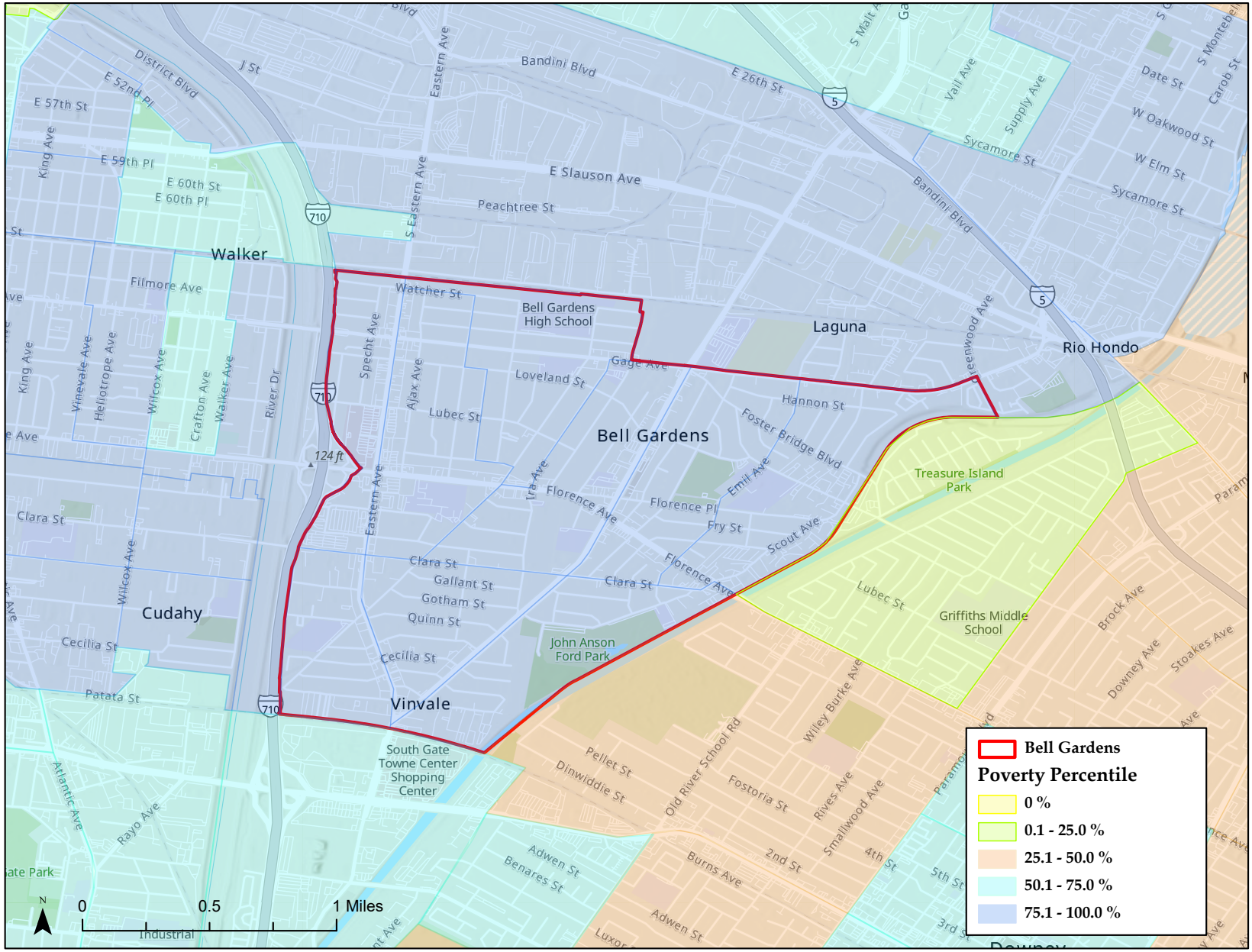
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-8**

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Linguistic Isolation Percentile

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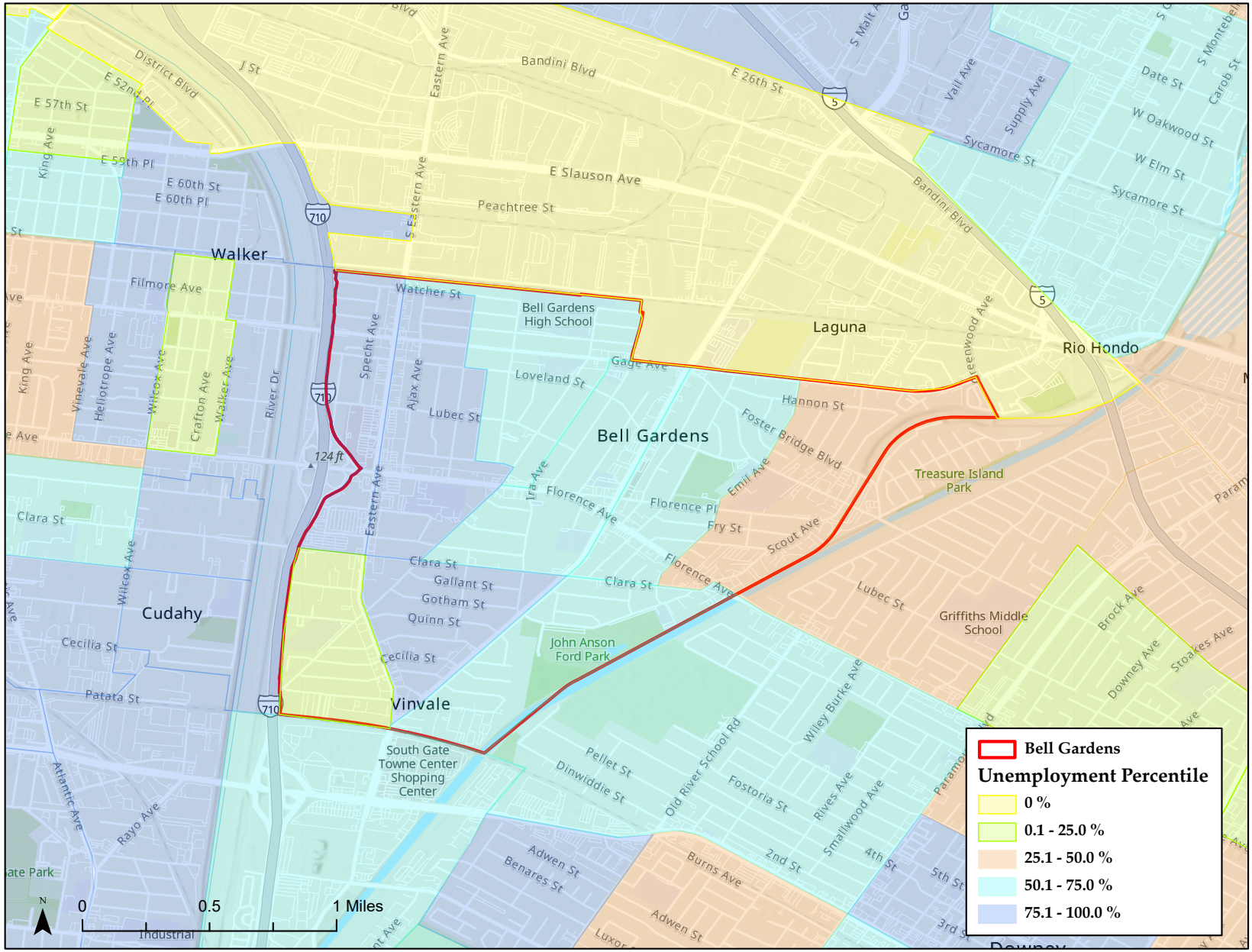
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-9**

Poverty Percentile

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SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-10**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Unemployment Percentile

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D. POLLUTION BURDEN

The City lies within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) which is a highly urbanized area comprised of approximately 17 million people, 11 million motor vehicles, and some of the highest concentrations of industrial and commercial operations in the country.[39] These factors lead to some of the worst air quality within the United States. In order to evaluate the background cancer risk exposure for residents of the SCAB region, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has prepared the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study V (MATES-V). The study evaluates 40 air pollutants, including particulate matter, lead, benzene, and elemental carbon, at 10 monitoring stations across SCAB over a one-year period (2018-2019). The study concluded that the average background cancer risk within SCAB is approximately 455 in one million. This risk is driven by diesel exhaust exposure which was determined to account for 50% of the total estimated air toxics risk. SCAQMD provides a spatial assessment of the risk throughout SCAB and the analysis demonstrates that the highest risks from air toxics are around the port areas and Central Los Angeles.[40] Within the City the background cancer risk is 590 per one million (see **Figure 2.0-11, Background Cancer Risk in the City of Bell Gardens**).

The City is exposed to air quality pollution, given its proximity to industrial land uses, the I-710 Freeway, and the I-5 Freeway. CalEnviroScreen calculates a health score based on 20 indicators by census tract. These indicators include pollution exposure, location of toxic chemicals in or near communities, sensitive populations in a community, and socioeconomic factors. Each census tract within the state is assigned a score out of 100 based on these indicators. Pollution burden represents the potential exposures to pollutants and the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution. According to CalEnviroScreen, the pollution burden percentile assigned to census tracts within the City ranges from 79.7 to 99.6 out of 100 (see **Figure 2.0-1, CalEnviroScreen Percentiles**), with a citywide average of 95.4.

Children's Lead Risk from Housing

Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. 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 (built before 1979). As noted in the City's Housing Element, 80% of the units in the City were built before 1979 and could potentially have lead based paint. 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

39 South Coast Air Quality Management District. *MATES-V Final Report*. 2021. Available online at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/mates-v/mates-v-final-report-9-24-21.pdf?sfvrsn=6, accessed December 16, 2022.

40 South Coast Air Quality Management District. *MATES-V Final Report*. 2021. Available online at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/mates-v/mates-v-final-report-9-24-21.pdf?sfvrsn=6, accessed December 16, 2022.

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). The children's lead risk from housing scores are calculated based on the percent of homes likely to contain lead-based paint hazards and the percent of low income households with children. The lead risk percentiles for the census tracts within the City ranges from 89 to 93% (representing that the children's lead risk from housing score ranges from 77 to 92) (see **Figure 2.0-12, Children's Lead Risk from Housing**). The average children's lead risk from housing percentile from the census tracts in the City is 86% which is 24% higher than the County average of 62%.[41]

Cleanup Sites

Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with hazardous chemicals and require clean up by the property owners or government. Chemicals at cleanup sites can move through the air or groundwater. People living near these sites have a greater potential to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods. In addition, studies have shown that living near cleanup sites may result in an increased probability of having a low birth weight, elevated blood lead levels and other health impacts.[42] The land may take many years or decades to clean up, reducing possible property values and quality of life for neighboring residents. The cleanup percentiles consider the number of cleanup sites including Superfund sites[43] on the National Priorities List, the weighted score of each site, and the distance to the census tract. The cleanup site percentile for census tracts within the City ranges from 43 to 95% (representing an average of 21 cleanup sites). The City's average is 75% higher than the County average of 12 cleanup sites (see **Figure 2.0-13, Cleanup Sites Percentile**).[44]

Diesel Particulate Matter

Diesel engines provide power to many types of equipment used across industries, including transportation, mining, construction, agriculture, as well as manufacturing operations. Diesel exhaust is a mixture of gases and particulates produced during the combustion of diesel fuel. The solid material in diesel exhaust is known as diesel particulate matter (DPM), which consists primarily

41 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

42 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf, accessed December 16, 2022

43 Superfund sites are identified by the United State Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List due to known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States.

44 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

of solid elemental carbon (EC) cores with organic carbon (OC) compounds adhered to the surfaces. The organic carbon includes polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), some of which cause cancer when tested in animals. Persons exposed to diesel exhaust/diesel particulate matter face the risk of health effects ranging from irritation of the eyes and nose, headaches, and nausea, to respiratory disease and lung cancer.[45] DPM has a significant impact on the population, and it is estimated that about 70% of total known cancer risk related to air toxics in California are attributable to DPM.[46]

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recommends avoiding siting new sensitive receptors (children, elderly, asthmatics and others whose are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution) within 500 feet of a freeway that carries at least 100,000 vehicles/day. This recommendation is based on freeway studies that show about a 70% drop off in particulate pollution levels at 500 feet.[47] However, pollution from freeways, especially trucks, was shown to reduce lung function in children within 1,000 feet of the freeway.[48] The diesel particulate matter percentile for the census tracts within the City ranges from 49 to 98%. Homes along the western border of the City directly abut the I-710 Freeway and as a result are exposed to higher levels of DPM than other areas of the City (see **Figure 2.0-14, Diesel Particulate Matter Percentile**). Homes located at the northeast corner of the City are approximately 1,850 feet away from the I-5 Freeway.

DPM emissions from sources within and nearby the populated parts of the City range from 0.142 to 0.894 tons per year; with the greatest concentration located within the western portion of the City, adjacent to I-710. The average DPM for the census tracts in the City is 0.4 which is 33% higher than the County average of 0.3. As indicated by the Community Survey conducted for the EJ Element, air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses was a primary area of concern.

Traffic Impact

Traffic impacts measure the number of vehicles on the roads in an area per hour. Many disadvantaged communities live in or near areas with high traffic impacts resulting in poor air quality and increased noise. While California has strict vehicle-emission standards, exhaust from cars and trucks remains a main source of air pollution. Homes, schools, and other sensitive uses located near major roads and highways can be adversely affected by traffic impacts. The traffic impact percentiles for the census tracts within the City ranges from 29 to 98% (representing average traffic volumes per amount of roadway within City ranges from 609 to 3,654) (see **Figure 2.0-15, Traffic Impacts Percentile**). Within the City, the average traffic volume per amount of roadway for the

45 U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Diesel Exhaust." Available online at: https://www.osha.gov/diesel-exhaust, accessed December 5, 2023.

46 California Air Resources Board, *Overview: Diesel Exhaust & Health*, 2021. Available online at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/overview-diesel-exhaust-and-health

47 California Air Resources Board, *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*, 2005. Available online at: https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

48 *Ibid.*

census tracts in the City is 1,396 which is 2% less than the County average of 1,427; with the highest concentration located towards the east next to the 710 freeway.

Drinking Water Contaminants

Most drinking water in California meets federal and state drinking water standards. However, drinking water sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria above the acceptable standards. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources include rocks, soil, wildlife, and fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms, which may include pesticides, chemicals, and other harmful materials.

One common contaminant, arsenic, occurs naturally in some rocks and soil and is often found in groundwater in California and can cause cancer. Nitrate from fertilizer or manure can leach into groundwater and contaminate wells. Nitrate can cause a blood disorder in infants called blue baby syndrome. The drinking water contaminant score is based on the average concentration of contaminants and average violation percentiles for each census tract. This indicator is not a measure of whether water is safe to drink but indicates a combination of contaminant data that takes into account the relative concentrations of different contaminants and whether multiple contaminants are present. Within the City, the drinking water contaminant percentiles range from 56 to 62% (representing drinking water contaminant score ranges from 463 to 518); with the highest percentage of contaminants located towards the northern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-16, Drinking Water Contaminants**). The average drinking water contaminants scores for the census tracts in the City is 504, which is 17% lower than the County average of 608[49]. Based on input from the Community Survey, groundwater quality due to old and damaged pipes was an area of concern for the community.

Groundwater Threats

Hazardous chemicals are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks (such as gasoline for gas stations or solvents for commercial/industrial uses). 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. Leaking tanks can affect drinking water and expose people to contaminated soil and air. The land and groundwater may take many years or decades to clean up. The groundwater threats consider the number of groundwater cleanup sites, the weight of each site, and the distance to the census tract. The groundwater threats percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 3 to 77% (representing an average groundwater score of 14%). This is 7% lower than the County average of 15%; with the highest percentiles in the northeastern and southwestern corners of the City (see

49 OEHHA and CalEPA. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. 2021. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

Figure 2.0-17, Groundwater Threats Percentile).

Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities

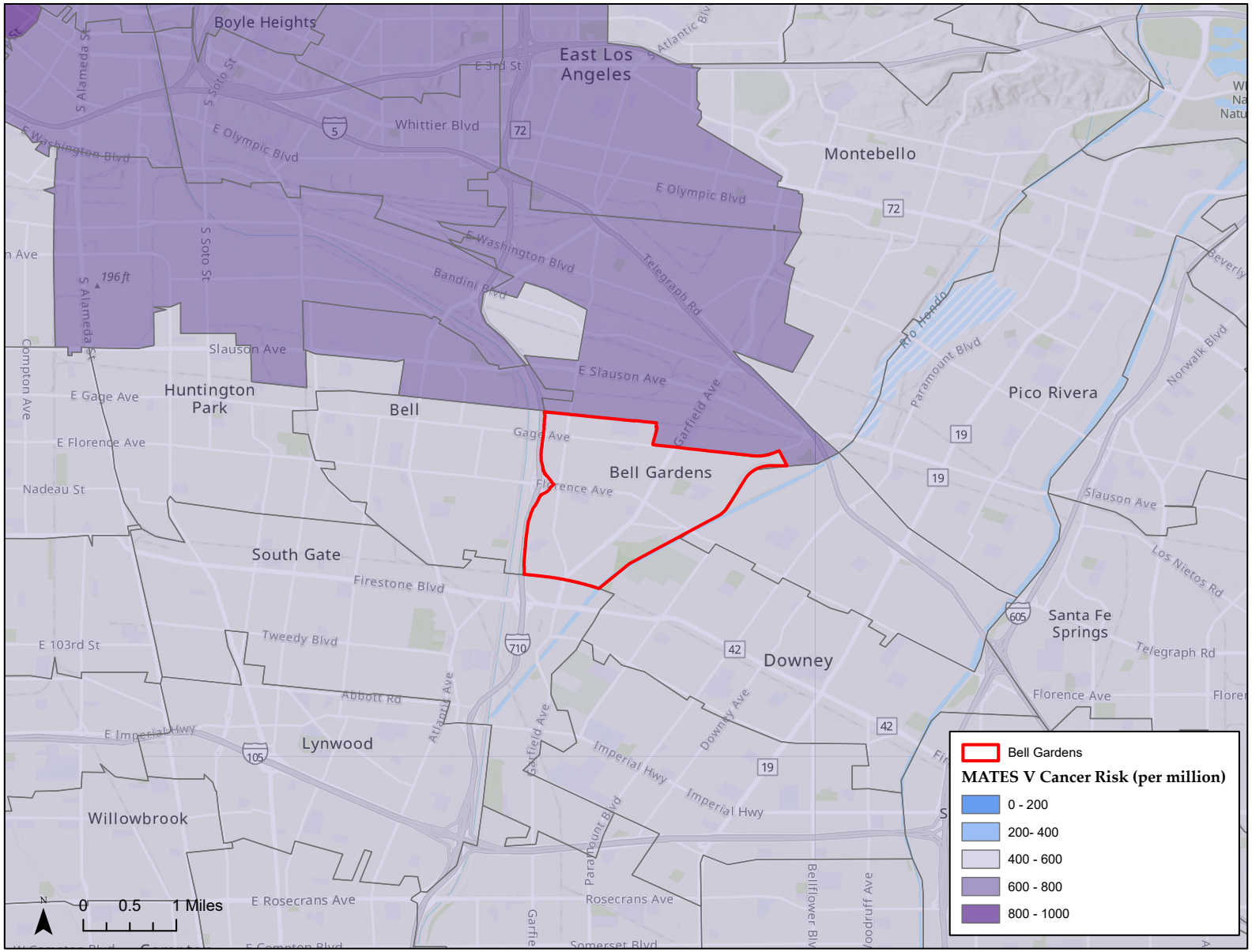
Hazardous waste includes waste created by different commercial or industrial activities containing chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health.[50] Only certain facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. Hazardous waste can range from used automotive oil to highly 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 concerns about effects on health and the environment in the communities where they operate. The hazardous waste percentiles presented in **Figure 2.0-18, Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities Percentile**, take into consideration the number of permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facilities, generators of hazardous waste or chrome plating facilities, the weight of each generator or site, and the distance to the census tract. The hazardous waste percentile for the census tracts within the City range from 11 to 97% (representing an average of 2 hazardous waste generators/sites per census tracts in the City). This is 100% higher than the County average of 1; with the highest percentages towards the southern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-18, Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities Percentile**). The hazardous waste generators/sites in the City include Bell Gardens High School (6119 Agra Street), Metal Surfaces International, LLC (6060 Shull Street), Rite Aid (6959 Eastern Avenue), Euocraft Architectural Metal (5619 Watcher Street), and 8000 Bell Gardens.

Impaired Waters

Water bodies such as streams, rivers or lakes are used for recreation and fishing or may provide water for drinking or irrigation. When water bodies are contaminated by pollutants, they are considered "impaired waters." These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. These impairments can harm wildlife habitats and prevent recreational and other uses of the water body. the impaired water percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 67 to 83% (representing 7-10 impairments) (see **Figure 2.0-19, Impaired Water Bodies Percentiles**, between the Rio Hondo Channel and the Los Angeles River). The average number of impairments for the census tracts in the City is 9 which is 200% greater than the County average of 3.[51]

50 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. Hazardous Waste Generator and Facilities. Available online at: https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/hazardous-waste-generators-and-facilities, accessed April 8, 2024.

51 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.



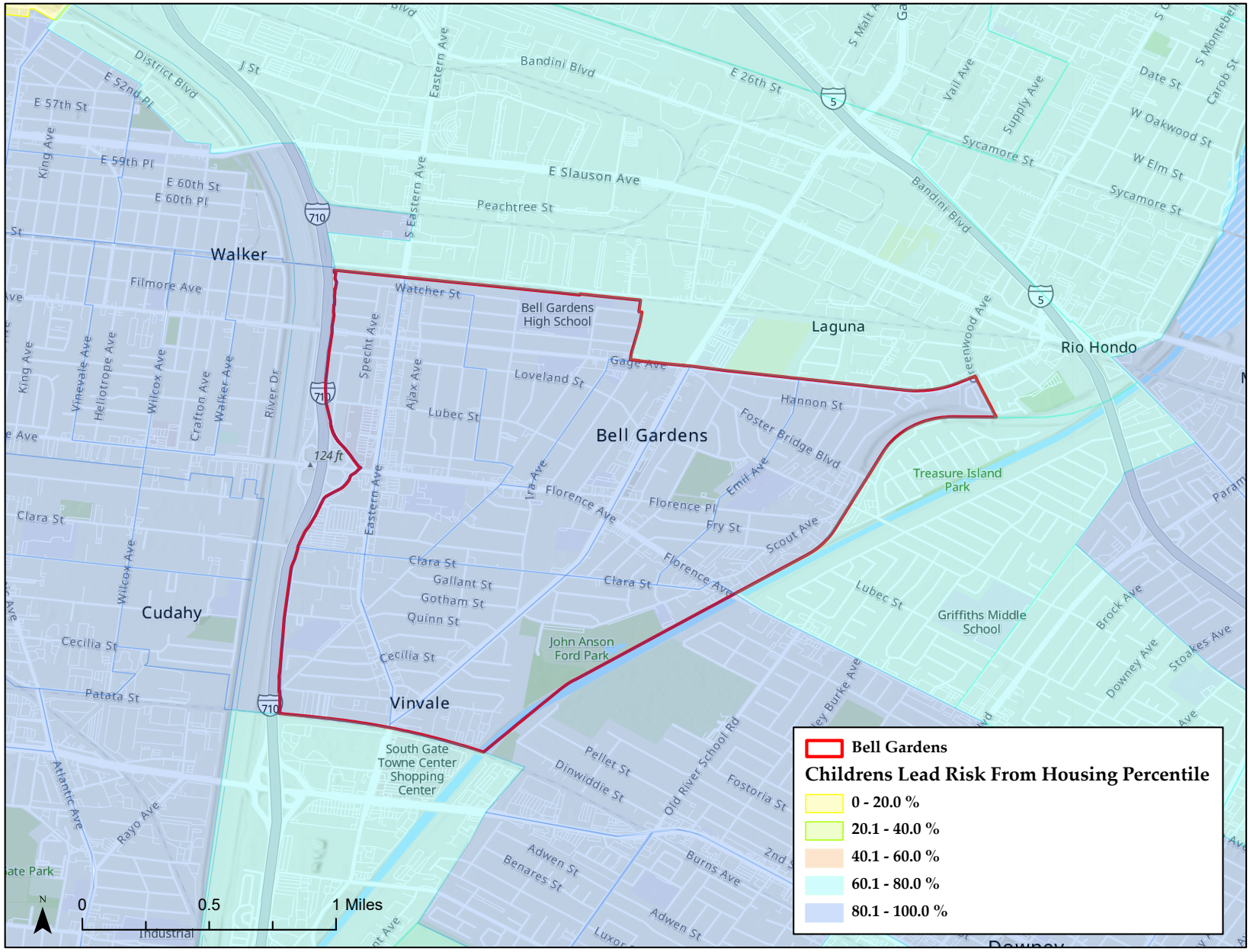
SOURCE:MATES V, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE 5

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Background Cancer Risk in Bell Gardens

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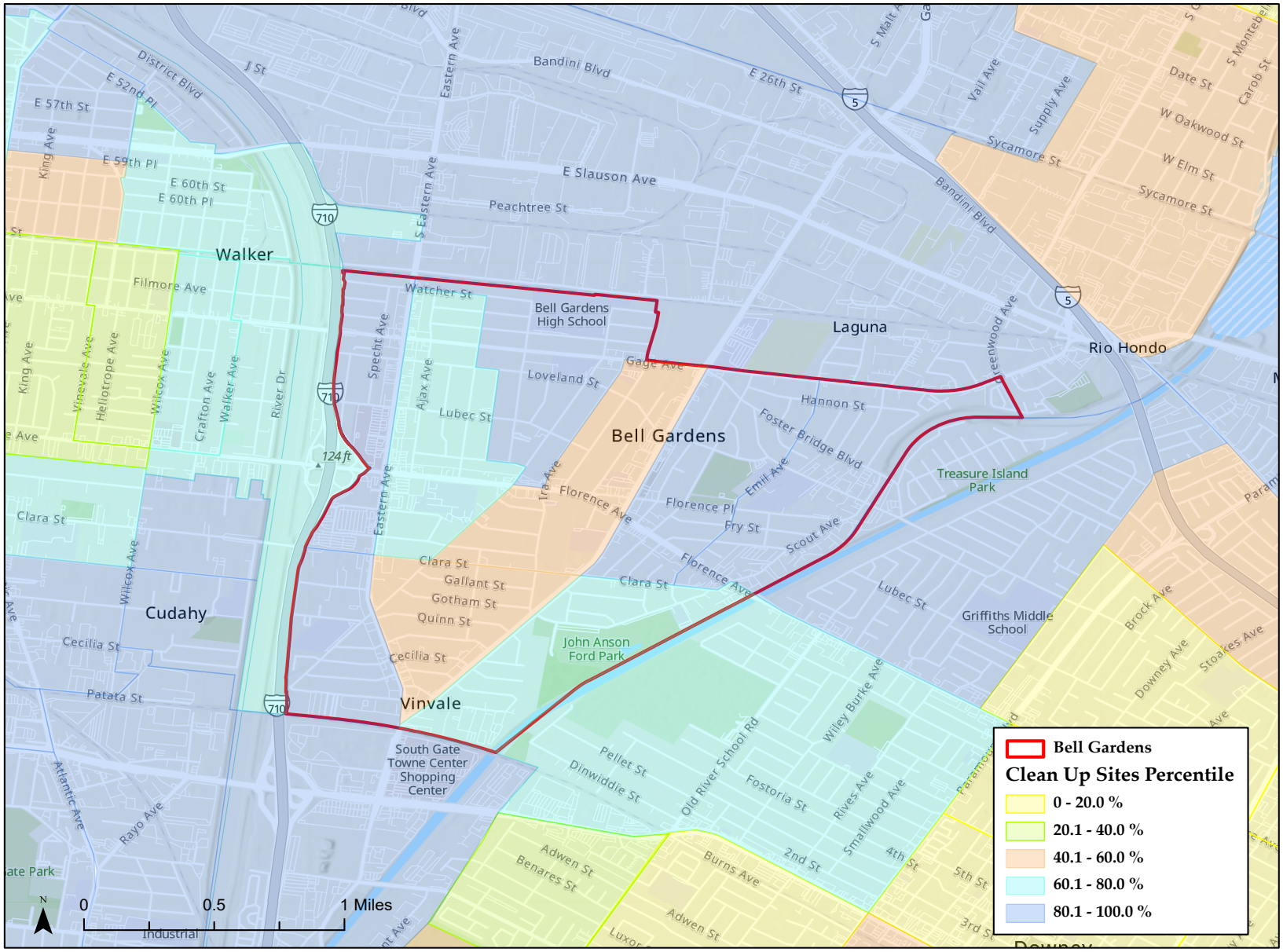
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-12**

Childrens Lead Risk From Housing Percentile

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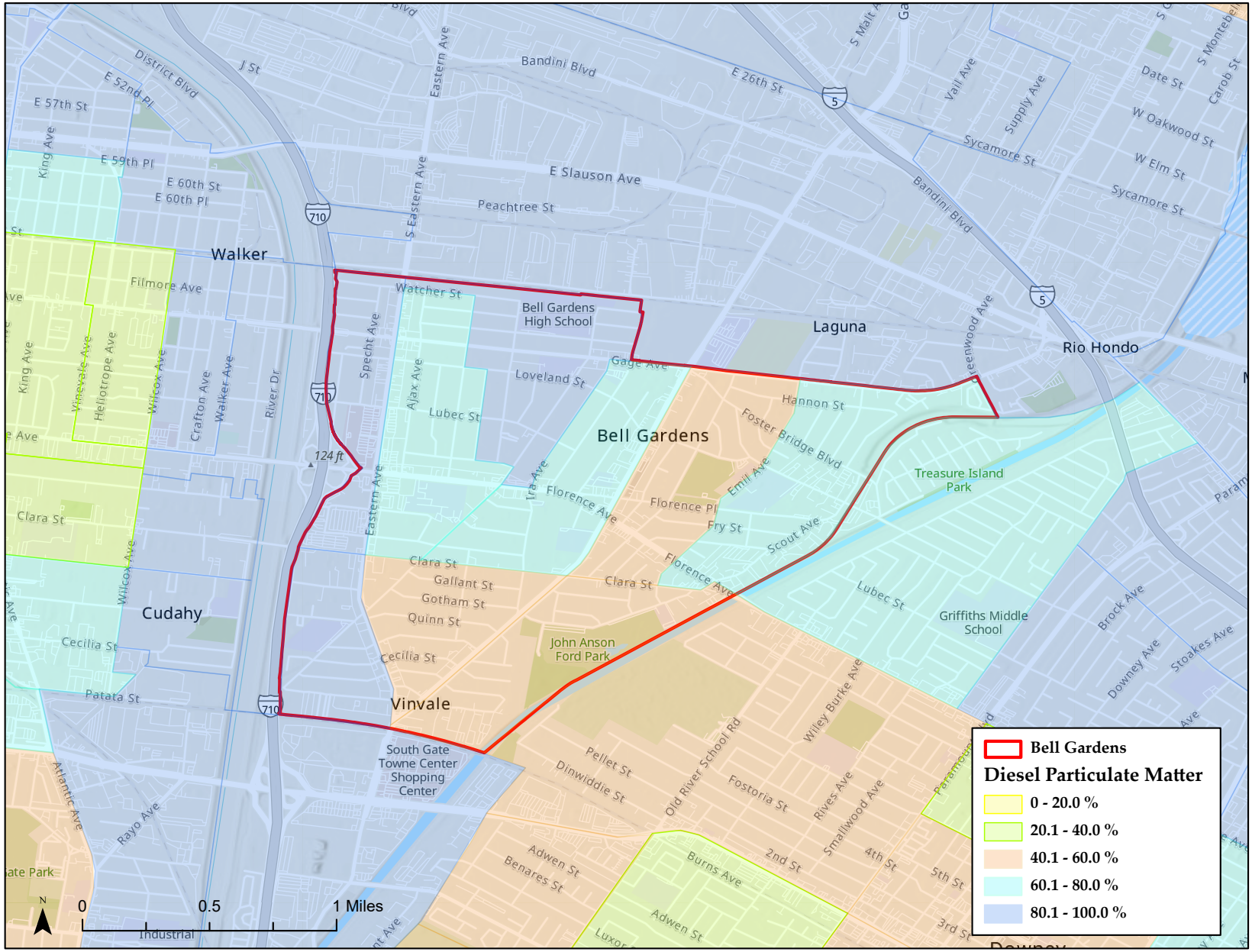
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-13**

Clean Up Sites Percentile

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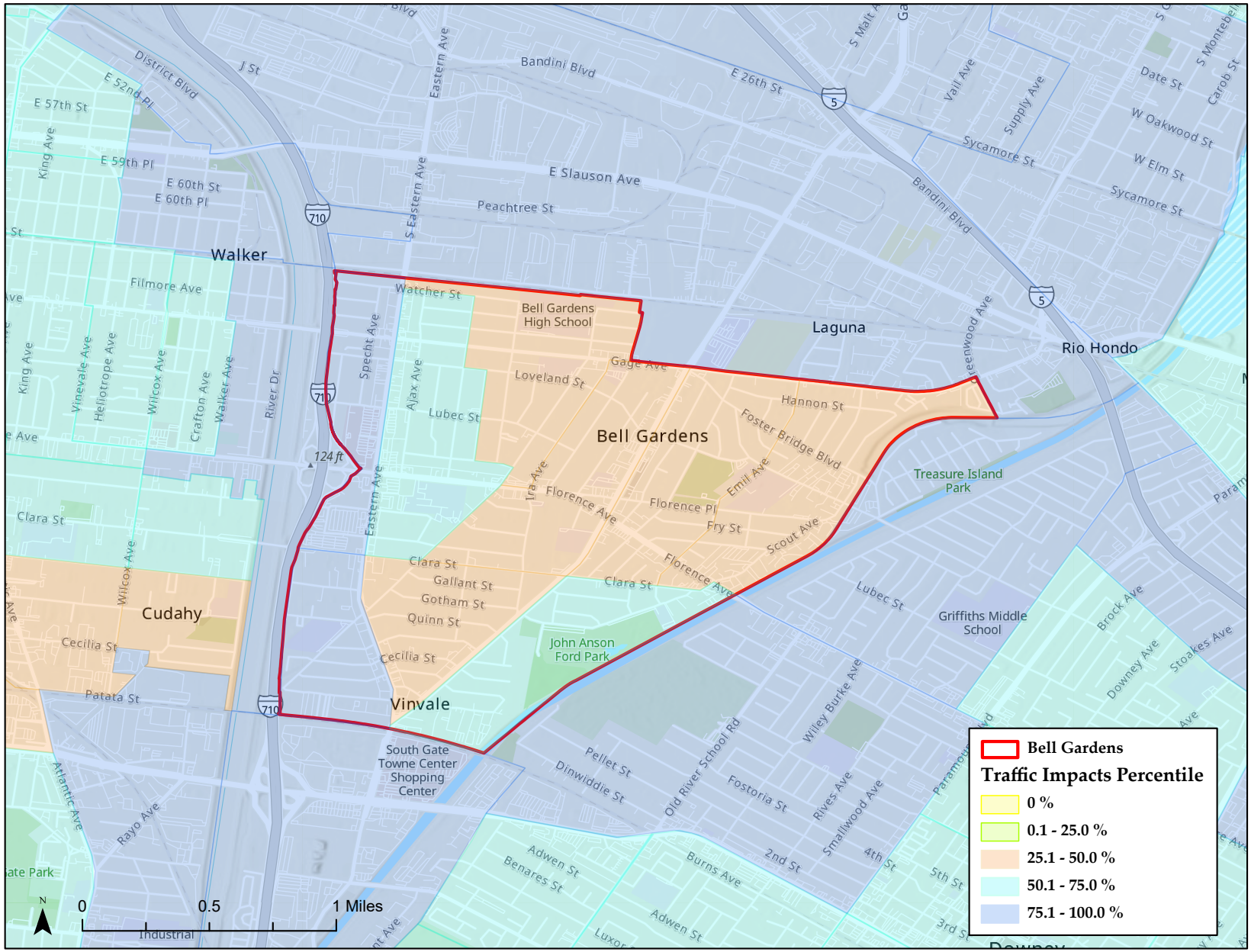
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-14**

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Diesel Particulate Matter Percentile

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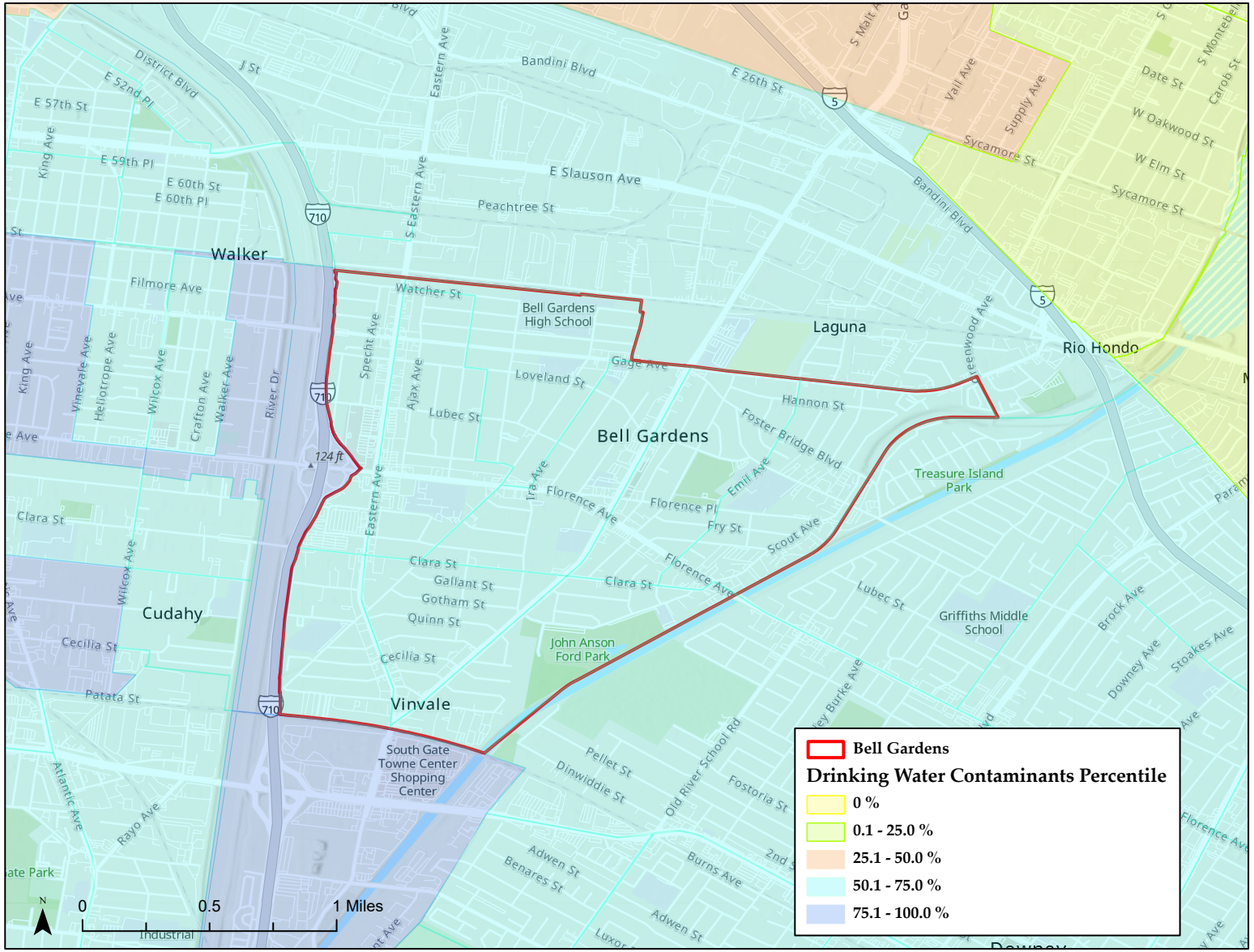
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-15**

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Traffic Impacts Percentile

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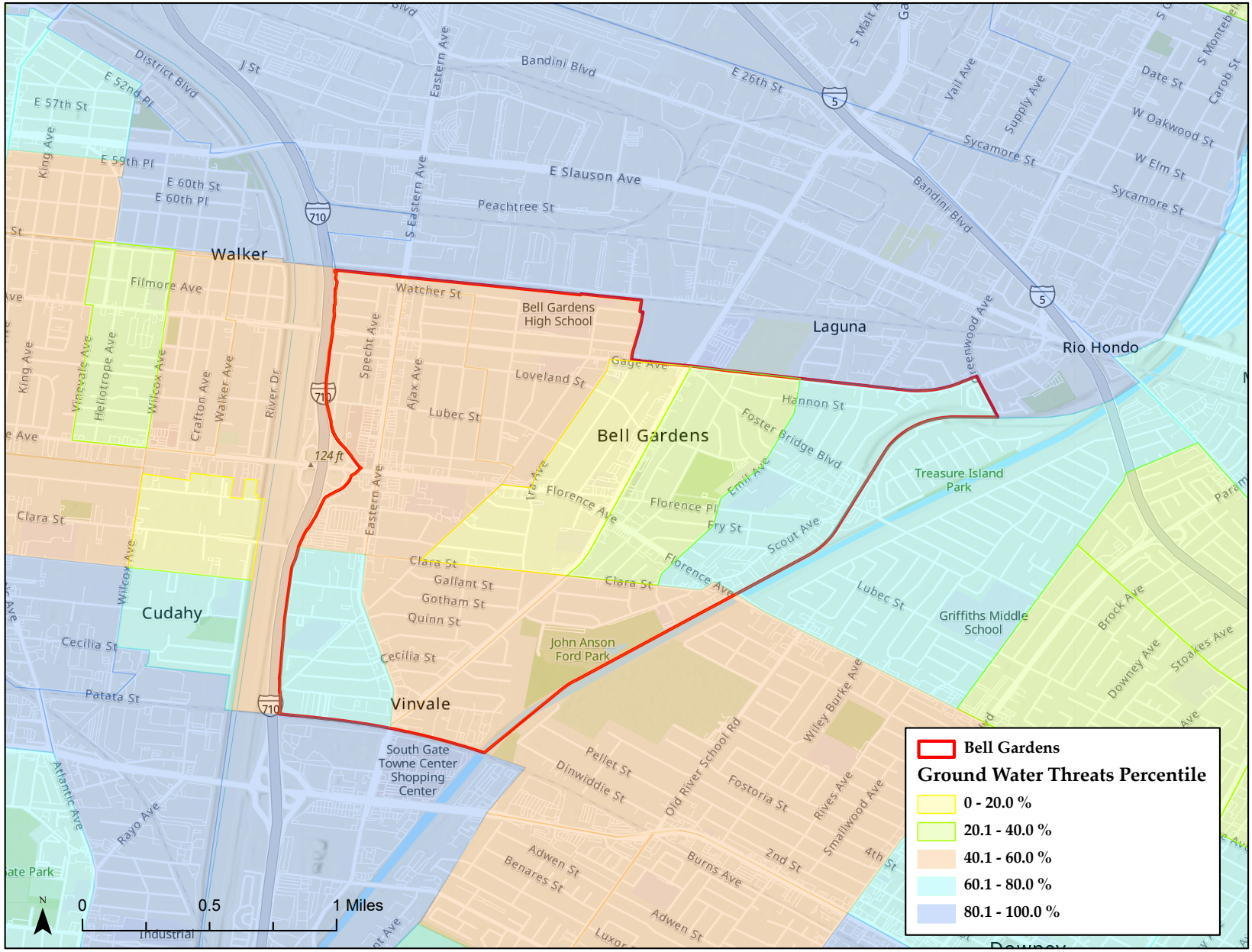
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-16**

Drinking Water Contaminants Percentile

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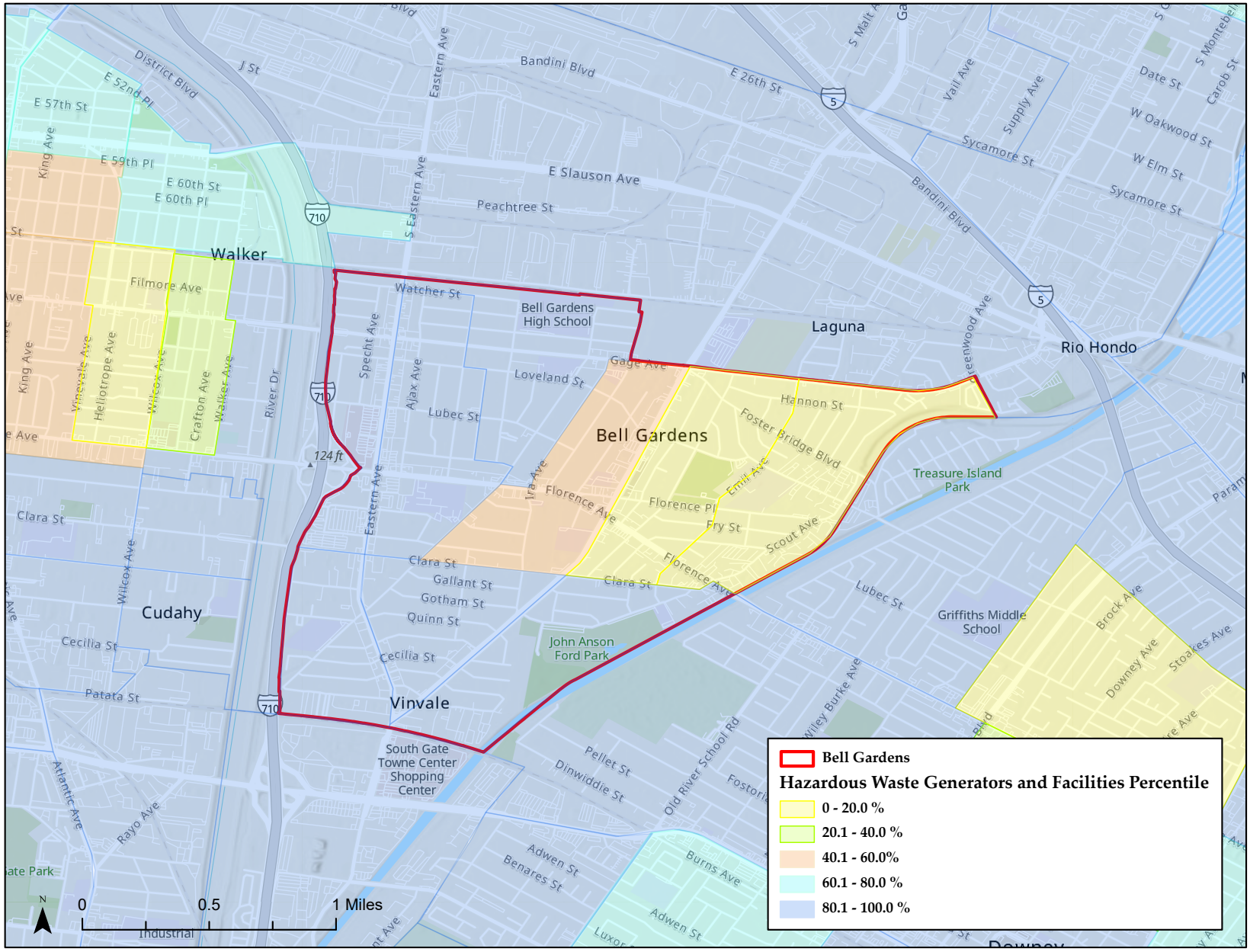
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-17**

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Ground Water Threats Percentile

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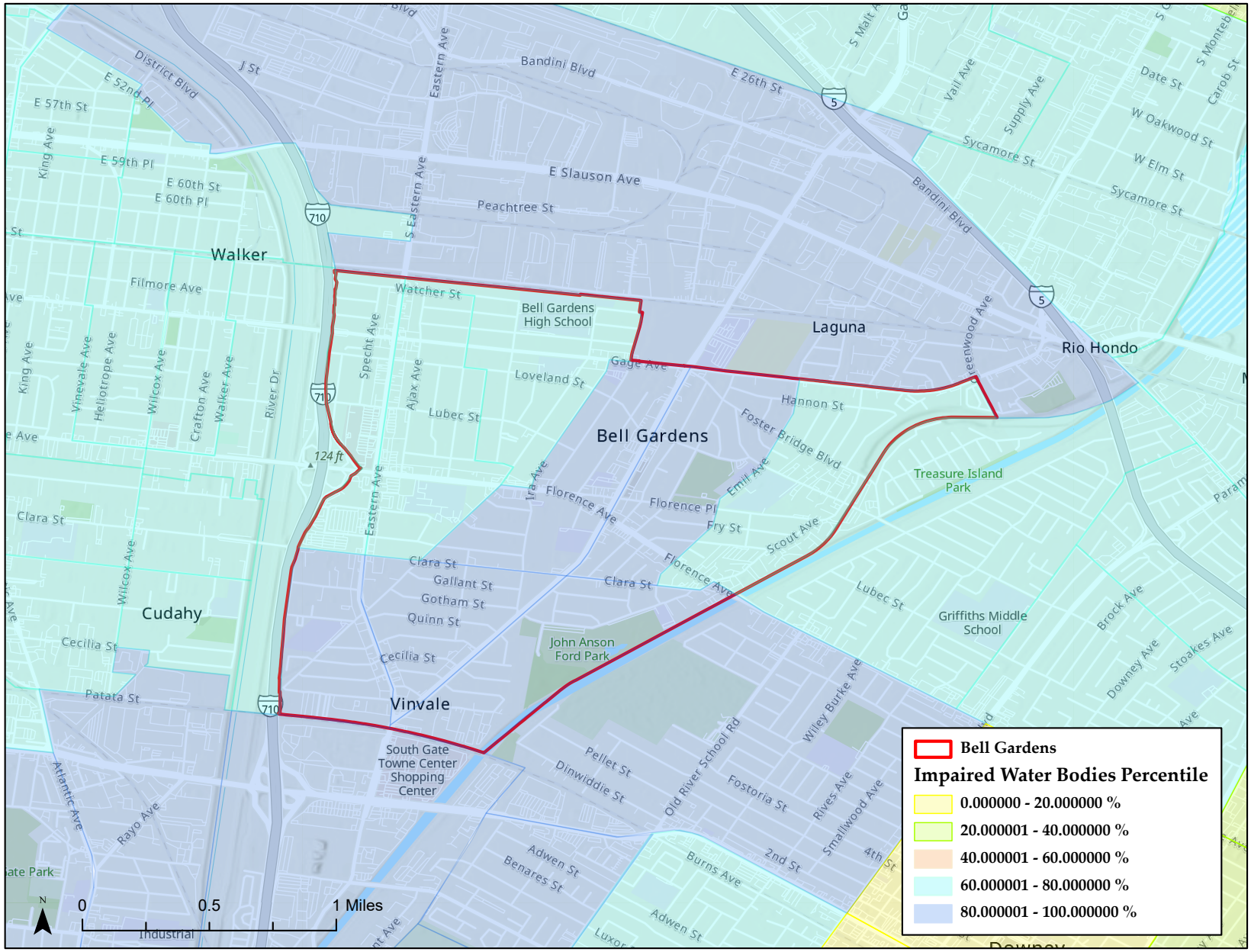
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-18**

Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities Percentile

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SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-19**

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Impaired Water Bodies Percentile

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Ozone

Volatile organic compounds that combine with other substances in the air form ground-level ozone or air pollution (also known as smog). The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. 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.[52] The ozone percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 47% to 51% with the higher concentrations located towards the northern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-20, Ozone Percentile**). The average amount of daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentration for the census tracts in the City is 0.047 which is 10% lower than the County average of 0.052.

