



# Planning for Healthy Communities: Environmental Justice in General Plans

SB 1000 IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT

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**Green Zones Program Manager**  
**California Environmental Justice Alliance**

# Why SB 1000?

Low-income residents, communities of color, indigenous communities and immigrant communities have disproportionately experienced some of the greatest environmental burdens and related health problems in this country.

- Inappropriate land use planning
- Discrimination (housing, lending)
- Low political power
- Business interests over health





# **SB 1000 BACKGROUND**

**[CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT](http://CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT)**

# About SB 1000

*Requires jurisdictions to include an EJ Element (or integrated EJ goals, policies and objectives) in their General Plans if they have “disadvantaged communities”.*

- **Reduce the unique and compounded health risks in DACs**
  - Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
  - Promote public facilities
  - Promote food access
  - Promote safe and sanitary homes
  - Promote physical activity
- **Promote community engagement** in the public decision-making process
- **Prioritize improvements and programs** that address the needs of DACs

# Benefits of SB 1000



*Intelligent planning creates healthy and vibrant communities while preventing outcomes that can be costly to the community*

- Avoid lawsuits and conflicts
- Promote equity and civil rights
- Adhere to Planner Code of Ethics
- Comply with state laws
- Leverage funding and resources



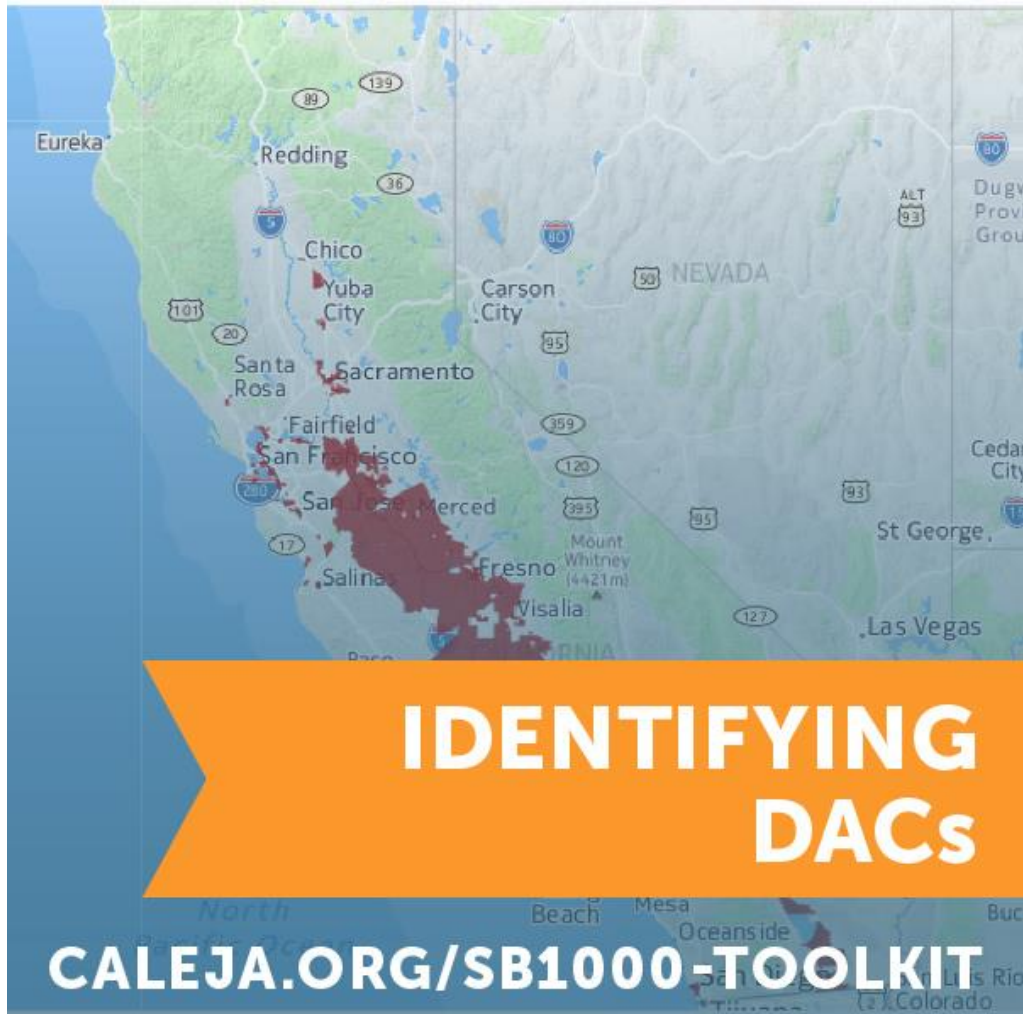
# EJ PLANNING PROCESS

[CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT](https://caleja.org/sb1000-toolkit)

# Planning Process

1. EJ Element vs. EJ integration
2. Conduct public meetings
  - a. Identify communities
  - b. Document existing conditions
3. Involve and engage the community
4. Create advisory committees
5. Develop EJ goals, policies and objectives





# IDENTIFYING DACs

[CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT](http://CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT)



# Identifying EJ Communities

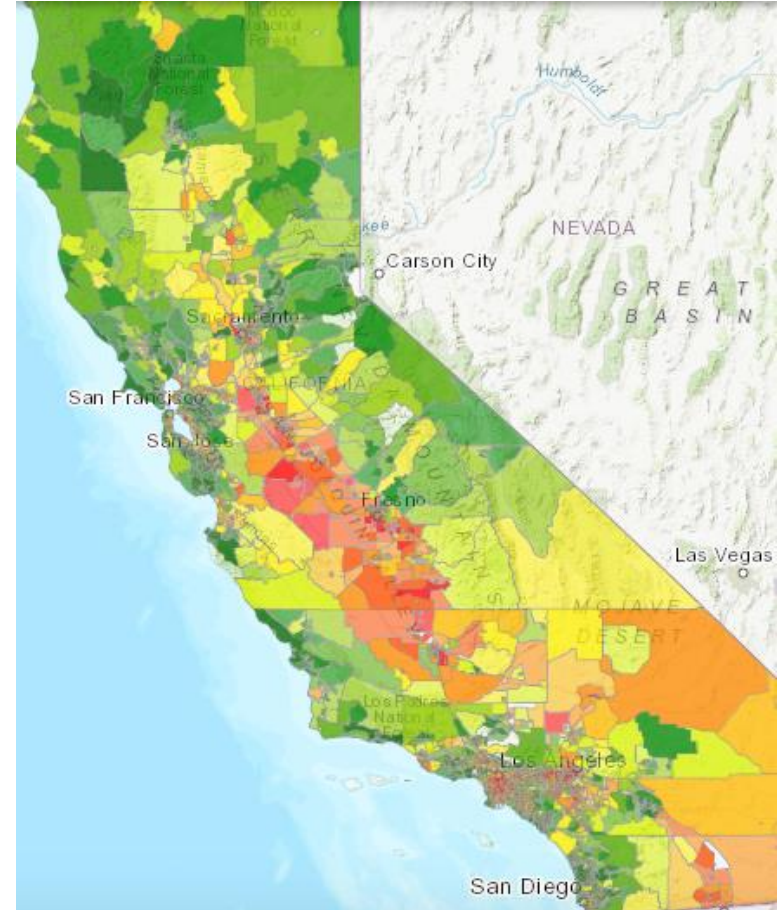
## ***METHOD #1:***

### ***CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results***

## ***METHOD #2:***

### ***Income and Pollution Burden***

1. Use a low-income measurement
2. Use a tool to ID pollution burdens





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

[CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT](http://CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT)

# PRINCIPLES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Inclusion**
  - **Access / Transparency/ Responsiveness**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Broad and Balanced Participation**
  - **Honor Local Community Knowledge**
  - **Long-Term Commitment**
- 
- A group of diverse women, including Black, Hispanic, and White individuals, are standing in front of a colorful playground. They are all smiling and appear to be engaged in a positive conversation. The background shows a blue sky and green trees, suggesting an outdoor park setting.

Figure 5-1 / IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

**Increasing Level of Public Impact**

<b>Inform</b>	<b>Consult</b>	<b>Involve</b>	<b>Collaborate</b>	<b>Empower</b>
<p><b>Public Participation Goal</b></p> <p>To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, and/or solutions.</p>	<p><b>Public Participation Goal</b></p> <p>To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.</p>	<p><b>Public Participation Goal</b></p> <p>To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.</p>	<p><b>Public Participation Goal</b></p> <p>To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.</p>	<p><b>Public Participation Goal</b></p> <p>To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.</p>
<p><b>Promise to the Public</b></p> <p>We will keep you informed.</p>	<p><b>Promise to the Public</b></p> <p>We will keep you informed, listen to, and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</p>	<p><b>Promise to the Public</b></p> <p>We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</p>	<p><b>Promise to the Public</b></p> <p>We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.</p>	<p><b>Promise to the Public</b></p> <p>We will implement what you decide.</p>
<p><b>Example Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Fact sheets</li> <li>✔ Websites</li> <li>✔ Open houses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Public comment</li> <li>✔ Focus groups</li> <li>✔ Surveys</li> <li>✔ Public meetings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Workshops</li> <li>✔ Deliberate polling</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Citizen Advisory Committee</li> <li>✔ Consensus-building</li> <li>✔ Participatory decision-making</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Citizen juries</li> <li>✔ Ballots</li> <li>✔ Delegated decisions</li> </ul>