Pesticide Use

Pesticides are chemicals used to control insects, weeds and plant diseases. Over 1,000 pesticides are registered for use in California. They are applied to fields by air, by farm machinery, or by workers on the ground. Farmworker families and other people who live near fields can be exposed to pesticides, both outdoors and inside homes. Exposure to high levels of some pesticides can cause illness right away or conditions such as birth defects or cancer later in life. Bell Gardens is highly urbanized and is comprised primarily of commercial and industrial uses. However, drift or volatilization of pesticides from agricultural fields can be a significant source of pesticide exposure.[53] Within the City, the pesticide use percentiles for the census tracts range from 0 to 69% (representing an average of 0 to 31 pounds of active ingredients used on agricultural commodities per square mile) with the highest concentration located towards the center of the City (see **Figure 2.0-21, Pesticide Use Percentile**). The total pounds of pesticide use in some of the census tracts within the City is 14 pounds of active ingredients per square mile which is 180% greater than the County average of 5 pounds.

PM2.5

Particulate matter or PM2.5 is very small airborne particle pollution, less than 2.5 micrometers, which is less than the thickness of a human hair. PM2.5 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. They 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

52 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

53 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf, accessed December 16, 2022

PM2.5 exposure. The PM2.5 percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 78 to 88% (representing concentrations of PM2.5 ranging from 12.0 to 12.2 micrograms per meter cubed), with the higher concentrations located towards the eastern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-22, PM2.5 Percentile**). The average PM2.5 concentrations for the census tracts in the City is 12.1 micrograms per meter cubed (µg/m3) which is 3% higher than the County average of 11.7 µg/m3.[54] The Community Survey also indicated that the environmental justice issue of greatest concern was air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses.

54 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.



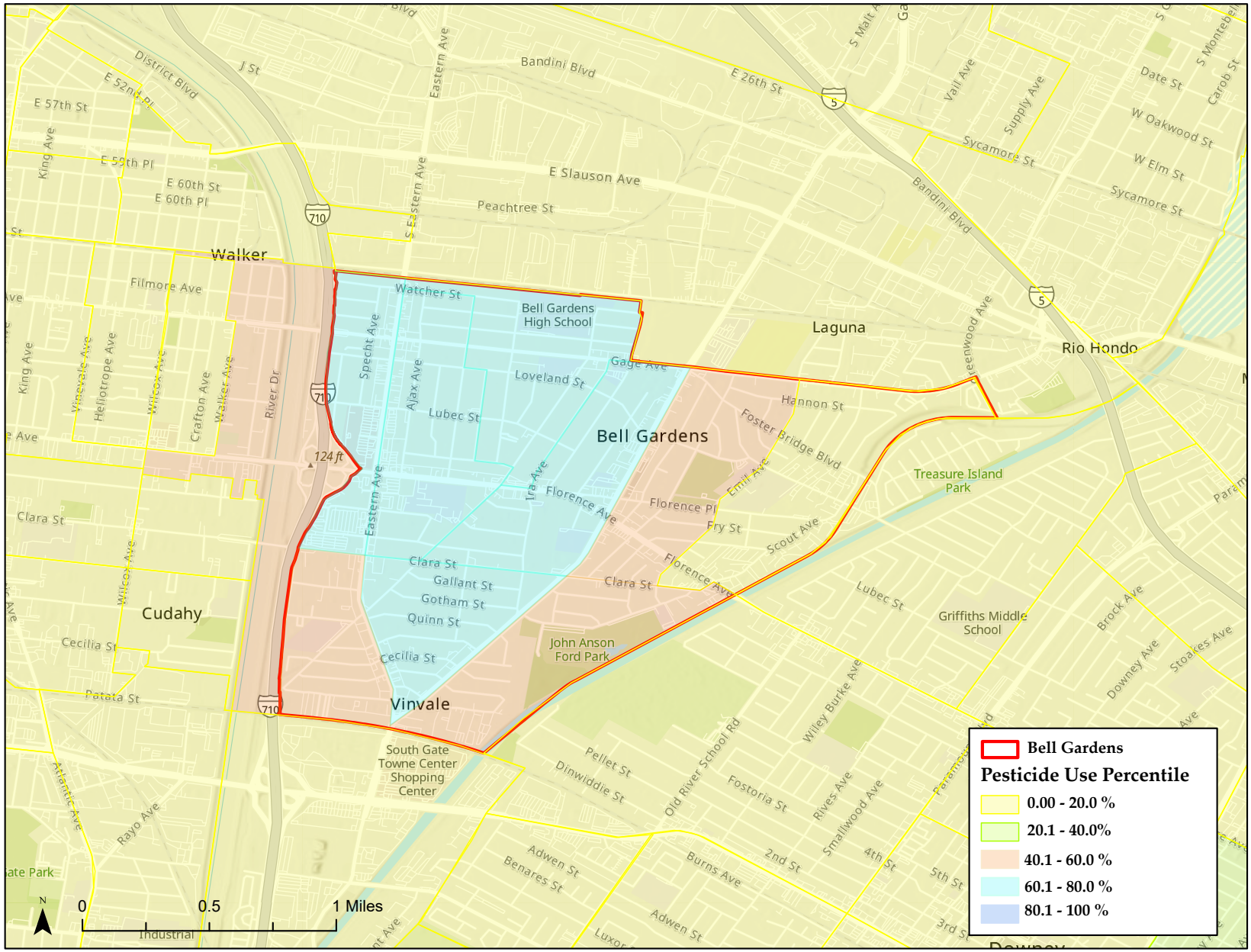
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-20**

Ozone Percentile

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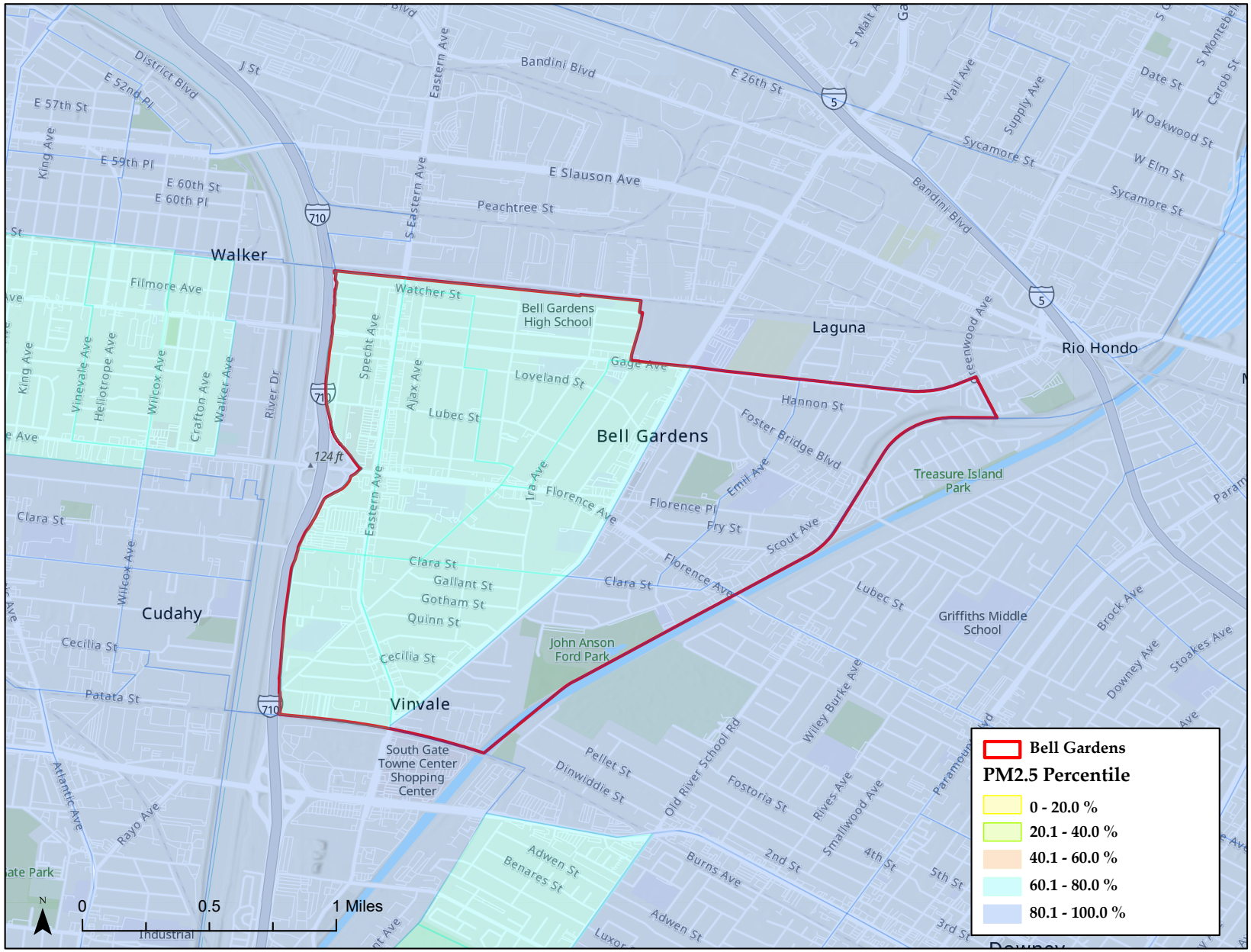
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-21**

Pesticide Use Percentile

IMPACT SCIENCES

1468.001•04/23



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-22**

PM2.5 Percentile

IMPACT SCIENCES

1468.001•04/23

Solid Waste Facilities

"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 from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Regulated facilities as well as unpermitted 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. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and communities of color. The solid waste percentile considers the number of solid waste facilities including unpermitted sites, the weight of each facility or site, and the distance to the census tract. The solid waste site percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 10 to 75% (representing an average of 2.27 solid waste sites and facilities within the City). This is 0.4% higher than the County average of 2.26 sites, with the highest percentiles located towards the eastern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-23, Solid Waste Sites and Facilities Percentile**).

Toxic Release from Facilities

Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States.[55] These chemicals are sometimes detected in the air of communities nearby. People living near facilities may breathe contaminated air regularly or if contaminants are released during an accident. The toxic release scores are based on modeled air concentration of chemical releases from large facility emissions in and nearby the census tract. The toxic release percentiles from the census tracts within the City range from 89 to 93% (representing toxic release scores from 4,019 to 5,507), with the higher percentiles located towards the southern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-24, Toxic Release from Facilities Percentiles**). The average toxic release concentrations for the census tracts in the City is 4,589, which is 24% greater than the concentration of the County average of 3,699.[56]

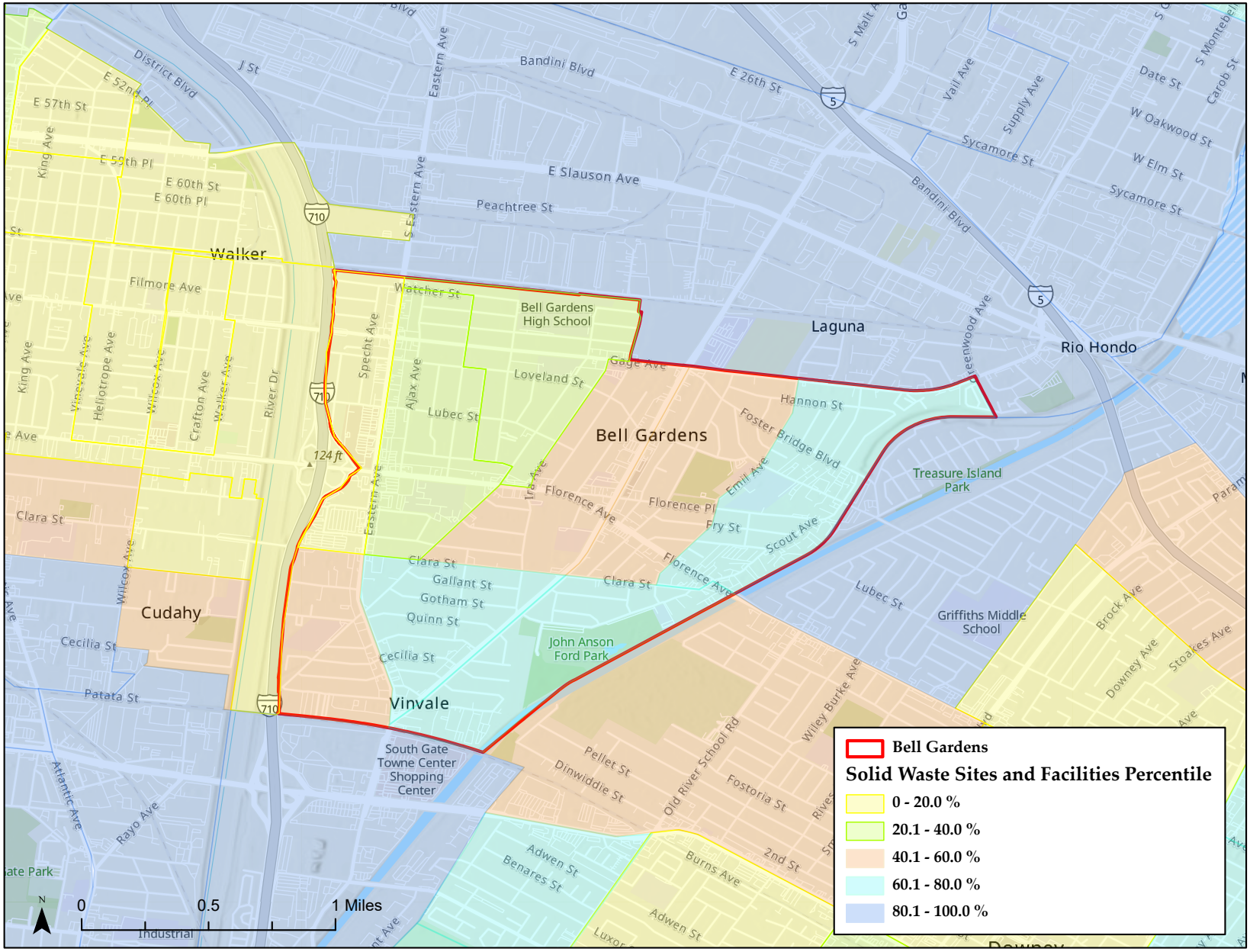
E. LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

Land use compatibility is concerned with the arrangement of uses within the City which is discussed in the General Plan's Land Use Element. While existing industrial businesses may be sources of pollution, they also contribute to the local economy and job base. The EJ Element supports future efforts to address past land use planning that enabled heavy/polluting industrial uses to operate in close proximity to residential areas and sensitive uses through zoning and the

55 United States Environmental Protection Agency. Toxic Release Inventory Program. Available online at: https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program.

56 OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

creation of buffer zones. The intent of the EJ Element is to enable industrial businesses to continue to thrive, but also operate in a way that minimizes adverse impacts to the surrounding community and the environment. The EJ Element also seeks to protect communities from noxious uses, encourage cleaner industrial uses, support community revitalization and beautification, and improve the overall quality of life.



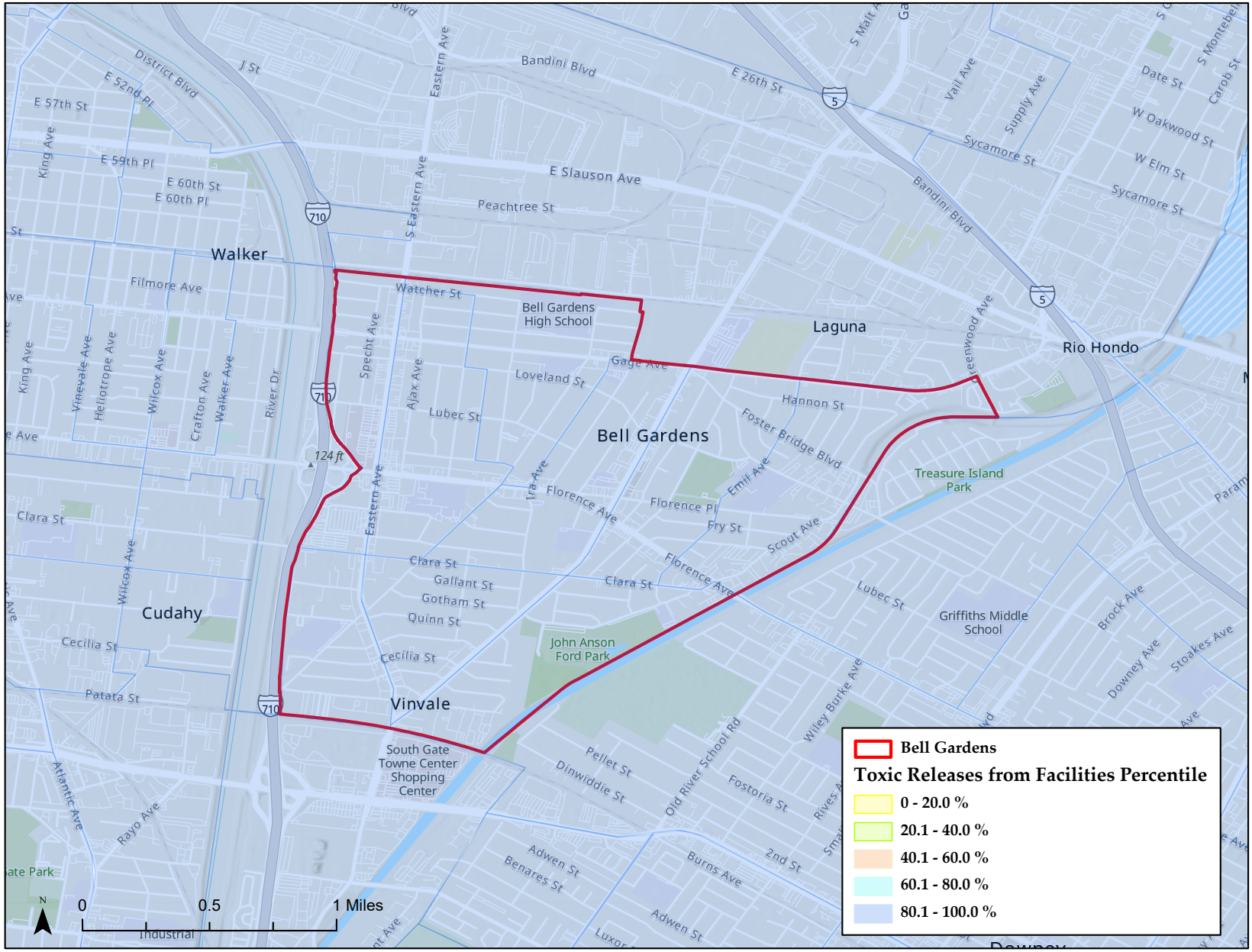
SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-23**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Solid Waste Sites and Facilities Percentile

1468.001•04/23



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE **2.0-24**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Toxic Releases From Facilities Percentile

1468.001•04/23

As shown **Figure 2.0-25, Zoning Map,** the City is divided between Commercial (C), Manufacturing (M), and Residential (R) Zones. The prominent land use in the City is Residential (58%). Commercial uses make up approximately 10.1% of the land area, Industrial uses make up 13% of land area, Institutional uses make up 7.4% of land area, and Open Space and Parks make up 11.5% of land area. The Light Industrial (M-1) Zone was established to permit light industrial use in an area in close proximity to Residential and Commercial Zones.

Public Facilities

The City of Bell Gardens currently maintains 24 public facilities serving its population of 38,552 people; inclusive of a neighborhood youth center, library, city service buildings, parks, a community family service center, golf course, and one historical building.[57]

The Los Angeles County Library operates one location in the City, located at 7110 Garfield Avenue, and provides public computers and internet access, space for children and teens, homework help services, and research assistance. The Los Angeles County Library system maintains a 7.5 million volume book collection as well as magazines, newspapers, government publications and many specialized materials including online databases.[58]

The City of Bell Gardens' Senior Center, located at 6722 Clara Street, provides activities, health screenings, and meal service to residents 55 and older. The City maintains six parks: Veteran's Park (Bell Gardens Park) located at 6662 Loveland Street, Darwell Park located at 6863 Drawell Avenue, Gallant Park located at 5978 Gallant Street, Marlow Park located at 6640 Marlow Avenue, and Hannon Park located at 6902 Hannon Street. In addition, the County of Los Angeles operates the Juli Russ Asmus Park within the City. The Senior Center and Ross Hall in Veteran's Park are used as cooling centers during heat waves. In addition, the County of Los Angeles maintains the Rio Hondo bicycle and hiking trails within the City limits. The Parks and Recreation centers are maintained by the City's Recreation and Community Services Department with the goal of creating a balanced variety of high-quality recreation and related programs for the community.

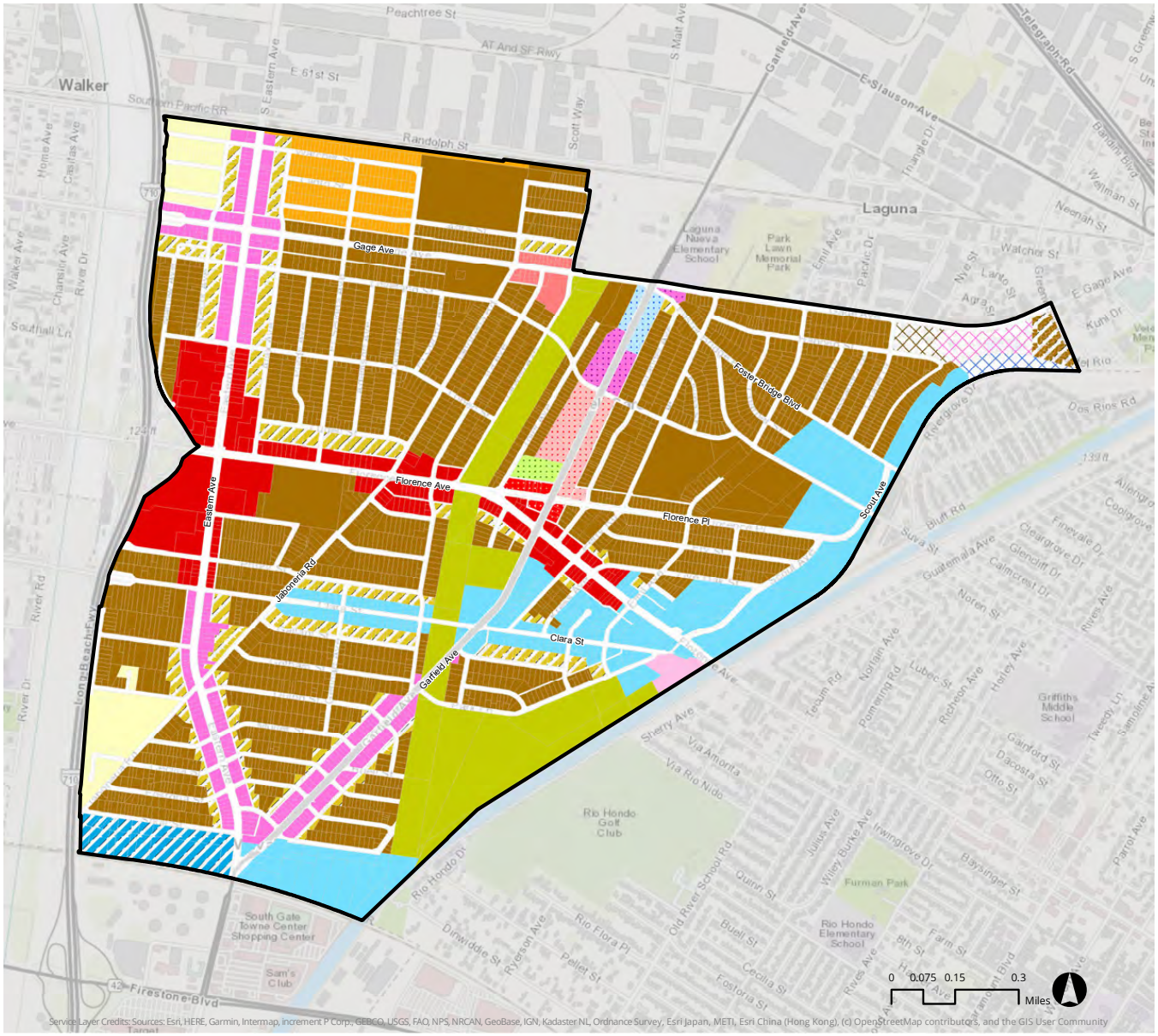
Accessibility to Public Transit, Employment, and Services

Accessibility to public transit is an important component of a livable and vibrant community. Public transportation connects residents to employment and other services. The nearest Metrolink line is the Orange County Line, which connects Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to the San Clemente Pier, and the 91-Perris Valley Line, which connects Union Station to Perris South. The closest stop is the Commerce Station, located about one mile north of the City limits. From the Commerce Station, it takes approximately 18 minutes to Union Station. In addition, the City is

57 City of Bell Gardens, "Parks & Facilities Maintenance." Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/government/city-departments/public-works/parks-facilities-maintenance, accessed December 15, 2022.

58 Los Angeles County Library, "About the Library." Available online at: https://lacountylibrary.org/aboutus/, accessed December 5, 2023.

serviced by three Metro bus lines including the 110 (travels east-west from Playa Vista to the intersection of Garfield Avenue and Florence Avenue. It runs on Gage Avenue, Florence Place, Scout Avenue, Foster Bridge boulevard, and Emil Avenue through Bell Gardens, stopping 10 times, and runs primarily on Hyde Park Boulevard and Centinela Avenue elsewhere) 111 (travels east-west from Los Angeles International Airport to Norwalk, stopping at five stops in Bell Gardens along Florence Avenue at Eastern Avenue, El Selinda Avenue, Jaboneria Road, Emil Avenue, and Scout Avenue. It primarily runs on Florence Avenue, in addition to Studebaker Road, La Brea Avenue, and Arbor Vitae Street), and 258 (runs north-south from Highland Park to Paramount, stopping ate eight stops in Bell Gardens along Eastern Avenue at Gage Avenue, Lubec Street, Florence Avenue, Live Oak Street, Clara Street, Jaboneria Road, Cecilia Street, and Garfield Avenue. It primarily runs on Garfield Avenue, Eastern Avenue, Telegraph Road, Arizona Avenue, and Fremont Avenue) lines.



Zoning Codes in City of Bell Gardens
(Local Jurisdiction's Zoning Codes)

R-1	C-4	R3-HPD	CM-CCD
R-2	C-M	CM-HPD	M1-CCD
R-3	M-1	M1-HPD	
A-1	RPD-42U	A1-CCD	
C-S	R3PD	CS-CCD	
C-3	MPD	C4-CCD	

SOURCE: SCAG 2019

FIGURE **2.0-25**

IMPACT SCIENCES

Zoning Map

The Metro 110 bus line runs north to south from the City of Playa Vista to the cities of Bell and Bell Gardens.[59] The 111 bus line runs east to west from Los Angeles International Airport through the City of Bell Gardens to Norwalk.[60]

The City of Bell Gardens that provides service throughout the City through a fixed route bus (trolley service) with connections to Ford Park, Veterans Park, the Civic Center, Library, US Postal Office, Neighborhood Youth Center and Eastern Avenue shopping center.[61]

The City is part of Eco-Rapid Transit, a joint powers authority consisting of eleven other members: Artesia, Paramount, Downey, South Gate, Cudahy, Maywood, Huntington Park, Bell, Cerritos, Glendale, and Burbank Airport. Eco-Rapid Transit proposes to construct a 20-mile line from Artesia to Union Station (West Santa Ana Branch [WSAB]) and a 14-mile line from the Burbank Airport to Glendale and downtown Los Angeles.[62] The WSAB project is scheduled to be completed in 2028, the WSAB will provide additional transit options to one of the highest density areas of Los Angeles County. The proposed WSAB line will run along the existing railroad tracks on Salt Lake Avenue, with the closest proposed station being Firestone, approximately one half mile west of the southwest boundary of the City, across the Los Angeles River in the City of South Gate, located between Atlantic Avenue, Firestone Boulevard, and Patata Street.[63]

F. CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging the public in the decision-making process is a key principle of Environmental Justice, which should be catered to the communities the EJ Element represents. OPR recommends that jurisdictions conduct early community engagement – particularly with low-income communities, communities of color, and sensitive populations. As previously described under the Population Characteristics section, the City of Bell Gardens is a predominately minority-majority population with low rates of homeownership and relatively high rates of poverty in comparison to the rest of Los Angeles County. Census data shows that the City's population is more than 95% Hispanic and 92% of residents speak a different language other than English at home.[64] The median household income for the City is $50,311, well below Los Angeles County's average of $76,367. The overwhelming majority of housing units are rented (78.9%) while the homeownership rate stands at 21.1%, which is below the County's rental rate is 53.8% and homeownership rate is 46.2%. Only

59 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, "Line 110 Bus Overview." Available online at: https://media.metro.net/riding_metro/bus_overview/images/110.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

60 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, "Line 111 Bus Overview." Available online at: http://media.metro.net/documents/b6f23a30-c289-4eda-bd44-2a835b4765f3.pdf, accessed December 5, 2023.

61 City of Bell Gardens, "Fixed Route Bus." Available online at: https://www.bellgardens.org/government/city-departments/public-works/transportation/fixed-route-bus, accessed December 16, 2022.

62 Eco-Rapid Transit. *Eco-Rapid Transit Overview*. Available online at: http://www.eco-rapid.org/Project/description.shtml, accessed December 5, 2023.

63 Eco-Rapid Transit, Available online at: https://eco-rapid.org/maps/Full_ERT_V4-21.pdf, accessed December 6, 2023.

64 U.S. Census Bureau, "Bell Gardens City, California." Available online at: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/bellgardenscitycalifornia, accessed December 15, 2022.

6.1% of the City's residents held at least a bachelor's degree, as opposed to nearly a third of all LA County residents[65]. Finally, about a quarter of residents in the City live below the poverty line.[66]

In drafting this EJ Element, a community survey was administered to City residents and workers to determine which issues are most important for the City to address to ensure all neighborhoods have access to healthy living conditions and environments.

G. PUBLIC OUTREACH

In preparation for the EJ Element, the City of Bell Gardens partnered with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) to develop an Environmental Justice Element Outreach Plan and to conduct community outreach (see **Appendix 2.0, Community Engagement Report**). The Outreach Plan included the dissemination of flyers, factsheets and surveys via Citywide bulletins, social media posts, community group emails, participation in summer events and the City's Farmers Market. The City facilitated three public meetings with residents, businesses, and stakeholders on July 20, July 27, and August 3, 2023, at Veteran's Park. These meetings focused on gaining stakeholder input regarding the community's public health and environmental concerns.

The online Community Survey was made available to residents and community members between June 22, 2023, and September 15, 2023, in both English and Spanish. The community survey contained questions regarding the following:

- Environmental Concerns
  - Air Pollution
  - Water Pollution
  - Community/Neighborhoods
  - Public Facilities
  - Housing
  - Climate Change
- Civic Engagement
- Environmental Justice Goals

Of the 101 community members that responded to the survey, 91% were English-speaking individuals and 9% were Spanish speaking individuals. Results of the community outreach meetings and surveys showed that air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses; housing access, affordability, and stability; and access to healthy food/grocery stores were some of the leading concerns for the community. More specifically, the survey identified the following areas of concerns as potential opportunities for improvement through the EJ Element:

65 Id. U.S. Census Bureau, City of Bell Gardens

66 Id. U.S. Census Bureau, City of Bell Gardens

- Air Pollution
  - Factories/Industrial Operations
  - Mold
- Water Pollution
  - Old/Damaged Pipes
  - Contaminated Water Bodies
- Community/Neighborhoods
  - Homelessness
  - Crime/Safety
  - Illegal Dumping/Trash/Maintenance
- Public Facilities
  - Emergency Shelters/Cooling Stations
  - Libraries
- Housing
  - Parking Availability
  - Cost/Affordability
  - Maintenance
- Climate Change
  - Increased Cost of Energy
  - Extreme Heat
  - Poor Air Quality
- Civic Engagement
  - Lack of Participation
  - Feeling Unheard

Input from the community meetings and surveys have been used to guide the formation of the goals and policies contained within **Section 4.0, Goals and Policies**, of the EJ Element.

3.0 EXISTING GENERAL PLAN GOALS & POLICIES

This section outlines the existing City of Bell Gardens General Plan goals and policies that are related to environmental justice.

3.0 EXISTING GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES

The City of Bell Gardens (City) General Plan 2010 (General Plan) is a comprehensive, long-range plan to guide the City and sets the stage for the City's future. The City's General Plan contains eight elements, including Land Use, Circulation and Transportation, Open Space and Recreation, Conservation, Safety, Noise, Housing, and this Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. Each of these elements and their respective goals and policies have been highlighted due to their ability to help further the City's environmental justice efforts. As specified in the Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines, General Plans must have internal consistency between elements. Different policies must be balanced and reconciled within the plan. As individual elements are updated on an ongoing basis, the updated versions should be evaluated to ensure consistency with the City's EJ Goals and Policies.

A. HOUSING ELEMENT

Adopted in February 2022, the City's Housing Element (2021-2029) identified the following housing issues:

- Housing cost burden
- Housing supply
- Housing affordability
- Housing age and condition
- Overcrowding
- Senior Housing
- Housing for Persons with Disabilities
- Homelessness
- Single-Parent Households
- Environmental and Infrastructure Constraints

The Housing Element includes a Housing Plan that includes the goals and policies to address the City's housing needs (see **Table 3.0-1, Housing Element Goals and Policies**). Applicable Programs are also discussed below. The Housing Element identified EJ as a key issue; and contains goals and policies that support environmental justice by promoting land use compatibility and safe and sanitary homes.

Table 3.0-1
Housing Element Goals and Policies

Goal 1: Provide and preserve decent housing within a satisfying living environment for households of all socioeconomic backgrounds.	
Policy 1.1	Promote the rehabilitation of substandard housing units including single-family, multi-family, and mobile homes.
Policy 1.2	Encourage the maintenance and repair of existing owner-occupied and rental housing units to prevent deterioration.
Policy 1.3	Provide and maintain a high level of public facilities and services in all areas of the City.

Policy 1.4	Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources available to assist in the improvement of residential properties.
Policy 1.5	Encourage private and public investments to alleviate neighborhood deterioration.
Goal 2: Promote and encourage the provision of decent and affordable housing for all socioeconomic segments of Bell Gardens residents.	
Policy 2.1	Encourage new housing construction for homeownership in a mixture of price ranges and housing types.
Policy 2.2	Continue to pursue and utilize federal and state assistance for the provision of affordable housing, including extremely low-income households and those with special needs.
Goal 3: Provide suitable sites for housing development which can accommodate a range of housing by type, size, location, price, and tenure to accommodate the City's share of the regional housing need.	
Policy 3.1	Maintain an up-to-date residential sites inventory and provide to interested developers with information on available development incentives.
Policy 3.2	Continue to pursue federal and state funds designed to facilitate land acquisition.
Policy 3.3	Encourage the recycling of underutilized residential and mixed-use parcels where such recycling is consistent with established land use plans.
Policy 3.4	Ensure that all residential areas are provided with adequate public facilities and services.
Policy 3.5	Promote mixed-use development and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to facilitate smart growth and reduction in automobile trips, vehicle miles traveled, and associated energy consumption.
Policy 3.6	Implement land use policies that allow for a range of residential densities and products, including low density single-family uses, moderate-density townhomes, and higher-density apartments, condominiums, and units in mixed-use development.
Goal 4: Continue to explore and implement strategies designed to remove unnecessary governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement and development of housing.	
Policy 4.1	Periodically review the City's regulations, ordinances, fees/exactions to ensure they do not unduly constrain the production, maintenance, and improvement of housing.
Policy 4.2	Maintain lower fees for qualifying projects to encourage construction of affordable housing.
Policy 4.3	Offer regulatory incentives and concessions for affordable housing, such as relief from development standards, density bonuses, or fee waivers where deemed to be appropriate.
Policy 4.4	Provide for streamlined, timely, and coordinated processing of residential projects to minimize holding costs and encourage housing production.
Policy 4.5	Support infill development at suitable locations and provide, where appropriate, incentives to facilitate their development.
Goal 5: Ensure that all residents have equal housing opportunities, regardless of their special characteristics as protected under State and Federal fair housing laws.	
Policy 5.1	Affirmatively further fair housing and promote equal housing opportunities for persons of all socioeconomic segments of the community.

Policy 5.2	Promote housing along with supportive services to meet the special housing needs of seniors, homeless individuals and families, and the disabled.
Policy 5.3	Encourage the provision of housing to meet the needs of families of all sizes.
Policy 5.4	Facilitate increased participation among traditionally underrepresented groups in the public decision-making process.
Policy 5.5	Provide increased outreach and education for the broader community of residents, residential property owners and operators, regarding fair housing practices and requirements, especially through non-traditional media.
Policy 5.6	Promote increased enforcement of fair housing laws.

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Housing Element, 2022.

The Housing Plan also includes the relevant implementation programs to address the City's housing needs. Implementation of these goals and policies will help conserve and improve the condition of the existing affordable housing stock; develop housing for those with limited incomes or special needs; identify adequate sites; address and remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing; and affirmatively further fair housing. In doing so, the programs would also further environmental justice by promoting land use compatibility, promoting safe and sanitary homes, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Program 1: Code Enforcement and Community Preservation Activities

The City of Bell Gardens has implemented a systematic code enforcement program to eliminate those conditions that are detrimental to the health, safety, and public welfare, and which contribute to the deterioration of the housing stock. Emphasis has been placed on correcting building and other code violations and deficiencies in deteriorated structures and in removing units that cannot be rehabilitated.

The Code Enforcement program is divided into two separate programs:

- Property Maintenance Program – This program focuses on nuisance abatement and the City's landscaping codes.
- Housing Rehabilitation Code Enforcement Program – This program focuses on housing conditions and building/housing code corrections.

The Code Enforcement Officers work with Community Development staff to educate residents and provide referrals to the City's housing programs in cases where the property owner/tenant might benefit from the available housing improvement programs.

Program 2: Preservation of Affordable Housing:

The City will work to preserve the affordability of the Westminster Court senior housing project.

Program 3: Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)

The program offers a voucher that pays the difference between the current fair market rent as established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and what a tenant can afford to pay. The voucher allows a tenant to choose housing that costs above the payment standard, providing the tenant pays the extra cost.

Program 4: Affordable Housing Development

The City will provide the following incentives to private developers, along with information regarding the availability of funding, through federal and state housing assistance:

- Provide technical assistance to developers regarding City R3 zoning and Mixed Use Overlay, and density bonus incentives.
- Encourage the use of density bonus to facilitate affordable housing development.
- As needed to enhance project feasibility, provide relaxed development standards for development projects that include an affordable housing component.
- Provide letters of support for funding applications by developers.

Program 5: Homebuyer/Homeowner Assistance Programs

The City received a $3.45 million CalHome Grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in 2020 and again a $4.65 million Cal Home Grant in 2021 for first time homebuyer mortgage assistance and owner-occupied home rehabilitation. The CalHome Program is intended to assist individual first-time home buyers through deferred payment loans for Down Payment assistance, owner-occupied home rehabilitation, assistance to create Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), homebuyer counseling, technical assistance for self-help housing projects, and/or technical assistance for shared housing programs that provide direct match services. The City has five years to use the grants. Thus far, more than 100 inquiries have been made and 29 applications have been received. Four recipients have been awarded the grant and several others are pending.

Program 6: Adequate Sites for Lower Income RHNA

The City of Bell Gardens is a near built out community. Recent and future residential development relies primarily on the redevelopment of nonvacant properties, specifically in R-3 areas and where

mixed-use development is permitted. Based on current zoning, projected ADUs, and entitled/approved/pipeline projects, the City has a shortfall of 65 lower income units. The City has identified two areas for rezoning to R3 to meet this shortfall. Projects on reuse and rezone sites are subject to by-right approval if the projects set aside 20% of the units as lower income housing.

State law (AB 1397) also requires that when development occurs on nonvacant sites with existing residential units, that as a condition of project approval, the project must replace the existing units on site that were deed-restricted or occupied by lower income households.

To facilitate affordable housing, the City will offer the following incentives:

- State density bonus.
- Reduced parking standards as a concession. Specifically, work with the developer to determine a percentage of stalls that may be allocated to compact car sizing. (Current City standard is 9' x 20' per stall. Work with developer to determine compact sizes such as 8'6" x 17'.)
- Expedited and priority review for low-income housing projects.
- Option to defer fees for units that are affordable to lower income households.
- Letter of support for funding application.

In addition, the City has retained the service of a professional grant writer to access affordable housing funds available from State and Federal programs. Specifically, the City is interested in pursuing funding for multi-family affordable housing, housing for special needs populations such as military personnel and veterans. If awarded, the City will make these funds available to affordable housing developers and seek development opportunities throughout the City.

Program 7: Adequate Sites for Moderate and Above Moderate Income RHNA

The City will amend the Zoning Code to include development standards to implement the Mixed Use Overlay to establish appropriate parking standards to facilitate mixed use development.

Program 8: Monitoring of No Net Loss

The City will monitor its remaining sites capacity as development occurs ability to meet the full RHNA during the eight-year planning period. Given the City's small size, Bell Gardens is able to monitor the status of potential sites and will continue to provide sites information to interested developers. To ensure that the City monitors its compliance with SB 166 (No Net Loss), the City will develop a procedure to track:

- Unit count and income/affordability assumed on parcels included in the sites inventory.
- Actual units constructed and income/affordability when parcels are developed.
- Net change in capacity and summary of remaining capacity in meeting remaining Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

Program 9: Lot Consolidation

Consolidation of small lots allows a development to utilize the land more efficiently, achieve economies of scale, and offer opportunity for improved site design and amenities. The City encourages the consolidation of small lots to facilitate the development of mixed use and multi-family developments, particularly for affordable housing by:

- Maintaining an inventory of sites on the City's website.
- Assisting developers in identification of parcels with lot consolidation potential.
- Continuing to utilize a ministerial process for lot consolidation unless other discretionary reviews are required as part of the project.

Program 10: Density Bonus Ordinance

The State has recently passed several bills that change the State Density Bonus law. These include:

- AB 1763 (Density Bonus for 100 Percent Affordable Housing) – Density bonus and increased incentives for 100 percent affordable housing projects for lower income households.
- SB 1227 (Density Bonus for Student Housing) – Density bonus for student housing development for students enrolled at a full-time college, and to establish prioritization for students experiencing homelessness.
- AB 2345 (Increase Maximum Allowable Density) – Revised the requirements for receiving concessions and incentives, and the maximum density bonus provided.

Program 11: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

The City will amend the Zoning Code to comply with new State ADU laws and develop additional incentives and tools to facilitate and promote ADU construction.

Program 12: Housing for Special Needs

The City will amend the Zoning Code to allow Low Barrier Navigation Centers (AB 101), Emergency and Transitional Housing (AB 139), Supportive Housing (AB 2162), Employee Housing, and

Residential Care for Seven or More Persons.

Program 13: Development Standards

The City will develop specific Mixed Use (M-U) standards that would facilitate mixed use and multi-family development in the M-U zone and ensure compliance with state laws (SB 35 for streamlined processing and SB 330 for objective design standards).

Program 14: Fair Housing Outreach, Education, and Community Participation

The City will continue to participate in the Urban County program and take actions to remove housing impediments.

Program 15: Housing Mobility and Housing Choices

The City will expand housing choices for lower income households through the following actions:

- Actively pursue affordable housing opportunities in the City. Encourage the inclusion of ownership units in affordable housing projects citywide. Specifically, promote homeownership housing opportunities such as condominiums and townhomes through the City's Mixed Use Overlay. As stated earlier, the City is in the process of negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Development Agreement with an affordable housing developer and continues to promote density bonus incentives to any residential developer that inquires about development in the City.

- Promote the use of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) by educating the community about Source of Income protection (see Program 3).

- Promote available homeownership assistance (Program 5) to lower and moderate income households, with targeted outreach plan to areas of High Segregation and

Program 16: Place-Based Neighborhood Improvements

The City has been actively pursuing public improvements in areas of high segregation and poverty to improve roadway conditions and enhance traffic safety. The City will pursue the following projects:

- Eastern Avenue Arterial Street Improvement (Garfield to Gotham): Pavement rehabilitation

- Garfield Avenue and Eastern Avenue Intersection Improvement: Realigning intersection with traffic signal modifications, and construction of other improvements

- Florence Avenue and Eastern Avenue Intersection Improvement: Improvements to add a second westbound left turn lane and one westbound right turn lane, traffic signal

modifications, and street improvements

- Florence Avenue at Jaboneria and Ira Intersection Improvement: Improvements will consist of a dedicated right-turn lane for east and westbound traffic signal upgrades design, road widening and street improvements

Program 16: Place-Based Neighborhood Improvements

The City will evaluate the effectiveness of the City's rent control ordinance and either modify the ordinance or include other tenant protection strategies to complement the rent control ordinance.