Source: International Association of Public Participation

# SB 1000 Toolkit:

Inform

Consult

Involve

Collaborate

Empower

# Working with CBOs

*Promotoras  
Model*



**Advisory  
Committees**



# EJ OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

[CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT](https://caleja.org/sb1000-toolkit)

# Goals, Objectives & Policies (I)

## Reduce Pollution Exposure

- Reduce sources and vehicle trips
- Compact developments
- Reduce pollution related to energy consumption
- Reduce water contamination

## Promote Public Facilities

- Equitable distribution and access
- Interagency coordination

## Food Access

- Affordable and nutritious food supply
- Urban agriculture
- Local purchasing

## Safe and Sanitary Homes

- Address unhealthy conditions
- Promote affordability
- Promote land use compatibility
- Prevent against displacement

# Goals, Objectives & Policies (II)

## Promote Physical Activity

- Improve access and connectivity
- Urban greening
- Complete Streets

## Promote Community Engagement

- Capacity-building
- Cultural considerations
- Language access
- Broad and balanced participation

## Equitable Development and Design

- Community-oriented development
- Workforce Development
- Placemaking

## Reduce Impacts of Climate Change

- Extreme heat plans
- Flood-resistant development
- Resilience for transportation
- Promote energy efficiency and RE





# CASE STUDIES

[CALEJA.ORG/SB1000-TOOLKIT](https://caleja.org/sb1000-toolkit)

# Case Studies: Best Practices in Planning for Environmental Justice



"South Fresno residents have a harsh reality. They breathe in toxic fumes everyday from neighboring industrial plants and diesel truck emissions. They lack basic infrastructure like sidewalks, street lights, and bike lanes making it dangerous to walk or bike anywhere. And they lack access to fresh foods making it very difficult to live a healthy lifestyle. By simply being intentional and thoughtful when planning for equitable land uses, low-income families and communities of color, can get the opportunity for a better quality of life."

**Grecia Elenes**  
**Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**  
**Fresno, CA**





# FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE

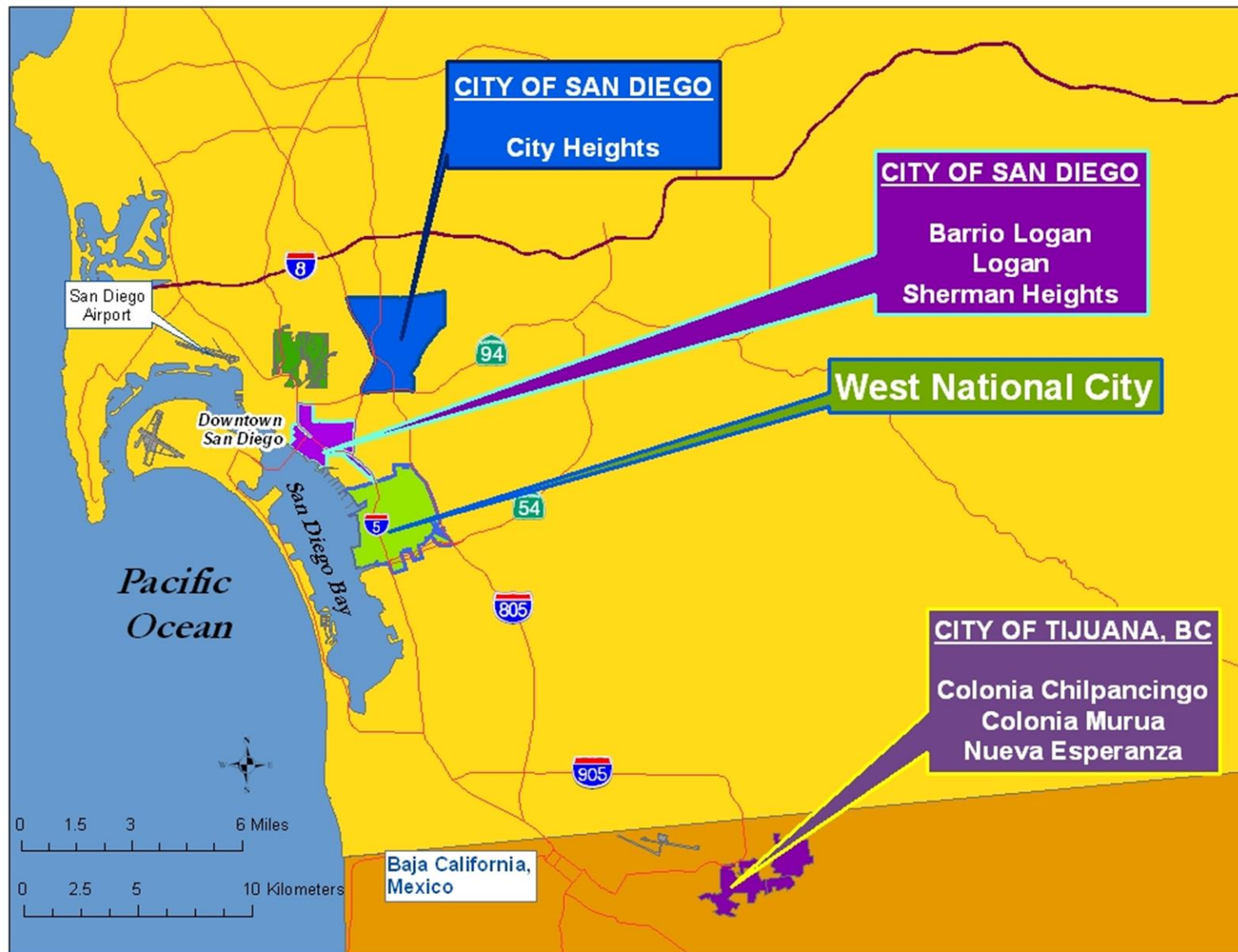
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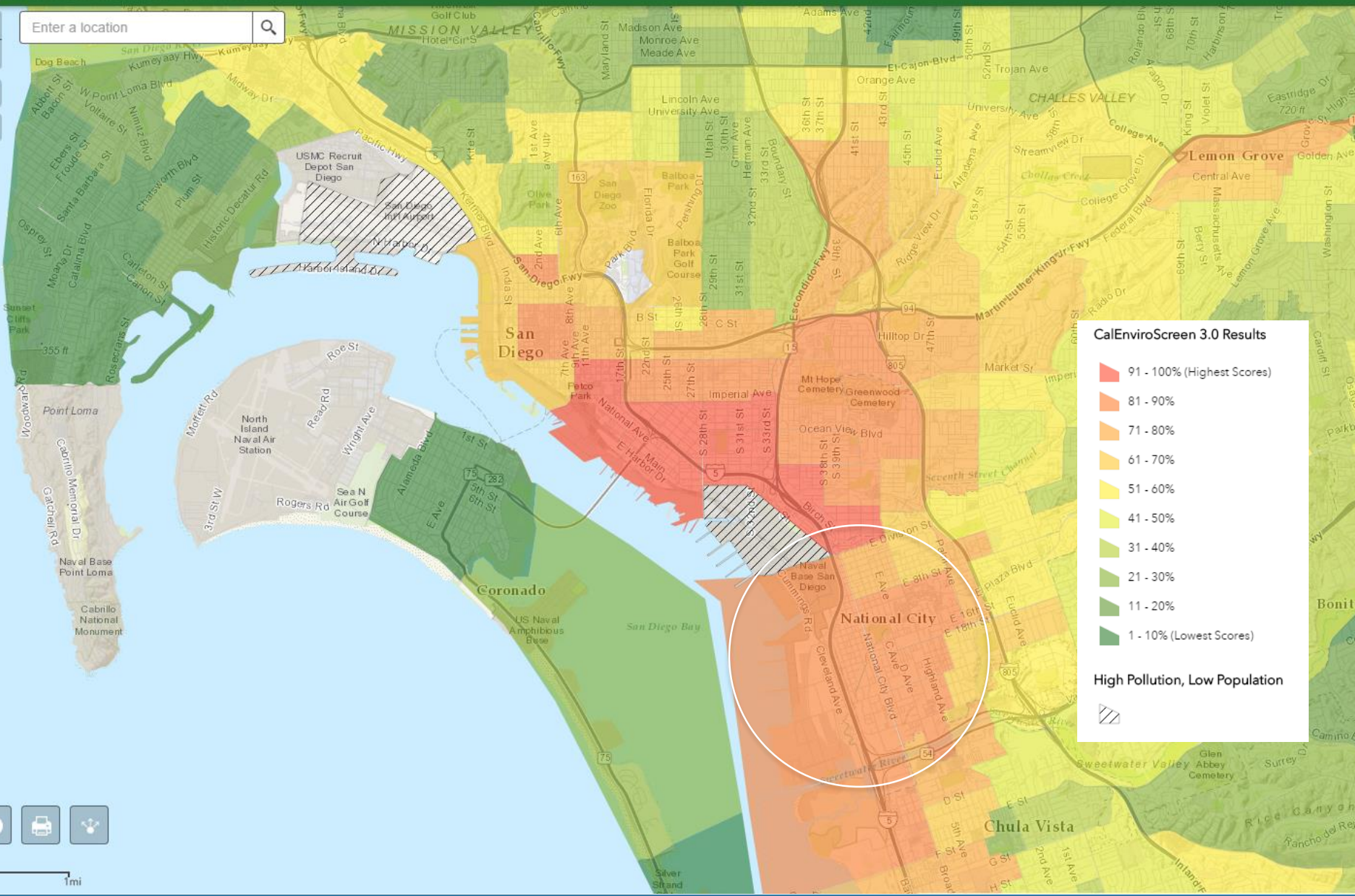
# Planning for Healthy Communities: Environmental Justice in General Plans