B. LAND USE ELEMENT

The City's Land Use Element was adopted in July 1995 as part of the General Plan. The Land Use Element is a long-range guide for development throughout the City and includes the City's goals and policies relative to the location, intensity, and type of development. The following land use issues were identified in the Land Use Element:

- Property Rights
- Residential Development
- Commercial Development
- Industrial and Manufacturing Development
- Promotion of Local Business and Jobs

The Land Use Element outlines policies and programs which promote orderly growth and minimize the potential for land use conflicts (see **Table 3.0-2, Land Use Element Policies and Programs**). Implementation of these policies and programs will help further environmental justice by reducing pollution exposure, promoting land use compatibility, promoting physical activity, promoting safe and sanitary homes, promoting civic and community engagement, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Table 3.0-2
Land Use Element Policies and Programs

Policy 1: The City of Bell Gardens decision-makers shall maintain open communication with the community at all times and shall tirelessly seek input from the residents and property owners regarding the future of the City.	
"Bell Gardens Now" Surveys	The City will communicate and seek input from the residents and property owners of Bell Gardens through "Bell Gardens Now." A program will be developed to provide for important issues to be published in the newsletter with mail-back survey forms. The follow-up issues of "Bell Gardens Now" will report survey results back to the community. This will help the City decision-makers to get an overview of the community's needs from people that do not always have the time or means to attend the public meetings in person.
Council Meetings on Cable	The City Council meetings shall be broadcast on the local cable network to bring more of the residents into the information and decision-making process.
Mandatory Findings of Approval	The City will establish certain mandatory findings of approval that must be made prior to the approval of certain development projects. These findings shall be made at a public hearing before the Planning Commission or City Council and these meetings shall be notified according to state law. Property owners adjacent to the development and within a 500-foot radius from the edge of the property line of the project area will be notified. Staff reports to the decision-making body will outline the findings and analyses whether or not the findings can be made.
Policy 2: The City shall promote compatible residential development, ensure safe housing, emphasize neighborhood identity, and increase pride in neighborhoods.	
Code Enforcement	Code enforcement efforts (funding and staffing) will be maintained at current levels. The nuisance abatement policies will be reviewed and updated to ensure that property rights are balanced with health and safety issues. Maintenance efforts in existing residential neighborhoods will be assisted through the code enforcement program and by encouraging property maintenance through private as well as public assistance programs.
Development Monitoring Program	The City will implement a development monitoring system as part of its approval and environmental review process. The City will review potential impacts of future development.
Nonconforming Ordinance	The City shall revise its Nonconforming Ordinance to ensure that it meets current objectives of the community.
Redevelopment	The City will continue redevelopment efforts associated with the implementation of the Redevelopment Project Area. The City will encourage the further development of industrial and commercial projects in suitable locations to strengthen the City's tax and employment bases. The City shall promote the economic vitality of the commercial districts with land use controls and land use incentives. The City will also provide incentives for the modernization of shopping centers and industrial centers. The City will encourage private market forces to consolidate and modernize industrial development without increasing, substantially, the proportion of land area designated for industrial use, encouraging compatible industrial developments in areas of primary accessibility which have minimal impact on adjacent residential areas. Through that same authority, the City shall encourage and provide for the orderly transition of existing downtown residential areas to commercial uses and accommodate the relocation needs of residents displaced by such transition. The Redevelopment Agency, the Community Development Department, and the City Manager's Office will also identify and actively pursue the relocation of certain uses to industrial, commercial, and residential, as the case may be.

Urban Design Program	City staff will continue to implement the adopted Central Business District (CBD) Urban Design Plan (1987) and will examine the feasibility of extending the program to other areas of the City. City staff will also formulate design guidelines for commercial and industrial areas in other areas of the City. These design guidelines will promote economic vitality and at the same time preserve the rights of the property owners and protect residential neighborhoods from the encroachment of incompatible uses. Through these Design Guidelines, the City will promote and encourage commercial and industrial uses to be designed in centers or like groups for the convenience of the public and to avoid creating nuisances among adjacent landowners. The Design Guidelines will promote the development of a revitalized image for the City of Bell Gardens through the adoption of landscaping and architecture regulations which establish minimum standards and requirements for quality, design, and appearance.
Zoning Ordinance Revisions	The City will undertake the necessary Zoning Ordinance revision to ensure implementation of the policies of the General Plan. In particular, the City will: (1) adopt zoning regulations to retain predominantly single family neighborhoods in their lower density configuration; (2) prohibit tandem development residential design as well as development of higher densities on lots designed for single family uses; (3) zone higher density areas up to the R-3 designation which would allow up to 66 percent of the maximum land use density recommended by the Land Use Map; (4) permit a higher zoning category and greater density of up to 100 percent of the permitted Land Use Map density if the new development plans demonstrate acceptable benefits to the City; (5) centralize new commercial development in the Regional Commercial area and in other areas where appropriate; (6) provide appropriately located areas for office uses, retail stores and service establishments which meet the needs of the community; and (7) restrict industrial building and uses to industrially zoned properties only and restrict industrial uses to lots of sufficient size (industrial areas should be restricted for light industrial and medium industrial purposes).
Policy 3: The City shall promote compatible commercial development to emphasize commercial identity and to enhance appearance, potential economic vitality, and revitalization of the commercial areas in the City.	
Building Façade Improvement Program	In addition to design guidelines and redevelopment efforts, the City shall adopt a separate Building Façade Improvement Program for the commercial and industrial structures in the City. This program shall provide for incentives and identify strategies for payment of those improvements (block grants and benefit assessment districts) for targeted areas of the City.
Code Enforcement	(see above)
Nonconforming Ordinance	(see above)
Redevelopment	(see above)
Sign Ordinance Review	The City's Sign Ordinance regulates the type, size, and number of signs in Bell Gardens. The sign ordinance protects the aesthetic qualities of neighborhoods and promotes driver safety and convenience. The City of Bell Gardens will identify signage problems in the City and will determine if they are allowed under current sign standards. Changes should be made to the ordinance to prevent the proliferation of unwanted signs. The sign design guidelines of the CBD Urban Design Plan will be taken into consideration when reviewing the City's Sign Ordinance.
Urban Design Program	(see above)
Zoning Ordinance Revision	(see above)

Policy 4: The City shall encourage property owners to maintain and rehabilitate their existing industrial uses and the City shall encourage private investment in the City's industrial economic base while ensuring compliance with necessary environmental requirements.	
Building Façade Improvement Program	(see above)
Code Enforcement	(see above)
Incentives to Create Larger Lots	Larger lots allow greater flexibility in site planning and building design, with less impact on adjacent lots. The City should develop standards which provide incentives, density bonuses, and lower requirements for the assembly of commercial lots. The City will revise the zoning ordinance to reflect these standards.
Nonconforming Ordinance	(see above)
Redevelopment	(see above)
Sidewalk and Parkway Development and Maintenance Program	Tree-lined streets are uniquely attractive and help create a sense of place. The City will continue to maintain existing sidewalks and parkways and encourage property owners abutting these areas too maintain parkway trees through public information programs such as flyers, newsletter articles, and the like. By developing and maintaining a complete system of sidewalks, the City of Bell Gardens will be able to improve pedestrian safety and enhance the visual quality of streets. In addition to the continued implementation of the adopted Beautification Plan, the City will identify areas and lots where sidewalks and parkways need to be developed or enhanced and will encourage property owners to build the sidewalks, where possible. Otherwise, the City will explore other funding mechanisms, such as including the needed improvements into the City's Capital Improvement Program. Priority will be given to sidewalks that serve parks, schools, and other routes with high pedestrian traffic.
Sign Ordinance Review	(see above)
Streamline Permit Process Program	Permit processing constitutes a large portion of the time and costs associated with development. By shortening the permit process, the City can lessen the cost of development. This can lead to a greater number of development projects and the construction of more affordable housing units. The City will continue to streamline permit processing to save time and lessen the costs associated with obtaining permits.
Urban Design Program	(see above)
Zoning Ordinance Revisions	(see above)
Policy 5: The City shall provide an environment to stimulate local employment, property values, community stability, and the economic vitality of existing local businesses.	
Building Façade Improvement Program	(see above)
Capital Improvement Program	The City of Bell Gardens maintains a comprehensive infrastructure and public service system to serve its residents. The City's Capital Improvement Program outlines projects needed for public facilities and infrastructure. These improvements may include drainage facilities, roadways and traffic systems, water and sewer lines, and other infrastructure. The program provides a schedule of projects and their funding for a 5-year time period. It is reviewed annually and then is extended for an additional year. The City will continue to

	prioritize infrastructure and public service projects through the City's Capital Improvement Program
Incentives to Create Larger Lots	(see above)
Pre-Application Meetings	All new developments are subject to development review to evaluate their compliance with City standards and ordinances. Pre-application meetings provide the City and developer a chance to informally talk about a project before any commitment regarding future development is made. This process saves time and money by informing the developer of what the City expects and the process that must be followed. Also, it informs the City of proposed developments early in the process. Pre-application meetings provide an opportunity to develop cooperation and to bring about higher quality development. The City will continue to encourage pre-application "development review" meetings with developers this will allow the City to learn about proposed projects and the developer of the requirements of the City.
Redevelopment	(see above)
Sidewalk and Parkway Development and Maintenance Program	(see above)
Streamline Permit Process Program	(see above)
Zoning Ordinance Revisions	(see above)

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Land Use Element, 1995.

C. SAFETY ELEMENT

The City's Safety Element was adopted in July 1995 as part of the General Plan. The Safety Element is concerned with the health and welfare of people living, working, and visiting the City. The following issues were identified in the Safety Element:

- Crime
- Earthquakes
- Emergency Services
- Fire
- Flooding Hazards
- Hazardous Materials and Waste

The Safety Element aims to reduce the potential for loss of life, injury, property damage, and economic dislocation resulting from natural or manmade disasters. The Safety Element policies and programs provide the framework for the City's public safety commitment (see **Table 3.0-3, Safety Element Policies and Programs**). Implementation of these policies and programs would further environmental justice by promoting land use compatibility, promoting public facilities, promoting civic and community engagement, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Table 3.0-3
Safety Element Policies and Programs

Policy 1: The City of Bell Gardens shall provide for the safety of the community through physical planning and maintaining an adequate level of police, fire, and emergency services facilities.	
Anti-gang and Anti-Drug Program	The City shall continue to support law enforcement efforts associated with anti-gang and anti-drug programs, such as the Youth Services Bureau, D.A.R.E, Metro Gang Task Force, and the School Resources Officer. These efforts will help reduce crimes in the City that are due to gang activity and drug abuse. The program also allows the use of confiscated property for increased anti-gang and anti-drug efforts.
Graffiti Removal	The City shall develop guidelines for the landscaping of large areas of blank walls to hide and prevent vandalism and graffiti. It shall also establish a volunteer program for graffiti removal in public places and other areas throughout the City.
Landlord/Tenant Information Booklet	The Police Department currently issues this Information Booklet to inform landlords and tenants of their rights to protection from gangs and drug-related activities. The Booklet covers information ranging from discouragement techniques, screening of tenant applications, security techniques, and legal issues. The City shall continue and further the use of this Information Booklet.
Neighborhood Watch	The City shall work with local law enforcement officials and residents in the formation of new neighborhood watch groups and crime prevention and awareness programs. This will increase private efforts to protect individuals and property through practical measures such as locking doors, security lighting, concealing valuables, etc.
Neighborhood Youth Center/Gang Violence Reduction	The Bell Gardens Police Department currently works with the Neighborhood Youth Center to address the most pressing problems of gang violence in the Bell Gardens community. The Neighborhood Youth Center is located at 5856 Ludell Street (at El Selinda) and is staffed with community members, an on-site director, an assistant, and a part-time secretary. The director and assistant work with gang members, schools, parent groups, and community businesses to provide Bell Gardens youth with alternatives to gang activities.
Police Commission	The City shall form a Bell Gardens Police Commission to oversee law enforcement activities and to make recommendations on policy and program changes, where necessary.
Policy 2: The City of Bell Gardens shall minimize the loss of life, injuries, and property damage through continuing prevention, inspection, and public education programs, including continual update of the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan.	
Emergency Preparedness Classes	The City shall work with the Montebello Unified School District, the Fire Department, and local law enforcement officials in offering classes on earthquake preparedness, fire prevention, crime prevention, hazard protection and other safety issues to school-age children and interested parties.
Emergency Shelters	The City shall maintain a list of available emergency shelters in the area. This shall include schools, auditoriums, gymnasiums, hospitals, and other structures which have large open areas to accommodate costs and provide mass care and emergency assistance. Additional structures shall be explored, and agreements sought with property owners for the potential use of the facilities in case of a disaster or emergency. The list of emergency shelters shall be made available to all residents, along with emergency facilities and evacuation routes. However, the location of shelters will change depending on the situation. This will inform them of the services available in the event of a city-wide disaster.

Evacuation Plan	The City will prepare or revise the evacuation plan for areas subject to hazards associated with severe earthquake, flooding, and inundation.
Fire Access	The provision of adequate roadway widths will facilitate emergency response during a disaster. Roadway standards have been established by the County Fire Department to ensure access for firefighting equipment to all areas in the City. The standards specify that every building should be accessible to Fire Department apparatus by way of access roadways with all-weather driving surface capable of supporting the imposed loads of fire apparatus of not less than 20 feet of unobstructed with, clear to the sky, and with adequate roadway turning radius. Fire lanes are needed when an exterior wall of a building is located more than 150 feet from a public vehicle access. Minimum driveway widths are required to be maintained clear at all times. Fire access standards are implemented by the Fire Prevention Bureaus during the plan check process.
Fire flow Capacity	The City shall work with local water companies to determine the adequacy of emergency water in their systems. The City shall regularly monitor the pressure of existing fire hydrants to determine fire flow capacity for emergency situations. Any new development shall be required to upgrade fire hydrants, in order to supply the minimum fire flow needs of their service area.
Fire Prevention	The City shall work with the County to promote fire prevention and fire safety programs. These programs shall include fire prevention and protection information and tips in the City newsletter and local newspaper, Fire Department and law enforcement officials' review of proposed building plans to solicit recommendations on fire protection, crime prevention, and other safety measures. The City shall also encourage periodic inspections by the Fire Department of existing structures, for compliance with fire safety standards and practices.
Location of Critical Facilities	As part of the development review process, the City shall require the preparation of geologic studies prior to the approval of critical facilities (such as hospitals, schools, etc.), uses which involve the assembly of large numbers of people, large scale residential developments, and major commercial and industrial projects. The studies will help define the potential environmental impacts on earth and geology of new development, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The environmental review process for proposed projects prior to approval analyzes impacts on other issue areas. Mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts shall be made conditions of approval, along with the mitigation monitoring program.
Multi-hazard Functional Plan	The City has a Multi-hazard Functional Plan which outlines responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency or city-wide disaster. It discusses the potential emergency situations in the City and outlines responsibilities for emergency situations in the City and outlines responsibilities for emergency preparedness and emergency response. Specific emergency functions and operations, available resources (fire stations, emergency shelters, hospitals and clinics, resource persons, etc.), and mutual aid agreements are also provided. The City shall regularly update and implement its Multi-hazard Functional Plan for Emergency Operations. In order to keep city staff informed of their responsibilities, annual reviews and drills shall be performed. Also, a summary or pamphlet of the procedures and responsibilities shall be provided to involved individuals for easy reference. The City shall also include a disaster reconstruction plan in its Multi-hazard Functional Plan. The plan will outline measures to maintain control and organize operations after a disaster. In shall include responsibilities for clean-up, aid and funding acquisition, private development assistance, and other projects to minimize the economic and social disruption of the disaster.

Police and Fire Protection Services	The City shall regularly review the adequacy of law enforcement services and fire protection and fire protection and emergency services in the City. This shall be part of the annual budget review of contracts with the County Fire Department and local law enforcement officials. The City shall work with local law enforcement officials and the County Fire Department to correct any identified deficiencies. It shall also request that local law enforcement officials and the Fire Department review proposed development plans. In this way, they can recommend measures that will decrease fire potential and crime and facilitate quicker response.
Promotional Program	The City shall institute a program to promote service organizations in Bell Gardens.
Public Information	The City will construct a public information program on preventing hazards and responding to a disaster in conjunction with the existing Multi-hazard Functional Plan.
Safety Measures	The City shall continue to use "Bell Gardens Now" and local newspapers to increase public awareness on safety, crime prevention, and fire prevention, earthquake preparedness and other practical safety measures. Also, it shall offer earthquake preparedness, first aid and CPR classes as part of the recreational and library programs in the City.
Structure Abatement	The City should consider (as a significant factor in the selection of redevelopment project areas) the abatement of older, potentially dangerous structures. Primary consideration should be given to the abatement of structures which pose the highest seismic risk to the public. The City will also inspect critical public facilities for structural integrity.
Volunteer Program	The City shall seek to utilize volunteers in disaster recovery programs and other emergency situations. It shall actively solicit for volunteers to serve the City during emergencies and offer a training program for these volunteers. All volunteer resources persons shall be included in the City's list of resources with their individual responsibilities.
Policy 3: The City of Bell Gardens shall protect the community from hazardous materials and waste spills by identifying hazardous materials stored, utilized, or transported in the City and the City shall pursue local and state legislation for greater control of hazardous materials.	
Emergency Preparedness Classes	(see above)
Groundwater Wells	Ground remediation is necessary to remove soil contamination and prevent future groundwater contamination. The City shall encourage continued monitoring of groundwater wells for potential groundwater contamination. Water quality at local wells shall also be monitored for contaminants. The City shall encourage and coordinate with other agencies on site remediation projects at the earliest possible time.
Hazardous Materials Regulation	The City shall encourage the implementation of the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan. It shall maintain a current inventory of hazardous material users and generators and incorporate their emergency response programs into the City's Emergency Plan. It shall work with the County Fire Department in requiring hazardous materials users and generators to prepare safety procedures for responding to accidental spills and emergencies. The County Fire Department shall also work with local law enforcement officials in regulating the transport of hazardous materials through the City. Hazardous waste facilities shall be regulated by the state and county in compliance with the sitting criteria contained in the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The County Fire Department shall coordinate the disposal of small quantities of hazardous wastes from residences and business in the City.

Location of Critical Facilities	(see above)
Multi-hazard Functional Plan	(see above)
Safety Measures	(see above)
Zoning Ordinance	The City will enact ordinances for the evaluation and abatement of structural hazards (e.g., parapet ordinance and hazardous building ordinance requiring repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of hazardous structures following structure evaluation).

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Safety Element, 1995.

D. CIRCULATION AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

The City's Circulation Element was updated in January 2022. The Circulation Element provides a blueprint for establishing a convenient, safe, and sustainable transportation network in the City of Bell Gardens, which serves users of all modes including walking, biking, rolling, riding transit, and driving. The following issues were identified in the Circulation Element:

- Reliance on private automobiles
- Connectivity
- Risk of collisions
- Harmful emissions

The Mobility Goals and Vision contained within the Circulation Element include the following:

- Establish a multi-modal transportation network which offers safe, comfortable, and convenient travel for users of all modes including drivers, transit riders, bicyclists, walkers, and rollers. Infrastructure shall support the needs of diverse the Bell Gardens residents and visitors such as children, elderly, people with disabilities, emergency responders, and movers of commercial goods.

- Employ transit-oriented land use planning and provide appealing, safe, and widely accessible alternatives to private automobile use in order to reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita with the goals of reducing risk of traffic collisions, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and improving public health.

The Circulation Element policies integrate state, regional, and county objectives into the City's roadways (see **Table 3.0-4, Circulation Element Policies**). Implementation of these goals and policies will further environmental justice by reducing pollution exposure, promoting public facilities, promoting physical activity, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Table 3.0-4
Circulation and Transportation Element Policies

Policy 2.1: Performance standards used to evaluate roadways will utilize both LOS and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The desired LOS for roadways will be LOS D or less, although exceptions will be made where this is infeasible due to other mobility policy priorities. VMT will be considered to prioritize reductions in emissions and improvements to roadway safety. Amendments to Bell Gardens roadway plans will pursue reductions in VMT. If the VMT analysis determines mitigation measures and/or proportional share costs to address impacts from the proposed development, all mitigation measures and collection of proportional share costs are to be completed within the City of Bell Gardens or deposited with the City of Bell Gardens into a trust account until such quantity of funds are accrued to complete the shared cost mitigation measure.
Policy 2.2: Diverse funding sources will be sought out to maintain, operate, and improve the roadway network and reduce cost to public.
Policy 2.3: Local project plans will coordinate with Caltrans, SCAG, and Metro to integrate local and regional improvements and further local and regional mobility goals.
Policy 2.4: Apply a Complete Streets approach to roadway network improvements, which utilizes innovative design solutions for mobility. The 2020 Bell Gardens Complete Streets Plan will be used to guide upcoming improvements.
Policy 2.5: Streets that are currently overcapacity – segments of Eastern Avenue, Garfield Avenue, and Clara Street, and all of Gage Avenue – will be prioritized for infrastructure improvement, as set out in the Complete Streets Plan. Traffic signal improvements and other vehicle flow treatments can be explored to reduce gridlock and congestion.
Policy 2.6: Place high priority on safety and reduction of collisions.
Policy 2.7: Promote active transportation infrastructure such as bicycle lanes, increased sidewalk lighting, and improved pedestrian crossings on classified streets.
Policy 2.8: Incorporate green infrastructure in roadway design when possible.
Policy 2.9: Minimize operational disruptions by consolidating the installation of future infrastructure needs and projects, with opportunities for upgrades.
Policy 2.10: Minimize the number of curb cuts along classified streets in order to improve active transportation safety and roadway function.
Policy 3.1: Collaborate with other local transit agencies, along with Metro and SCAG to create a convenient and affordable regional transit network that provides access to Bell Gardens residents.
Policy 3.2: Work with adjacent cities, such as Huntington Park, South Gate, and unincorporated Los Angeles County to create convenient bus service to existing and upcoming rail stops.
Policy 3.3: Support Metro's development of the West Santa Ana Branch rail, with upcoming rail service which would serve the city.
Policy 3.4: Integrate land use and transportation planning in order to prioritize density and transit-oriented design. Locate key destinations such as commercial districts, employment centers, and public resources near transit routes.
Policy 4.1: Support regional goals as set forth by Los Angeles County and SCAG.
Policy 4.2: Require that new developments contribute to active transportation goals and are cohesive with the existing network. Requirements may include adequately sized sidewalks, outdoor seating options, bike parking, and/or bike share facilities.
Policy 4.3: Prioritize active transportation infrastructure improvements on low-stress streets as identified in the 2020 City of Bell Gardens Complete Streets Plan, which will serve to connect local and regional destinations. Low-stress streets will have reduced vehicle speeds, decreased cut-through traffic, and safety improvements.
Policy 4.4: Prioritize density in land use planning in order to make walking and bicycling more convenient modes of transit.
Policy 5.1: Establish a balanced supply that meets the needs of drivers, but does not do so in excess, in order to

reduce vehicle trips and encourage active transportation.
Policy 5.2: Require that new developments provide off-street parking for new residential units. Reduce requirements in high-density, mixed-use, and transit-rich areas.
Policy 5.3: Restrict the overprovision of on-site parking for private developments.
Policy 5.4: Publicize the City's current parking program more widely, on the City website and stakeholder meetings.
Policy 5.5: Require private developers to include electric vehicle charging spaces in their parking provisions.

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Circulation and Transportation Element, 2022.

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

The City's Conservation Element was adopted in July 1995 as part of the General Plan. The Conservation Element is intended to preserve the City's historic structure and improve the City's overall environmental quality The following issues were identified in the Conservation Element:

- Cultural Resources
- Ecological Resources
- Water Resources

The Conservation Element policies and programs provide the framework for the City's commitment to conservation and preservation (see **Table 3.0-5, Conservation Element Policies and Programs**). Implementation of these policies and programs will further environmental justice by reducing pollution exposure, promoting land use compatibility, promoting public facilities, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Table 3.0-5
Conservation Element Policies and Programs

Policy 1: The City of Bell Gardens shall safeguard the community's heritage by identifying and preserving appropriate structures and sites which have historical significance.	
Archaeological and Paleontological Resources.	The City shall stipulate in all major project approvals, that should archaeological or paleontological resources be uncovered during excavation and grading activities, all work would cease until appropriate salvage measures are established. Appendix K of the CEQA Guidelines shall be followed for excavation monitoring and salvage work that may be necessary.
Cultural Awareness	The City of Bell Gardens shall develop programs for increasing cultural awareness in the community. The City shall coordinate the promotion of cultural awareness among area residents and shall acquire additional books and documents concerning local historical and cultural topics. It shall also develop programs to inform local residents of cultural resources that have been preserved in the area.
Historical Building Codes	The City will adopt alternate building code standards for historic structures, as authorized by the State Historical Building Code.
Historical Preservation District	The City will revise, as necessary, the Zoning Ordinance section regarding the existing Historical Prevention District. The City shall also review the existing boundaries of the S-HPD and revise as necessary.

Policy 2: The City of Bell Gardens shall, to the extent possible, protect remaining ecological resources and enhance those resources through programs in the Open Space and Recreation Element and the Circulation and Transportation Element.	
City Energy Conservation	Not Available
County Coordination	The City Bell Gardens shall cooperate with Los Angeles County concerning the implementation of programs for water conservation, stormwater discharge, solid waste management, and flood control. This will include projects and programs for the maintenance. and use of the Los Angeles and Rio Hondo Rivers.
Drought Tolerant Landscaping	Not Available
Energy Conservation Guidelines	The City shall enforce the energy conservation standards in Title 24 of the California Administrative Code, the Uniform Building Code, and other state laws on energy conservation design, insulation and appliances. Energy needs shall be evaluated, and conservation measures incorporated into new development in accordance with Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines and Appendix J of the City CEQA Guidelines. Also, the City shall promote the use of new technologies on energy conservation in new development, as may be appropriate. Other measures that would reduce energy consumption during construction and operation of the structures shall be encouraged.
Environmental Review	The City shall continue to evaluate the environmental impacts of new developments and provide mitigation measures prior to development approval, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Adequate environmental review shall be provided for major projects and those that will have a potential to adversely impact the environment. Issue areas that will be addressed in the environmental review of development proposals include earth and geology, air quality, water and hydrology, plant life, animal life, noise, light and glare, land use, natural resources, risk of upset, population, housing, traffic and circulation, public services, energy, utilities, human health, aesthetics, recreation, and cultural resources. In compliance with CEQA, the City shall also assign responsibilities for the verification of the implementation of mitigation measures.
Policy 3: The City of Bell Gardens shall protect the quality of water in the underground water basin by optimizing open space areas with programs adopted as part of the Open Space and Recreation Element.	
Water/Landscape Conservation Ordinance	The City shall promote the use of drought-tolerant and/or xeriscape landscaping in private developments through the continued implementation of its Water/Landscaping Conservation Ordinance. This will include measures to reduce irrigation requirements for yards (drip irrigation, tree wells, mulch, etc.) and recommended plant species which have low irrigation requirements. While this may have small and short term benefits, continued land recycling activities will create cumulative advantages in the long term.
County Coordination	(see above)
Drought Tolerant Landscaping	(see above)
Environmental Review	(see above)

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Conservation Element, 1995.

E. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

The City's Open Space and Recreation Element was adopted in July 1995 as part of the General Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Element outlines preserving remaining open space areas in

the City to meet the recreational needs of the community. The following issues were identified in the Open Space and Recreation Element:

- Public Parks
- Recreational Facilities

The Open Space and Recreation Element policies and programs provide the framework for the City's commitment to preserving and enhancing the City's public parks and recreational facilities (see **Table 3.0-6, Open Space and Recreation Element Policies and Programs**). Implementation of these policies and programs will help further environmental justice by reducing pollution exposure, promoting land use compatibility, promoting public facilities, promoting physical activity, promoting civic and community engagement, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Table 3.0-6
Open Space and Recreation Element Policies and Programs

Policy 1: The City of Bell Gardens shall continue to protect and maintain existing open space used for recreation and shall explore opportunities for providing additional park land.	
Adopt-a-Park/Park Watch	The City will analyze the feasibility of implementing an adopt-a-park program along with a park watch program. Individual neighborhoods become involved with the operation, maintenance and safety of their parks, with assistance from the City. The Police Department shall review all programs to ensure safety and coordination with their programs.
Joint Use Facilities	The City will continue to support existing joint agreements and explore opportunities for expanding joint use agreements to include other schools. The City will continue joint use agreements with City Commerce and Montebello School District.
Renovation of Existing Parks	The City will pursue the development and adoption of land use regulations which protect and renovate existing public open space from encroachment or conversion to other uses, in particular Bell Gardens and Marlow Parks. This new development will comply with the guidelines set forth by the American Disabilities Association (ADA). Renovation shall be reviewed by the Police Department to ensure safety and crime regulations are met.
Policy 2: The City of Bell Gardens shall expand existing open space through land acquisition and multi-use corridors, particularly in the northwest of the City.	
Parkway Landscaping	The City shall continue the program of parkway landscaping and maintenance and include new areas where appropriate.
New Park Development	The Parks Master Plan establishes a long-range park development plan identifying desirable park areas and their associated recreational uses and facilities. The Parks Master Plan, together with the Open Space and Recreation Element, will· serve as the guide for development of recreational facilities. Periodic review of the Master Plan will facilitate implementation and monitoring of programs. Candidates for new park development and/or acquisition include a new park in the vicinity of Jaboneria and Fosteria and the gradual expansion of Bell Gardens Park. A number of facilities may eventually be constructed, including a sports complex, gym, pool, etc.

Quimby Act Ordinance	The City has set forth, be proposed adoption of provisions in the subdivision ordinance for the declaration of land for park use pursuant to Section 66477 of the California Government Code. This provision allows local governments to exact land dedications, in-lieu fees, or a combination of both for park and recreation purposes as a condition of approving a final subdivision or parcel map.
Railroad Rights-of-Way Participation	The City shall solicit the cooperation and participation of the· railroad companies in the development of existing railroad rights-of-way; particularly those rights-of-way adjacent to public streets, for use as multi-purpose open space areas and for bicycling, jogging, etc.
Policy 3: The City of Bell Gardens shall maximize the City's recreational resources through the adoption of a Quimby Act ordinance.	
Gift Catalogues	The City will analyze the feasibility of preparing and distributing a gift catalogue for specific items the community needs. The catalogue may list services that the City will perform in exchange for a donation.
State and Federal Grants	The City will actively pursue the available grants for local governments, including the Roberti-Z'berg -Harris Urban Open Space and Recreation Program, which awards grants to specific projects.

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Open space and Recreation Element, 1995.

4.0 GOALS AND POLICIES

This section offers a detailed list of the policies for each of the goals set forth by the City of Bell Gardens' Environmental Justice Element.

4.0 GOALS AND POLICIES

As outlined in **Section 1.0, Introduction**, Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (Leyva, 2016) requires cities to develop and adopt environmental justice policies as a part of a city's environmental justice element that encompass eight broad topics including:

(1) Reduce pollution exposure and promote land use compatibility (Land Use Compatibility);
(2) Reduce unique or compounded health risks (Health Risks);
(3) Promote public facilities; including access to public transit, employment, and services (Public Facilities);
(4) Promote physical activity (Physical Activities);
(5) Promote food access (i.e., affordable, healthy choices, etc.) (Food Access);
(6) Promote safe and sanitary homes (Safe and Sanitary Homes);
(7) Promote civic and community engagement (Civic and Community Engagement); and
(8) Prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities (Disadvantaged Communities)

In addition to the above topics, this EJ Element includes policies to address climate change vulnerabilities and provide equitable access to emergency resources (collectively, "Climate Change") in accordance with Government Code Section 65302(g) as amended by SB 379 (Jackson, 2015).

Through an analysis of the existing conditions and input from the community through civic and community engagement (as described in **Section 2.0, Background**) the following Goals and Policies have been developed to address environmental justice in the City of Bell Gardens (City).

A. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS AND POLICIES

Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies; and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This EJ Element sets forth goals and policies to enhance the quality of life for the City's residents, employees, and visitors; addresses pollution burdens and health risks for disadvantaged communities; and addresses climate change vulnerabilities and provide equitable access to emergency resources. As shown in **Table 4.0-1, Environmental Justice / Climate Change Topics and Goals**, each of this EJ Element Goals address statutorily required environmental justice topic and climate change as described in further detail below.

Table 4.0-1
Environmental Justice / Climate Change Topics and Goals

Environmental Justice Topics	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5
1. Land Use Compatibility	X				
2. Health Risks	X				
3. Public Facilities		X		X	
4. Physical Activities		X			
5. Food Access		X			
6. Safe and Sanitary Homes			X		
7. Civic and Community Engagement					X
8. Disadvantaged Communities	X	X	X	X	X
9. Climate Change	X	X		X	

Source: Impact Sciences, 2023.

The EJ Element Goals include the following, and are further discussed below:

Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.

Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.

Goal 3: Ensure that the existing and future housing stock includes accessible, well-maintained, and affordable housing.

Goal 4: Expand and provide new public services to accommodate persons of all ages and socioeconomic levels.

Goal 5: Enhance public outreach and increase opportunities for civic engagement.

Goal 1:Minimize the Community's Exposure and Impacts from Environmental Pollution.

Goal 1 aims to minimize environmental pollution exposures and provide a clean and healthy environment. The quality of life for the City's residents relies heavily on the availability of a clean and healthy environment. Too often urban environments consist of conditions that can negatively affect public health, including exposure to air pollution and the effects of climate change. In the City of Bell Gardens, air and water pollution have affected the community. As shown in **Figure 2.0-14**, **Diesel Particulate Matter Percentile,** and **Figure 2.0-22**, **PM2.5 Percentile**, the diesel particulate matter percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 49 to 98% and particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) exposure percentiles range from 78 to 88%,. As the City's first Environmental Justice Element, it focuses on protecting traditionally disadvantaged populations as they experience a greater amount of air pollution burden than other communities. The EJ Element includes policies that aim to reduce the community's exposure to adverse environmental conditions and minimize the risk of potential pollution exposure. This includes the effects of climate

change impacts such as increased frequency and duration of heat waves.

The results of the Community Survey indicated that air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses was the leading environmental pollution concern. As discussed in **Section 2.0**, **Background**, the I-710 freeway runs parallel to the eastern border of the City. Additionally, the City is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) which is highly urbanized and has some of the highest concentrations of industrial and commercial operations in the country[1]. In addition to air pollution, the Community Survey indicated that the primary effects of climate change on the community included the increased cost of energy and extreme heat. Approximately 59% of respondents identified contaminated water and pollution in rivers and streams as the leading water pollution issue and the primary water pollution concern is related to old and damaged pipes.[2] However, as discussed in **Section 2.0, Background**, the average percentile of drinking water contaminants for the census tracts in the City is 17% lower than the County average. This indicates that a focus in pipe maintenance and an increase in public education regarding the City's water quality could help minimize concerns regarding the City's drinking water.

Goal 2: Improve Citywide Health by Focusing on Prevention and Intervention.

The overall health, safety, and welfare of a community is a primary area of concern for the City. In urban environments, compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities could result from several indicators, such as exposure to environmental pollution, the lack of efficient recreational facilities or green spaces, or the limited availability of educational programs. Goal 2 aims to enhance the overall health of residents in the City by providing prevention and intervention strategies.

There are several single-family residences located along the western border of the City that abut the I-710 Freeway, and as a result these residences are exposed to higher levels of DPM than other areas of the City (see **Figure 2.0-14**, **Diesel Particulate Matter**). Green spaces are also limited in the City. Veteran's Park is the only park maintained by the City, and there are three pocket parks within the City. The City's bicycle facilities are limited to Class III bicycle facilities on Eastern Avenue, Garfield Avenue, Gage Avenue, Florence Avenue, Florence Place, and parts of Jaboneria Road. The 2022 Circulation Element Update incorporated the 2020 City of Bell Gardens Complete Streets Plan, which included pedestrian and bicycle treatments to reduce risk of collision, increase accessibility for people with various mobility needs, improve bicycle comfort, and allowing convenient safe bicycle storage at key destinations. In addition, the Complete Streets Plan included recommendations to incorporate Class II bike lanes along boulevards and 4-lane avenues, and Class

1 South Coast Air Quality Management District. MATES-V Final Report. 2021. Available online at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/mates-v/mates-v-final-report-9-24-21.pdf?sfvrsn=6, accessed December 16, 2022.

2 Based on Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Community Survey conducted electronically in July 2023. 101 community members responded to the survey. Full results for the survey available here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-kCJU5Lr11X6SnT1V2fzrXg_3D_3D/

III bike routes along 2-lane avenues and collectors.

As discussed in **Section 2.0, Background**, the City's average CalEnviroScreen score was 95.4% which is higher than the Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) recommended threshold of 75%. In addition, the average rate of emergency room visits for cardiovascular disease in the City is 57% higher than the County's average rate of 14 per 10,000 people (see **Figure 2.0-4, Cardiovascular Disease Percentile**). The average asthma rate of emergency room visits for asthma in the City is 50 per 10,000 people which is 0.1% lower than the County average of 54 per 10,000 people (see **Figure 2.0-3, Emergency Room Visits Due to Asthma**). The City's average rate of babies born with low-birth-weight is 4 per 10,000, which is 20% lower than the County average of 5 per 10,000 (see **Figure 2.0-5, Low Birth Weight Rates**). It is important to note that the CalEnviroScreen data indicates that the City has slightly lower rates of asthma related emergency room visits, and low birth weights compared to the County. However, these lower rates may be attributed to limitations in data collection. For example, not everyone with asthma requires emergency care and out of state births or births with no known residential addresses are not captured.

According to the Community Survey, 40% of respondents identified air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses within close proximity to residential uses as the primary environmental pollution concern. Approximately 28% of respondents indicated that at least one person with a chronic health condition (i.e., asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease) lives in their household with them. Approximately 35% of respondents indicated that senior citizens live in their households. Approximately 43% of respondents indicated that extreme heat was the primary way they have been affected by climate change. As the region continues to face more extreme weather conditions, public services and programs such as cooling stations will play an important role in maintaining the health and safety of disadvantaged communities.

Goal 3:Ensure that the Existing and Future Housing Stock Includes Safe, Accessible, Well-Maintained, and Affordable Housing.

In the midst of the on-going housing crisis, available and affordable housing options have become a primary concern across the State, as well as on a local level. Housing affordability is one of the most important factors in alleviating undue stress resulting from unstable living conditions. Access to affordable housing remains one of the most important issues for Los Angeles County residents. As housing prices rise, household occupancy rates often increase, which can result in unsafe and unsanitary living conditions and increase the risk of spreading infectious diseases. Rising rents can also displace residents, which would lead to lifestyle instability such as disrupting social networks for families and school attendance for youth. Given the additional health impacts associated with safe and affordable housing, housing is a priority for EJ communities. Goal 3 aims to improve the housing stock to ensure residents have safe, well maintained, and accessible affordable housing.

Safe and sanitary housing depends on three primary factors: location, quality, and affordability. By improving the location of housing, many EJ issues, inclusive of access to public transportation and minimization of air pollution exposure to residents, could be improved. Location of housing also impacts how individuals and families engage within their communities. Strategically locating housing can provide residents with greater accessibility to public facilities such as public transportation or parks and can minimize health impacts related to the exposure to toxic air pollutants.

Providing safe and sanitary housing is also important in EJ communities. Safety and sanitation of homes based on housing location, quality, and affordability. Age of housing stock is a consideration in the evaluation of safe and sanitary homes. Poorly maintained conditions can lead to unsafe living conditions such as pest infestation, water intrusion, mold, poor insulation, and exposure to toxins (such as mold or lead). These conditions can exacerbate respiratory illnesses including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, while exposure to lead can have lifelong health consequences for young children.

As discussed in **Section 2.0**, **Background**, a total of 58% of the City's households are experiencing a housing cost burden. Renters experience cost burdens at a higher rate than homeowners with 63% of rental units compared to 42% of owner occupied units experiencing some sort of housing cost burden. Furthermore, the average housing cost burden percentiles for low income households in the City are 86, which is 22% higher than the County average of 64 (see **Figure 2.0-7, Housing Burden Percentile**). Results of the Community Survey also indicated that housing affordability and homelessness are major concerns for City residents.

According to the Community Survey, approximately 65% of respondents indicated that they are strongly concerned about homelessness. Approximately 48% of respondents identified cost and affordability as high concern about housing, while approximately 46% of respondents cited overcrowding as a major concern. Parking availability was also identified as another primary concern that is associated with the issue of overcrowding. These concerns indicate that housing security and stability is an issue in the City.

Goal 4:Expand and Provide New Public Services to Accommodate Persons of All Ages and Socioeconomic Levels.

Public services, such as fire, police, and medical services, and access to public facilities such as libraries, parks, and community centers are vital services for all individuals. Providing equitable access to public services is critical to the creation of a thriving community. These programs and facilities often play a critical role in the quality of life for disadvantaged communities (i.e., after

school and recreational programs for low-income households; or community centers and activities for senior citizens). Disadvantaged communities traditionally experience higher crime rates and have less access to public services. Goal 4 aims to expand public services for the entire community with equitable access to all public services.

According to the Community Survey, approximately 59% of respondents indicated that they were strongly concerned with crime rates in the City. Illegal dumping/trash and graffiti occurring in the City were also community issues in which respondents expressed concerns. Access to libraries, active transportation and public transit services (i.e., sidewalks/crosswalks/bike routes), and emergency shelters/cooling stations were also determined to be unsatisfactory and have opportunities for improvement.

Goal 5: Enhance Public Outreach and Increase Opportunities for Civic Engagement.

Authentic community engagement is needed to address equity gaps, build trust, and empower underrepresented communities. The results of the public survey indicated that civic engagement in the City experiences a lack of participation primarily because of inconvenient meeting times, lack of childcare, and/or lack of computer or internet access. Approximately 40% of the survey's respondents do not participate in City Council or Planning Commission meetings. Goal 5 aims to remove barriers to civic engagement and increase public outreach efforts.

Disadvantaged communities generally face obstacles in fully participating in the planning and policy decisions that affect their lives. This lack of participation results in a decision-making process that is not representative of the community at large. Therefore, it is critical that the City engages with all stakeholders. By enhancing the City's public outreach strategies and creating more opportunities for civic engagement the City can ensure that future decision making is inclusive of individuals of all races, ethnicity, age, housing tenure, and socioeconomic status. In hosting public events that cater to the language and culture of the area, the City can create an inclusive environment where residents feel safe to use City services and become engaged with their community.

The following **Table 4.0-2, Goals and Polices**, provides the EJ Element policies and identifies the EJ Element goals they are related to.

Table 4.0-2
Goals and Policies

Policy	Goal 1: Environmental Pollution	Goal 2: Public Health	Goal 3: Housing Stock	Goal 4: Public Services	Goal 5: Public Outreach
1. Minimize resident's exposure to air pollution near high-volume roadways (ex, freeways) through site planning, building design, and other measures, focusing on the needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., families with children, people with disabilities, and seniors).	X	X			
2. Minimize siting sensitive receptors (i.e., residential and institutional uses) near pollution sources, such as freight-handling and manufacturing facilities.	X	X			
3. Promote the use of indoor air filtration systems on individual properties through education and exploration of grants or other funding incentives.	X				X
4. Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure.	X				
5. Protect potable water and groundwater resources from future contamination by implementing pollutant concentration standards and conducting routine testing to the City's potable water system.	X	X			
6. Protect the existing groundwater quality by conducting annual testing and reporting of the Central Basin to confirm conformance with local, state, and federal standards.	X	X			
7. Ensure sufficient water availability and supply to meet current and future demand.	X			X	
8. Coordinate with the applicable public and non-profit agencies (i.e., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) to create/expand educational programs and campaigns regarding health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc.	X				X

Policy	Goal 1: Environmental Pollution	Goal 2: Public Health	Goal 3: Housing Stock	Goal 4: Public Services	Goal 5: Public Outreach
9. Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions.		X			
10. Provide streamlining opportunities for grocery stores and farmers markets.		X			
11. Expand recreational opportunities and programs to be accessible to all residents		X			
12. Expand the existing pedestrian and bicycle network to be safe and accessible for all ages.		X			
13. Implement an occupancy inspection program that would ensure the health and sanitation of existing housing.		X	X		
14. Encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes owned/occupied by lower income households, including retrofitting for environmental sustainability.	X	X	X		
15. Support land use policies and programs that allow development of residential densities in a variety of sizes to accommodate all families.			X		
16. Encourage affordable and workforce housing through limited-equity housing cooperatives, community land trusts, nonprofit-run housing, and/or use of city-owned land.			X		
17. Encourage affordable housing by offering density bonuses, or fee waivers and relief from development standards, where appropriate.			X		
18. Increase outreach and educational services regarding tenant rights.			X		
19. Implement programs that support persons in transitional housing			X	X	X
20. Partner with non-profit organizations that address housing issues between the tenants and landlords.			X	X	

Policy	Goal 1: Environmental Pollution	Goal 2: Public Health	Goal 3: Housing Stock	Goal 4: Public Services	Goal 5: Public Outreach
21. Review public services through regular checkups in partnership with municipal, regional, and statewide agencies				X	X
22. Implement new and innovate outreach methods with the aim of expanding the City's current reach.				X	X
23. Publish City communication in English and Spanish.				X	
24. Promote recreational programs to all residents.				X	
25. Attract grocery stores that sell organic groceries to underserved areas through financial incentives, zoning changes, technical assistance, and other methods.				X	
26. Increase safety and emergency preparedness through an established short-list of designated emergency shelters in the City. Information would be available to all residents in English and in Spanish.				X	
27. Consider new start times for commission and council meetings to encourage increased participation.					X
28. Expand the Town Trolley bus service hours and bus stop locations to better accommodate City Council and Commission meetings.					X
29. Live stream City Council and Commission meetings at public facilities (i.e., recreational centers and childcare centers).					X
30. Circulate annual public surveys to gather input on important city-wide needs. These surveys should be used in consideration of City's annual budget.				X	X
31. Expand the use of social media to post important department and City information.					X

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The following includes the programs and measures associated with the implementation of the goals and policies outlined in the Environmental Justice Element.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

This Environmental Justice (EJ) Element is intended to be a living document and should be updated on a regular basis to ensure the goals, policies, programs, and implementation measures meet the needs of the community. Five initial programs have been identified to implement the EJ Element goals and policies in the City of Bell Gardens (City).

A. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT PROGRAMS

The following programs have been developed to implement the goals and policies of the EJ Element.

Program 1: Community Outreach Program

The Community Outreach Program serves as a framework for all departments to participate in meaningful two-way communication with the public on all aspects of City governance and delivery of services. The program would ensure future programs and events are made available to all community members.

Program 1: Implementation Measures

Measure 1.1 Promote civic engagement and public participation by performing direct outreach and partnering with community groups and others to increase public participation from community members.

Measure 1.2 Coordinate with all City departments to ensure that programs and services are available to all community members.

Measure 1.3 Report on emergency services response times on an annual basis.

Measure 1.4 Provide a forum for residents to provide feedback on City programs and services (i.e., Police Department, Community Services, and Los Angeles County Fire Department) through the Bell Gardens Connect software application and other mechanisms.

Measure 1.5 Conduct Citywide surveys and provide other public feedback opportunities to determine the most efficient and effective methods of communicating with residents.

Measure 1.6 Establish best practices and communications protocols for information sharing, and civic engagement.

Measure 1.7 Require that public communications be provided in English and Spanish.

Applicable EJ Goals: Implementation measures of the Community Outreach Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention. Program 1 is intended improve overall Citywide health by establishing two-way communication between City officials, public health officials, and the public through outreach programs and citywide surveys. Providing residents with information regarding available public services and facilities can improve their quality of life.

- Goal 4: Expand and provide new public services to accommodate persons of all ages and socioeconomic levels. Program 1 would promote public facilities by implementing new methods and opportunities for the public to provide their input to public agencies.