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Enter a location



CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results

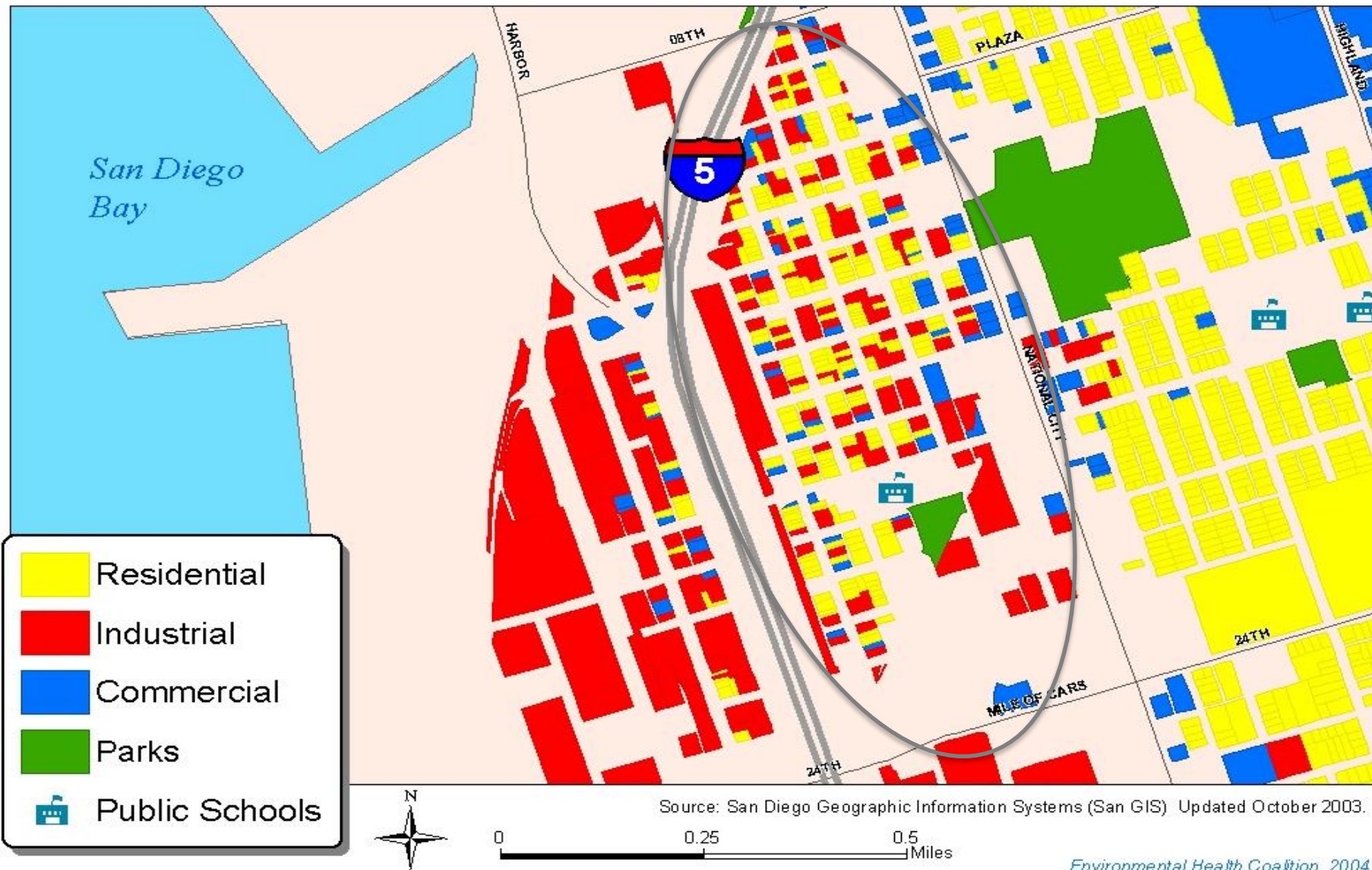
- 91 - 100% (Highest Scores)
- 81 - 90%
- 71 - 80%
- 61 - 70%
- 51 - 60%
- 41 - 50%
- 31 - 40%
- 21 - 30%
- 11 - 20%
- 1 - 10% (Lowest Scores)

High Pollution, Low Population



1mi

# Land Use in West National City



Environmental Health Coalition 2004

# March 2014 Explosion

## Accidents do happen





**“We are on the frontlines of the impact,  
but we are also at the front lines of the solution” Silaka Cox**





**SALTA**

**COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING PROGRAM**

**ACHIEVING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
THROUGH LEADER AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**