- Goal 5: Enhance public outreach and increase opportunities for civic engagement. Program 1 aims to promote public facilities through community outreach and civic engagement. By providing more opportunities for the public to provide input and the City to disseminate information, the City can foster conversations regarding the needs of the residents to ensure constituents feel heard and build a greater sense of trust.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Community Outreach Program would further support the following existing programs listed in the City's *Safety Element:*

- Neighborhood Watch
- Police and Fire Protection Services

Program 2: Land Use Program

The City will explore land use amendment and rezoning opportunities to ensure that newly introduced sensitive land uses are not located adjacent to high-polluting activities (i.e., I-710, industrial uses with high air pollution emissions) (Land Use Program). The Land Use Program would serve as an opportunity for the City to implement land use and zoning changes to avoid the placement of vulnerable populations near known environmental pollutants or other health risks. Under this program, the City would evaluate potential sites for rezoning or redesignation to avoid incompatible uses. In addition, the Program would provide the City with the opportunity to develop new regulations or policies to enhance the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Program 2 Implementation Measures

Measure 2.1 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial designations and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses and implement strategies to reduce environmental impacts to the sensitive land uses.

Measure 2.2 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial zoning and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses and implement strategies to reduce environmental impacts to the sensitive land uses.

Measure 2.3 Adopt and implement a tree preservation ordinance for public and private trees.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Land Use Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution. Program 2 would identify areas within the City that may be disproportionately impacted by existing pollution due to land use conflicts and support opportunities for rezoning. Further, Program 2 would support land use and zoning changes to avoid the placement of vulnerable populations near known environmental pollutants or other health risks.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Land Use Program would further support the following existing programs listed in the City's *Land Use Element* and *Conservation Element:*

- "Bell Gardens Now" Surveys
- Development Monitoring Program
- Environmental Review
- County Coordination
- Sidewalk and Parkway Development and Maintenance Program

Program 3: Environmental Monitoring Program

The Environmental Monitoring Program will provide the City with an opportunity to monitor and disseminate information regarding air and water quality to residents on an ongoing basis. The Program would require the City to coordinate with regional agencies such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD), Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC).

Program 3 Implementation Measures

Measure 3.1 Provide annual presentations regarding the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to the public.

Measure 3.2 Coordinate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to implement their incentives, as appropriate, within the community.

Measure 3.3 Coordinate with the Central Basin Municipal Water District to conduct annual

testing at all groundwater wells within the City. Results will be reported and presented to the public.

Measure 3.4 Coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to disseminate information regarding any remediation efforts in the City to residents as they occur.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Environmental Monitoring Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution. Program 3 aims to reduce potential compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities through coordination with regional environmental agencies to provide greater transparency and accountability.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Environmental Monitoring Program would further support the following existing programs listed in the City's *Conservation Element:*

- Environmental Review
- County Coordination
- Water/Landscape Conservation Ordinance

Program 4: Affordable Housing Program

The Affordable Housing Preservation Program would add to the existing housing programs that are outlined in the City's Housing Element (2021-2029). The program would identify the existing and future affordable housing stock (i.e., under Section 8 or other Housing and Urban Development contracts) and preserve their affordability.

Program 4 Implementation Measures

Measure 4.1 Develop an inventory of the existing affordable housing units in the City.

Measure 4.2 Conduct an annual review of the affordable housing units to determine if any of the unit's affordability levels will be changed in the upcoming year.

Measure 4.3 Establish a list of available State and federal funding sources to support affordable housing.

Measure 4.4 Conduct an annual housing workshop to provide property owners and tenants with updates on recent housing legislation and funding sources.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Affordable Housing Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 3: Ensure that the existing and future housing stock includes accessible, well-maintained, and affordable housing. Program 4 aims to address existing concerns regarding housing access, affordability, and stability by complementing the existing affordable housing programs contained in the Housing Element and ensuring the affordable housing stock is safe and sanitary.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Affordable Housing Program would further support the following existing programs identified in the City's *2021-2029 Housing Element Update:*

- Program 1: Code Enforcement and Community Preservation Activities
- Program 5: Homebuyer/Homeowner Assistance Programs.
- Program 6: Adequate Sites for Lower Income RHNA.
- Program 9: Lot Consolidation.
- Program 10: Density Bonus Ordinance.

Program 5: Health Improvement Program

The Health Improvement Program will increase the number of recreational opportunities that are available to residents in the City. The City would evaluate potential incentives that would improve the overall health of the City and promote active transportation through the expansion of existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Program would also integrate the Community Outreach Program to announce and gain feedback on potential recreational programs events. The Program would also include an educational campaign aimed at providing residents with information on the proper use and maintenance of indoor filtration systems.

Program 5 Implementation Measures

Measure 5.1 Identify subsidy or grant opportunities to provide low-income residents with HVAC or room HEPA filters.

Measure 5.2 Provide educational programs to inform households in the City regarding the proper use and maintenance of indoor filtration systems.

Measure 5.3 Create an Occupancy Inspection Program with the City's Community Development Department, Building and Safety Department, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to conduct regular inspections of multi-family residential units to ensure adequate housing maintenance.

Measure 5.4 Implement programs that encourage City residents to bike more.

Measure 5.5 Expand the Department's STAR (Special Time for Adaptive Recreation) Program.

Measure 5.6 Upgrade non-compliant sidewalks and intersections to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Measure 5.7 Provide application streamlining for grocery stores and farmers markets.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Health Improvement Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention. Program 5 provides a proactive approach towards public health by addressing existing concerns such as air quality by improving access to indoor filtration systems and promoting safe and sanitary homes; improving walkability to increase physical activity; and providing more opportunities for grocery stores and farmers markets to increase accessibility to healthy food options.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Affordable Housing Program would further support the following existing programs identified in the City's *Circulation Element Update:*

- M 4.a: Development Review.
- M 4.d: Encourage Active Transportation.
- M 4.g: Regional Bike Network
- M 4.h: Bicycle Storage.
- M 4.i: Expand Crossing Guard Program

As discussed in **Section 4.0, Goals and Policies**, each of the EJ Element Goals and Policies address the eight environmental justice topics specified in SB 1000. In October 2023, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research updated the General Plan Guidelines to respond to SB 1000 and provided a Completeness Checklist outlining each of the statutory requirements that the EJ Element should address. As shown below, **Table 5.0-1, Implementation Program's Consistency with the EJ Completeness Checklist**, outlines each Program's consistency with Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) General Plan Guidelines Completeness Checklist.

Table 5.0-1
Implementation Program's Consistency with the EJ Completeness Checklist

Completeness Checklist	Program 1	Program 2	Program 3	Program 4	Program 5
Identify disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1))		X			
Identify objectives and policies to reduce exposure to pollution including improving air quality in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A))		X	X		
Identify objectives and policies to promote public facilities in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A))	X	X			
Identify objectives and policies to promote food access in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A))					X
Identify objectives and policies to promote safe and sanitary homes in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A))				X	X
Identify objectives and policies to promote physical activity in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A))					X
Identify objectives and policies to reduce any unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(B))			X	X	X
Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(C))	X				

Source: California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, General Plan Guidelines, Chapter 4, Required Elements – Completeness Checklist (https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf) and Impact Sciences, 2023.

Table 5.0-2, Implementation Measures, outlines the estimated timeline and budget for each implementation measure, as well as the responsible party. The purpose of the Implementation Measures Table is to assist the City in its annual budget process and to help identify funding opportunities to implement the EJ Element.

Table 5.0-2
Implementation Measures

Implementation Measure	Timeline	Budget	Responsible Department
Measure 1.1 Create a Community Outreach Working Group, comprised of City Staff and community members	Long Term	$$	Community Development City Manger
Measure 1.2 Coordinate with all City departments to ensure that programs and services are available to all community members.	Long Term	$$	Community Development City Manager
Measure 1.3 Report on emergency services response times on an annual basis.	Ongoing	$	Community Development City Manager
Measure 1.4 Provide a forum for residents to provide feedback on City programs and services (i.e., Police Department, Community Services, and Los Angeles County Fire Department).	Ongoing	$	City Manager
Measure 1.5 Conduct Citywide surveys and provide other public feedback opportunities to determine the most efficient and effective methods of communicating with residents.	Short Term	$	Community Development Planning Division
Measure 1.6 Establish best practices and communications protocols for information sharing, and civic engagement.	Short Term	$$	City Manager
Measure 1.7 Require that public communications be provided in English and Spanish and create a bilingual program for City Staff.	Ongoing	$$	City Manager
Measure 2.1 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial uses and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses for redesignation.	Long Term	$	Community Development Planning Division
Measure 2.2 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial uses and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses for rezoning.	Long Term	$	Community Development Planning Division
Measure 2.3 Adopt and implement a tree preservation ordinance for public and private trees.	Short Term	$	Community Development Planning Division
Measure 3.1 Provide annual presentations regarding the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to the public.	Long Term	$$	Community Development
Measure 3.2 Coordinate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to implement their incentives, as appropriate, within the community.	Long Term	$$	Community Development
Measure 3.3 Coordinate with the Central Basin Municipal Water District to conduct annual testing at all groundwater wells within the City. Results will be reported and presented to the public.	Ongoing.	$	Community Development

Implementation Measure	Timeline	Budget	Responsible Department
Measure 3.4 Coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to disseminate information regarding any remediation efforts in the City to residents as they occur.	Long Term	$$	City Manager's Office
Measure 4.1 Develop an inventory of the existing affordable housing units in the City.	Ongoing	$	Community Development Housing Division
Measure 4.2 Conduct an annual review of the affordable housing units to determine if any of the unit's affordability levels will be changed in the upcoming year.	Short Term	$$	Community Development Housing Division
Measure 4.3 Establish a list of available State and federal funding sources to support affordable housing.	Short Term	$	Community Development Housing Division
Measure 4.4 Conduct an annual housing workshop to provide property owners and tenants with updates on recent housing legislation and funding sources.	Long Term	$$	Community Development Housing Division
Measure 5.1 Coordinate with local HVAC companies to provide technical and financial incentives for low-income households to install indoor air filtration systems.	Short Term	$$	Community Development
Measure 5.2 Implement educational programs to inform households in the City the proper use and maintenance for indoor filtration systems.	Long Term.	$$	Community Development
Measure 5.3 Coordinate with the City's Community Development Department, the City's Building and Safety Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop an inspection program that would ensure the health and sanitation of existing housing.	Long Term	$$	Community Development
Measure 5.4 Coordinate with the City of Bell Gardens Recreation and Community Department to implement programs that encourage City residents to bike more.	Short Term	$$	Community Development Recreation & Community Services
Measure 5.5 Coordinate with the City's Recreation and Community Department to expand the Department's STAR (Special Time for Adaptive Recreation) Program.	Short Term	$$	Community Development Recreation & Community Services
Measure 5.6 Upgrade non-compliant sidewalks and intersections to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).	Long Term	$$$	Public Works
Measure 5.7 Provide application streamlining for grocery stores and farmers markets.	Long Term	$	Community Development Planning Division

Source: Impact Sciences, 2023.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Agency and consultant contributors to this document are acknowledged herein.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The City of Bell Gardens has directed this work effort. Impact Sciences prepared the Environmental Justice Element with assistance from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative.

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APPENDIX 2.0

Community Engagement Report

Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Community Outreach Summary

To understands the needs and priority of the Bell Gardens community, the Project Team, working closely with the City of Bell Gardens, developed a plan to engage with residents and existing community groups, to engage with local businesses and to plan for equitable outcomes to serve the citizens of Bell Gardens.

The Project Team conducted a variety of outreach methods including online surveys, a series of community meetings as well as pop up events and one to one conversations. Links to the survey were available on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the City Website. Tablets and hard copies were available at all in-person events and surveys could also be submitted at City Hall.
All materials were offered in Spanish and in English.







In an effort to increase exposure, Project Team members manned booths at established community events:

- July 20, 2023 Movie in the Park – Veterans Park
- July 27, 2023 Music in the Park – Veterans Park
- August 3, 2023 Movie in the Park – Veterans

Additionally, email blasts were sent to key Stakeholders and Community Based Organizations urging them to fill out a survey and share the link with their members.

During the 4 months the survey was available 101 responses were collected. The survey required 30 minutes to complete and was very detailed and thought provoking. Results revealed a number of stakeholder priorities and concerns.

- Air quality concerns focused on traffic pollution, industrial pollutants, and pesticides.
- Internal air pollution concerns were primarily centered on mold and then ventilation.
- Water contamination by old pipes, and pollution in rivers was marked off by over 70% of respondents.
- The largest community issues were centered on homelessness and crime;
- And yet residents gave 3.8 stars to feeling safe within their own neighborhoods.
- Parking, housing availability and stability and climate change are major issues for residents.

- Social Media was the method of choice for receiving information from City Hall.
- When asked to list the top 5 areas of the Environmental Justice plan survey takers were most interested in having addressed:
    - Air Pollution
    - Housing
    - Access to Healthy Food
    - Public Safety
    - Public Infrastructure

And finally, the top goals Bell Gardens citizen would task the EJ Plan to explore would be minimizing the communities exposure to pollution, provide improved public facilities as well as better access to housing.



Attachments:
Survey
Summary Results
Email Example
Stakeholders List

City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

Climate Change

Environmental Justice aims to minimize the adverse effects of environmental hazards in order to create a healthy environment for all people, especially those groups, populations, and communities who had been impacted by pollution. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element is to reduce burdens for communities experiencing adverse effects, promote meaningful participation of those communities in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process, and providing meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

1. Do you live or work in the City of Bell Gardens?

   ☐ Live
   ☐ Work
   ☐ Both
   ☐ Neither

Air Pollution

2. How concerned are you regarding the following external air pollution issues?
   (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Pesticides	1	2	3	4	5
Dust	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic	1	2	3	4	5
Second hand smoke	1	2	3	4	5
Factories/industrial operation emissions	1	2	3	4	5
Trash/agricultural burning	1	2	3	4	5
Airport traffic	1	2	3	4	5

   Other (please specify) _____

3. How concerned are you regarding the following internal air pollution issues (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Dust	1	2	3	4	5
Second hand smoke	1	2	3	4	5
Ventilation	1	2	3	4	5
Mold	1	2	3	4	5
Household chemicals	1	2	3	4	5

   Other (please specify) _____

Water Pollution

4. How concerned are you regarding the following water pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Availability of clean water	1	2	3	4	5
Contaminated water	1	2	3	4	5
Pollution in streams/rivers	1	2	3	4	5
Old/damaged pipes	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please specify) _____

Community Issues

5. How concerned are you regarding the following community issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Illegal dumping/trash	1	2	3	4	5
Graffiti	1	2	3	4	5
Loud noise	1	2	3	4	5
Smell (agricultural/industrial facilities)	1	2	3	4	5
Vacant/blighted properties	1	2	3	4	5
Invasive species (i.e., weeds, animals, bugs, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Crime	1	2	3	4	5
Homelessness	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please specify) _____

Public Facilities/Services

6. How do you feel about the following public facilities/services in the City? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being facilities/services are not available or are poor 5 being facilities/services are available and are good)

Parks/Open Space/Community Center/Gardens	1	2	3	4	5
Grocery Stores	1	2	3	4	5
Healthcare & Day Care Facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Libraries	1	2	3	4	5
Sidewalks/Crosswalks/Bike Routes/Public Transit	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency Shelters/Cooling Stations	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please specify) _____

Housing

7. How safe is your Bell Gardens neighborhood? (Circle one)

Very unsafe Unsafe Neutral Safe Very safe N/A

8. How well-maintained are the homes in your neighborhood? (Circle one)

Not well maintained Minimally maintained Maintained Well maintained Very well maintained

9. What types of improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?
   Please rank your concerns about housing (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not worried and 5 being very worried)

Cost/Affordability	1	2	3	4	5
Discrimination/ Unfair housing practices	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility/Reliability of Utilities	1	2	3	4	5
Maintenance	1	2	3	4	5
Overcrowding	1	2	3	4	5
Stability/Relocation	1	2	3	4	5
Parking Availability	1	2	3	4	5

   Other/None (please specify) _____

10. Have you been affected by Climate Change? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not affected and 5 being strongly affected)

Extreme heat	1	2	3	4	5
Flooding	1	2	3	4	5
Poor air quality	1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient food	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of shelter	1	2	3	4	5
Poor health	1	2	3	4	5
Increased cost of water	1	2	3	4	5
Increased cost of energy	1	2	3	4	5

Civic Engagement

11. How often do you participate in City Council or Commission meetings?

    ☐ Always (I attend every meeting)
    ☐ Usually (6-12 times a year)
    ☐ Sometimes (3-5 times a year)
    ☐ Rarely (1-2 times a year)
    ☐ Never

12. If you don't always participate in council or commission meetings, what are the barriers to attending? (Check all that apply)

    ☐ Inconvenient meeting times
    ☐ Inconvenient meeting locations
    ☐ Lack of childcare
    ☐ Language barriers
    ☐ Lack of transportation
    ☐ Lack of computer/internet access

13. How do you obtain information from the City? (Check all that apply)

☐ None of the above
☐ Flyers/Brochures
☐ City's website
☐ Social media
☐ Word of mouth
☐ City's SMS Broadcast Service
☐ Newspaper media/publications

14. Do you feel like your interests and concerns are being heard? (Circle one)

Not heard Minimally heard Neutral Heard Well Heard

Environmental Justice Element

15. What Environmental Justice areas are you concerned with: (rank the following 1-12)

Air pollution from vehicles & industrial uses ___
Access to healthy Food/grocery stores ___
Housing access, affordability & stability (including housing maintenance) ___
Civic Engagement ___
Public infrastructure, facilities and transportation ___
Public safety and public services ___
Civic engagement ___
Public infrastructure and facilities ___
Transportation ___
Public safety ___
Public services ___
Housing quality/maintenance ___

16. What are your goals for the Environmental Justice Element? (rank the following 1-5)

Minimize the community's exposure to environmental pollution. ___
Provide improved/greater public facilities and services to the community. ___
Provide better access to affordable, reliable, and safe public transportation. ___
Provide better access to affordable, safe, and sanitary housing. ___
Provide residents with more opportunities to be informed and engaged. ___

Demographic Information

17. What is your age group?

☐ 17 and under
☐ 18-25
☐ 26-30
☐ 31-35
☐ 36-40
☐ 41-45
☐ 46-50
☐ 51-55
☐ 56-60
☐ 61 and older

18. What is your highest educational level?

☐ No Schooling
☐ Elementary School
☐ Middle School
☐ High School
☐ Some College
☐ Bachelors
☐ Masters
☐ Doctorate

19. Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ African-American
☐ Asian
☐ Middle Eastern
☐ Native American
☐ White
☐ Decline to state

Other (please specify) _____

20. What is your yearly household/family income?

☐ Under $15,000
☐ $15,001 – $20,000
☐ $20,001 – $30,000
☐ $30,001 – $45,000
☐ $45,001 – $55,000
☐ $55,001 - $60,000
☐ $60,001 - $65,000
☐ $65,001+

21. Do you own or rent your home?

☐ Own ☐ Rent

22. How many people live in your home?

☐ 1
☐ 2-3
☐ 4-5
☐ More than 5

23. Does your household/family include any of the following:

☐ Children (under the age of 10)
☐ Teenagers (11-18 years old)
☐ Seniors (older than 65)
☐ Person with chronic health concerns (asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.)
☐ Disabled family member?
☐ None of the above

Are there any additional topics or comments that you would like to add?

_____

_____

_____

Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding updates regarding the environmental justice plan? Please provide a name, cell phone number, or e-mail address.

Name _____

Cell phone number _____

E-mail _____

From: Moises Gomez
To: sencollc@hotmail.com
Bcc: Mona Mossayeb
Subject: FW: City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Survey
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:48:00 PM
Attachments: Unified Outreach Flyer.pdf

Hello, Steven Senemar,

My name is Moises Gomez from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, and I am serving as the community outreach lead for the City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element community outreach efforts.

We are asking community stakeholders to disseminate a link to the city's environmental justice online survey to gather information regarding the updating of the city's environmental justice element.

The survey, which is available in English and Spanish, will allow us to learn about the concerns that residents, stakeholder organizations, and local businesses have when it comes to their potential exposure to sources of pollution that may be affecting them.

To take the survey please use the following link: https://bit.ly/BellGardensEJ

Please note that the survey collection period will end on **Friday, September 15, 2023**.

I have also attached a copy of the PDF flyer for your use.

If residents feel unable to fill out the online survey, they can fill out a paper survey and drop it into a collection box located at the City's Community Development Office.

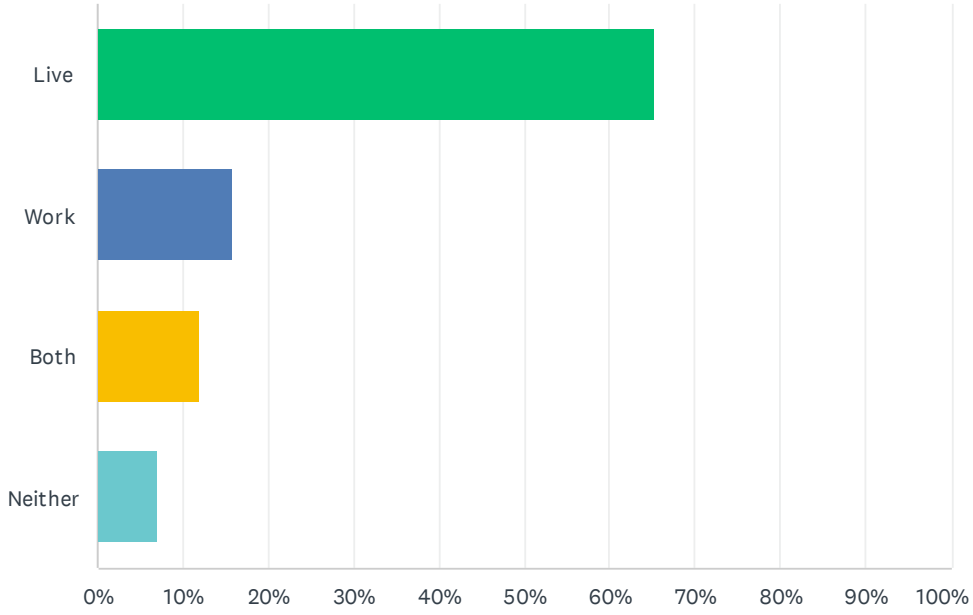
Thank you for your assistance in helping collect the views and opinions of stakeholders of the City of Bell Gardens. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Moises Gomez
Program Manager
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
800 Figueroa St., Ste. 670
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 627-1822 x18
(323) 200-9132 mobile
(213) 627-1821 fax
moises@lani.org
http://blqbid.org

Q1 Do you live or work in the City of Bell Gardens?

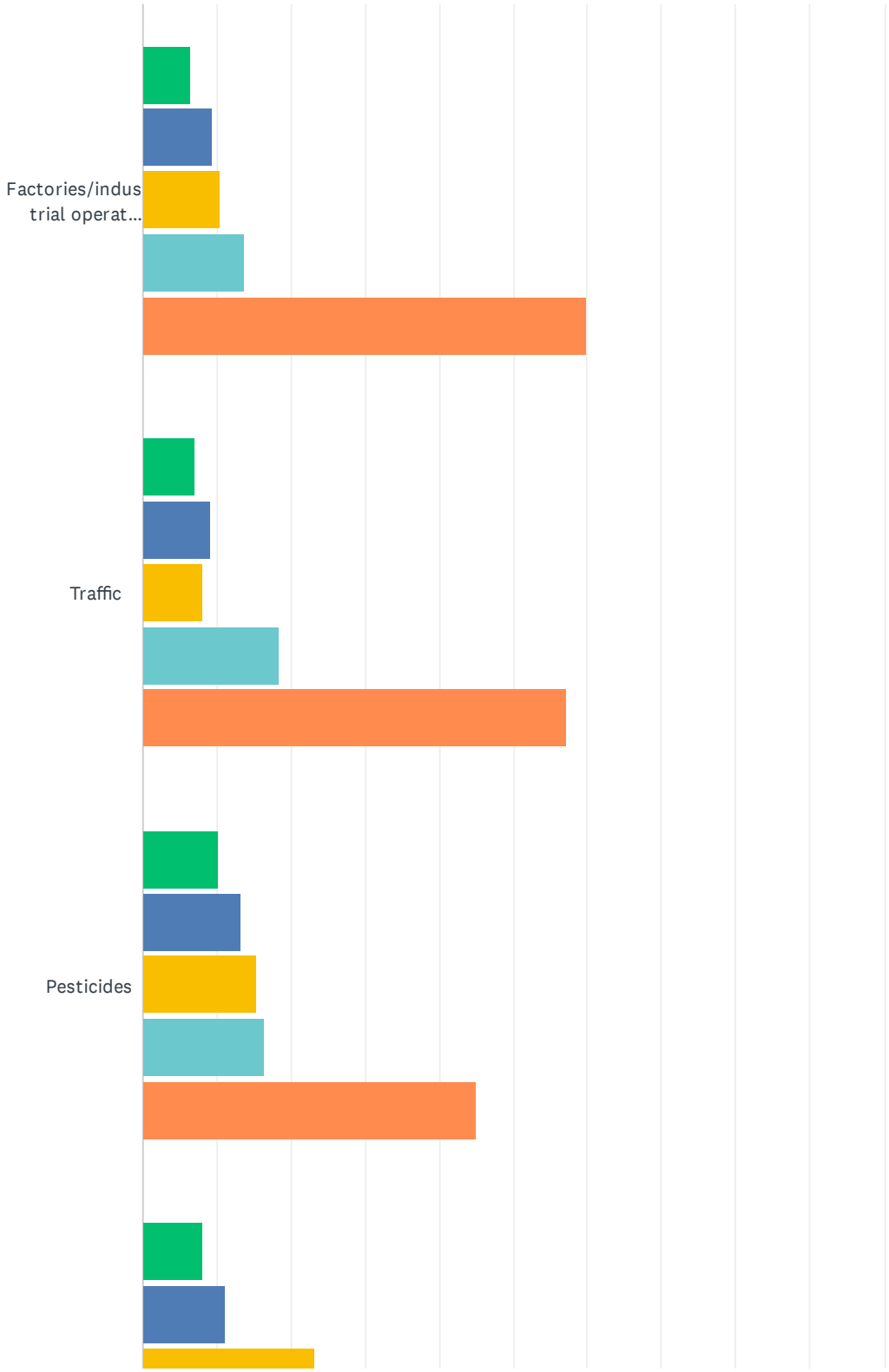
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

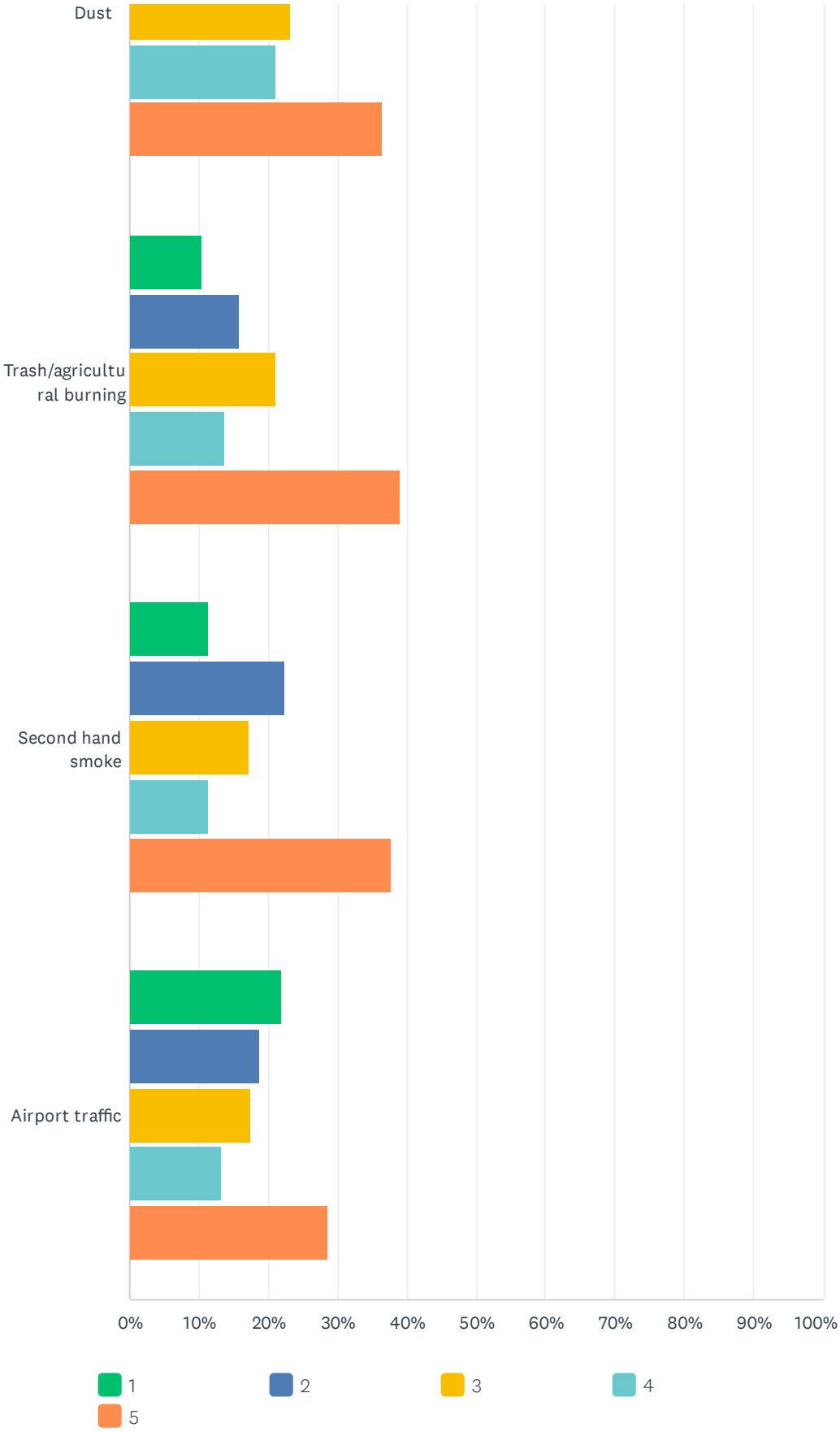


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Live	65.35%	66
Work	15.84%	16
Both	11.88%	12
Neither	6.93%	7
TOTAL		101

Q2 How concerned are you regarding the following external air pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

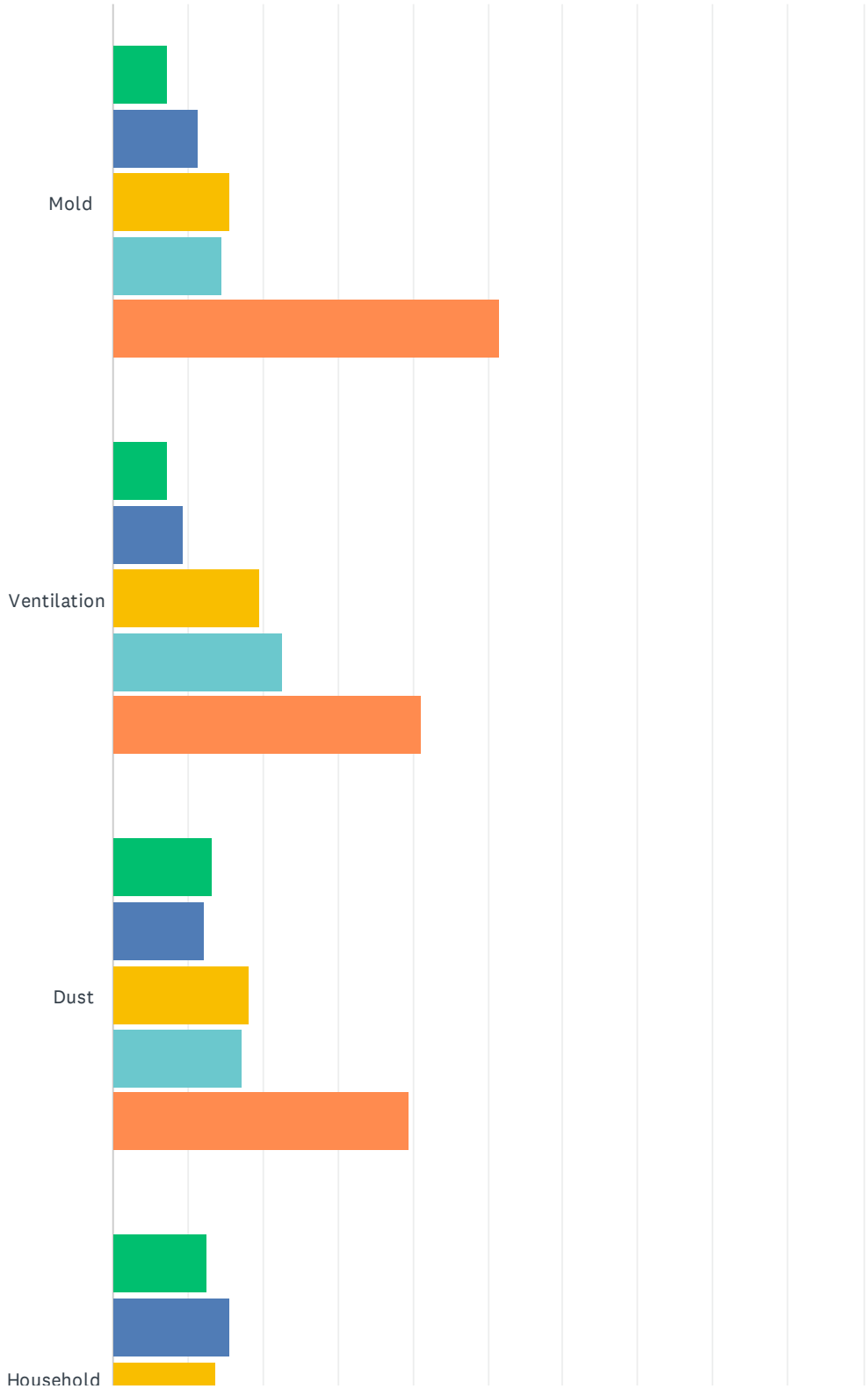


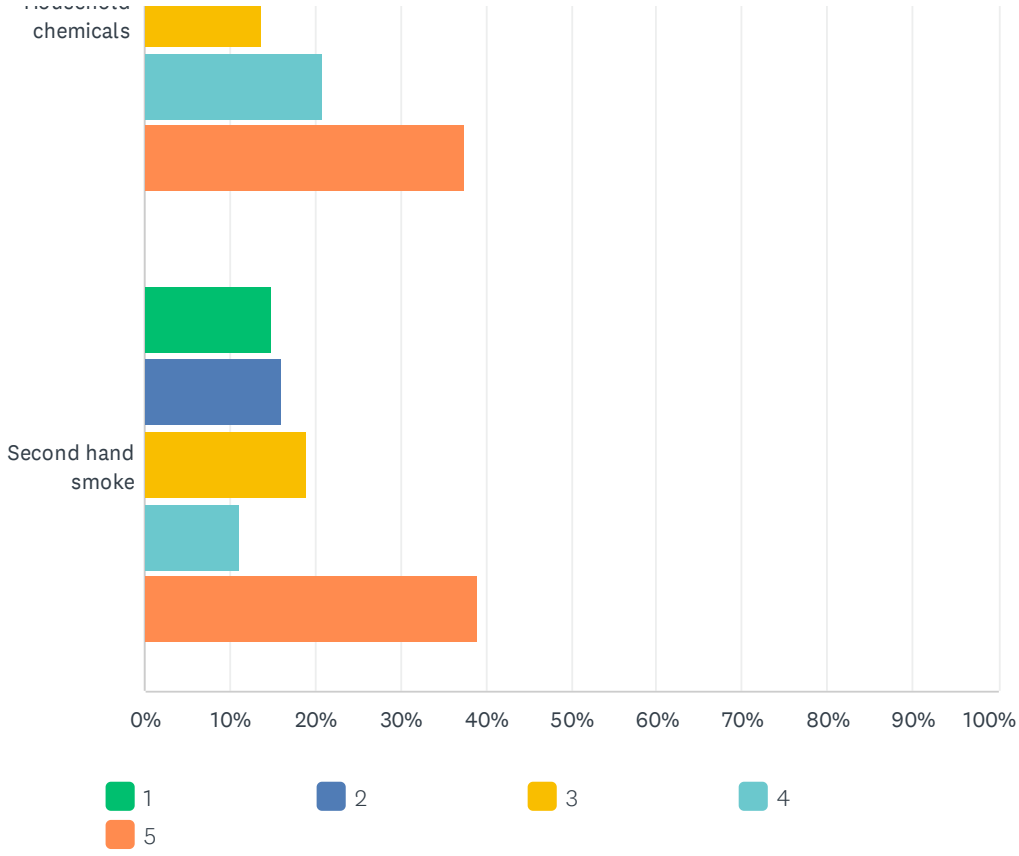

Dust
Trash/agricultural burning
Second hand smoke
Airport traffic
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1
2
3
4
5

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Factories/industrial operation emissions	6.32% 6	9.47% 9	10.53% 10	13.68% 13	60.00% 57	95	4.12
Traffic	7.14% 7	9.18% 9	8.16% 8	18.37% 18	57.14% 56	98	4.09
Pesticides	10.20% 10	13.27% 13	15.31% 15	16.33% 16	44.90% 44	98	3.72
Dust	8.08% 8	11.11% 11	23.23% 23	21.21% 21	36.36% 36	99	3.67
Trash/agricultural burning	10.53% 10	15.79% 15	21.05% 20	13.68% 13	38.95% 37	95	3.55
Second hand smoke	11.22% 11	22.45% 22	17.35% 17	11.22% 11	37.76% 37	98	3.42
Airport traffic	21.98% 20	18.68% 17	17.58% 16	13.19% 12	28.57% 26	91	3.08

Q3 How concerned are you regarding the following internal air pollution issues (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

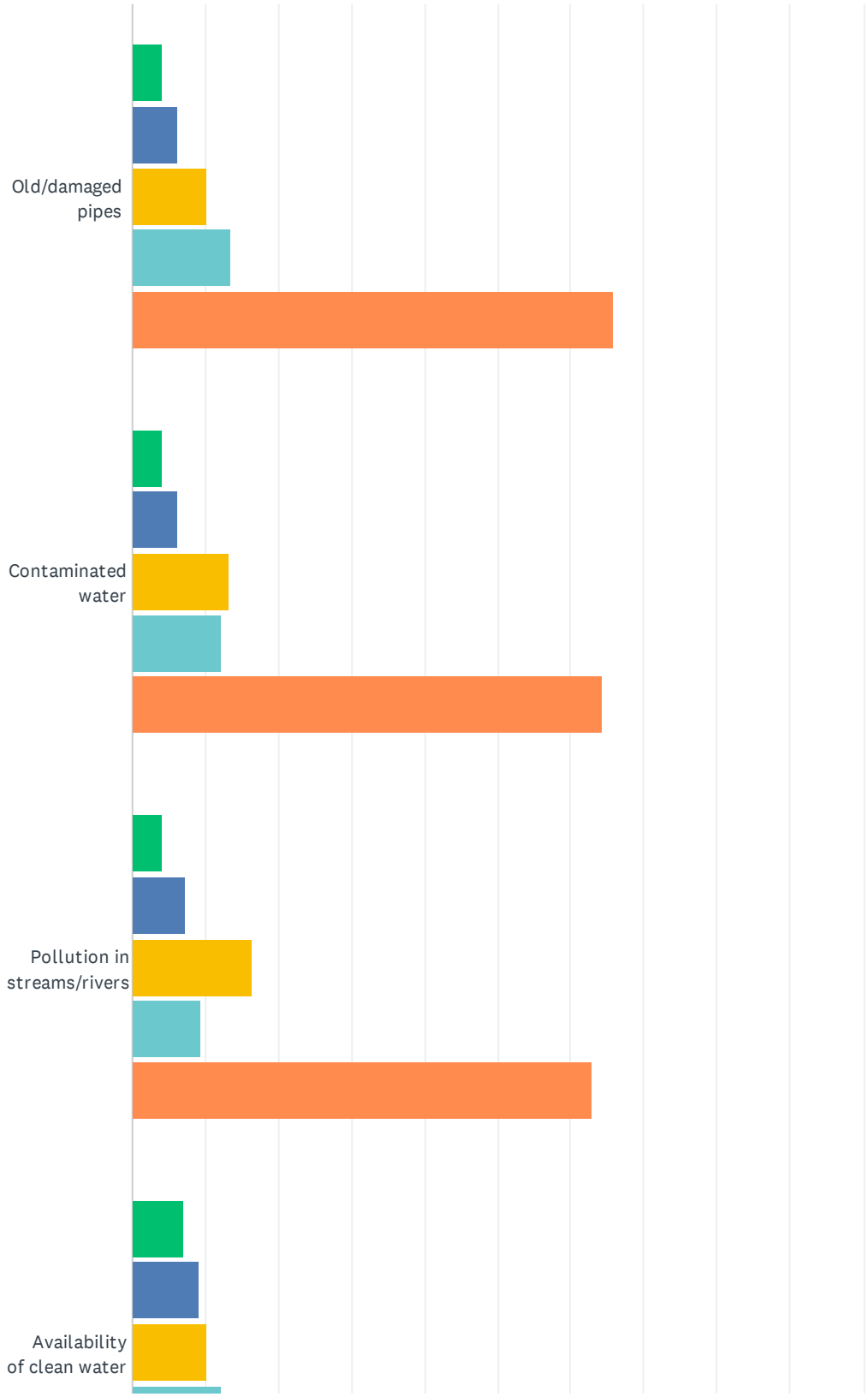


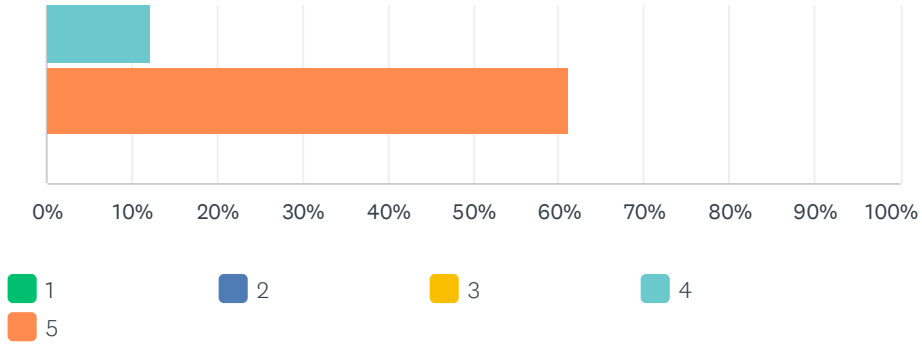


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Mold	7.22% 7	11.34% 11	15.46% 15	14.43% 14	51.55% 50	97	3.92
Ventilation	7.22% 7	9.28% 9	19.59% 19	22.68% 22	41.24% 40	97	3.81
Dust	13.13% 13	12.12% 12	18.18% 18	17.17% 17	39.39% 39	99	3.58
Household chemicals	12.50% 12	15.63% 15	13.54% 13	20.83% 20	37.50% 36	96	3.55
Second hand smoke	15.00% 15	16.00% 16	19.00% 19	11.00% 11	39.00% 39	100	3.43

Q4 How concerned are you regarding the following water pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

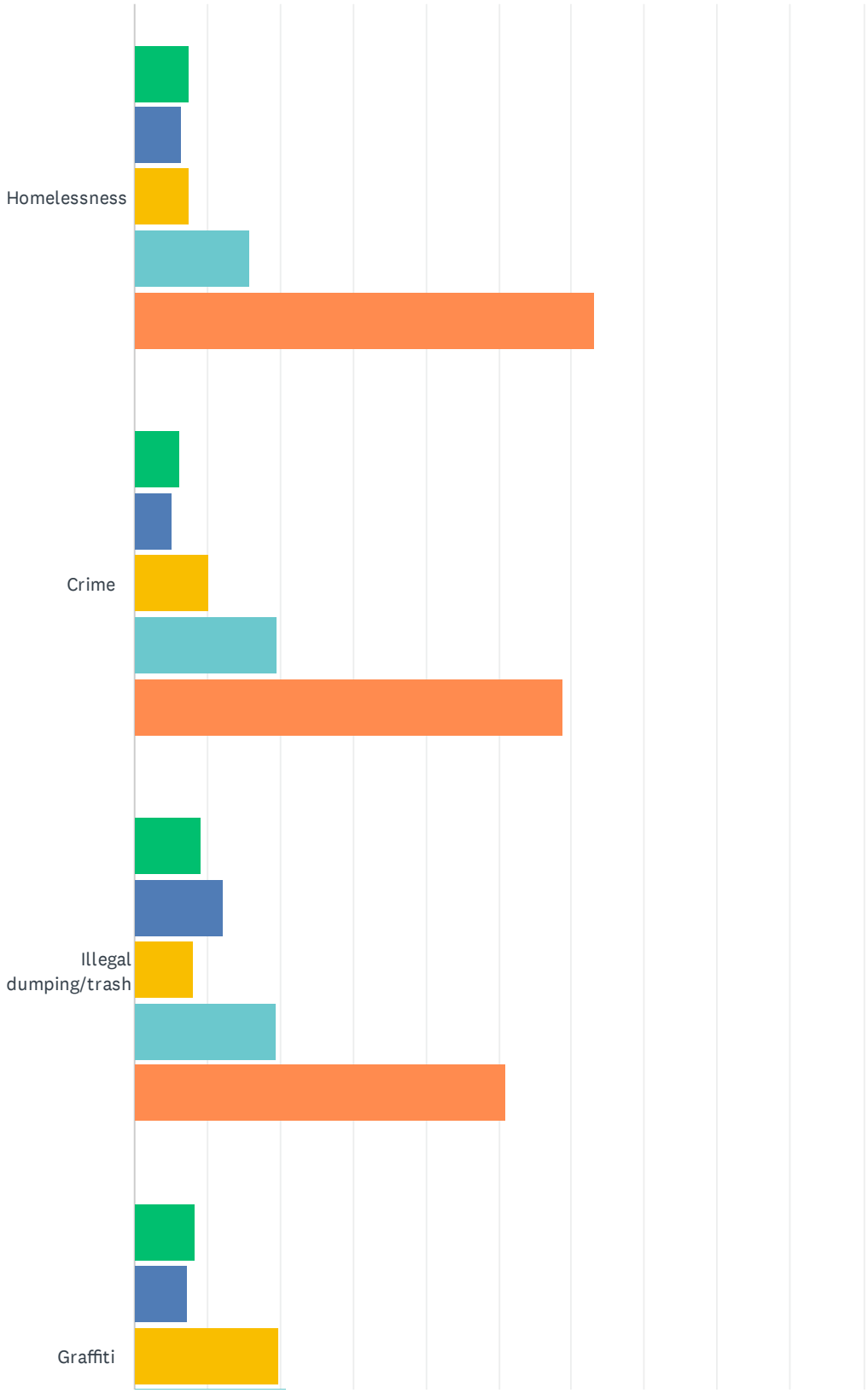


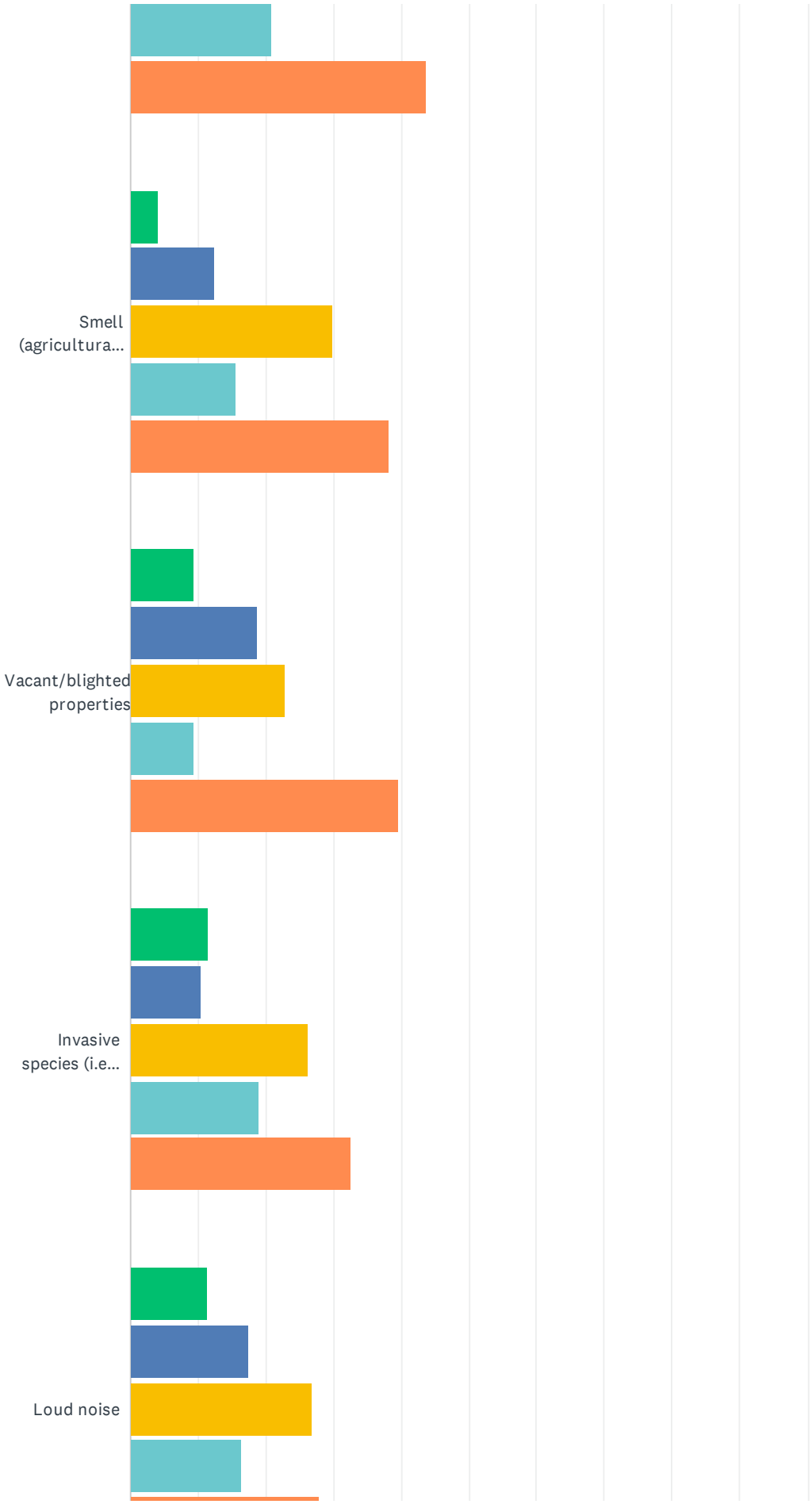


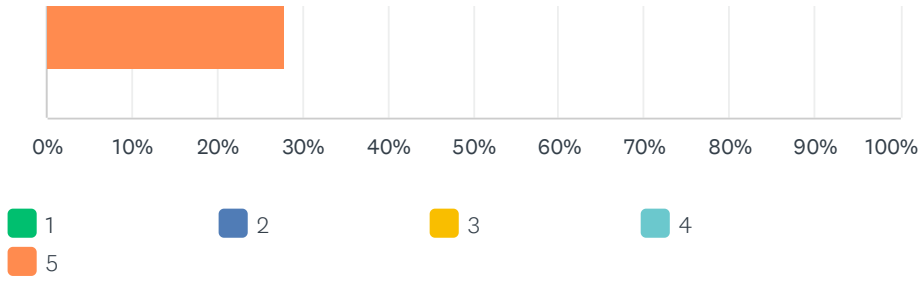
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Old/damaged pipes	4.12% 4	6.19% 6	10.31% 10	13.40% 13	65.98% 64	97	4.31
Contaminated water	4.08% 4	6.12% 6	13.27% 13	12.24% 12	64.29% 63	98	4.27
Pollution in streams/rivers	4.12% 4	7.22% 7	16.49% 16	9.28% 9	62.89% 61	97	4.20
Availability of clean water	7.14% 7	9.18% 9	10.20% 10	12.24% 12	61.22% 60	98	4.11

Q5 How concerned are you regarding the following community issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



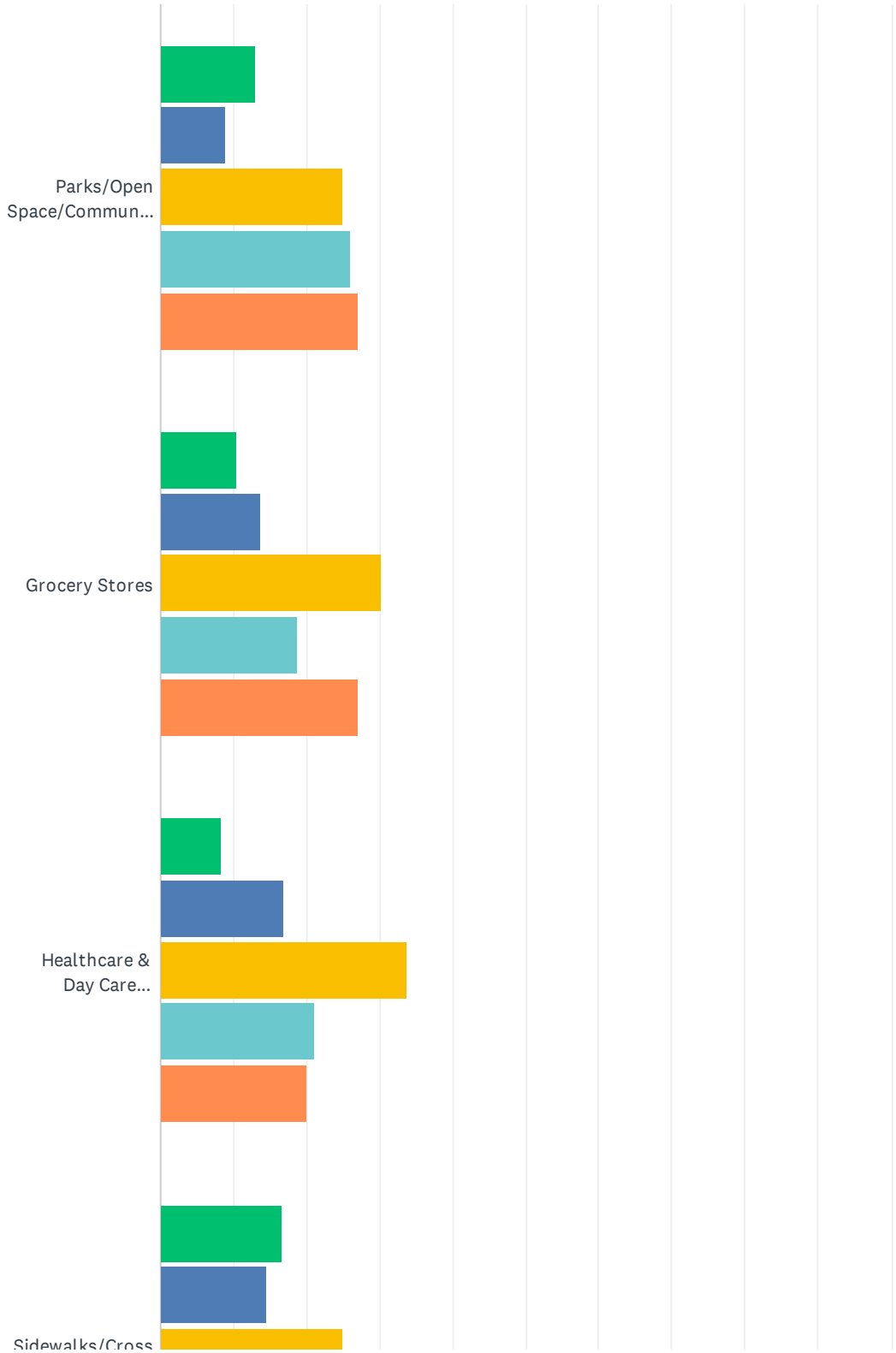

Smell (agricultura...
Vacant/blighted properties
Invasive species (i.e...
Loud noise

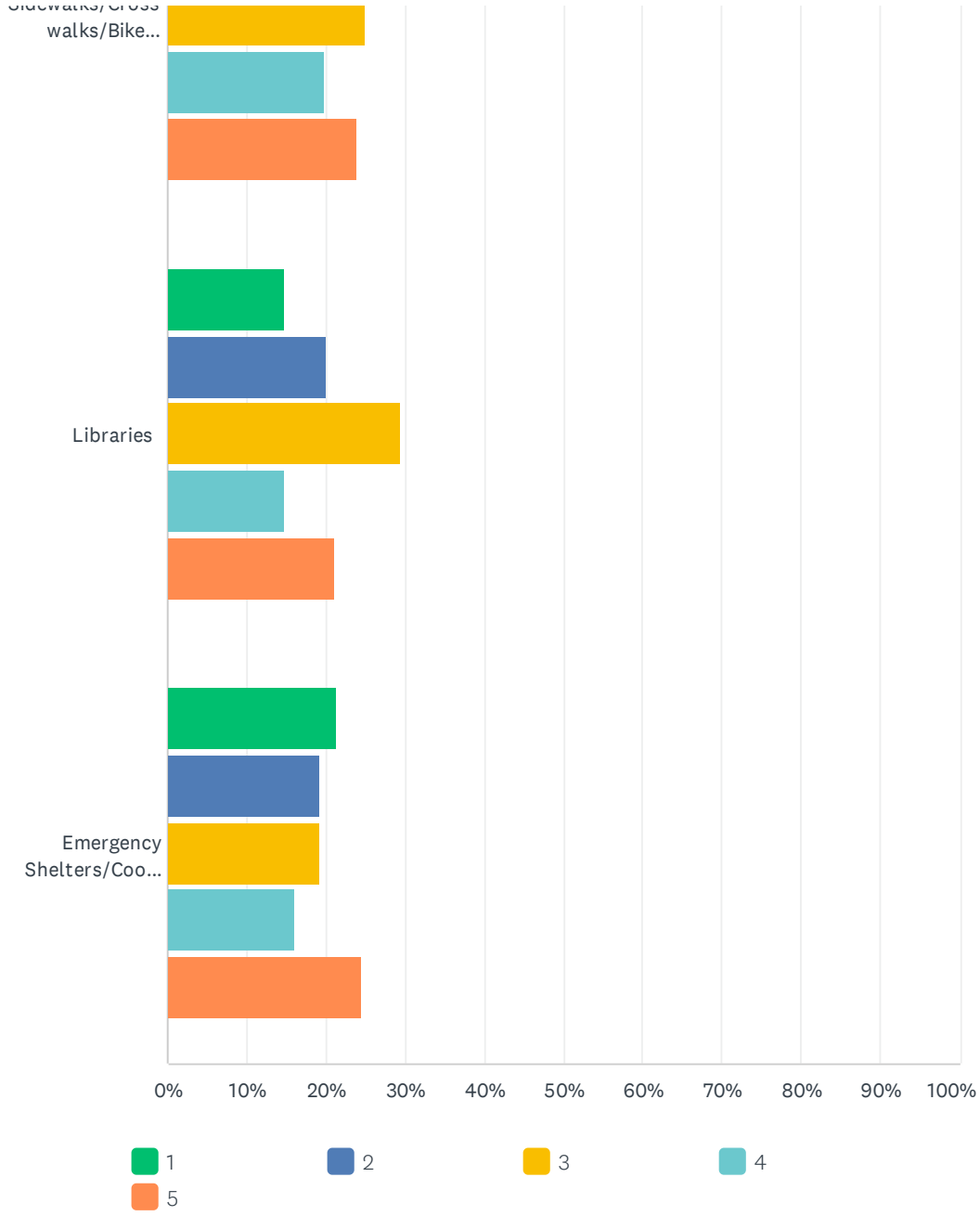


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Homelessness	7.37% 7	6.32% 6	7.37% 7	15.79% 15	63.16% 60	95	4.21
Crime	6.19% 6	5.15% 5	10.31% 10	19.59% 19	58.76% 57	97	4.20
Illegal dumping/trash	9.18% 9	12.24% 12	8.16% 8	19.39% 19	51.02% 50	98	3.91
Graffiti	8.33% 8	7.29% 7	19.79% 19	20.83% 20	43.75% 42	96	3.84
Smell (agricultural/industrial facilities)	4.12% 4	12.37% 12	29.90% 29	15.46% 15	38.14% 37	97	3.71
Vacant/blighted properties	9.38% 9	18.75% 18	22.92% 22	9.38% 9	39.58% 38	96	3.51
Invasive species (i.e., weeds, animals, bugs, etc.)	11.58% 11	10.53% 10	26.32% 25	18.95% 18	32.63% 31	95	3.51
Loud noise	11.34% 11	17.53% 17	26.80% 26	16.49% 16	27.84% 27	97	3.32

Q6 How do you feel about the following public facilities/services in the City? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being facilities/services are not available or are poor 5 being facilities/services are available and are good)

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1




walks/Bike...
Libraries
Emergency Shelters/Coo...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1
2
3
4
5

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Parks/Open Space/Community Center/Gardens (including greenspaces/shade trees/landscaping)	13.00% 13	9.00% 9	25.00% 25	26.00% 26	27.00% 27	100	3.45
Grocery Stores	10.42% 10	13.54% 13	30.21% 29	18.75% 18	27.08% 26	96	3.39
Healthcare & Day Care Facilities	8.42% 8	16.84% 16	33.68% 32	21.05% 20	20.00% 19	95	3.27
Sidewalks/Crosswalks/Bike Routes/Public Transit	16.67% 16	14.58% 14	25.00% 24	19.79% 19	23.96% 23	96	3.20
Libraries	14.74% 14	20.00% 19	29.47% 28	14.74% 14	21.05% 20	95	3.07
Emergency Shelters/Cooling Stations	21.28% 20	19.15% 18	19.15% 18	15.96% 15	24.47% 23	94	3.03

Q7 How safe is your Bell Gardens neighborhood? (1 star being not safe and 5 stars being very safe)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

3.2★
average rating



	VERY UNSAFE	UNSAFE	NEUTRAL	SAFE	VERY SAFE	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	3.96% 4	12.87% 13	39.60% 40	32.67% 33	4.95% 5	5.94% 6	101	3.23

Q8 How well maintained are the homes in your neighborhood? (1 star being not safe and 5 stars being very safe)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

2.7★
average rating



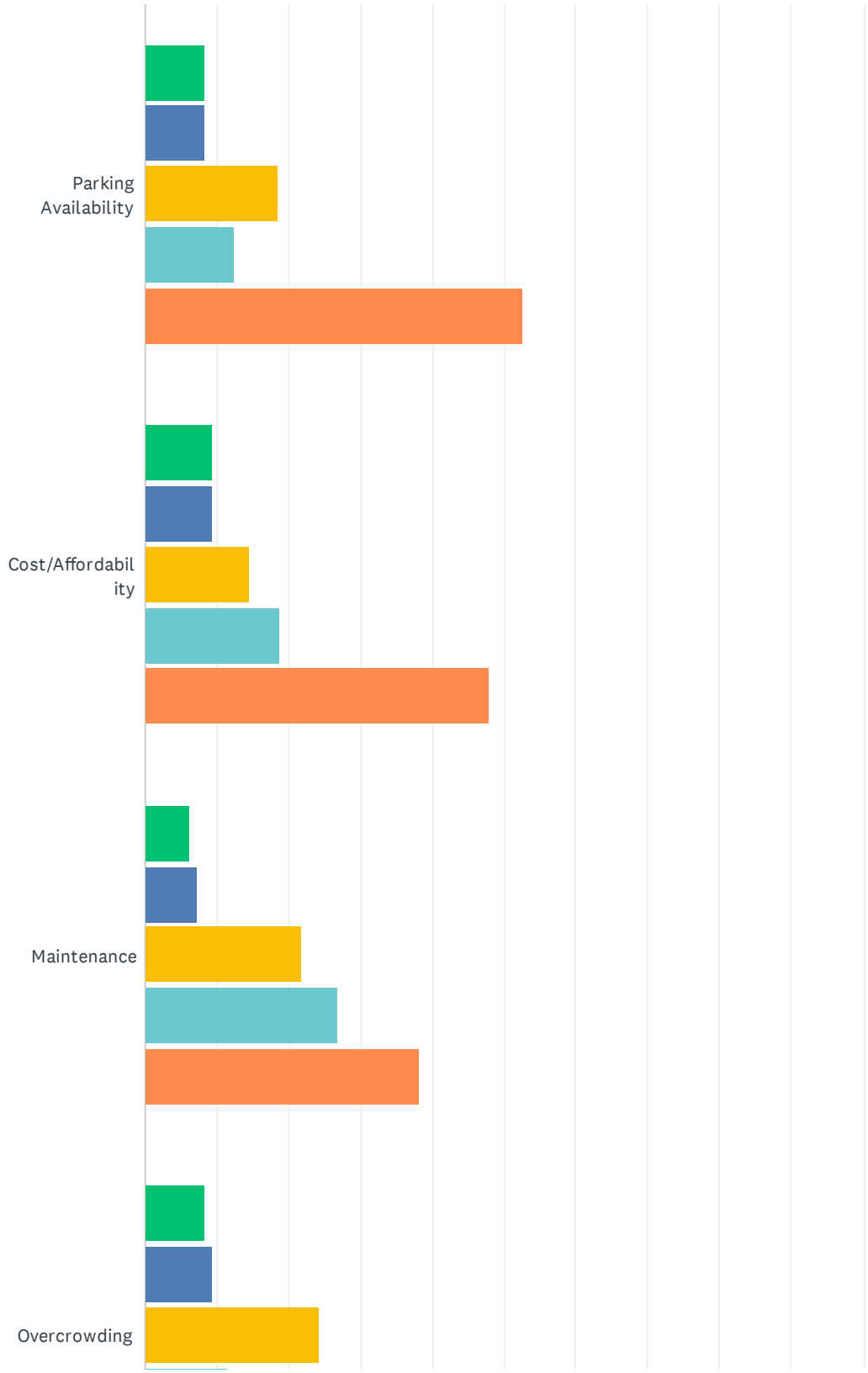
	NOT WELL MAINTAINED	MINIMALLY MAINTAINED	MAINTAINED	WELL MAINTAINED	VERY WELL MAINTAINED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	13.86% 14	25.74% 26	45.54% 46	8.91% 9	5.94% 6	101	2.67

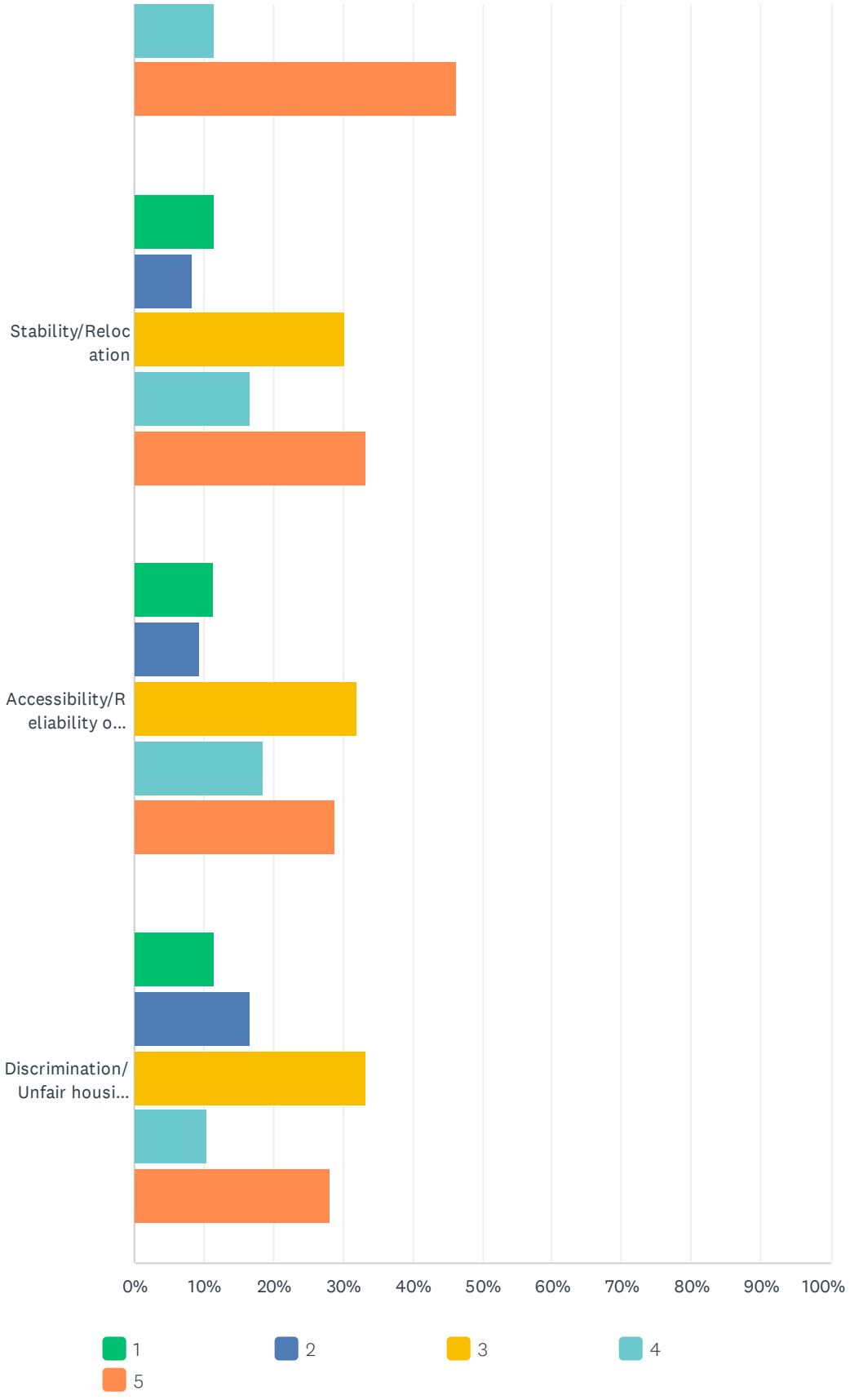
Q9 What types of improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 35

Q10 Please rank your concerns about housing (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not worried and 5 being very worried)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

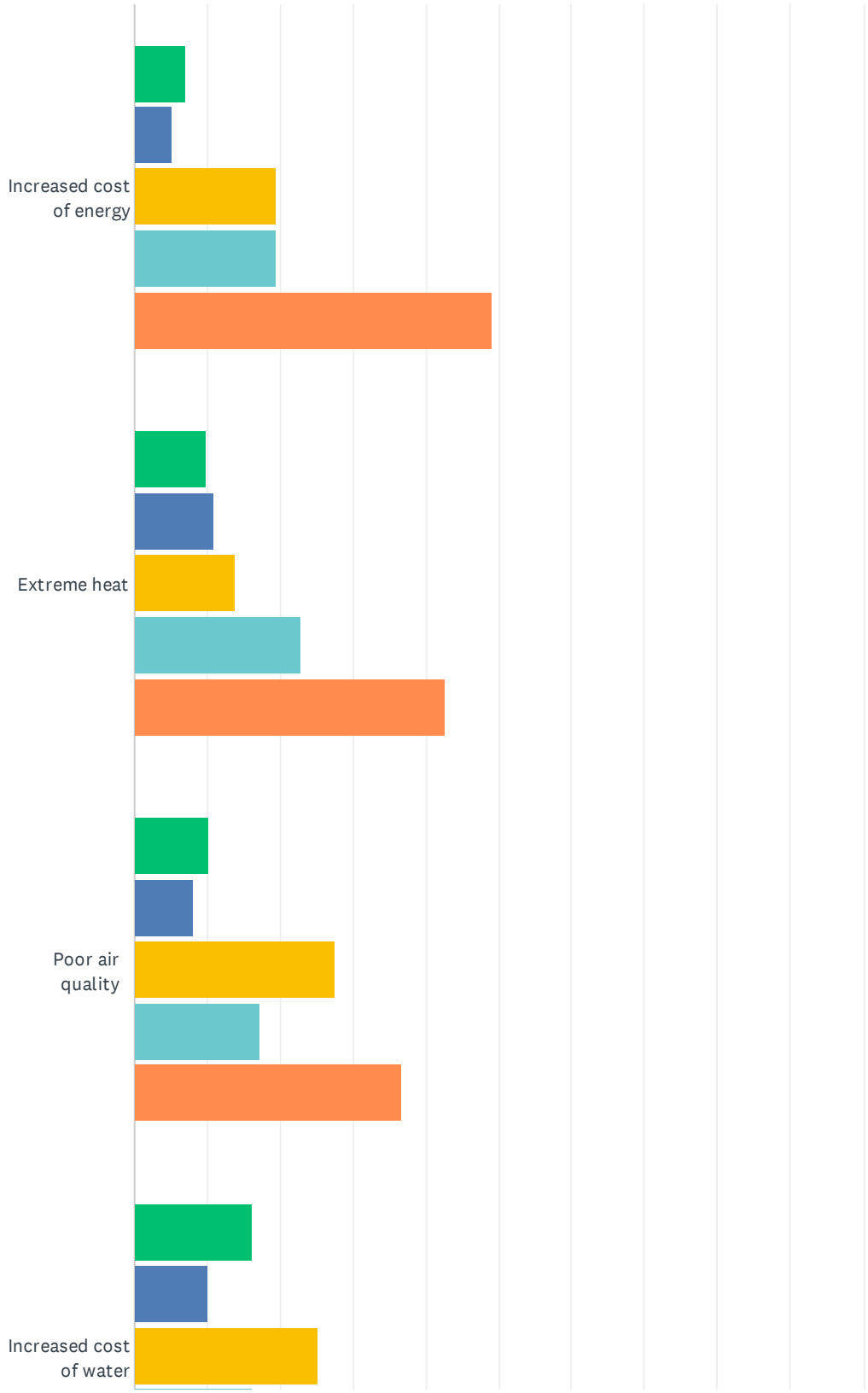


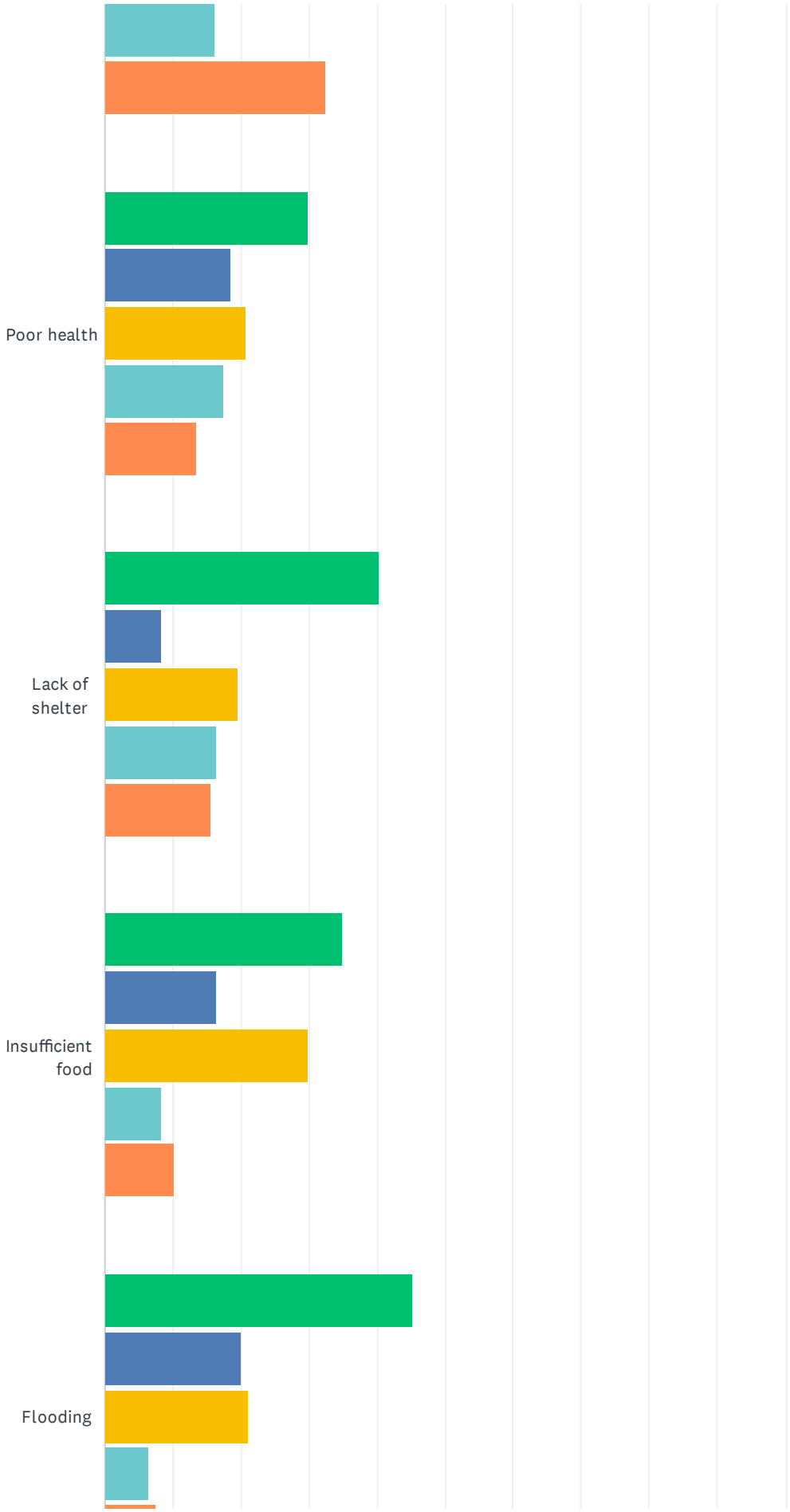

Stability/Relocation
Accessibility/Reliability o...
Discrimination/ Unfair housi...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1
2
3
4
5

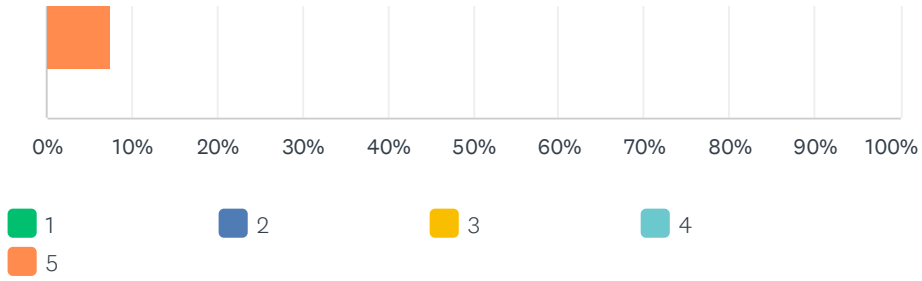
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Parking Availability	8.25% 8	8.25% 8	18.56% 18	12.37% 12	52.58% 51	97	3.93
Cost/Affordability	9.38% 9	9.38% 9	14.58% 14	18.75% 18	47.92% 46	96	3.86
Maintenance	6.19% 6	7.22% 7	21.65% 21	26.80% 26	38.14% 37	97	3.84
Overcrowding	8.42% 8	9.47% 9	24.21% 23	11.58% 11	46.32% 44	95	3.78
Stability/Relocation	11.46% 11	8.33% 8	30.21% 29	16.67% 16	33.33% 32	96	3.52
Accessibility/Reliability of Utilities	11.34% 11	9.28% 9	31.96% 31	18.56% 18	28.87% 28	97	3.44
Discrimination/ Unfair housing practices	11.46% 11	16.67% 16	33.33% 32	10.42% 10	28.13% 27	96	3.27

Q11 Have you been affected by Climate Change? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not affected and 5 being strongly affected)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



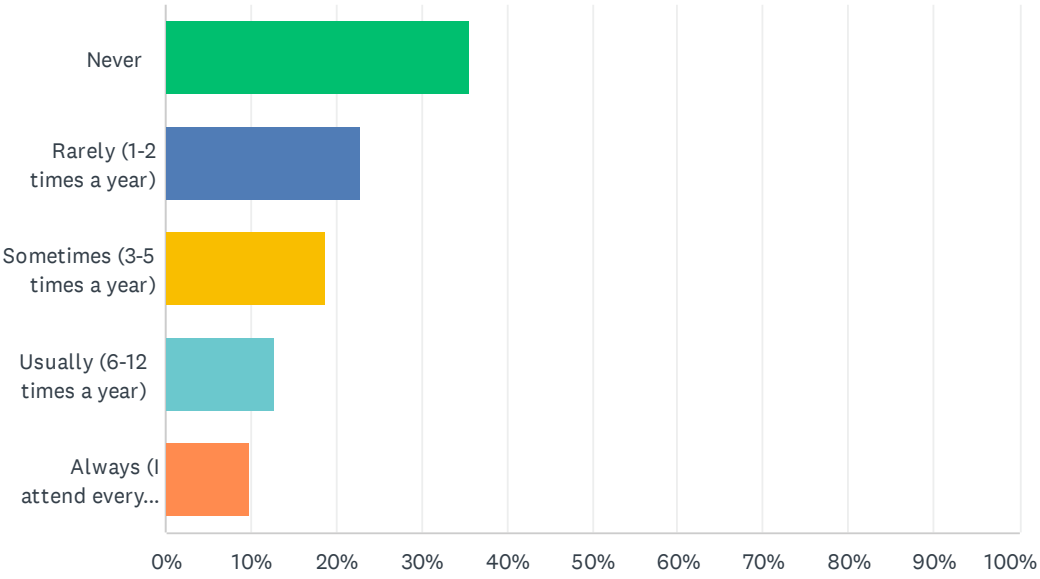

Poor health
Lack of shelter
Insufficient food
Flooding



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Increased cost of energy	7.14% 7	5.10% 5	19.39% 19	19.39% 19	48.98% 48	98	3.98
Extreme heat	9.90% 10	10.89% 11	13.86% 14	22.77% 23	42.57% 43	101	3.77
Poor air quality	10.20% 10	8.16% 8	27.55% 27	17.35% 17	36.73% 36	98	3.62
Increased cost of water	16.16% 16	10.10% 10	25.25% 25	16.16% 16	32.32% 32	99	3.38
Poor health	29.90% 29	18.56% 18	20.62% 20	17.53% 17	13.40% 13	97	2.66
Lack of shelter	40.21% 39	8.25% 8	19.59% 19	16.49% 16	15.46% 15	97	2.59
Insufficient food	35.05% 34	16.49% 16	29.90% 29	8.25% 8	10.31% 10	97	2.42
Flooding	45.26% 43	20.00% 19	21.05% 20	6.32% 6	7.37% 7	95	2.11

Q12 How often do you participate in City Council or Commission meetings?

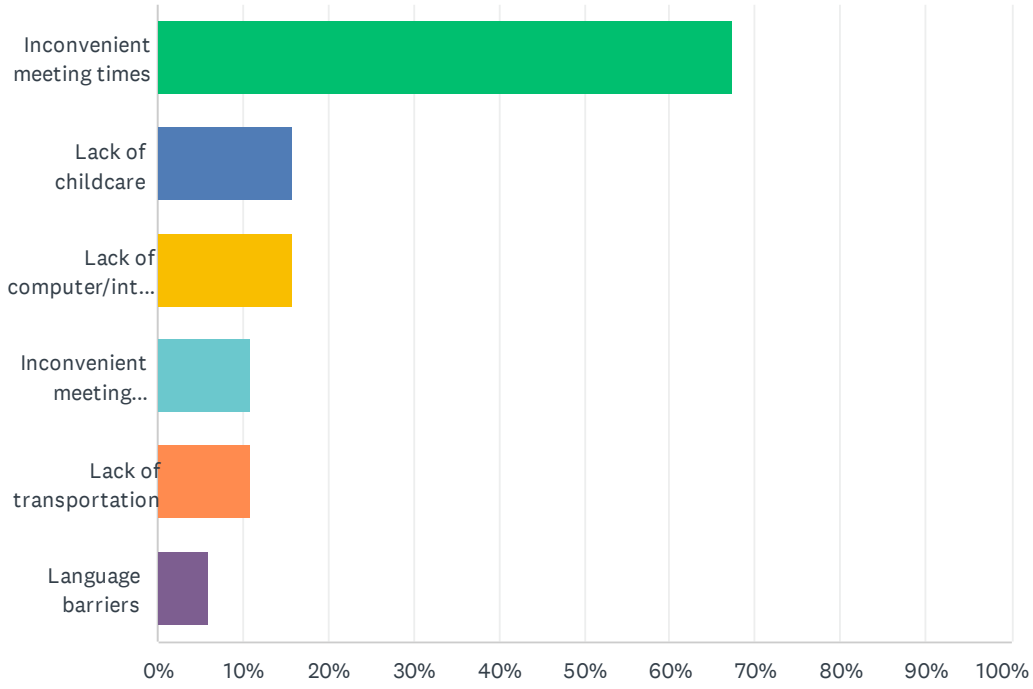
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	35.64%	36
Rarely (1-2 times a year)	22.77%	23
Sometimes (3-5 times a year)	18.81%	19
Usually (6-12 times a year)	12.87%	13
Always (I attend every meeting)	9.90%	10
TOTAL		101

Q13 If you don't always participate in council or commission meetings, what are the barriers to attending? (Check all that apply)

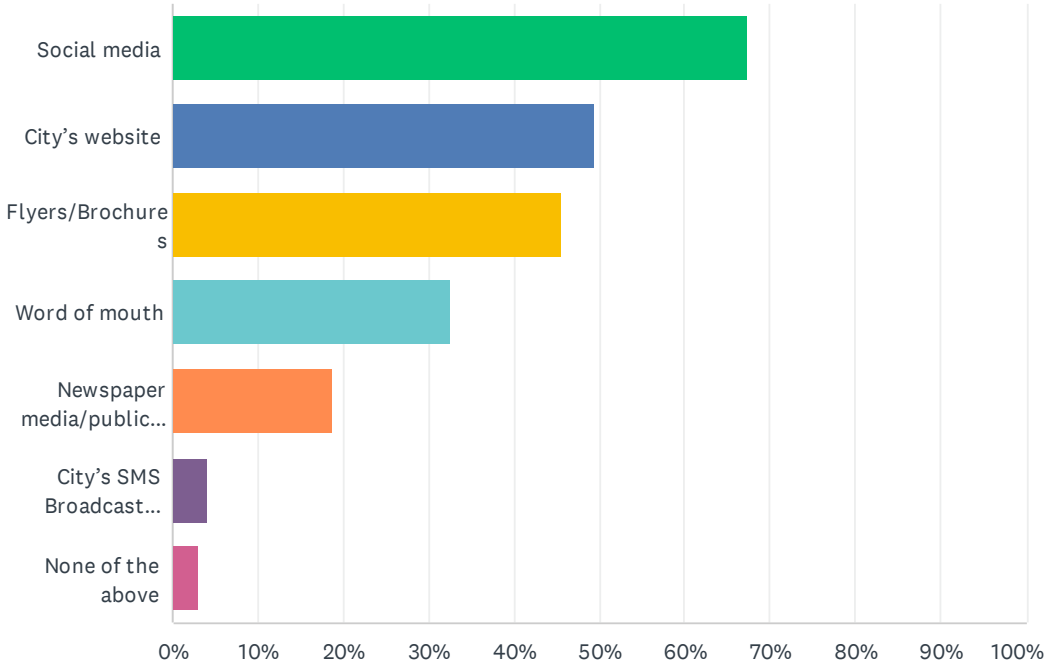
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Inconvenient meeting times	67.33%	68
Lack of childcare	15.84%	16
Lack of computer/internet access	15.84%	16
Inconvenient meeting locations	10.89%	11
Lack of transportation	10.89%	11
Language barriers	5.94%	6
Total Respondents: 101		

Q14 How do you obtain information from the City? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social media	67.33%	68
City's website	49.50%	50
Flyers/Brochures	45.54%	46
Word of mouth	32.67%	33
Newspaper media/publications	18.81%	19
City's SMS Broadcast Service	3.96%	4
None of the above	2.97%	3
Total Respondents: 101		

Q15 Do you feel like your interests and concerns are being heard? (on a scale of 1 star-5 stars, 1 being not heard and 5 being heard)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

2.8★

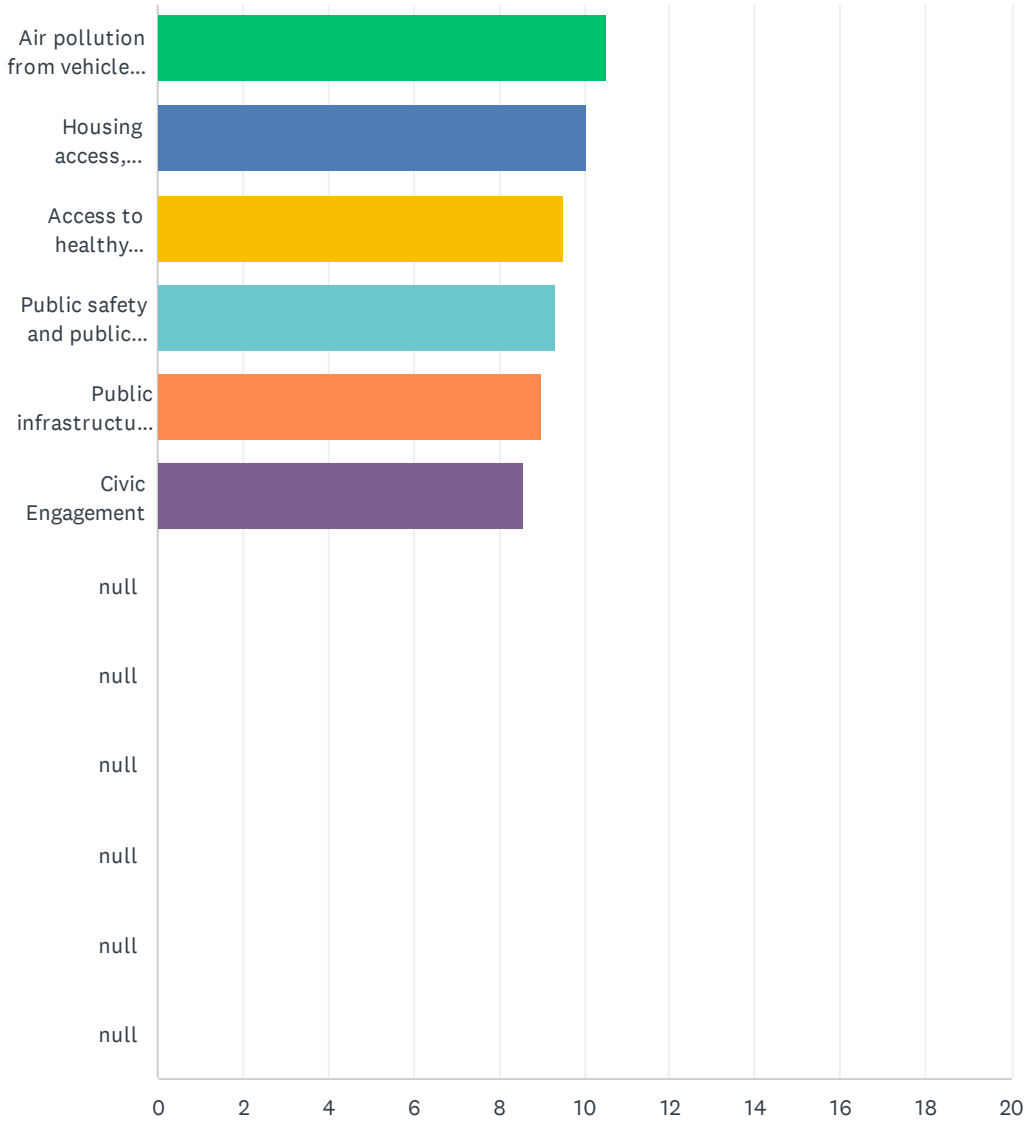
average rating



	NOT HEARD	MINIMALLY HEARD	NEUTRAL	HEARD	WELL HEARD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	11.88% 12	19.80% 20	48.51% 49	14.85% 15	4.95% 5	101	2.81

Q16 What Environmental Justice areas are you concerned with: (rank the following)

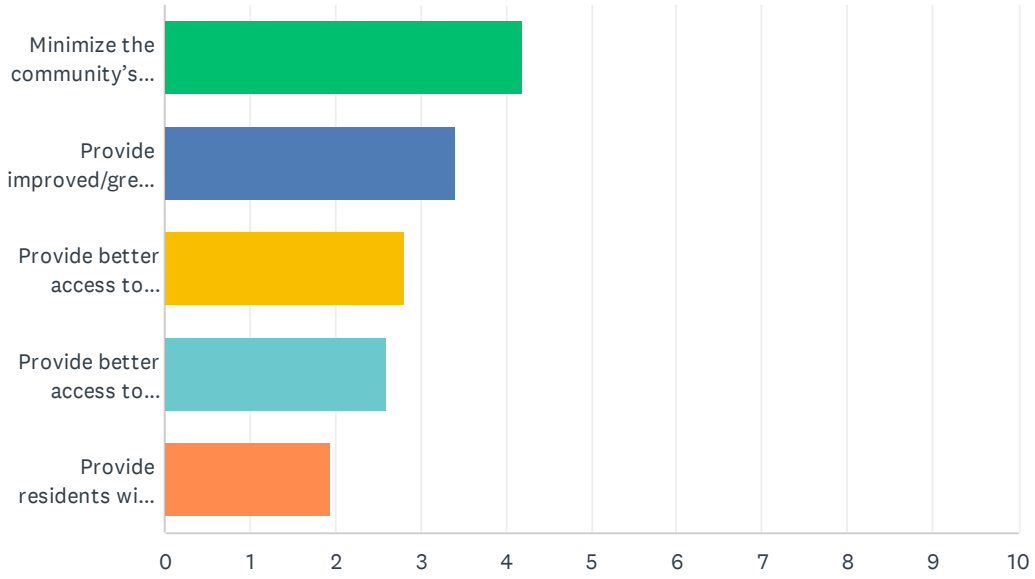
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Air pollution from vehicles & industrial uses	40.59% 41	21.78% 22	13.86% 14	7.92% 8	7.92% 8	7.92% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Housing access, affordability & stability (including housing maintenance)	22.77% 23	17.82% 18	25.74% 26	14.85% 15	12.87% 13	5.94% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Access to healthy Food/grocery stores	12.87% 13	18.81% 19	18.81% 19	20.79% 21	13.86% 14	14.85% 15	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Public safety and public services	12.87% 13	20.79% 21	16.83% 17	13.86% 14	6.93% 7	28.71% 29	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Public infrastructure, facilities and transportation	7.92% 8	12.87% 13	15.84% 16	14.85% 15	30.69% 31	17.82% 18	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Civic Engagement	2.97% 3	7.92% 8	8.91% 9	27.72% 28	27.72% 28	24.75% 25	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00

Q17 What are your goals for the Environmental Justice Element? (rank the following)

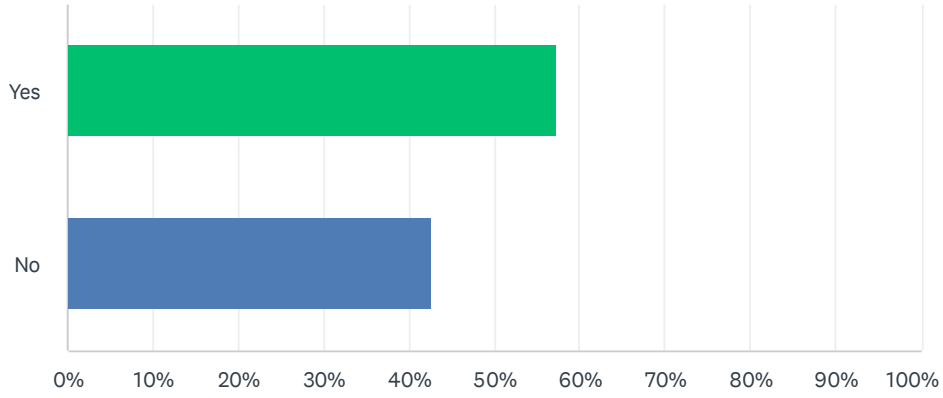
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Minimize the community's exposure to environmental pollution.	59.41% 60	21.78% 22	7.92% 8	1.98% 2	8.91% 9	101	4.21
Provide improved/greater public facilities and services to the community.	9.90% 10	46.53% 47	23.76% 24	14.85% 15	4.95% 5	101	3.42
Provide better access to affordable, safe, and sanitary housing.	18.81% 19	11.88% 12	16.83% 17	36.63% 37	15.84% 16	101	2.81
Provide better access to affordable, reliable, and safe public transportation.	1.98% 2	11.88% 12	43.56% 44	30.69% 31	11.88% 12	101	2.61
Provide residents with more opportunities to be informed and engaged.	9.90% 10	7.92% 8	7.92% 8	15.84% 16	58.42% 59	101	1.95

Q18 Do you care to provide demographic information about you and your household?