Accessible planning language  
Professional interpretation

Childcare

Food

Culturally relevant

Safe space

Fun

Builds self awareness and confidence

Genuine relationships

Community building

Real solutions

What  
is  
**land use?**

for  
the rest of the world

# Plano de mi casa en



# Land Use Map National City

## COMBINED GENERAL PLAN /ZONING MAP

### RESIDENTIAL

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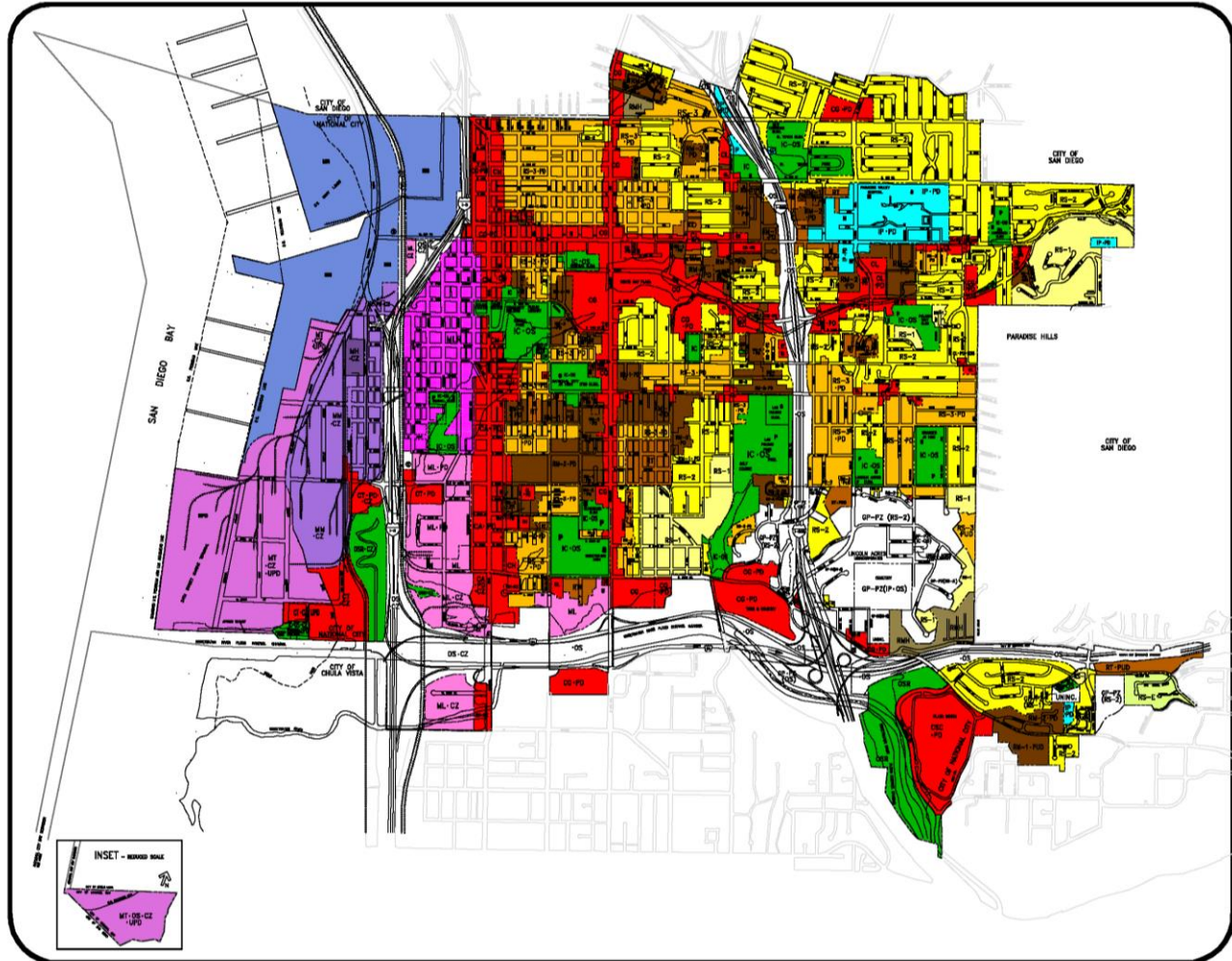
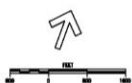
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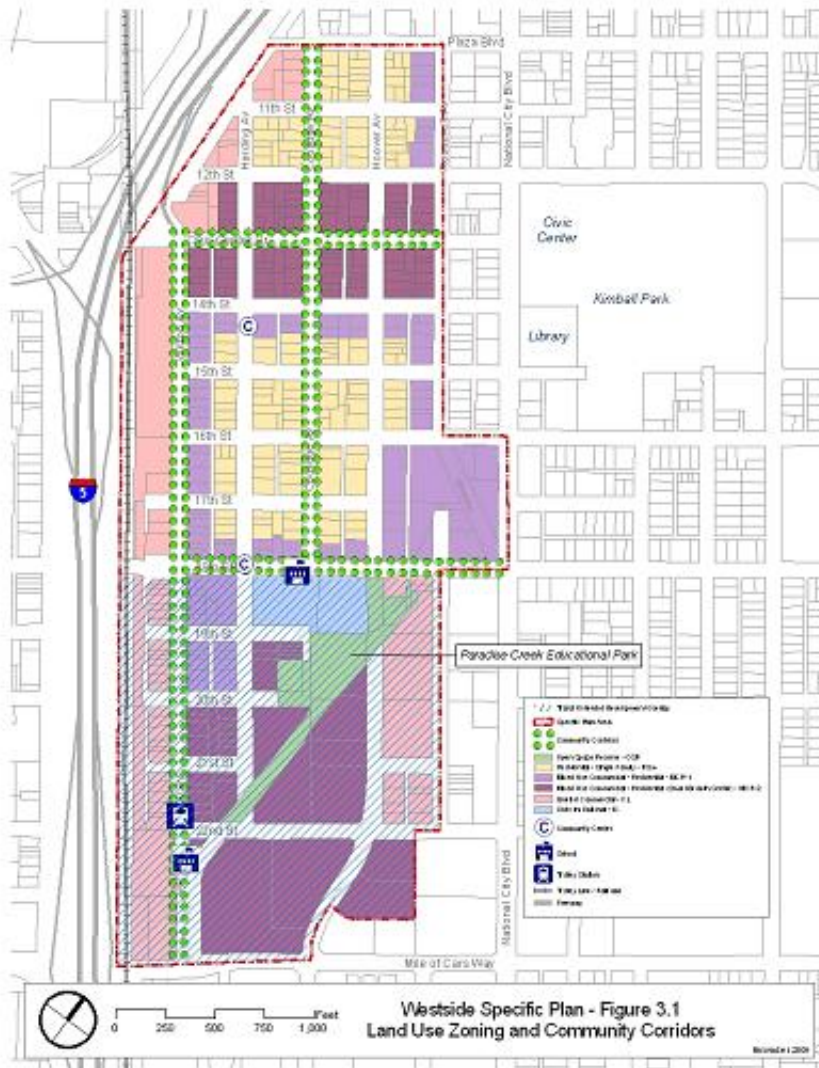
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Adopted September 10, 1998  
 City Council Resolution No. 98-148  
 As amended by GP-2000-1, 2, 3 and  
 GP-2001-2 and GP-2002-1