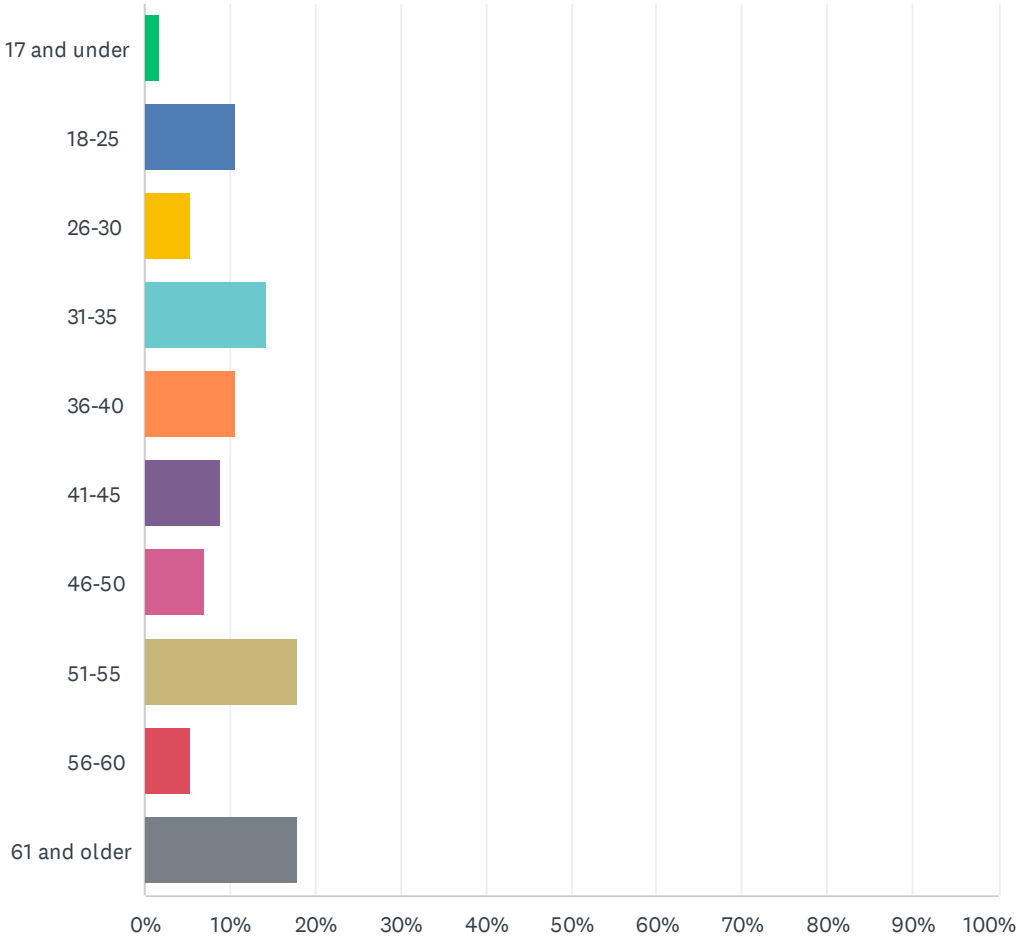
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.43%	58
No	42.57%	43
TOTAL		101

Q19 What is your age group?

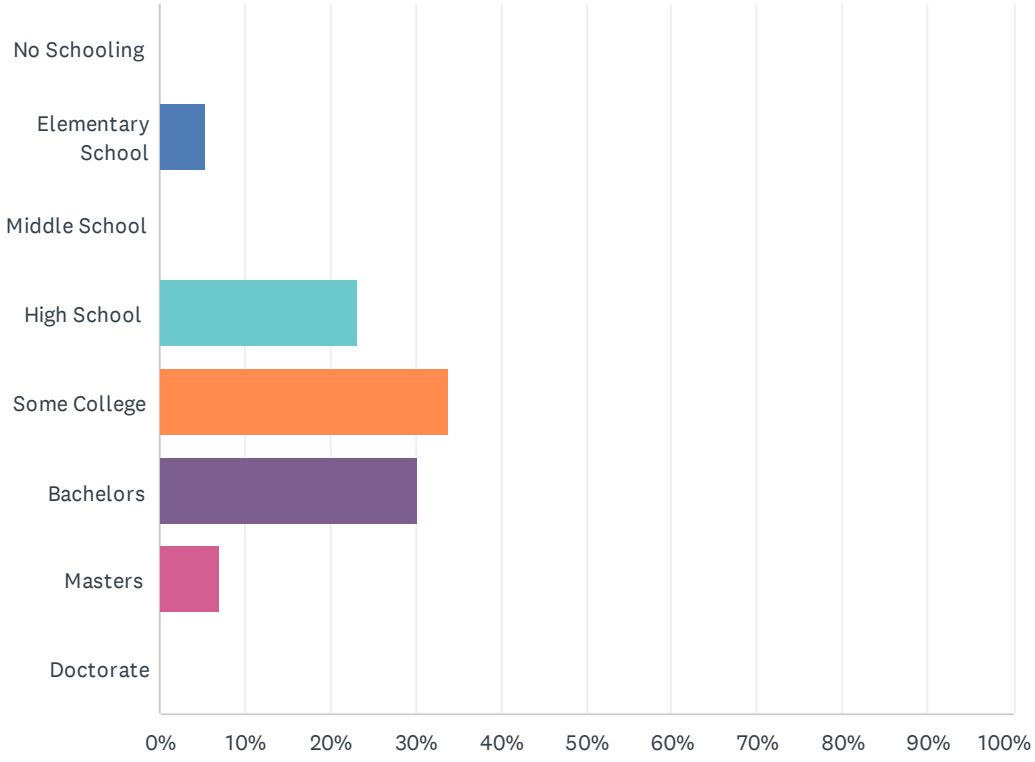
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 and under	1.79%	1
18-25	10.71%	6
26-30	5.36%	3
31-35	14.29%	8
36-40	10.71%	6
41-45	8.93%	5
46-50	7.14%	4
51-55	17.86%	10
56-60	5.36%	3
61 and older	17.86%	10
TOTAL		56

Q20 What is your highest educational level?

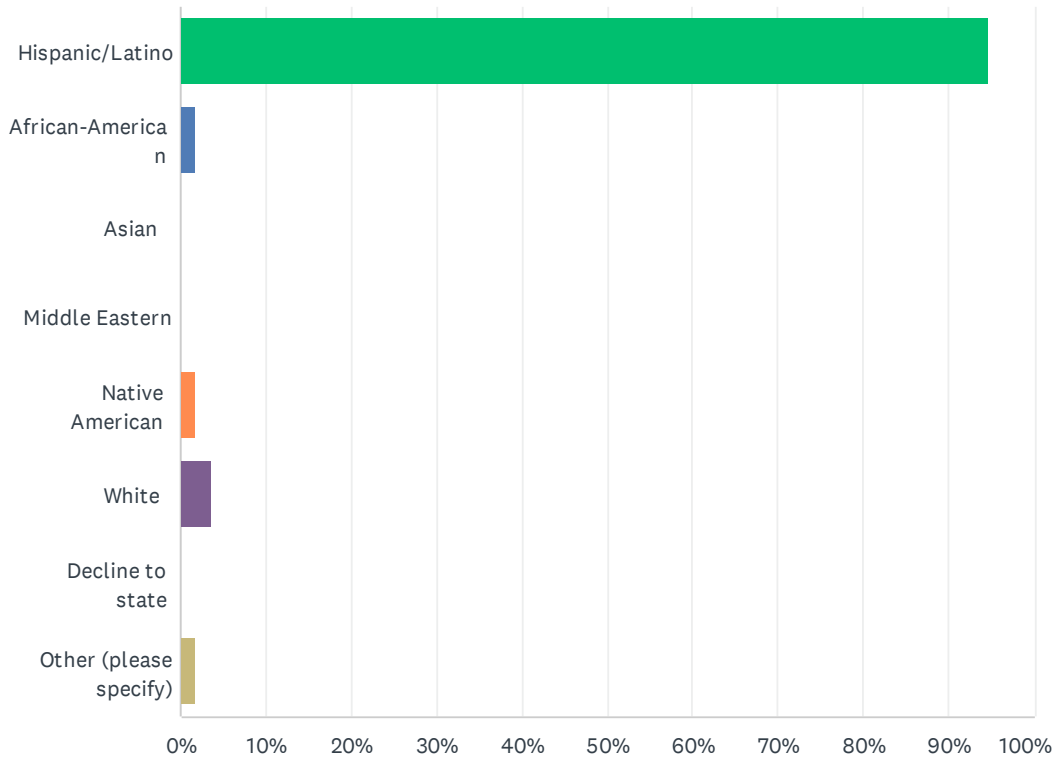
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Schooling	0.00%	0
Elementary School	5.36%	3
Middle School	0.00%	0
High School	23.21%	13
Some College	33.93%	19
Bachelors	30.36%	17
Masters	7.14%	4
Doctorate	0.00%	0
TOTAL		56

Q21 Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

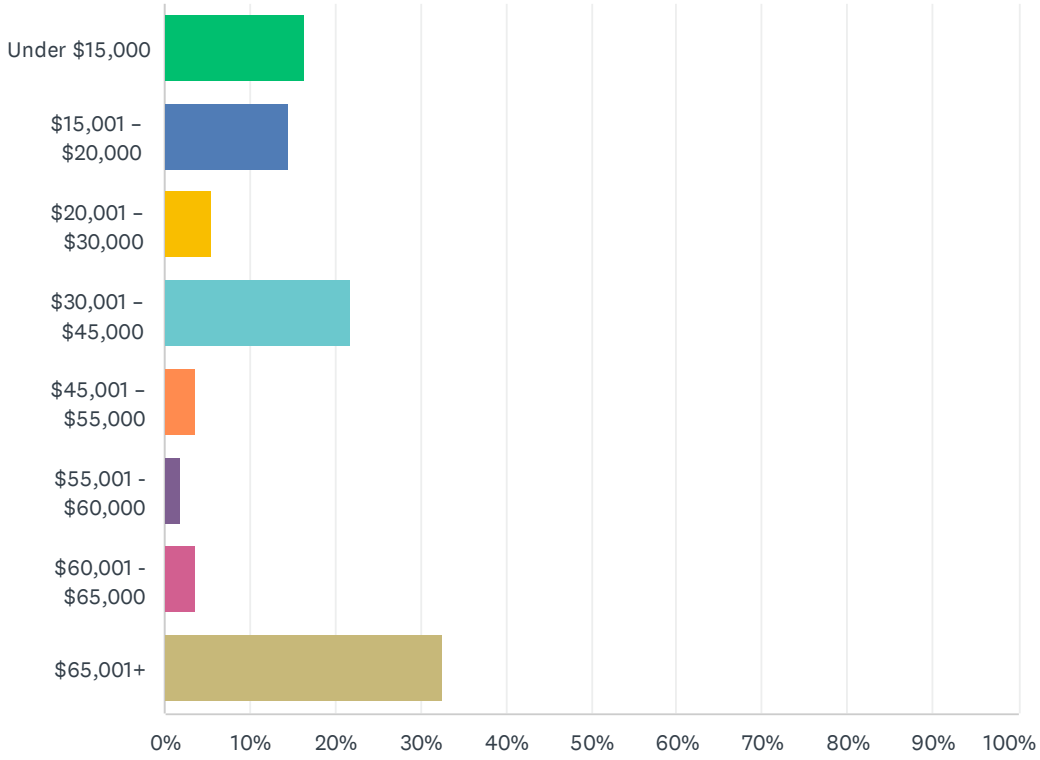
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hispanic/Latino	94.64%	53
African-American	1.79%	1
Asian	0.00%	0
Middle Eastern	0.00%	0
Native American	1.79%	1
White	3.57%	2
Decline to state	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.79%	1
Total Respondents: 56		

Q22 What is your yearly household/family income?

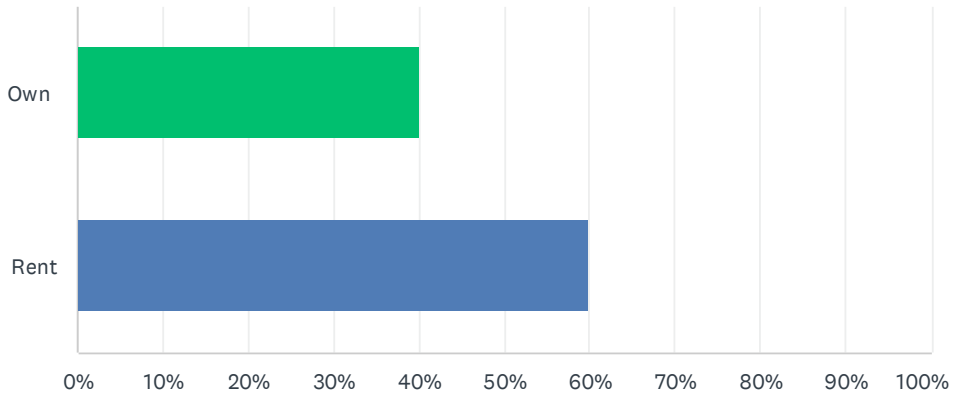
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under $15,000	16.36%	9
$15,001 – $20,000	14.55%	8
$20,001 – $30,000	5.45%	3
$30,001 – $45,000	21.82%	12
$45,001 – $55,000	3.64%	2
$55,001 - $60,000	1.82%	1
$60,001 - $65,000	3.64%	2
$65,001+	32.73%	18
TOTAL		55

Q23 Do you own or rent your home?

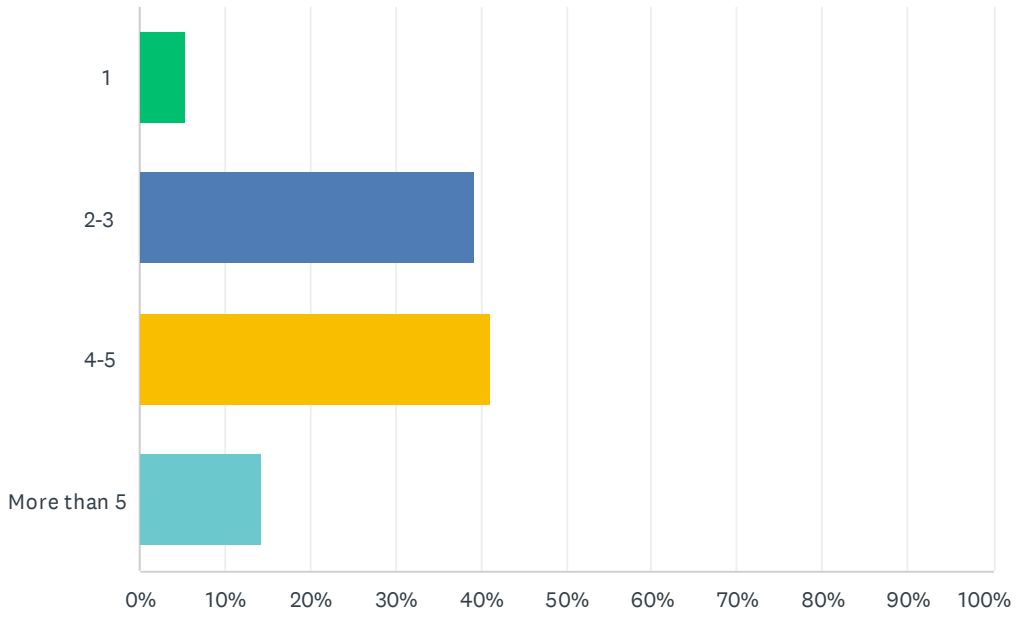
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	40.00%	22
Rent	60.00%	33
TOTAL		55

Q24 How many people live in your home?

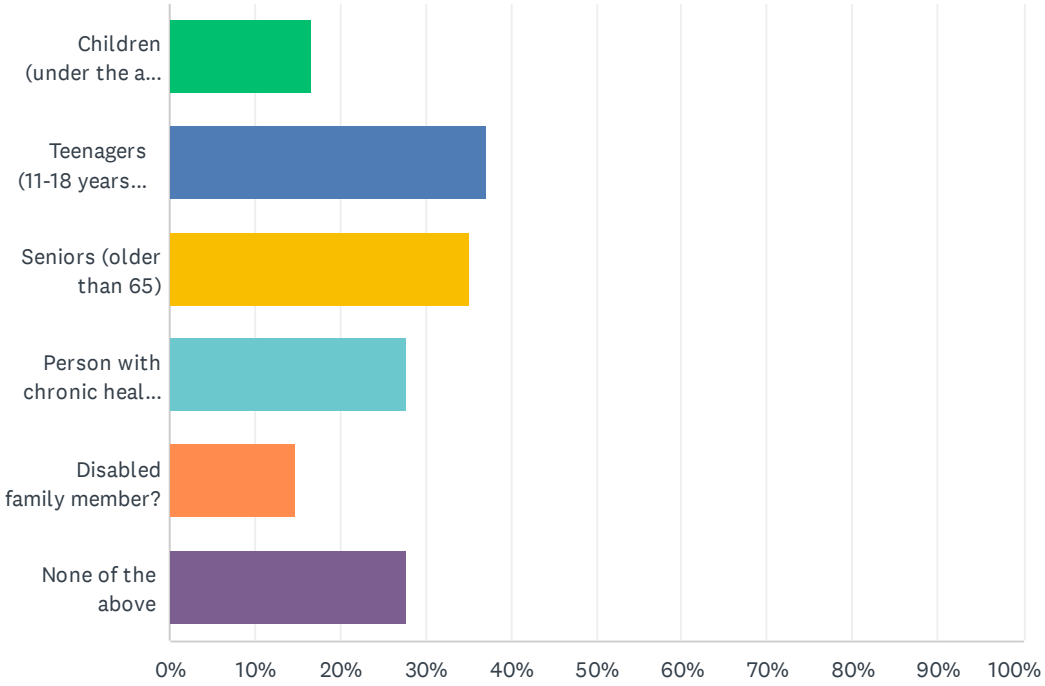
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	5.36%	3
2-3	39.29%	22
4-5	41.07%	23
More than 5	14.29%	8
TOTAL		56

Q25 Does your household/family include any of the following:

Answered: 54 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Children (under the age of 10)	16.67%	9
Teenagers (11-18 years old)	37.04%	20
Seniors (older than 65)	35.19%	19
Person with chronic health concerns (asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.)	27.78%	15
Disabled family member?	14.81%	8
None of the above	27.78%	15
Total Respondents: 54		

Q26 Are there any additional topics or comments that you would like to add?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 76

Q27 Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding updates regarding the environmental justice plan? Please provide a name, cell phone number, or e-mail address.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 77

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	95.83%	23
Cell phone number	66.67%	16
E-mail	66.67%	16

STAKEHOLDERS

Business	Address	Email	Phone	
Abode Communities		info@abodecommunities.org		
Abode Communities		info@abodecommunities.org		
American Legion Post 465	7550 Eastern Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201			
Azure Development		info@azuredevelopmentco.com		
Bell Gardens Chamber of Commerce	6119 Agra Street	info@bellgardenschamber.biz	562-291-0492	
Bell Gardens Community Services Center	8000 Park Ln, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	bgcommunity@bellgardens.org		
Bell Gardens Convalescent Center/ Briarcrest Nursing Home		business-office@BriarcrestNursing.com	562-927-2641	
Bell Gardens Family Medical Center	6501 Garfield Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	CMuniz@fhccgla.org	(562) 928-9600	
Bell Gardens Lions Club		bglions@hotmail.com		
Bell Gardens Neighborhood Watch		mtrevis@bgpd.org		
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice		info@clrj.org		
Del Rio Convalescent Center	7004 E Gage Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		(562) 927-6586	
East Rancho Dominguez Service Center		TBrookins@wdacs.lacounty.gov		
Fraternal Order of Eagles		fraternaleagles@sbcglobal.net		
Habitat for Humanity		USSupportCenter@habitat.org		
Human Services Association	6800 Florence Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	ricardo.mota@hsala.org	(562) 806-5400	
East Yard Community for EJ - Laura Cortez	2317 Atlantic Blvd, Commerce CA 90040	Laurac.eycej@gmail.com		
Luis Rincon		lrincon7777@gmail.com		
Maravilla Foundation		Info@Maravilla.org		
Mayans Development		scott@mayansdevelopment.com		
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation		rrla@maof.org		
National Core		info@nationalcore.org		
New Image Emergency Shelter		newimage-inc@msn.com		
Olson Company	3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100, Seal Beach, CA 90740	tolson@theolsonco.com	(562) 596-4770	
Park View Terrace	6728 Clara St, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		562-928-0348	
Patel		dpatel@kamlahotels.com		
Public Counsel- Brandon Payette		bpayette@publiccounsel.org		
Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors	10900 E. 183rd Street Suite #120, Cerritos, CA 90703	administrative@ranchosoutheast.com	562-860-5536	
Rio Hondo Boys and Girls Club	7104 Perry Rd, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	info@bgcmla.org	(562) 231-2500	
Salvation Army Homeless Shelter		Steve.Lytle@usw.salvationarmy.org		
San Pedro Region of Catholic Charities		bhackman@ccharities.org		
Steven Senemar	18340 YORBA LINDA BLVD # 107 YORBA LINDA, CA 92886	sencollc@hotmail.com	323-589-7700	
Sunrise Community Counseling		info@sunriseccc.org		
TELACU Development Corporation		info@TELACU.com		
Terra Bella	5720 Clara Street *Bell Gardens* , CA 90201	info@terrabellamanagement.com	562.479.0101	
The Enki Center			562) 806-5000	
The Lee Group	475 WASHINGTON BLVD, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292			
Tony Lee		tonylee98@gmail.com	562-688-2505	
Westminster Court	6850 Florence Ave., Bell Gardens, CA 90201	valeria.cabrera@humangood.org	(562) 806-2893	
Young at Heart Senior Citizens Group	6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens, CA, 90201	YAHRICK@outlook.com	775-782-5500	
		darren.dunaway@hsala.org		
Gabriel Garcia		gabriel@coreinvestments.com	323-855-3696	
Neighborhood Watch - Hannali Paniagua - Coordinator	7100 Garfield Ave	hpaniagua@bgpd.org	562-806-7686	562-843-4139 (mobile)
64th District Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco - Kayla Terraza (Field Representatve)	8255 Firestone Blvd., Ste 203, Downey CA 90241	Kayla.Terrazas@asm.ca.gov	562-861-5803	

APPENDIX B

CalEnviroScreen Data

CalEnviroScreen 4.0: City of Bell Gardens

Census Tract	Total Population	California County	ZIP	Approximate Location	Longitude	Latitude	CES 4.0 Score	CES 4.0 Percentile	CES 4.0 Percentile Range	Ozone
6037534202	5748	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1611	33.9596	73.82	99.56	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.046
6037534201	4768	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1673	33.95804	72.69	99.43	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.046
6037534102	6219	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1616	33.97021	71.90	99.34	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.047
6037534203	3206	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1515	33.95838	66.73	98.36	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.046
6037534101	2358	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1658	33.97184	63.32	97.23	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.047
6037533902	4049	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1537	33.96744	62.81	97.02	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.047
6037533901	6320	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1555	33.97401	60.67	96.13	**95-100% (highest scores)**	0.047
6037534001	5125	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.1469	33.96793	54.34	91.97	**90-95%**	0.047
6037534002	4628	Los Angeles	90201	Bell Gardens	-118.14	33.96748	43.13	79.70	**75-80%**	0.047

OEHHA and CalEPA. 2021. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Available online at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/, accessed December 16, 2022.

Census Tract	Ozone Pctl	PM2.5	PM2.5 Pctl	Diesel PM	Diesel PM Pctl	Drinking Water	Drinking Water Pctl	Lead	Lead Pctl	Pesticides	Pesticides Pctl	Tox. Release
6037534202	46.99	12.02968	79.99	0.152	51.72	514.47	61.90	83.88	92.51	15.65	63.69	5064.103
6037534201	46.99	12.02968	79.99	0.884	97.41	514.47	61.90	86.03	94.08	7.89	58.34	5507.243
6037534102	50.54	12.02588	79.78	0.318	78.25	518.16	62.27	91.70	97.92	31.25	69.34	4410.2
6037534203	46.99	12.08187	83.20	0.142	49.20	514.47	61.90	76.76	86.31	2.25	48.45	5173.513
6037534101	50.54	12.02588	79.78	0.894	97.51	514.16	61.83	90.86	97.39	25.17	67.59	4409.633
6037533902	50.54	12.00081	78.23	0.256	70.94	514.12	61.82	80.25	89.51	25.97	67.76	4385.8
6037533901	50.54	12.00081	78.23	0.365	82.36	514.70	61.91	89.27	96.18	20.53	66.10	4151.783
6037534001	50.54	12.13854	86.61	0.169	56.12	462.73	55.65	89.35	96.21	1.41	44.90	4180.83
6037534002	50.54	12.18882	88.09	0.209	63.72	465.50	55.90	86.94	94.66	0.00	0.00	4019.177

Census Tract	Tox. Release Pctl	Traffic	Traffic Pctl	Cleanup Sites	Cleanup Sites Pctl	Groundwater Threats	Groundwater Threats Pctl	Haz. Waste	Haz. Waste Pctl	Imp. Water Bodies	Imp. Water Bodies Pctl	Solid Waste
6037534202	92.55	755.4453	40.89	5.3	43.24	14	56.13	2.67	95.13	10	82.97	3.2
6037534201	93.32	3172.787	96.60	23.7	85.05	27.5	77.47	4.235	97.30	10	82.97	1.95
6037534102	90.92	1025.609	59.61	14.2	73.55	11	49.83	1.375	89.45	7	66.74	0.5
6037534203	92.74	925.9154	53.40	15.15	75.05	13	54.52	3.275	96.61	10	82.97	4.4
6037534101	90.90	3653.601	98.08	20.35	82.23	15	59.60	1.11	86.60	7	66.74	0.2
6037533902	90.82	846.9771	47.58	9.4	59.31	0.6	3.30	0.36	57.46	10	82.97	2.2
6037533901	90.00	781.72	42.86	26.4	87.08	15	59.60	0.85	82.54	7	66.74	0.5
6037534001	90.09	761.9842	41.40	31.4	89.34	6	35.02	0.1	16.64	10	82.97	2.4
6037534002	89.35	609.3405	29.15	44.95	94.81	22.5	71.69	0.085	11.08	7	66.74	5.1

Census Tract	Solid Waste Pctl	Pollution Burden	Pollution Burden Score	Pollution Burden Pctl	Asthma	Asthma Pctl	Low Birth Weight	Low Birth Weight Pctl	Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiovascular Disease Pctl	Education	Education Pctl
6037534202	64.40	66.98	8.18	96.99	54.25	62.08	6.21	79.19	23.93	96.68	53.5	97.84
6037534201	44.54	78.21	9.55	99.89	54.25	62.08	5.02	52.85	23.93	96.68	48.4	95.67
6037534102	22.08	69.16	8.44	98.05	54.25	62.08	5.08	54.62	23.93	96.68	51.4	97.22
6037534203	71.36	68.88	8.41	97.90	54.25	62.08	4.63	41.93	23.93	96.68	52.8	97.54
6037534101	9.67	73.96	9.03	99.39	52.71	59.90	2.87	7.78	23.15	95.45	46	94.25
6037533902	54.85	63.63	7.77	94.75	47.15	52.38	6.65	85.77	20.35	88.47	46.4	94.47
6037533901	22.08	68.55	8.37	97.75	46.84	51.78	4.12	29.46	20.19	87.96	48.4	95.67
6037534001	55.88	62.12	7.58	93.38	49.52	55.87	3.04	9.70	21.54	92.44	54.4	98.11
6037534002	75.95	60.63	7.40	91.72	36.38	35.43	2.7	6.07	15.43	68.89	47.2	94.84

Census Tract	Linguistic Isolation	Linguistic Isolation Pctl	Poverty	Poverty Pctl	Unemployment	Unemployment Pctl	Housing Burden	Housing Burden Pctl	Pop. Char.	Pop. Char. Score	Pop. Char. Pctl
6037534202	20.7	87.51	80.1	99.48	11.8	91.79	36.3	97.03	87.02	9.03	97.87
6037534201	22.7	89.93	61.9	92.94	2.7	13.18	29.3	89.38	73.38	7.61	84.35
6037534102	29.5	95.44	61.5	92.68	11.5	91.12	28.9	88.66	82.07	8.51	94.58
6037534203	33	96.86	62.6	93.39	6.4	61.53	25.3	81.04	76.49	7.93	88.63
6037534101	11.7	67.72	56.1	88.32	9.3	83.22	22	70.53	67.59	7.01	76.73
6037533902	13.7	73.37	58.8	90.74	5.5	51.26	30.9	91.90	77.94	8.09	90.23
6037533901	15.3	78.05	59.1	91.04	6.1	58.36	32.3	93.59	69.87	7.25	79.93
6037534001	29	95.18	54.5	86.62	6.8	65.63	25.6	81.84	69.07	7.17	79.01
6037534002	16	79.37	48.4	80.11	5.2	46.99	23.7	76.35	56.17	5.83	59.85

APPENDIX C

Community Engagement Report

Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Community Outreach Summary

To understands the needs and priority of the Bell Gardens community, the Project Team, working closely with the City of Bell Gardens, developed a plan to engage with residents and existing community groups, to engage with local businesses and to plan for equitable outcomes to serve the citizens of Bell Gardens.

The Project Team conducted a variety of outreach methods including online surveys, a series of community meetings as well as pop up events and one to one conversations. Links to the survey were available on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the City Website. Tablets and hard copies were available at all in-person events and surveys could also be submitted at City Hall.
All materials were offered in Spanish and in English.







In an effort to increase exposure, Project Team members manned booths at established community events:

- July 20, 2023 Movie in the Park – Veterans Park
- July 27, 2023 Music in the Park – Veterans Park
- August 3, 2023 Movie in the Park – Veterans

Additionally, email blasts were sent to key Stakeholders and Community Based Organizations urging them to fill out a survey and share the link with their members.

During the 4 months the survey was available 101 responses were collected. The survey required 30 minutes to complete and was very detailed and thought provoking. Results revealed a number of stakeholder priorities and concerns.

- Air quality concerns focused on traffic pollution, industrial pollutants, and pesticides.
- Internal air pollution concerns were primarily centered on mold and then ventilation.
- Water contamination by old pipes, and pollution in rivers was marked off by over 70% of respondents.
- The largest community issues were centered on homelessness and crime;
- And yet residents gave 3.8 stars to feeling safe within their own neighborhoods.
- Parking, housing availability and stability and climate change are major issues for residents.

- Social Media was the method of choice for receiving information from City Hall.
- When asked to list the top 5 areas of the Environmental Justice plan survey takers were most interested in having addressed:
    - Air Pollution
    - Housing
    - Access to Healthy Food
    - Public Safety
    - Public Infrastructure

And finally, the top goals Bell Gardens citizen would task the EJ Plan to explore would be minimizing the communities exposure to pollution, provide improved public facilities as well as better access to housing.



Attachments:
Survey
Summary Results
Email Example
Stakeholders List

City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

Climate Change

Environmental Justice aims to minimize the adverse effects of environmental hazards in order to create a healthy environment for all people, especially those groups, populations, and communities who had been impacted by pollution. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element is to reduce burdens for communities experiencing adverse effects, promote meaningful participation of those communities in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process, and providing meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

1. Do you live or work in the City of Bell Gardens?

   ☐ Live
   ☐ Work
   ☐ Both
   ☐ Neither

Air Pollution

2. How concerned are you regarding the following external air pollution issues?
   (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Pesticides	1	2	3	4	5
Dust	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic	1	2	3	4	5
Second hand smoke	1	2	3	4	5
Factories/industrial operation emissions	1	2	3	4	5
Trash/agricultural burning	1	2	3	4	5
Airport traffic	1	2	3	4	5

   Other (please specify) _____

3. How concerned are you regarding the following internal air pollution issues (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Dust	1	2	3	4	5
Second hand smoke	1	2	3	4	5
Ventilation	1	2	3	4	5
Mold	1	2	3	4	5
Household chemicals	1	2	3	4	5

   Other (please specify) _____

Water Pollution

4. How concerned are you regarding the following water pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Availability of clean water	1	2	3	4	5
Contaminated water	1	2	3	4	5
Pollution in streams/rivers	1	2	3	4	5
Old/damaged pipes	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please specify) _____

Community Issues

5. How concerned are you regarding the following community issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Illegal dumping/trash	1	2	3	4	5
Graffiti	1	2	3	4	5
Loud noise	1	2	3	4	5
Smell (agricultural/industrial facilities)	1	2	3	4	5
Vacant/blighted properties	1	2	3	4	5
Invasive species (i.e., weeds, animals, bugs, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Crime	1	2	3	4	5
Homelessness	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please specify) _____

Public Facilities/Services

6. How do you feel about the following public facilities/services in the City? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being facilities/services are not available or are poor 5 being facilities/services are available and are good)

Parks/Open Space/Community Center/Gardens	1	2	3	4	5
Grocery Stores	1	2	3	4	5
Healthcare & Day Care Facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Libraries	1	2	3	4	5
Sidewalks/Crosswalks/Bike Routes/Public Transit	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency Shelters/Cooling Stations	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please specify) _____

Housing

7. How safe is your Bell Gardens neighborhood? (Circle one)

Very unsafe Unsafe Neutral Safe Very safe N/A

8. How well-maintained are the homes in your neighborhood? (Circle one)

Not well maintained Minimally maintained Maintained Well maintained Very well maintained

9. What types of improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?
   Please rank your concerns about housing (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not worried and 5 being very worried)

Cost/Affordability	1	2	3	4	5
Discrimination/ Unfair housing practices	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility/Reliability of Utilities	1	2	3	4	5
Maintenance	1	2	3	4	5
Overcrowding	1	2	3	4	5
Stability/Relocation	1	2	3	4	5
Parking Availability	1	2	3	4	5

   Other/None (please specify) _____

10. Have you been affected by Climate Change? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not affected and 5 being strongly affected)

Extreme heat	1	2	3	4	5
Flooding	1	2	3	4	5
Poor air quality	1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient food	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of shelter	1	2	3	4	5
Poor health	1	2	3	4	5
Increased cost of water	1	2	3	4	5
Increased cost of energy	1	2	3	4	5

Civic Engagement

11. How often do you participate in City Council or Commission meetings?

    ☐ Always (I attend every meeting)
    ☐ Usually (6-12 times a year)
    ☐ Sometimes (3-5 times a year)
    ☐ Rarely (1-2 times a year)
    ☐ Never

12. If you don't always participate in council or commission meetings, what are the barriers to attending? (Check all that apply)

    ☐ Inconvenient meeting times
    ☐ Inconvenient meeting locations
    ☐ Lack of childcare
    ☐ Language barriers
    ☐ Lack of transportation
    ☐ Lack of computer/internet access

13. How do you obtain information from the City? (Check all that apply)

☐ None of the above
☐ Flyers/Brochures
☐ City's website
☐ Social media
☐ Word of mouth
☐ City's SMS Broadcast Service
☐ Newspaper media/publications

14. Do you feel like your interests and concerns are being heard? (Circle one)

Not heard Minimally heard Neutral Heard Well Heard

Environmental Justice Element

15. What Environmental Justice areas are you concerned with: (rank the following 1-12)

Air pollution from vehicles & industrial uses ___
Access to healthy Food/grocery stores ___
Housing access, affordability & stability (including housing maintenance) ___
Civic Engagement ___
Public infrastructure, facilities and transportation ___
Public safety and public services ___
Civic engagement ___
Public infrastructure and facilities ___
Transportation ___
Public safety ___
Public services ___
Housing quality/maintenance ___

16. What are your goals for the Environmental Justice Element? (rank the following 1-5)

Minimize the community's exposure to environmental pollution. ___
Provide improved/greater public facilities and services to the community. ___
Provide better access to affordable, reliable, and safe public transportation. ___
Provide better access to affordable, safe, and sanitary housing. ___
Provide residents with more opportunities to be informed and engaged. ___

Demographic Information

17. What is your age group?

☐ 17 and under
☐ 18-25
☐ 26-30
☐ 31-35
☐ 36-40
☐ 41-45
☐ 46-50
☐ 51-55
☐ 56-60
☐ 61 and older

18. What is your highest educational level?

☐ No Schooling
☐ Elementary School
☐ Middle School
☐ High School
☐ Some College
☐ Bachelors
☐ Masters
☐ Doctorate

19. Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ African-American
☐ Asian
☐ Middle Eastern
☐ Native American
☐ White
☐ Decline to state

Other (please specify) _____

20. What is your yearly household/family income?

☐ Under $15,000
☐ $15,001 – $20,000
☐ $20,001 – $30,000
☐ $30,001 – $45,000
☐ $45,001 – $55,000
☐ $55,001 - $60,000
☐ $60,001 - $65,000
☐ $65,001+

21. Do you own or rent your home?

☐ Own ☐ Rent

22. How many people live in your home?

☐ 1
☐ 2-3
☐ 4-5
☐ More than 5

23. Does your household/family include any of the following:

☐ Children (under the age of 10)
☐ Teenagers (11-18 years old)
☐ Seniors (older than 65)
☐ Person with chronic health concerns (asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.)
☐ Disabled family member?
☐ None of the above

Are there any additional topics or comments that you would like to add?

_____

_____

_____

Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding updates regarding the environmental justice plan? Please provide a name, cell phone number, or e-mail address.

Name _____

Cell phone number _____

E-mail _____

From: Moises Gomez
To: sencollc@hotmail.com
Bcc: Mona Mossayeb
Subject: FW: City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Survey
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:48:00 PM
Attachments: Unified Outreach Flyer.pdf

Hello, Steven Senemar,

My name is Moises Gomez from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, and I am serving as the community outreach lead for the City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element community outreach efforts.

We are asking community stakeholders to disseminate a link to the city's environmental justice online survey to gather information regarding the updating of the city's environmental justice element.

The survey, which is available in English and Spanish, will allow us to learn about the concerns that residents, stakeholder organizations, and local businesses have when it comes to their potential exposure to sources of pollution that may be affecting them.

To take the survey please use the following link: https://bit.ly/BellGardensEJ

Please note that the survey collection period will end on **Friday, September 15, 2023**.

I have also attached a copy of the PDF flyer for your use.

If residents feel unable to fill out the online survey, they can fill out a paper survey and drop it into a collection box located at the City's Community Development Office.

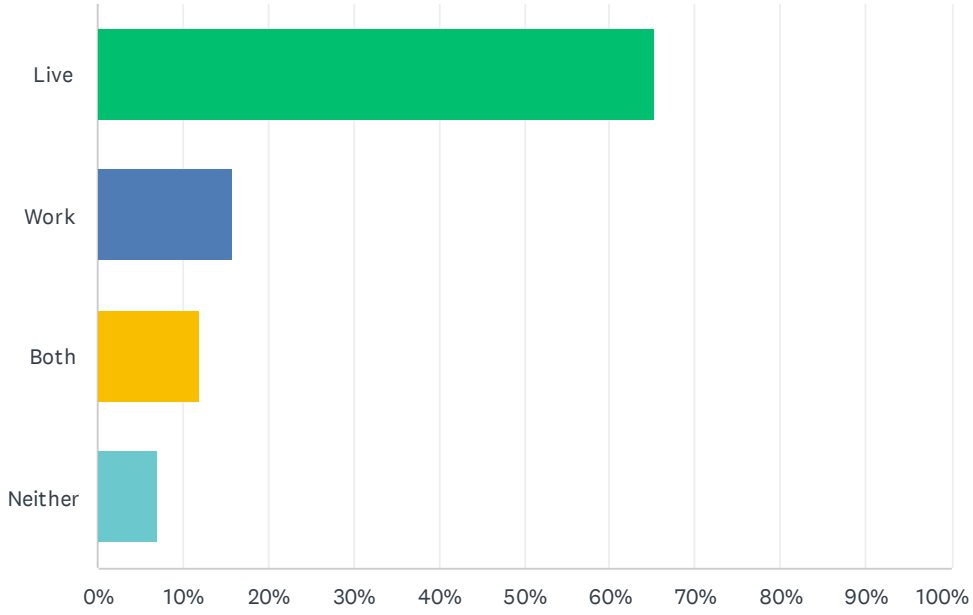
Thank you for your assistance in helping collect the views and opinions of stakeholders of the City of Bell Gardens. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Moises Gomez
Program Manager
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
800 Figueroa St., Ste. 670
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 627-1822 x18
(323) 200-9132 mobile
(213) 627-1821 fax
moises@lani.org
http://blqbid.org

Q1 Do you live or work in the City of Bell Gardens?

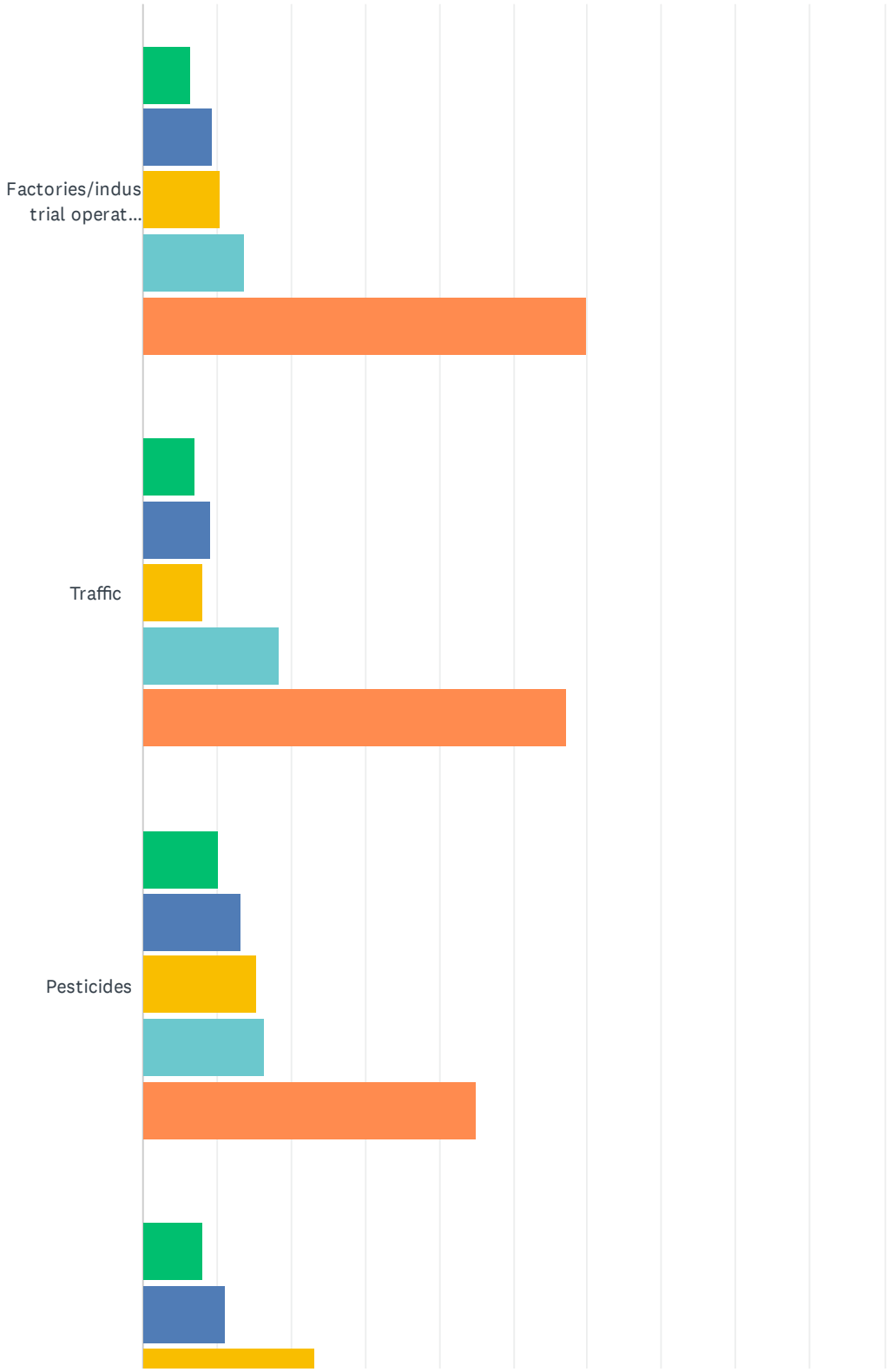
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

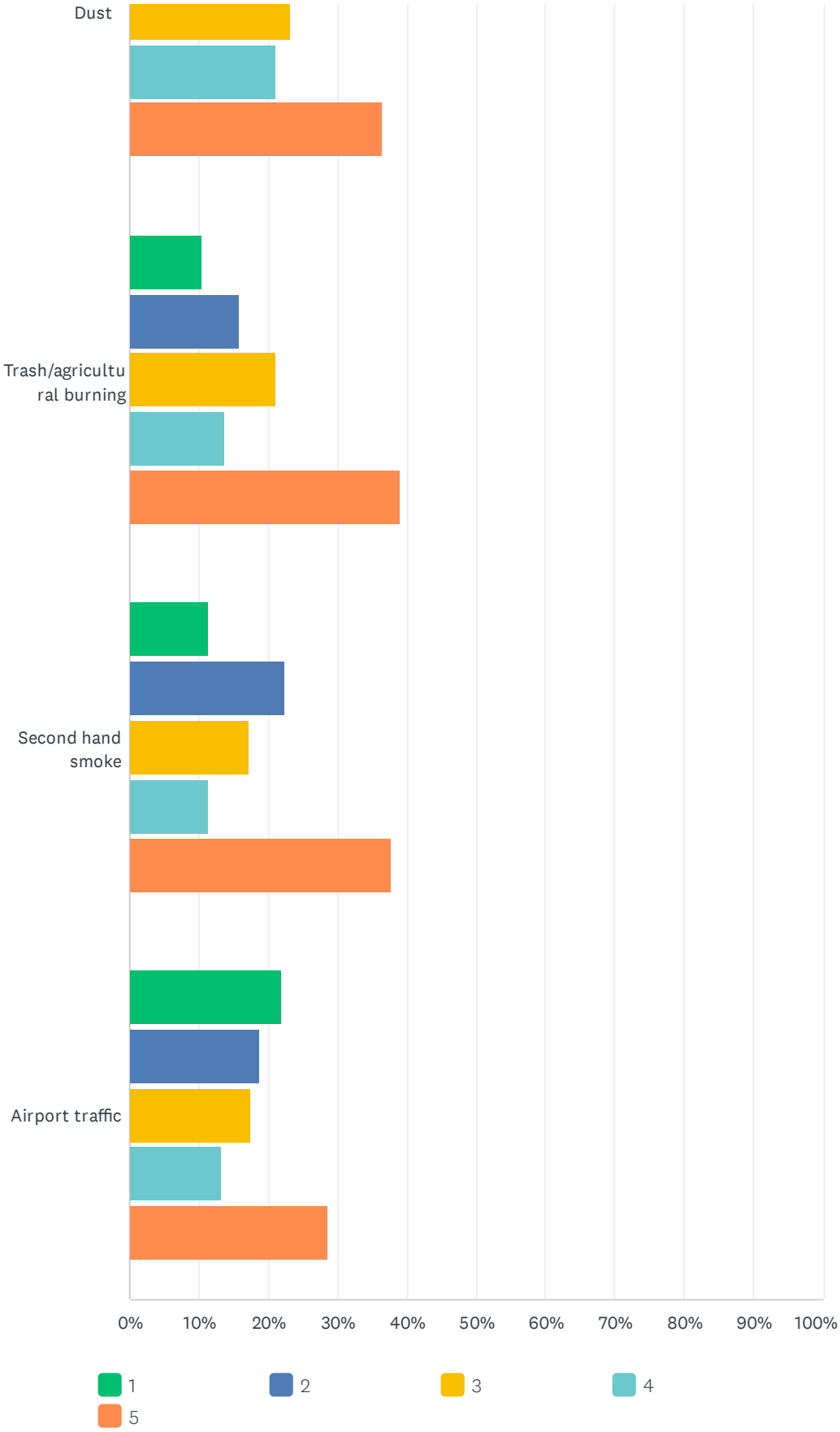


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Live	65.35%	66
Work	15.84%	16
Both	11.88%	12
Neither	6.93%	7
TOTAL		101

Q2 How concerned are you regarding the following external air pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

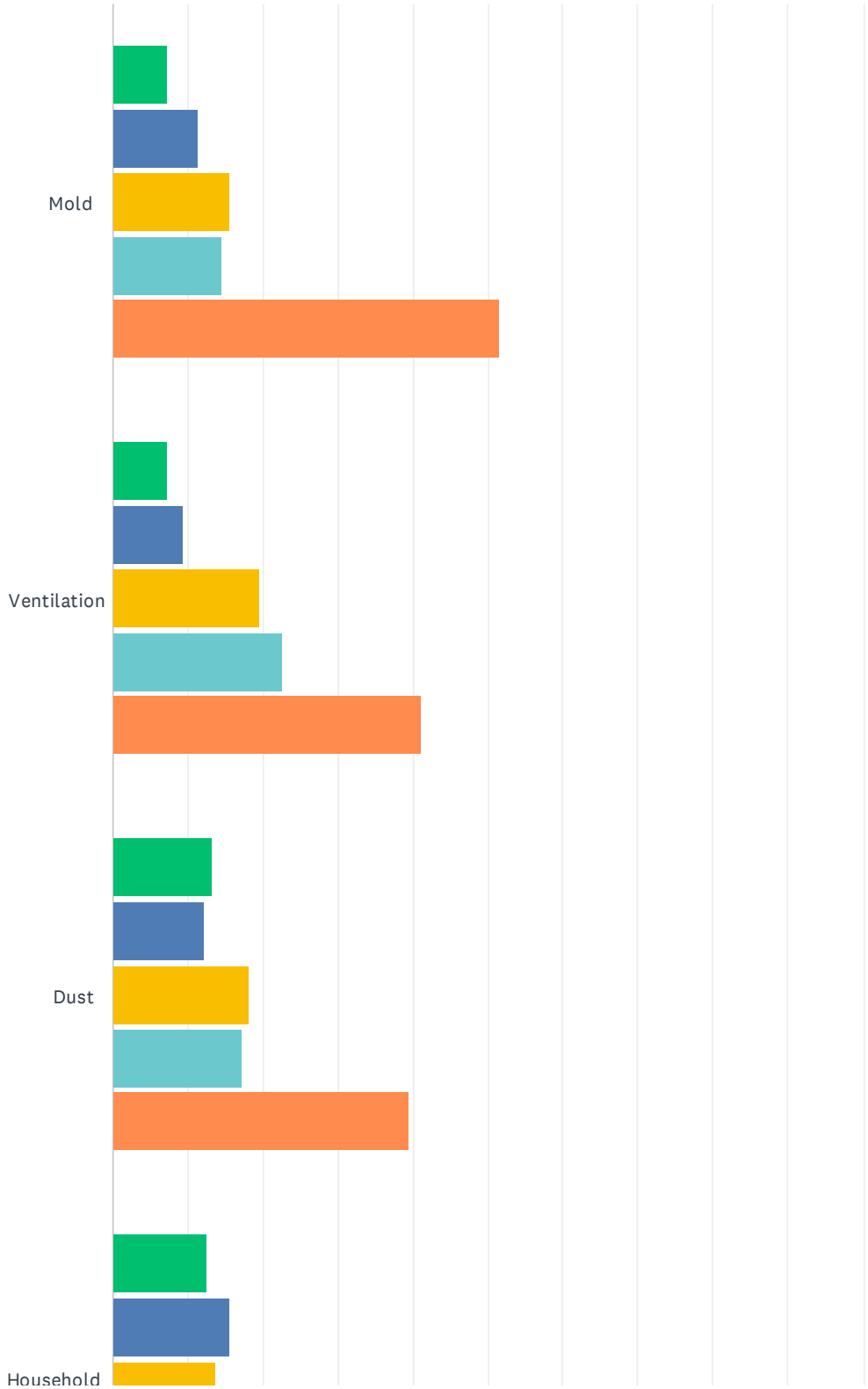


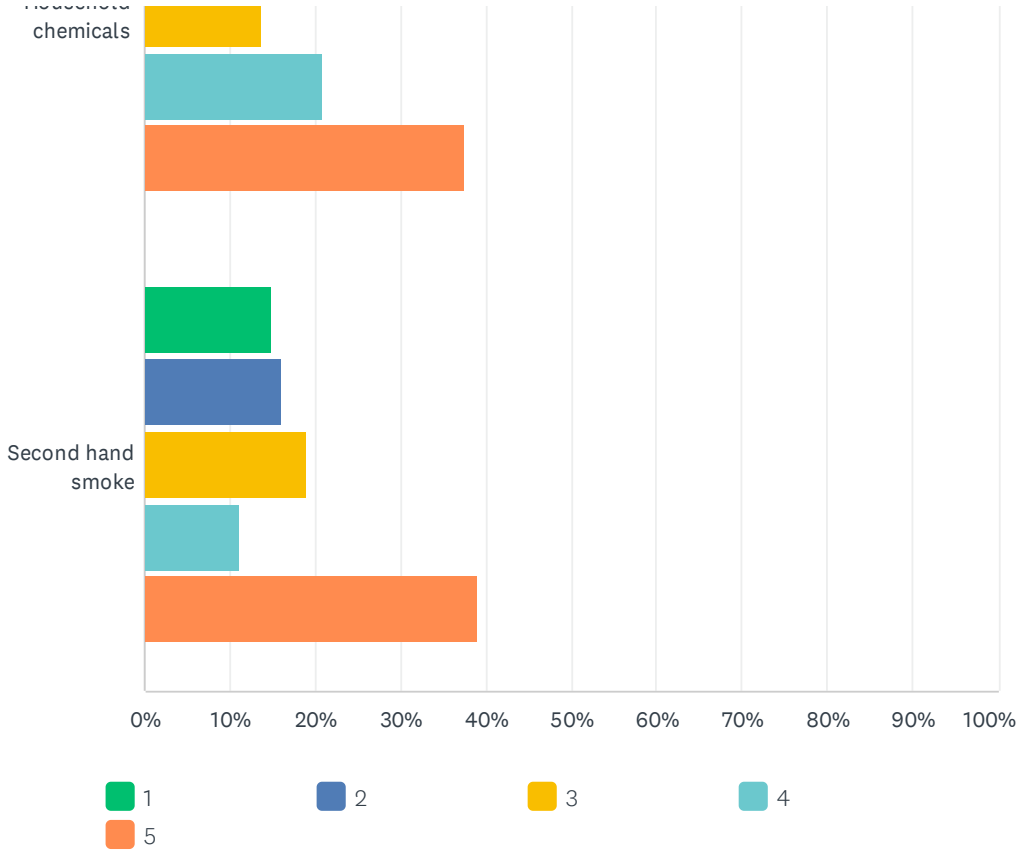

Dust
Trash/agricultural burning
Second hand smoke
Airport traffic
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1
2
3
4
5

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Factories/industrial operation emissions	6.32% 6	9.47% 9	10.53% 10	13.68% 13	60.00% 57	95	4.12
Traffic	7.14% 7	9.18% 9	8.16% 8	18.37% 18	57.14% 56	98	4.09
Pesticides	10.20% 10	13.27% 13	15.31% 15	16.33% 16	44.90% 44	98	3.72
Dust	8.08% 8	11.11% 11	23.23% 23	21.21% 21	36.36% 36	99	3.67
Trash/agricultural burning	10.53% 10	15.79% 15	21.05% 20	13.68% 13	38.95% 37	95	3.55
Second hand smoke	11.22% 11	22.45% 22	17.35% 17	11.22% 11	37.76% 37	98	3.42
Airport traffic	21.98% 20	18.68% 17	17.58% 16	13.19% 12	28.57% 26	91	3.08

Q3 How concerned are you regarding the following internal air pollution issues (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

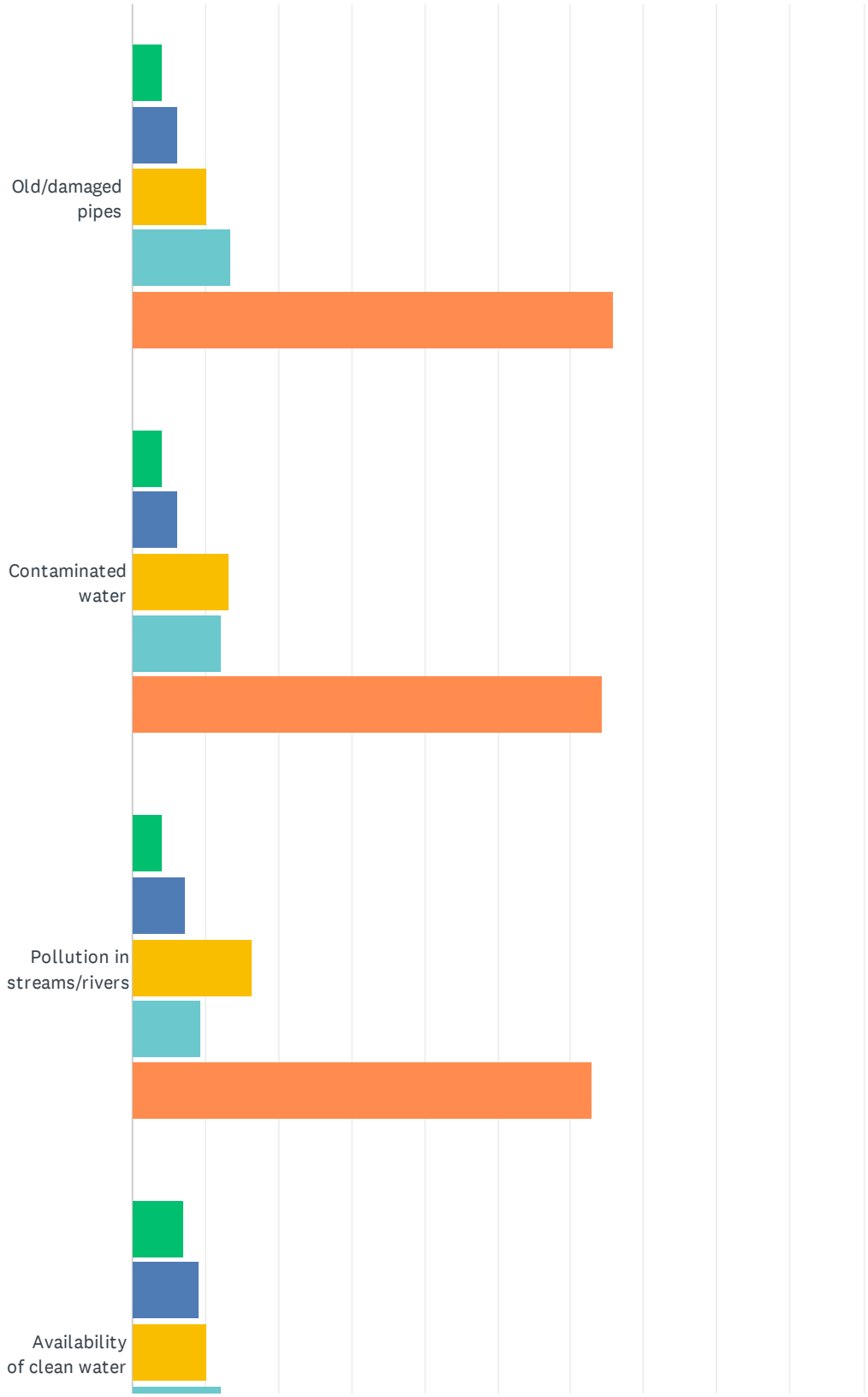


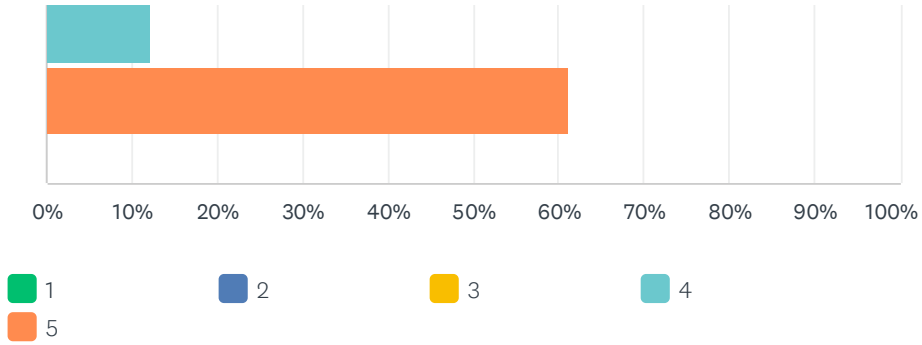


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Mold	7.22% 7	11.34% 11	15.46% 15	14.43% 14	51.55% 50	97	3.92
Ventilation	7.22% 7	9.28% 9	19.59% 19	22.68% 22	41.24% 40	97	3.81
Dust	13.13% 13	12.12% 12	18.18% 18	17.17% 17	39.39% 39	99	3.58
Household chemicals	12.50% 12	15.63% 15	13.54% 13	20.83% 20	37.50% 36	96	3.55
Second hand smoke	15.00% 15	16.00% 16	19.00% 19	11.00% 11	39.00% 39	100	3.43

Q4 How concerned are you regarding the following water pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

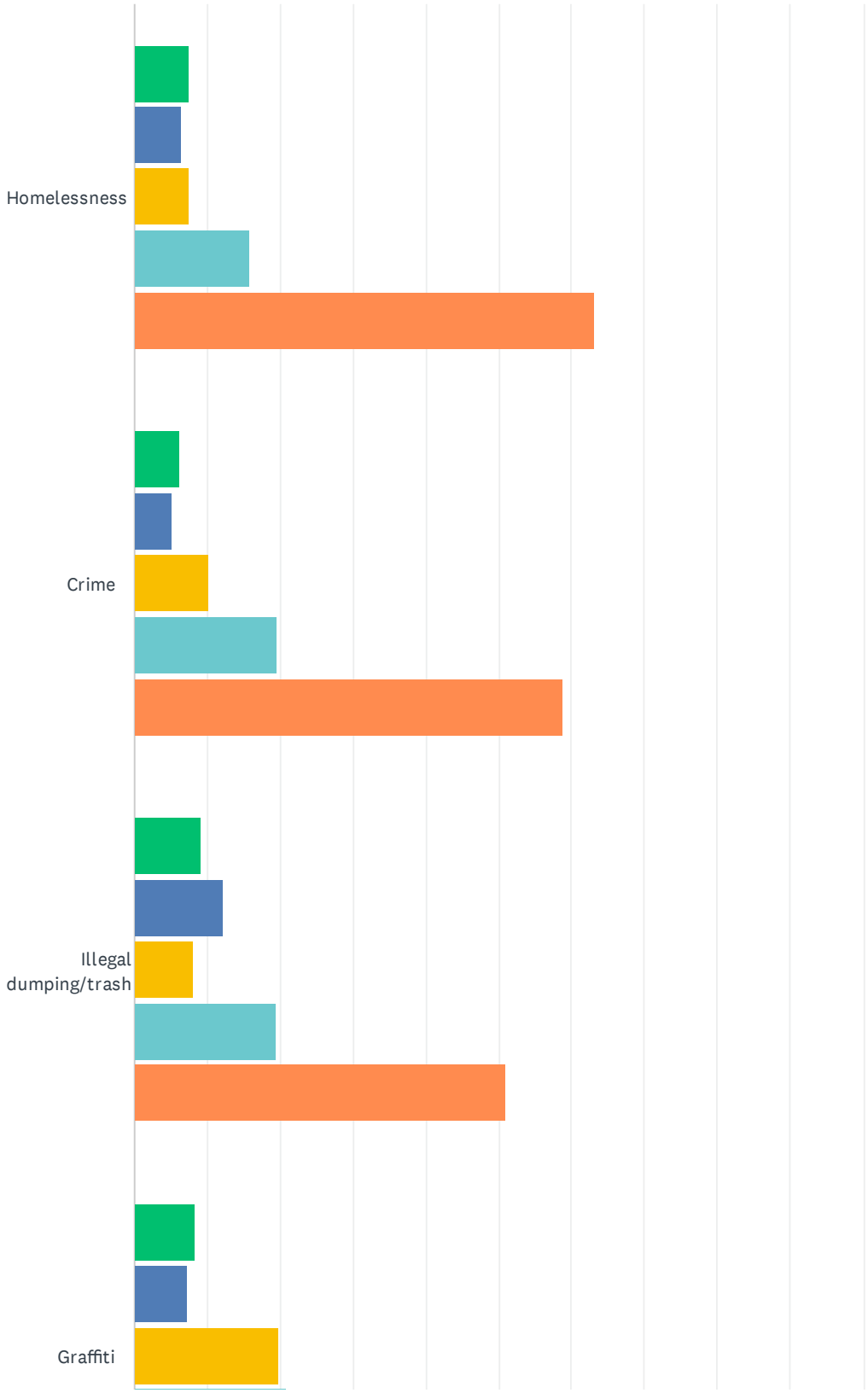


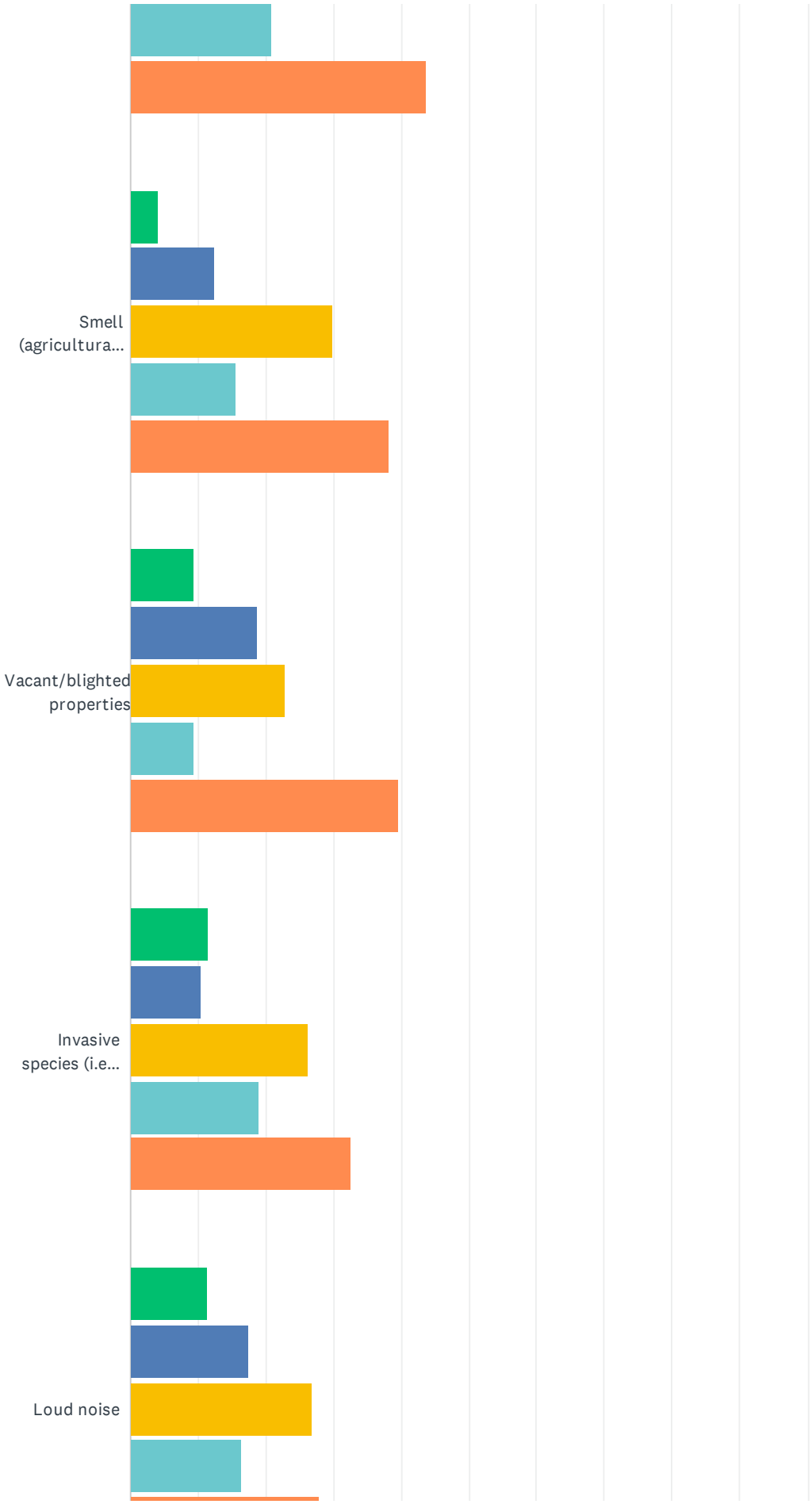


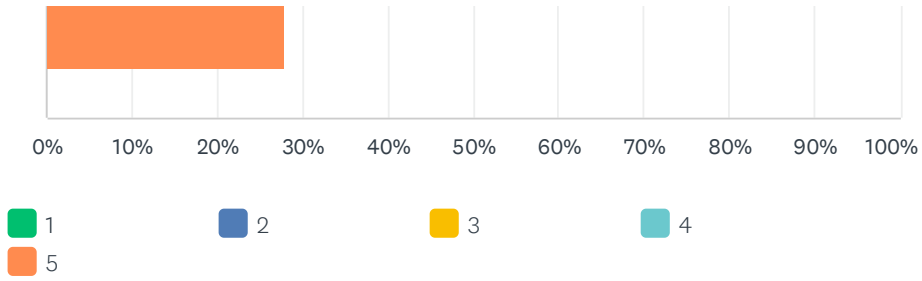
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Old/damaged pipes	4.12% 4	6.19% 6	10.31% 10	13.40% 13	65.98% 64	97	4.31
Contaminated water	4.08% 4	6.12% 6	13.27% 13	12.24% 12	64.29% 63	98	4.27
Pollution in streams/rivers	4.12% 4	7.22% 7	16.49% 16	9.28% 9	62.89% 61	97	4.20
Availability of clean water	7.14% 7	9.18% 9	10.20% 10	12.24% 12	61.22% 60	98	4.11

Q5 How concerned are you regarding the following community issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



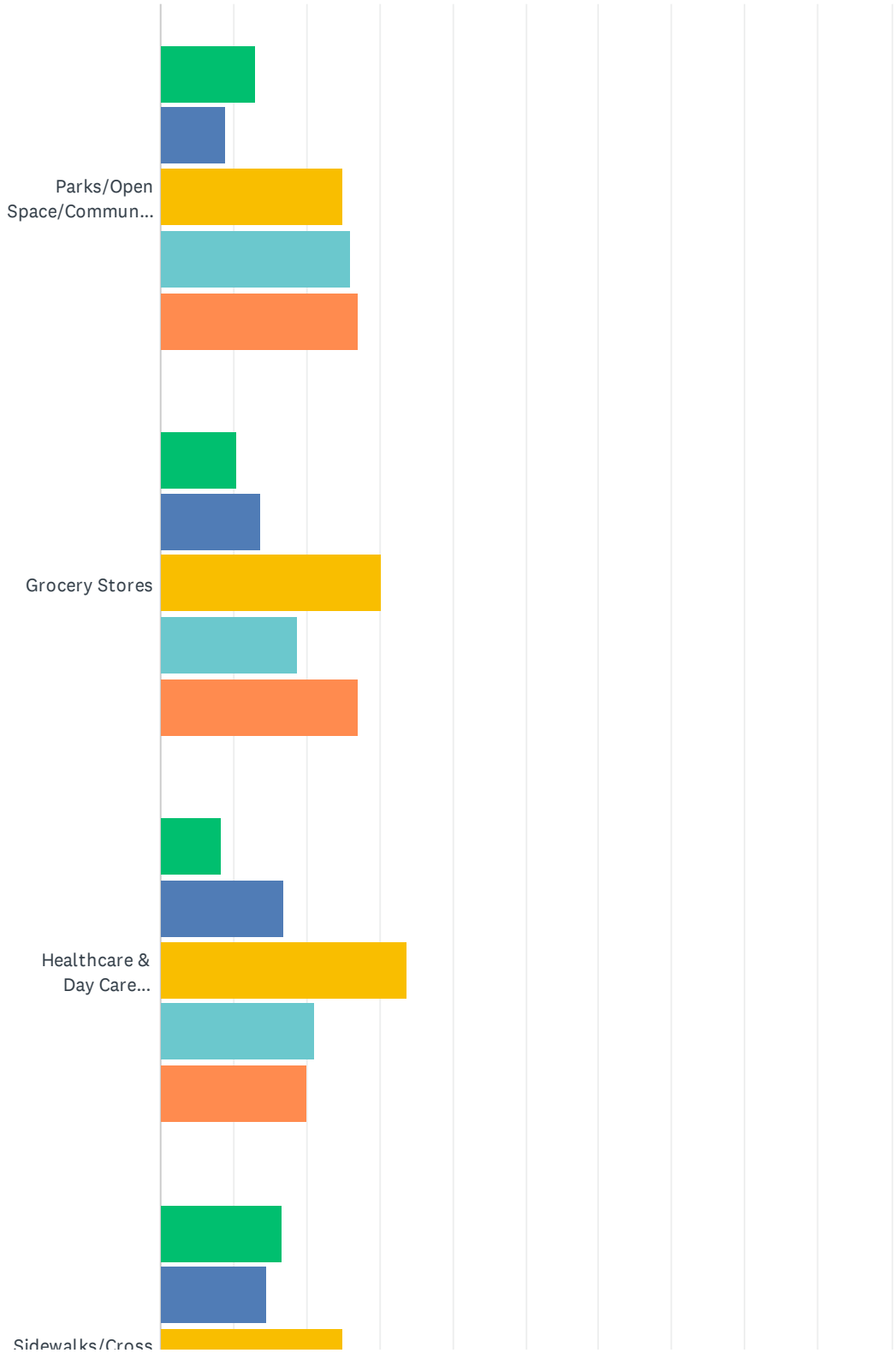

Smell (agricultura...
Vacant/blighted properties
Invasive species (i.e...
Loud noise

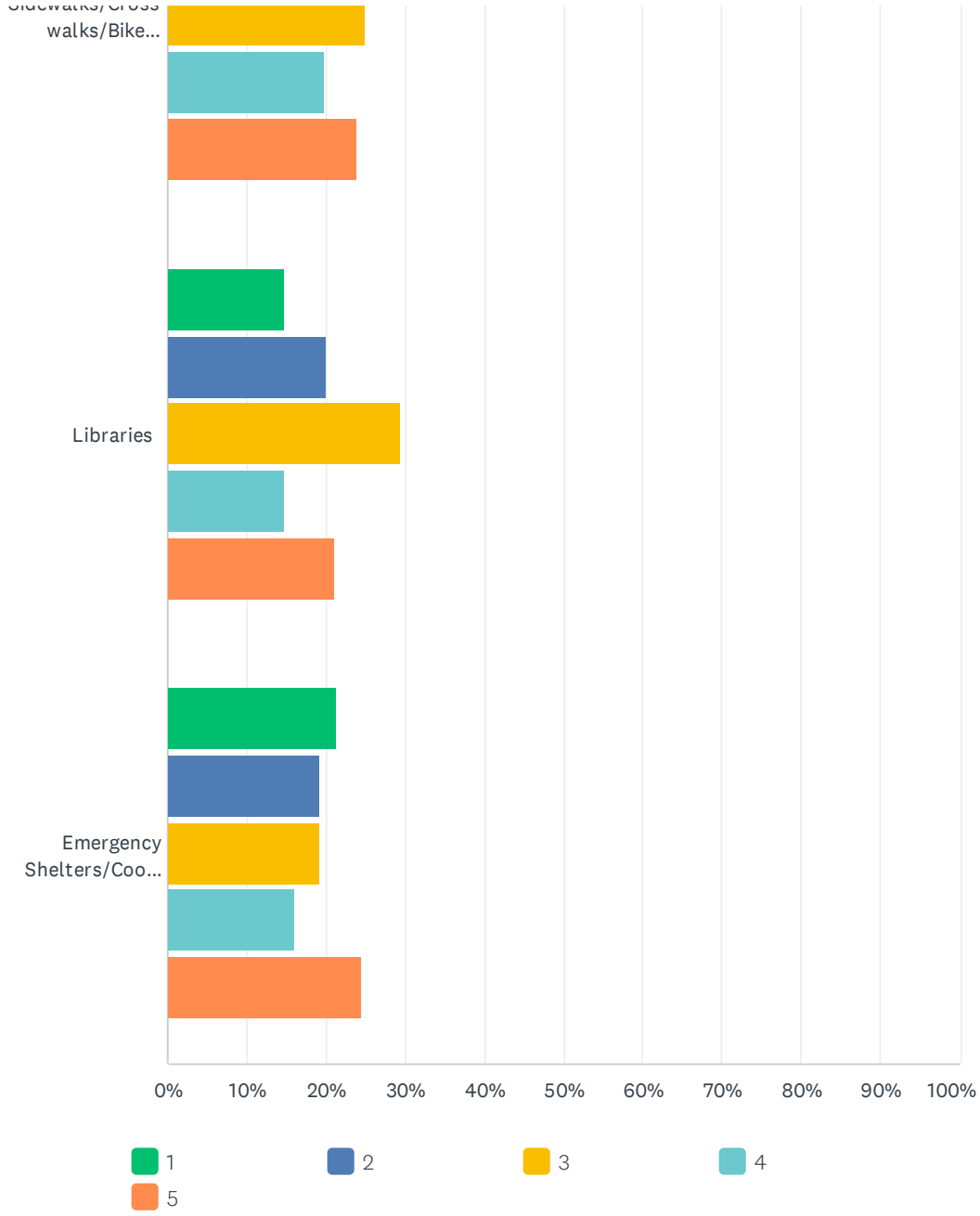


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Homelessness	7.37% 7	6.32% 6	7.37% 7	15.79% 15	63.16% 60	95	4.21
Crime	6.19% 6	5.15% 5	10.31% 10	19.59% 19	58.76% 57	97	4.20
Illegal dumping/trash	9.18% 9	12.24% 12	8.16% 8	19.39% 19	51.02% 50	98	3.91
Graffiti	8.33% 8	7.29% 7	19.79% 19	20.83% 20	43.75% 42	96	3.84
Smell (agricultural/industrial facilities)	4.12% 4	12.37% 12	29.90% 29	15.46% 15	38.14% 37	97	3.71
Vacant/blighted properties	9.38% 9	18.75% 18	22.92% 22	9.38% 9	39.58% 38	96	3.51
Invasive species (i.e., weeds, animals, bugs, etc.)	11.58% 11	10.53% 10	26.32% 25	18.95% 18	32.63% 31	95	3.51
Loud noise	11.34% 11	17.53% 17	26.80% 26	16.49% 16	27.84% 27	97	3.32

Q6 How do you feel about the following public facilities/services in the City? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being facilities/services are not available or are poor 5 being facilities/services are available and are good)

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1




walks/Bike...
Libraries
Emergency Shelters/Coo...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1
2
3
4
5

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Parks/Open Space/Community Center/Gardens (including greenspaces/shade trees/landscaping)	13.00% 13	9.00% 9	25.00% 25	26.00% 26	27.00% 27	100	3.45
Grocery Stores	10.42% 10	13.54% 13	30.21% 29	18.75% 18	27.08% 26	96	3.39
Healthcare & Day Care Facilities	8.42% 8	16.84% 16	33.68% 32	21.05% 20	20.00% 19	95	3.27
Sidewalks/Crosswalks/Bike Routes/Public Transit	16.67% 16	14.58% 14	25.00% 24	19.79% 19	23.96% 23	96	3.20
Libraries	14.74% 14	20.00% 19	29.47% 28	14.74% 14	21.05% 20	95	3.07
Emergency Shelters/Cooling Stations	21.28% 20	19.15% 18	19.15% 18	15.96% 15	24.47% 23	94	3.03

Q7 How safe is your Bell Gardens neighborhood? (1 star being not safe and 5 stars being very safe)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

3.2★
average rating



	VERY UNSAFE	UNSAFE	NEUTRAL	SAFE	VERY SAFE	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	3.96% 4	12.87% 13	39.60% 40	32.67% 33	4.95% 5	5.94% 6	101	3.23

Q8 How well maintained are the homes in your neighborhood? (1 star being not safe and 5 stars being very safe)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

2.7★
average rating



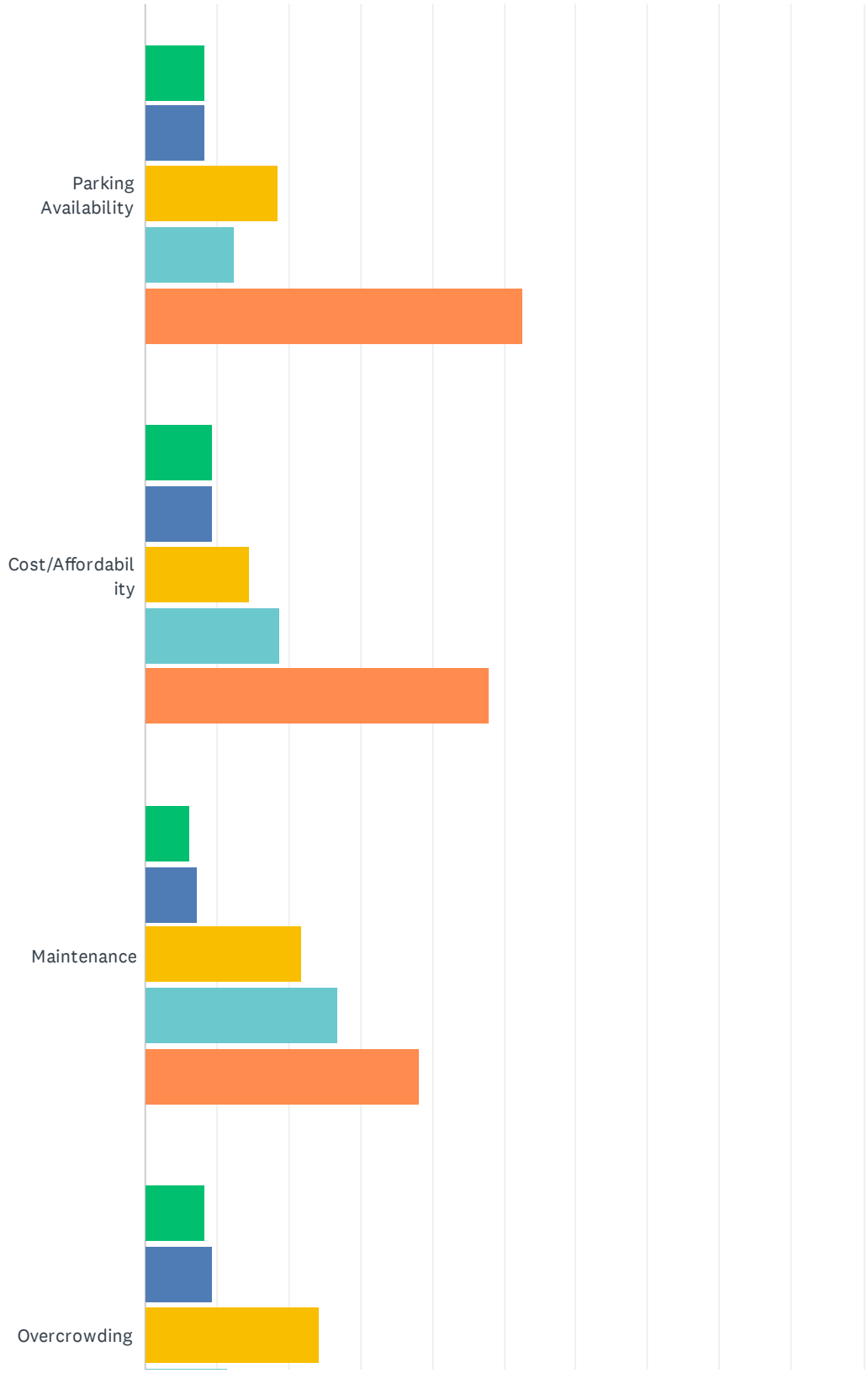
	NOT WELL MAINTAINED	MINIMALLY MAINTAINED	MAINTAINED	WELL MAINTAINED	VERY WELL MAINTAINED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	13.86% 14	25.74% 26	45.54% 46	8.91% 9	5.94% 6	101	2.67

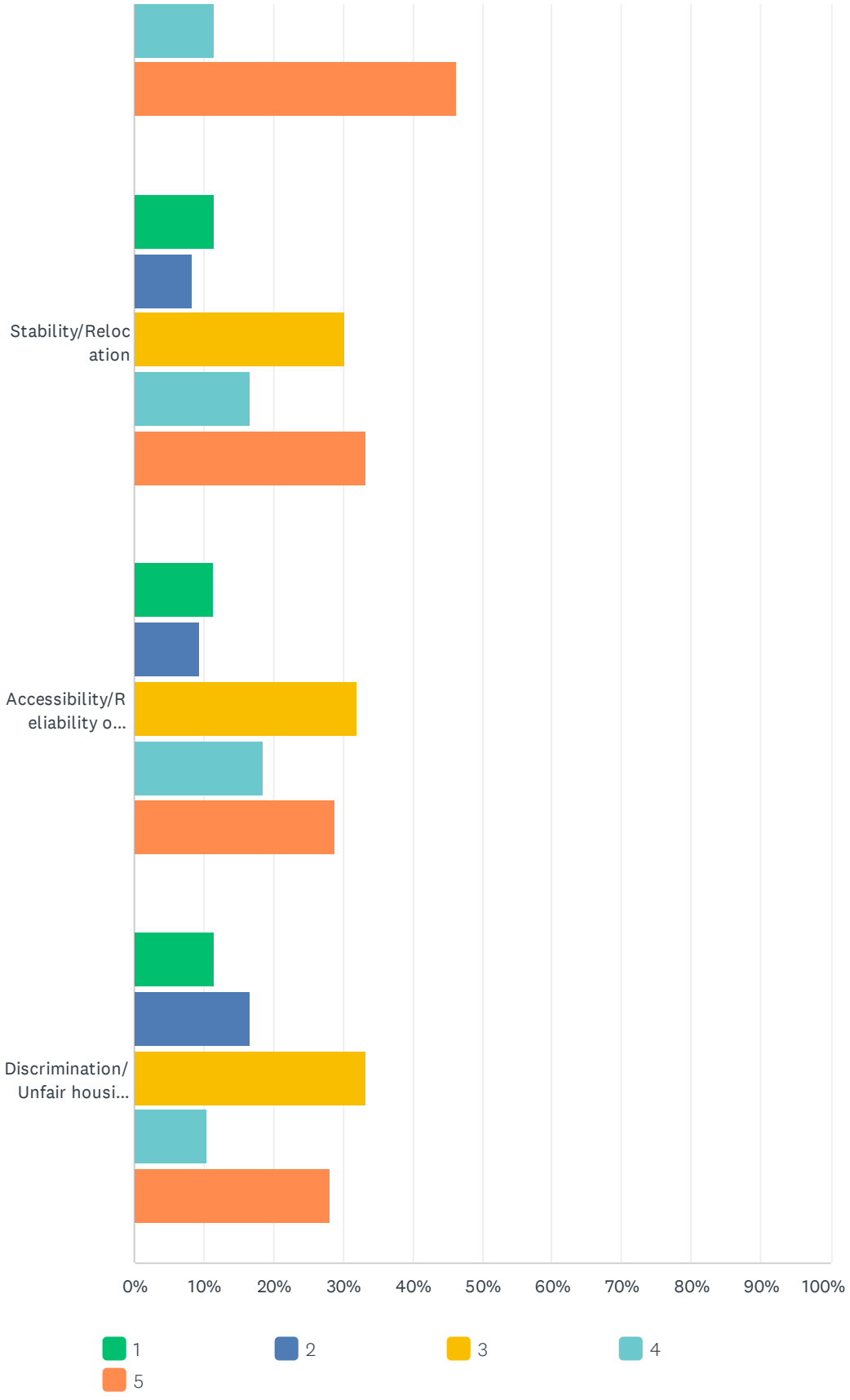
Q9 What types of improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 35

Q10 Please rank your concerns about housing (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not worried and 5 being very worried)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

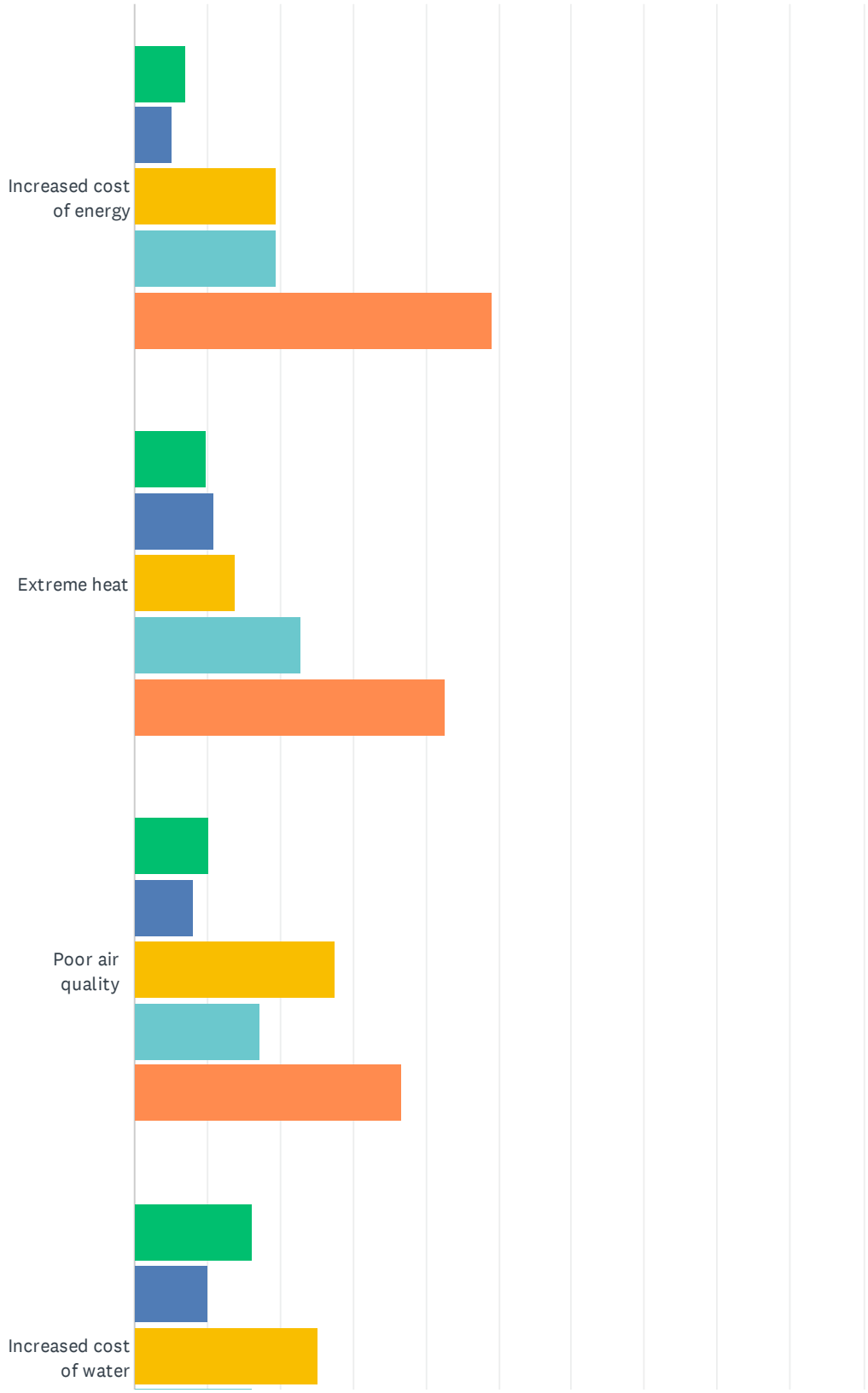


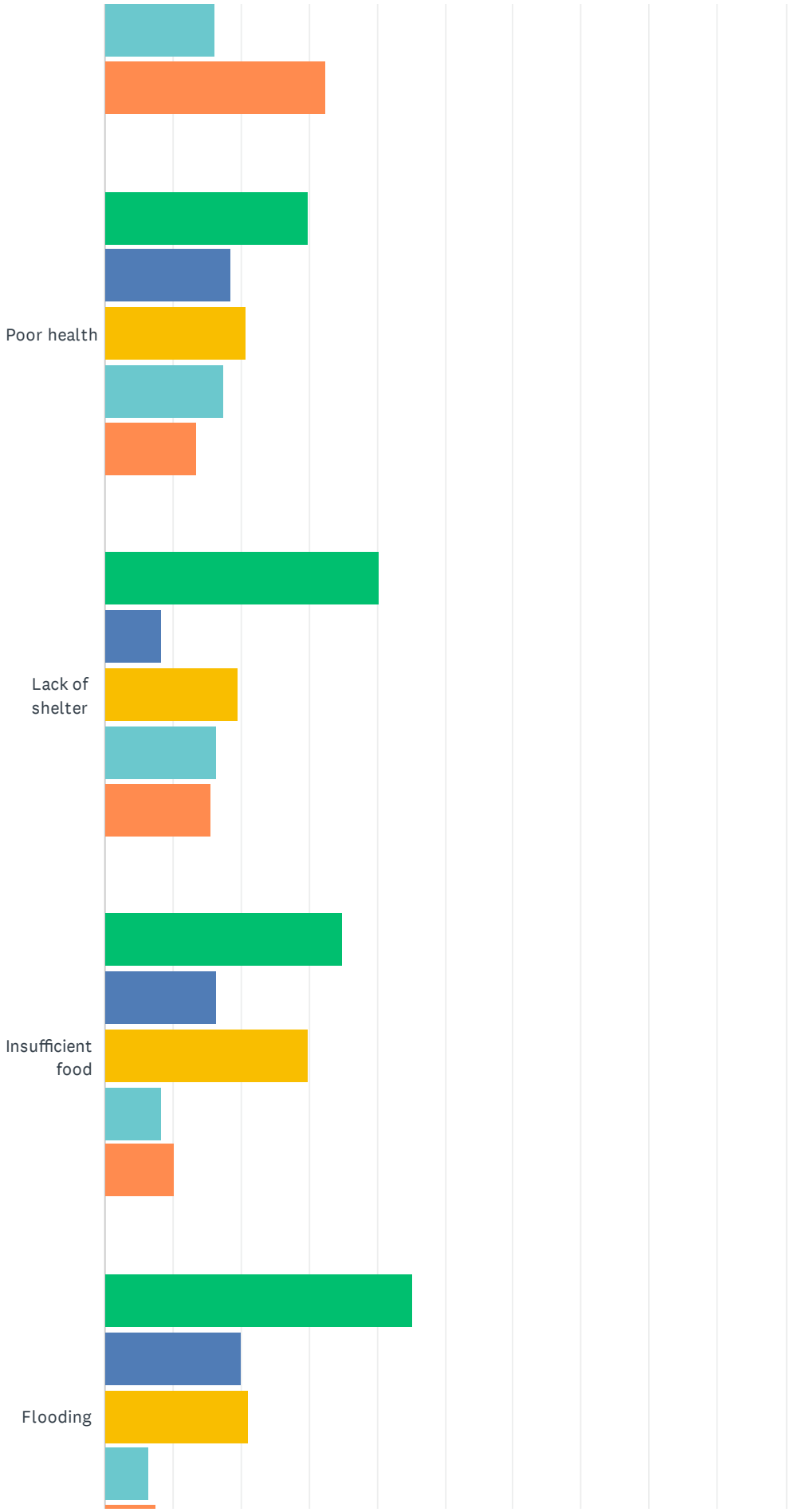

Stability/Relocation
Accessibility/Reliability o...
Discrimination/ Unfair housi...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1
2
3
4
5

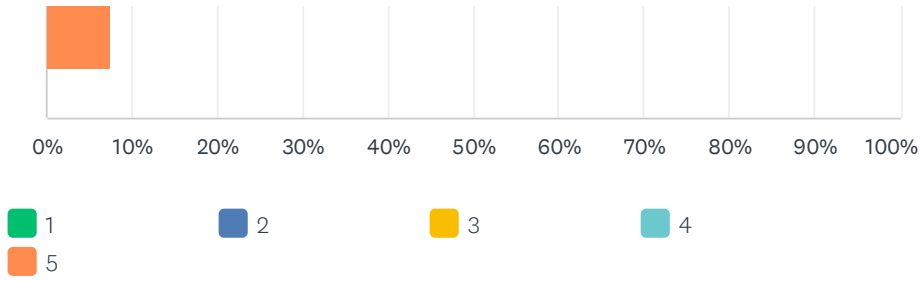
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Parking Availability	8.25% 8	8.25% 8	18.56% 18	12.37% 12	52.58% 51	97	3.93
Cost/Affordability	9.38% 9	9.38% 9	14.58% 14	18.75% 18	47.92% 46	96	3.86
Maintenance	6.19% 6	7.22% 7	21.65% 21	26.80% 26	38.14% 37	97	3.84
Overcrowding	8.42% 8	9.47% 9	24.21% 23	11.58% 11	46.32% 44	95	3.78
Stability/Relocation	11.46% 11	8.33% 8	30.21% 29	16.67% 16	33.33% 32	96	3.52
Accessibility/Reliability of Utilities	11.34% 11	9.28% 9	31.96% 31	18.56% 18	28.87% 28	97	3.44
Discrimination/ Unfair housing practices	11.46% 11	16.67% 16	33.33% 32	10.42% 10	28.13% 27	96	3.27

Q11 Have you been affected by Climate Change? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not affected and 5 being strongly affected)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



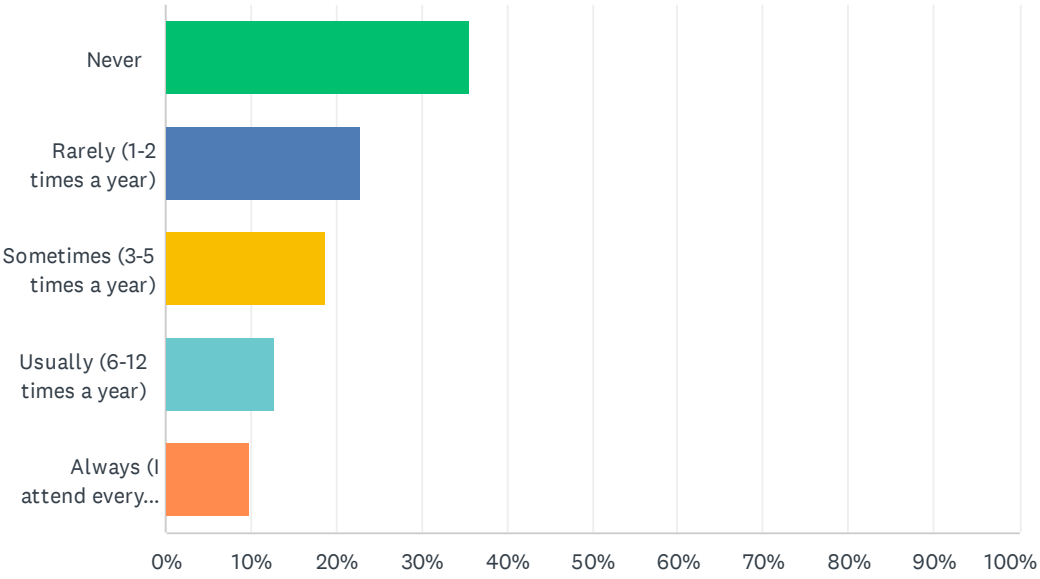

Poor health
Lack of shelter
Insufficient food
Flooding



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Increased cost of energy	7.14% 7	5.10% 5	19.39% 19	19.39% 19	48.98% 48	98	3.98
Extreme heat	9.90% 10	10.89% 11	13.86% 14	22.77% 23	42.57% 43	101	3.77
Poor air quality	10.20% 10	8.16% 8	27.55% 27	17.35% 17	36.73% 36	98	3.62
Increased cost of water	16.16% 16	10.10% 10	25.25% 25	16.16% 16	32.32% 32	99	3.38
Poor health	29.90% 29	18.56% 18	20.62% 20	17.53% 17	13.40% 13	97	2.66
Lack of shelter	40.21% 39	8.25% 8	19.59% 19	16.49% 16	15.46% 15	97	2.59
Insufficient food	35.05% 34	16.49% 16	29.90% 29	8.25% 8	10.31% 10	97	2.42
Flooding	45.26% 43	20.00% 19	21.05% 20	6.32% 6	7.37% 7	95	2.11

Q12 How often do you participate in City Council or Commission meetings?