## NATIONAL CITY, CALIFORNIA





1. Polluters to industrial zone.
2. Affordable housing.
3. Building heights to 3 floors.
4. 500 ft. freeway buffer.

# Health and Environmental Justice (HEJ)



## A. Introduction

The way we design and build the human environment has a profound impact on both public health and environmental justice. Planning decisions related to transportation systems, density and intensity of uses, land use practices, and street design influence: how much we walk, ride a bicycle, drive a car, or take public transportation; the level of our stress; the types of food we eat; and the quality of our air and water – all factors which affect our health. For example, the more we drive, the more our vehicles emit harmful gases and particles into the air, which can lead to respiratory problems such as asthma. A compact, mixed-use development pattern that reduces reliance on automobiles and increases public transit opportunities can improve air quality and respiratory health<sup>1</sup>.

In addition, the presence or absence of sidewalks and bike routes, heavy traffic, hills, street lights, enjoyable scenery, and observations of others exercising all impact our level of physical activity<sup>2</sup>. Regular physical activity is important to build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints and to help reduce the risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, colon and breast cancer, obesity, and depression and anxiety. Eliminating barriers to physical activity and increasing access to parks and open space and quality recreational facilities and programs increases the likelihood that people will exercise<sup>3</sup>.



*Public Health - A state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing, not just the absence of disease or infirmity. (World Health Organization)*

*Environmental Justice - The fair treatment and meaningful participation of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (Government Code §65040.12).*

# 2011 California's 1<sup>st</sup> EJ Element

<sup>1</sup> Jackson, Richard. (n.d.). Creating a healthy environment: The Impact of the built environment on the public health. Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse Monograph Series. Retrieved August 27, 2009 from <http://www.sprawlwatch.org/health.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> King, AC, et. al. (2000). Personal and environmental factors associated with physical inactivity among different racial-ethnic groups of US middle-aged and older-aged women. *Health Psych*; 19(4):354-364.