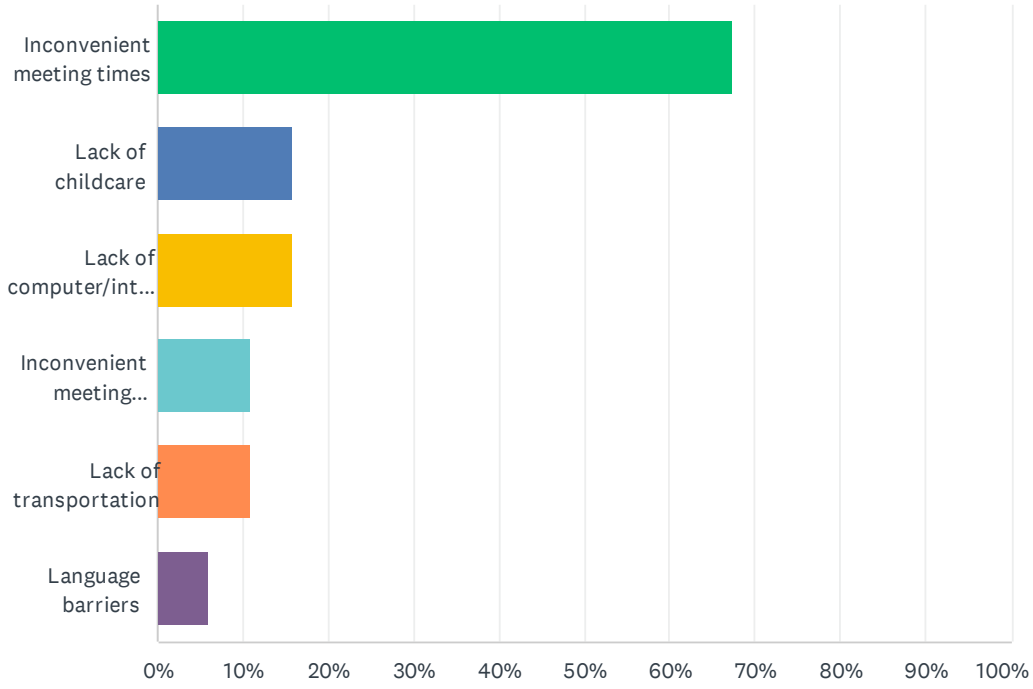
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	35.64%	36
Rarely (1-2 times a year)	22.77%	23
Sometimes (3-5 times a year)	18.81%	19
Usually (6-12 times a year)	12.87%	13
Always (I attend every meeting)	9.90%	10
TOTAL		101

Q13 If you don't always participate in council or commission meetings, what are the barriers to attending? (Check all that apply)

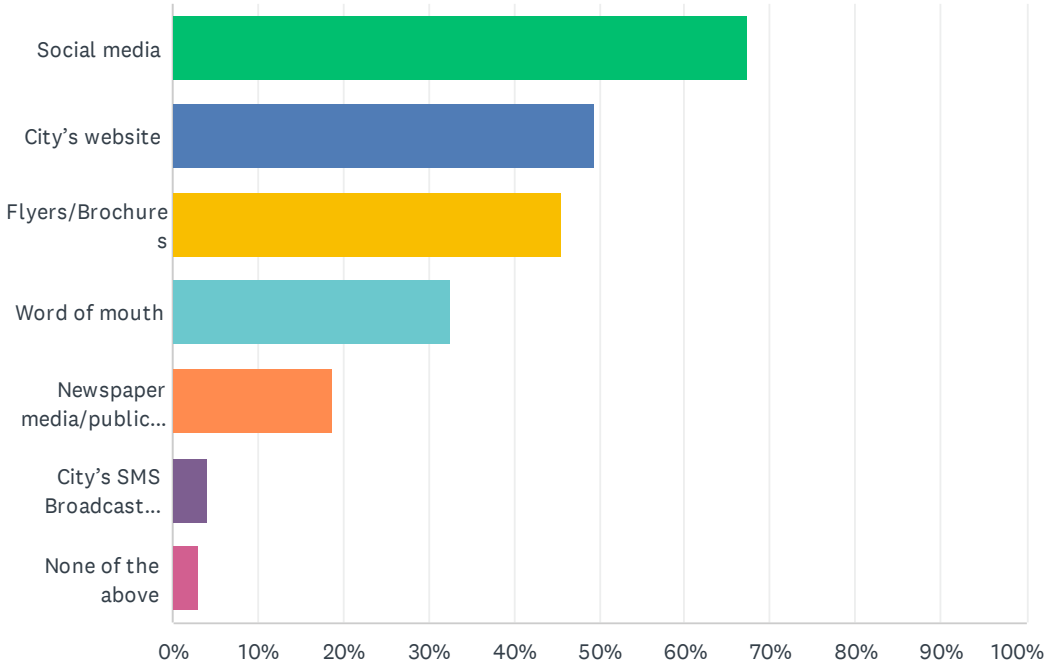
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Inconvenient meeting times	67.33%	68
Lack of childcare	15.84%	16
Lack of computer/internet access	15.84%	16
Inconvenient meeting locations	10.89%	11
Lack of transportation	10.89%	11
Language barriers	5.94%	6
Total Respondents: 101		

Q14 How do you obtain information from the City? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social media	67.33%	68
City's website	49.50%	50
Flyers/Brochures	45.54%	46
Word of mouth	32.67%	33
Newspaper media/publications	18.81%	19
City's SMS Broadcast Service	3.96%	4
None of the above	2.97%	3
Total Respondents: 101		

Q15 Do you feel like your interests and concerns are being heard? (on a scale of 1 star-5 stars, 1 being not heard and 5 being heard)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

2.8★

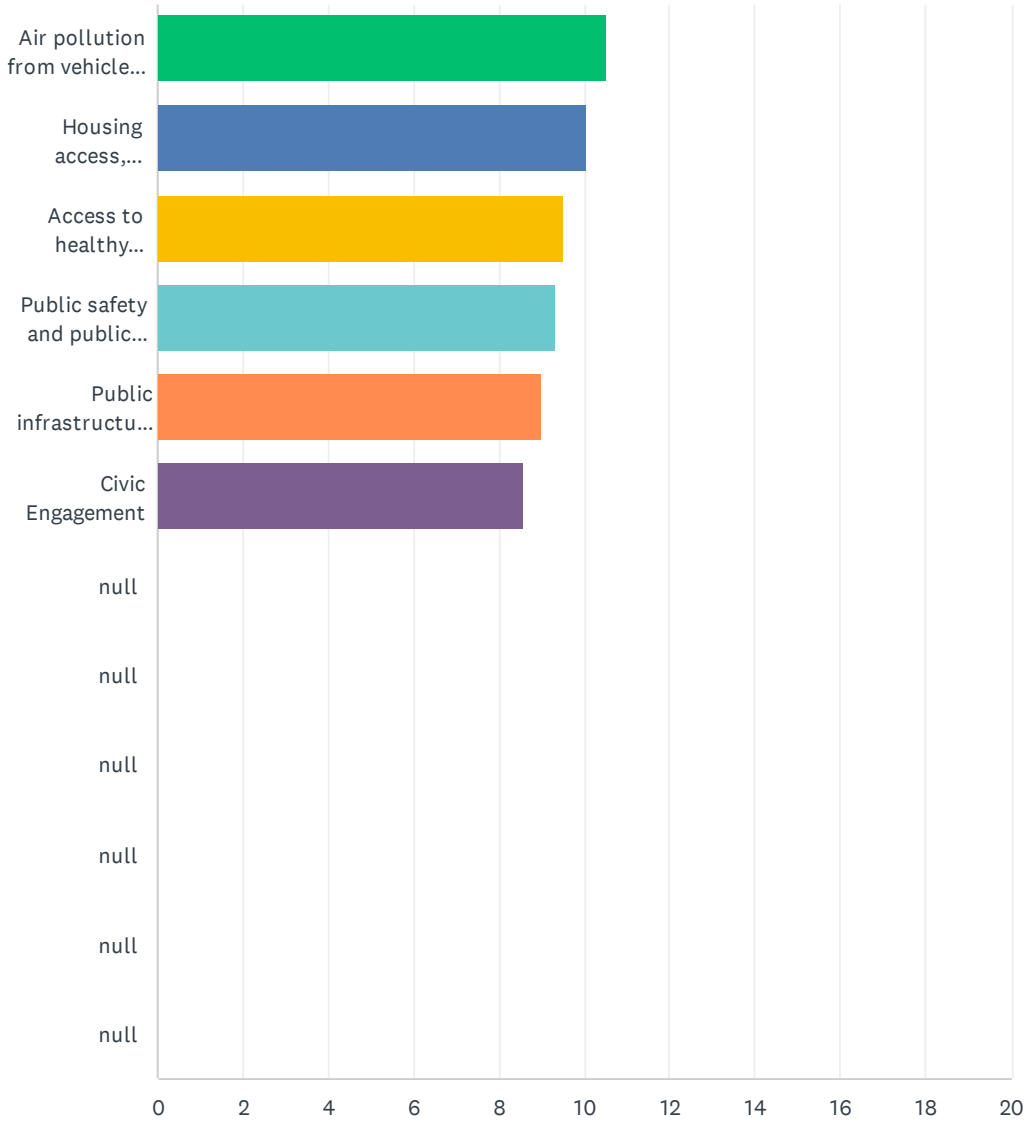
average rating



	NOT HEARD	MINIMALLY HEARD	NEUTRAL	HEARD	WELL HEARD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	11.88% 12	19.80% 20	48.51% 49	14.85% 15	4.95% 5	101	2.81

Q16 What Environmental Justice areas are you concerned with: (rank the following)

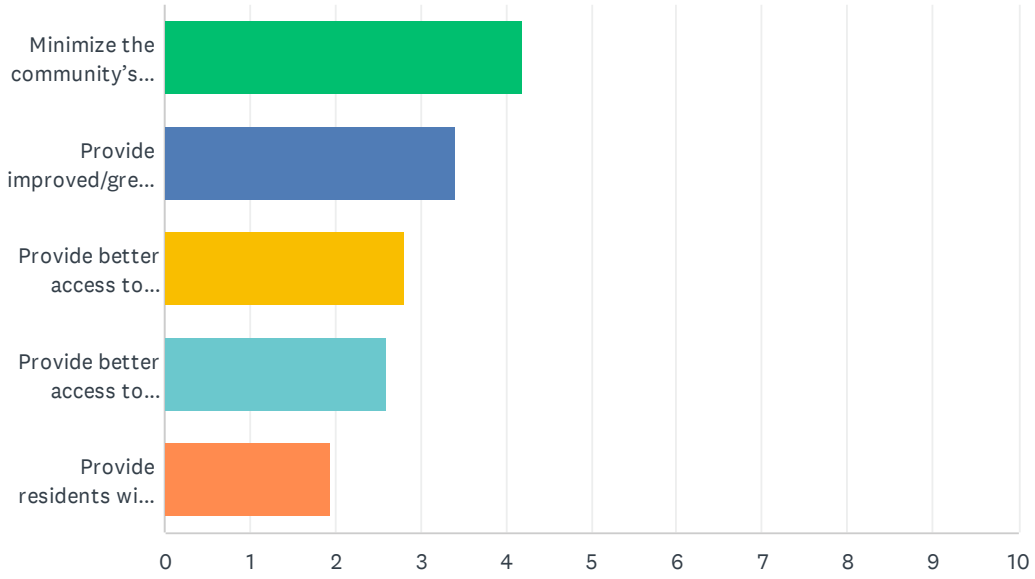
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Air pollution from vehicles & industrial uses	40.59% 41	21.78% 22	13.86% 14	7.92% 8	7.92% 8	7.92% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Housing access, affordability & stability (including housing maintenance)	22.77% 23	17.82% 18	25.74% 26	14.85% 15	12.87% 13	5.94% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Access to healthy Food/grocery stores	12.87% 13	18.81% 19	18.81% 19	20.79% 21	13.86% 14	14.85% 15	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Public safety and public services	12.87% 13	20.79% 21	16.83% 17	13.86% 14	6.93% 7	28.71% 29	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Public infrastructure, facilities and transportation	7.92% 8	12.87% 13	15.84% 16	14.85% 15	30.69% 31	17.82% 18	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
Civic Engagement	2.97% 3	7.92% 8	8.91% 9	27.72% 28	27.72% 28	24.75% 25	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00
null	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00

Q17 What are your goals for the Environmental Justice Element? (rank the following)

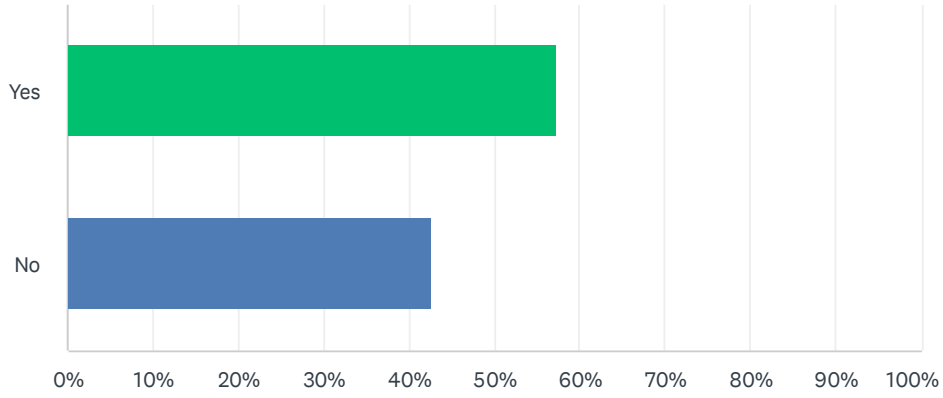
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Minimize the community's exposure to environmental pollution.	59.41% 60	21.78% 22	7.92% 8	1.98% 2	8.91% 9	101	4.21
Provide improved/greater public facilities and services to the community.	9.90% 10	46.53% 47	23.76% 24	14.85% 15	4.95% 5	101	3.42
Provide better access to affordable, safe, and sanitary housing.	18.81% 19	11.88% 12	16.83% 17	36.63% 37	15.84% 16	101	2.81
Provide better access to affordable, reliable, and safe public transportation.	1.98% 2	11.88% 12	43.56% 44	30.69% 31	11.88% 12	101	2.61
Provide residents with more opportunities to be informed and engaged.	9.90% 10	7.92% 8	7.92% 8	15.84% 16	58.42% 59	101	1.95

Q18 Do you care to provide demographic information about you and your household?

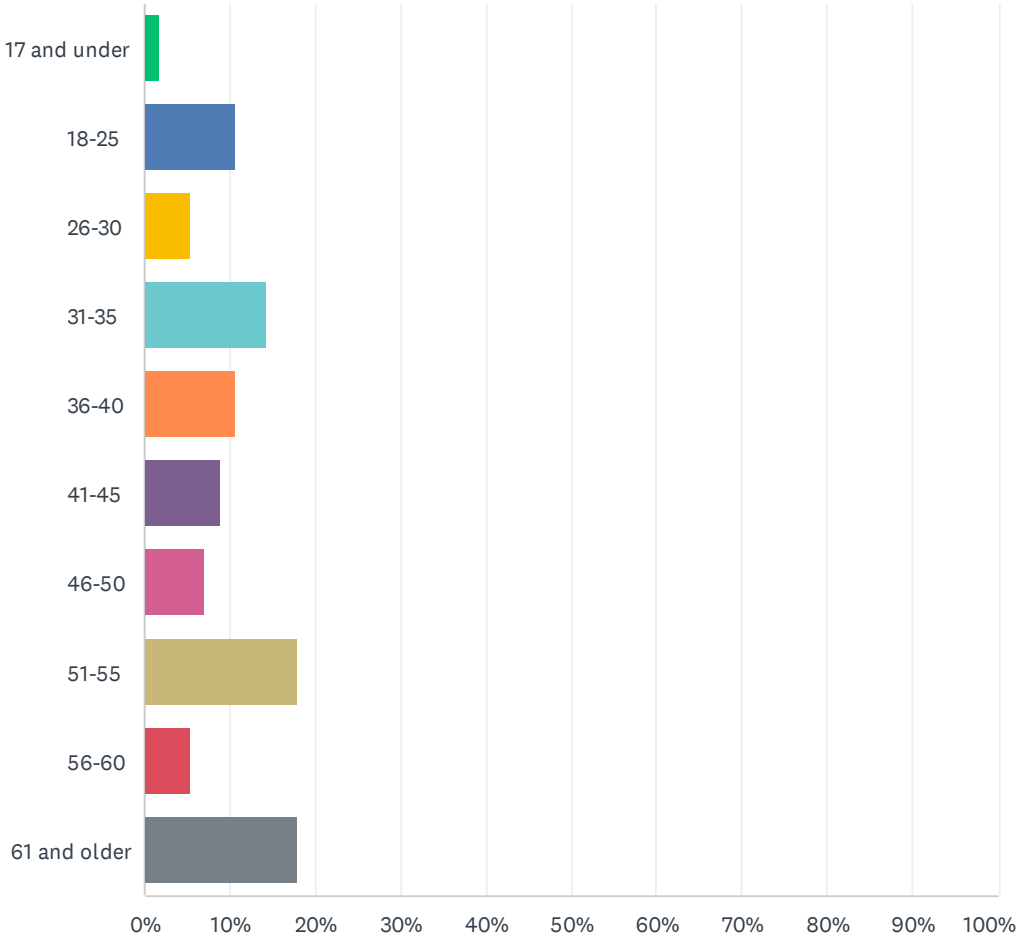
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.43%	58
No	42.57%	43
TOTAL		101

Q19 What is your age group?

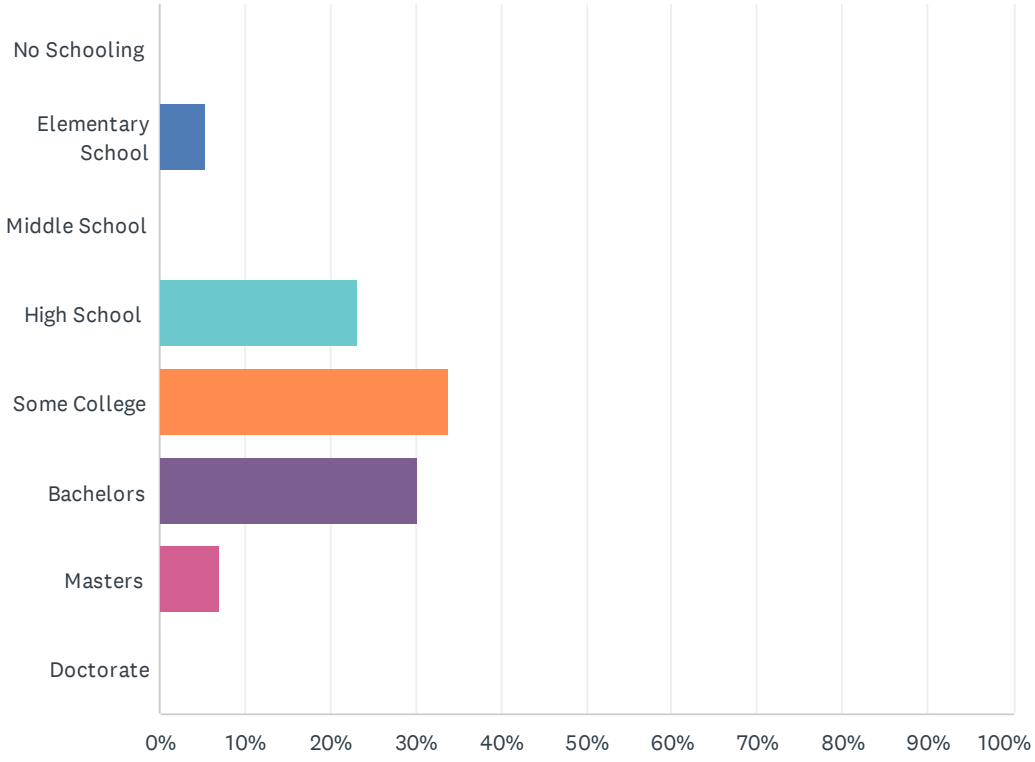
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 and under	1.79%	1
18-25	10.71%	6
26-30	5.36%	3
31-35	14.29%	8
36-40	10.71%	6
41-45	8.93%	5
46-50	7.14%	4
51-55	17.86%	10
56-60	5.36%	3
61 and older	17.86%	10
TOTAL		56

Q20 What is your highest educational level?

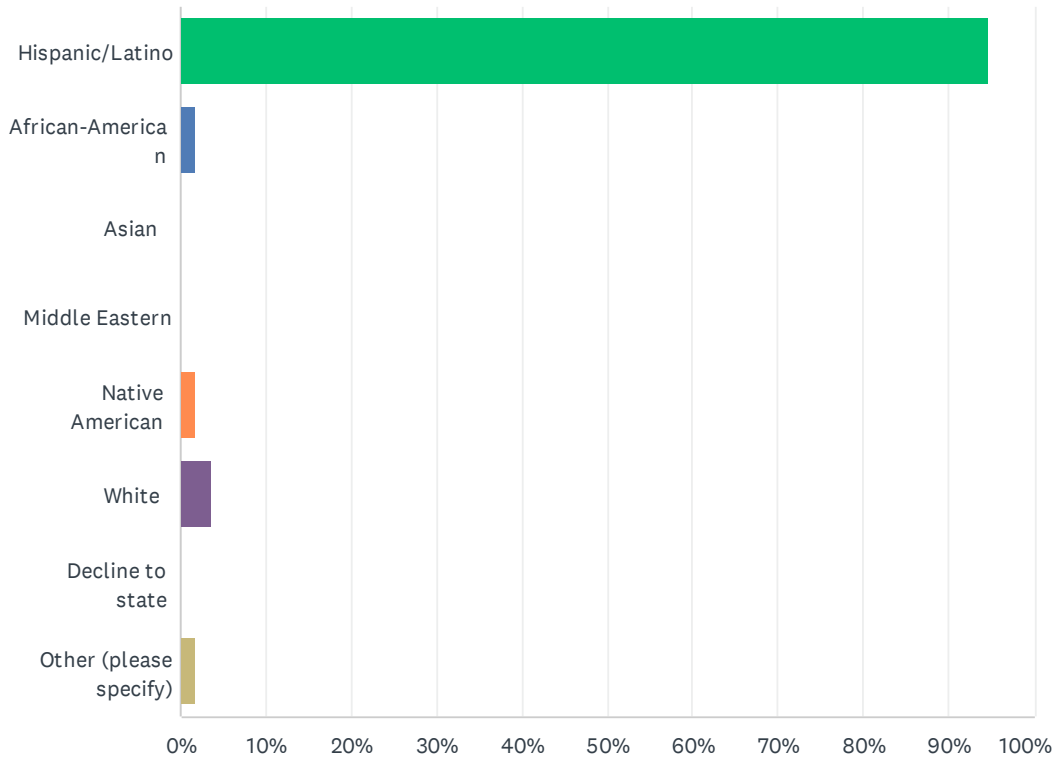
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Schooling	0.00%	0
Elementary School	5.36%	3
Middle School	0.00%	0
High School	23.21%	13
Some College	33.93%	19
Bachelors	30.36%	17
Masters	7.14%	4
Doctorate	0.00%	0
TOTAL		56

Q21 Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

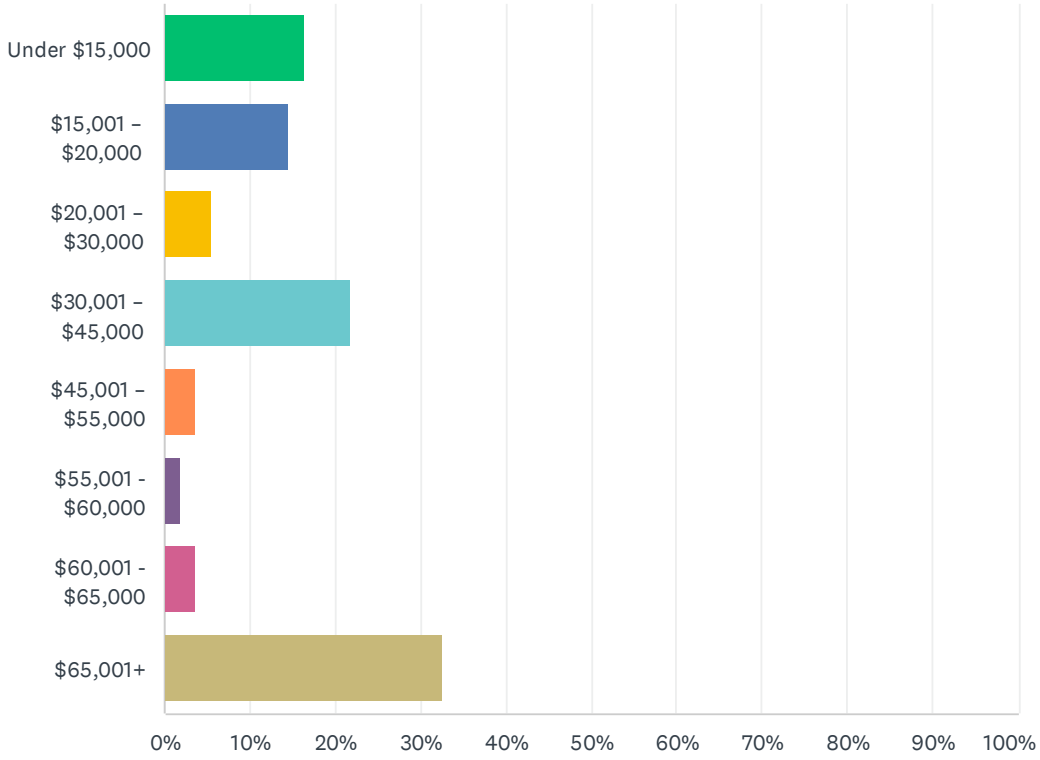
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hispanic/Latino	94.64%	53
African-American	1.79%	1
Asian	0.00%	0
Middle Eastern	0.00%	0
Native American	1.79%	1
White	3.57%	2
Decline to state	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.79%	1
Total Respondents: 56		

Q22 What is your yearly household/family income?

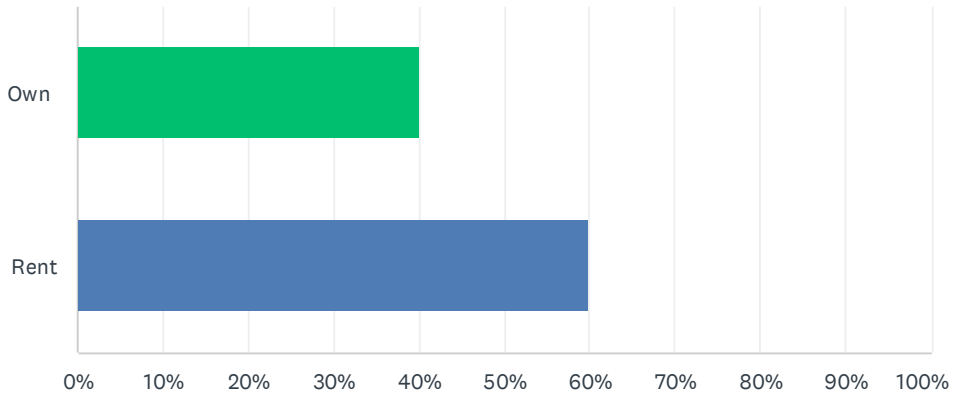
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under $15,000	16.36%	9
$15,001 – $20,000	14.55%	8
$20,001 – $30,000	5.45%	3
$30,001 – $45,000	21.82%	12
$45,001 – $55,000	3.64%	2
$55,001 - $60,000	1.82%	1
$60,001 - $65,000	3.64%	2
$65,001+	32.73%	18
TOTAL		55

Q23 Do you own or rent your home?

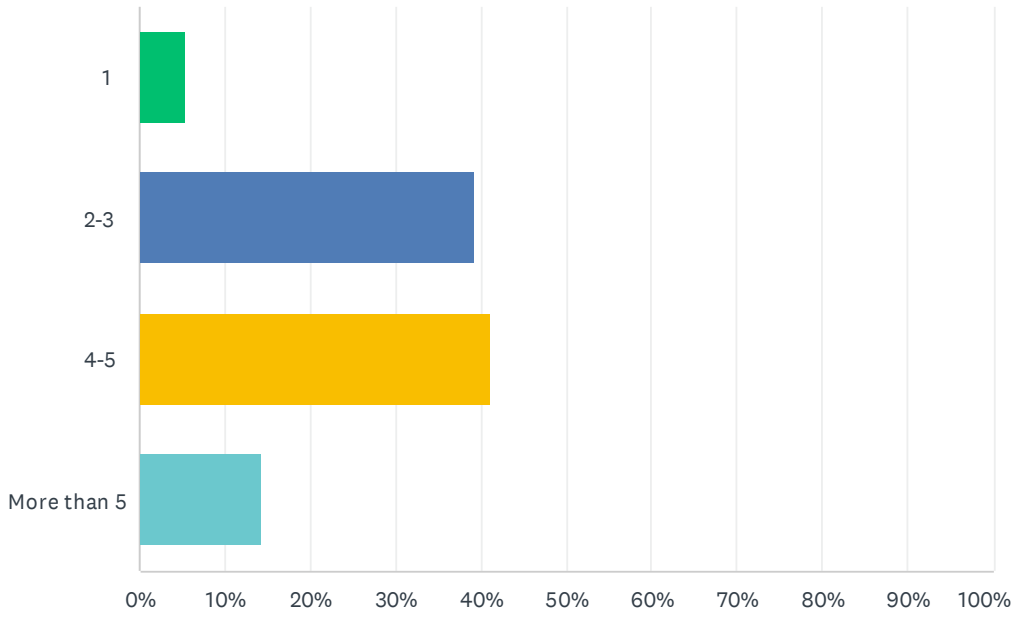
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	40.00%	22
Rent	60.00%	33
TOTAL		55

Q24 How many people live in your home?

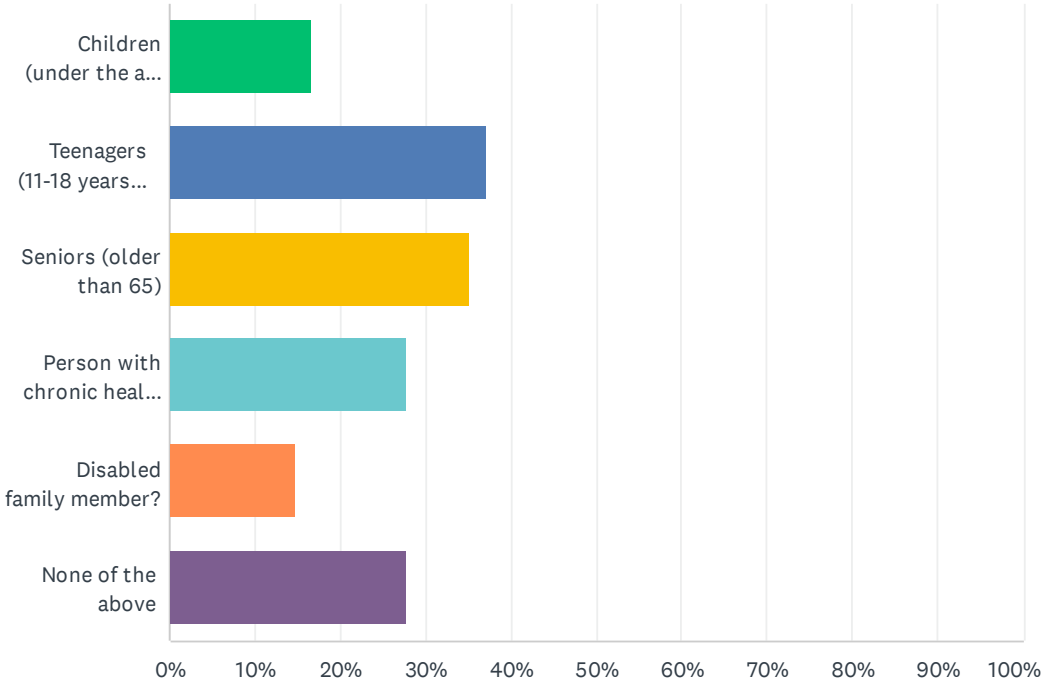
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	5.36%	3
2-3	39.29%	22
4-5	41.07%	23
More than 5	14.29%	8
TOTAL		56

Q25 Does your household/family include any of the following:

Answered: 54 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Children (under the age of 10)	16.67%	9
Teenagers (11-18 years old)	37.04%	20
Seniors (older than 65)	35.19%	19
Person with chronic health concerns (asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.)	27.78%	15
Disabled family member?	14.81%	8
None of the above	27.78%	15
Total Respondents: 54		

Q26 Are there any additional topics or comments that you would like to add?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 76

Q27 Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding updates regarding the environmental justice plan? Please provide a name, cell phone number, or e-mail address.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 77

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	95.83%	23
Cell phone number	66.67%	16
E-mail	66.67%	16

STAKEHOLDERS

Business	Address	Email	Phone	
Abode Communities		info@abodecommunities.org		
Abode Communities		info@abodecommunities.org		
American Legion Post 465	7550 Eastern Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201			
Azure Development		info@azuredevelopmentco.com		
Bell Gardens Chamber of Commerce	6119 Agra Street	info@bellgardenschamber.biz	562-291-0492	
Bell Gardens Community Services Center	8000 Park Ln, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	bgcommunity@bellgardens.org		
Bell Gardens Convalescent Center/ Briarcrest Nursing Home		business-office@BriarcrestNursing.com	562-927-2641	
Bell Gardens Family Medical Center	6501 Garfield Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	CMuniz@fhccgla.org	(562) 928-9600	
Bell Gardens Lions Club		bglions@hotmail.com		
Bell Gardens Neighborhood Watch		mtrevis@bgpd.org		
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice		info@clrj.org		
Del Rio Convalescent Center	7004 E Gage Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		(562) 927-6586	
East Rancho Dominguez Service Center		TBrookins@wdacs.lacounty.gov		
Fraternal Order of Eagles		fraternaleagles@sbcglobal.net		
Habitat for Humanity		USSupportCenter@habitat.org		
Human Services Association	6800 Florence Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	ricardo.mota@hsala.org	(562) 806-5400	
East Yard Community for EJ - Laura Cortez	2317 Atlantic Blvd, Commerce CA 90040	Laurac.eycej@gmail.com		
Luis Rincon		lrincon7777@gmail.com		
Maravilla Foundation		Info@Maravilla.org		
Mayans Development		scott@mayansdevelopment.com		
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation		rrla@maof.org		
National Core		info@nationalcore.org		
New Image Emergency Shelter		newimage-inc@msn.com		
Olson Company	3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100, Seal Beach, CA 90740	tolson@theolsonco.com	(562) 596-4770	
Park View Terrace	6728 Clara St, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		562-928-0348	
Patel		dpatel@kamlahotels.com		
Public Counsel- Brandon Payette		bpayette@publiccounsel.org		
Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors	10900 E. 183rd Street Suite #120, Cerritos, CA 90703	administrative@ranchosoutheast.com	562-860-5536	
Rio Hondo Boys and Girls Club	7104 Perry Rd, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	info@bgcmla.org	(562) 231-2500	
Salvation Army Homeless Shelter		Steve.Lytle@usw.salvationarmy.org		
San Pedro Region of Catholic Charities		bhackman@ccharities.org		
Steven Senemar	18340 YORBA LINDA BLVD # 107 YORBA LINDA, CA 92886	sencollc@hotmail.com	323-589-7700	
Sunrise Community Counseling		info@sunriseccc.org		
TELACU Development Corporation		info@TELACU.com		
Terra Bella	5720 Clara Street *Bell Gardens* , CA 90201	info@terrabellamanagement.com	562.479.0101	
The Enki Center			562) 806-5000	
The Lee Group	475 WASHINGTON BLVD, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292			
Tony Lee		tonylee98@gmail.com	562-688-2505	
Westminster Court	6850 Florence Ave., Bell Gardens, CA 90201	valeria.cabrera@humangood.org	(562) 806-2893	
Young at Heart Senior Citizens Group	6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens, CA, 90201	YAHRICK@outlook.com	775-782-5500	
		darren.dunaway@hsala.org		
Gabriel Garcia		gabriel@coreinvestments.com	323-855-3696	
Neighborhood Watch - Hannali Paniagua - Coordinator	7100 Garfield Ave	hpaniagua@bgpd.org	562-806-7686	562-843-4139 (mobile)
64th District Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco - Kayla Terraza (Field Representatve)	8255 Firestone Blvd., Ste 203, Downey CA 90241	Kayla.Terrazas@asm.ca.gov	562-861-5803	

APPENDIX D

Cultural Resources Information

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok, Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

December 4, 2023

Eleni Getachew
Impact Sciences, Inc.

Via Email to: egetachew@impactsciences.com

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Negative Declaration Report Project, Los Angeles County

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

  All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Cody.Campagne@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cody Campagne

Cody Campagne
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

IMPACT SCIENCES

811 W. 7th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 935-1901
www.impactsciences.com

SENT VIA EMAIL: sccic@fullerton.edu

November 7, 2023

Stacy St. James, Assistant Coordinator
South Central Coastal Information Center
Cal. State University, Fullerton Dept. of Anthropology
800 North State College Boulevard,
Fullerton, CA 92834

RE: Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element – Request for Service Information

Dear Ms. St. James,

Impact Sciences, Inc. is preparing an Initial Study/ Negative Declaration for the proposed Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element (Project) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As such, we are requesting an historical and archaeological resources records search. Below you will find a brief description of the Project location and description. Maps depicting the Project location and site plan are included.

Project Location

The Project's location is limited to the City of Bell Gardens' jurisdictional boundaries (**See Attachment 1)**.

The legal description is:

California, San Bernardino Meridian T02S, R12W

The 7.5 minute series topographic maps for that area:

Hollywood	Los Angeles	El Monte
Inglewood	**South Gate**	Whittier
Torrance	Long Beach	Los Alamitos

Project Description

The Project proposes to adopt and implement a new Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) as part of the City of Bell Gardens General Plan. The EJ Element is intended to reflect the current demographics of the City's vulnerable populations and address public health risks and environmental concerns for the populations in disadvantaged communities which have long suffered public health effects from geographical inequities. Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 100, the EJ Element identifies the existing environmental justice communities within the City based on several standard indicators such as, income level, environmental burden, and pollution exposure (inclusive of air quality, water quality, and land use compatibility).

Thank you for your assistance in responding to this query. Your responses will help us ensure that our analysis is accurate and complete. In order to ensure a timely completion of our analysis, please provide your response (via mail, or email) no later than **December 7, 2023.**

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please call me at 213.935.1901 ext. 323. You may also reach me by email at egetachew@impactsciences.com.

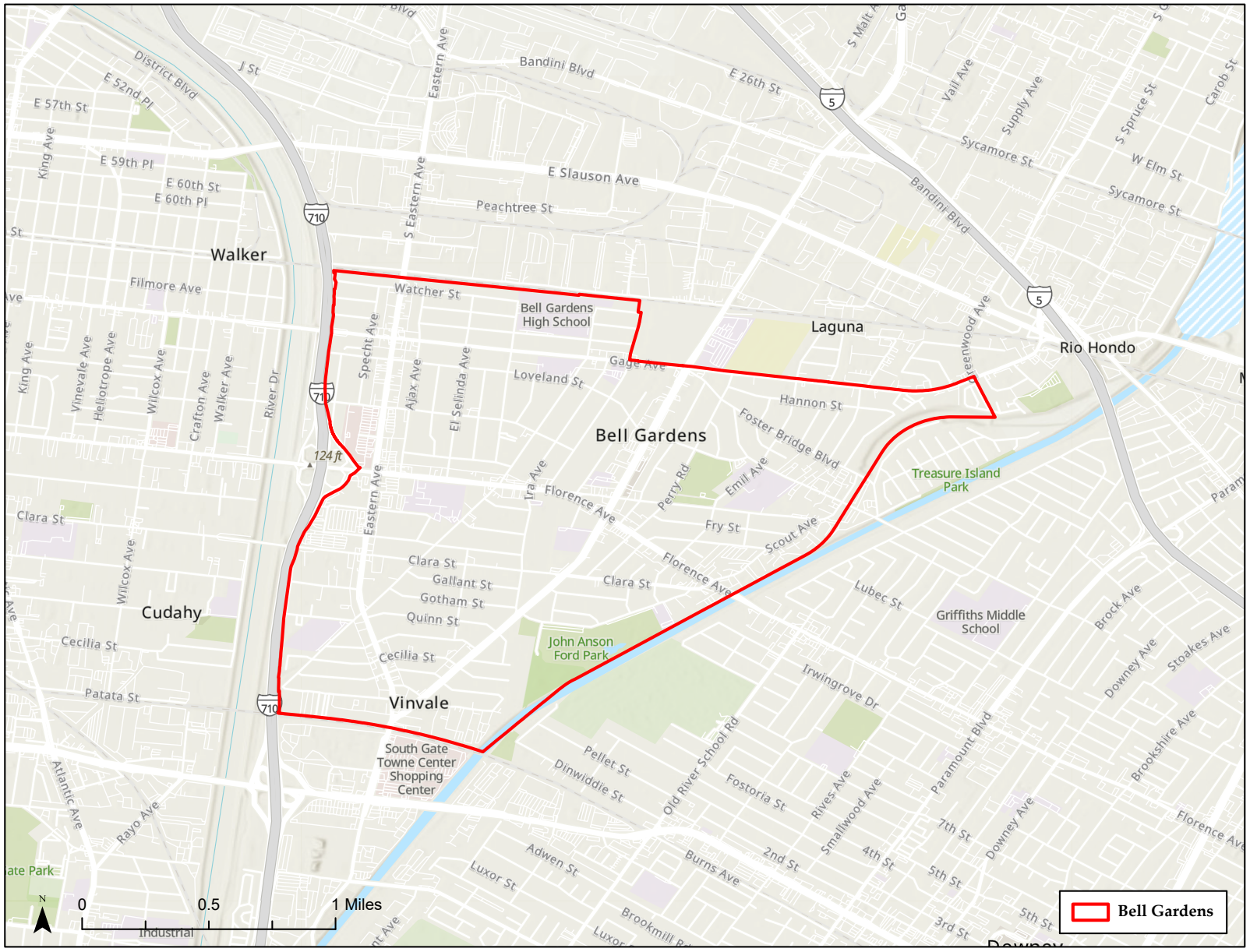
Sincerely,

Eleni Getachew
Planner

IMPACT SCIENCES

811 W. 7th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90017
o: 213.935.1901 Ext. 323 | c: 805.453.2862
egetachew@impactsciences.com

Attachment 1: City of Bell Gardens Map



SOURCE: Esri, 2023

FIGURE 1

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City of Bell Gardens

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