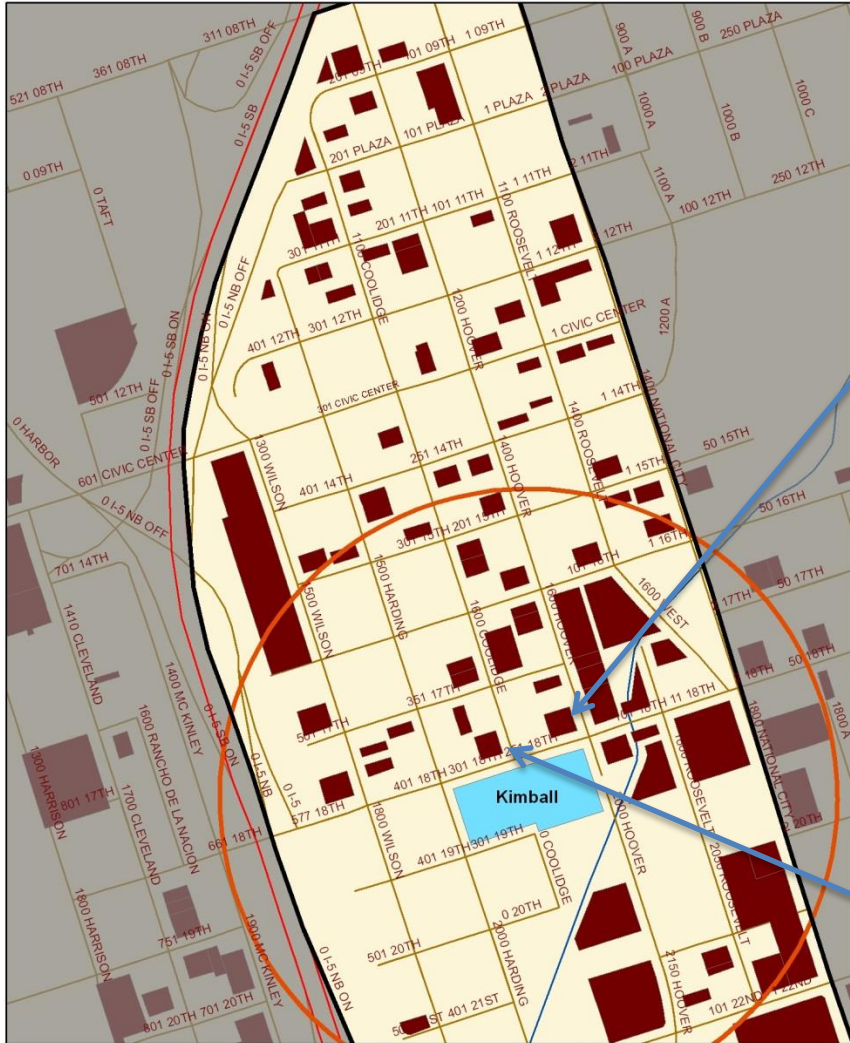
<sup>3</sup> Kahn, E.B. (2002). The effectiveness of interventions to increase physical activity. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* 22: 87-88.

# Language w **teeth**





# Businesses with Hazardous Materials, Old Town National City



Map layers from SANGIS  
National City parcels 2010.mxd  
EHC, 2011.

Red circle indicates the area within 1000 feet of Kimball Elementary School.





**Carolina Martinez**  
carolinam@environmentalhealth.org | @ejcarolina

# Regional Perspectives: SB 1000 in the Inland Valley

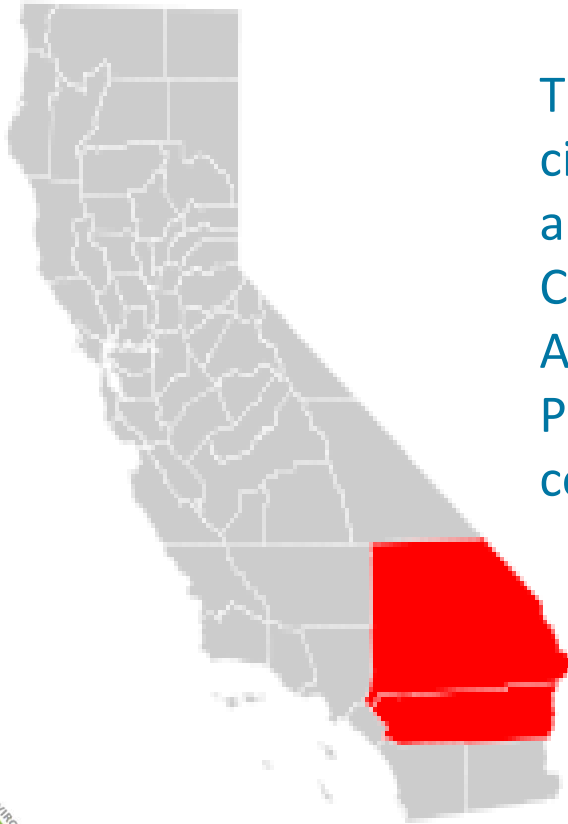
**Michele Hasson, Policy Director**

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAIEJ)



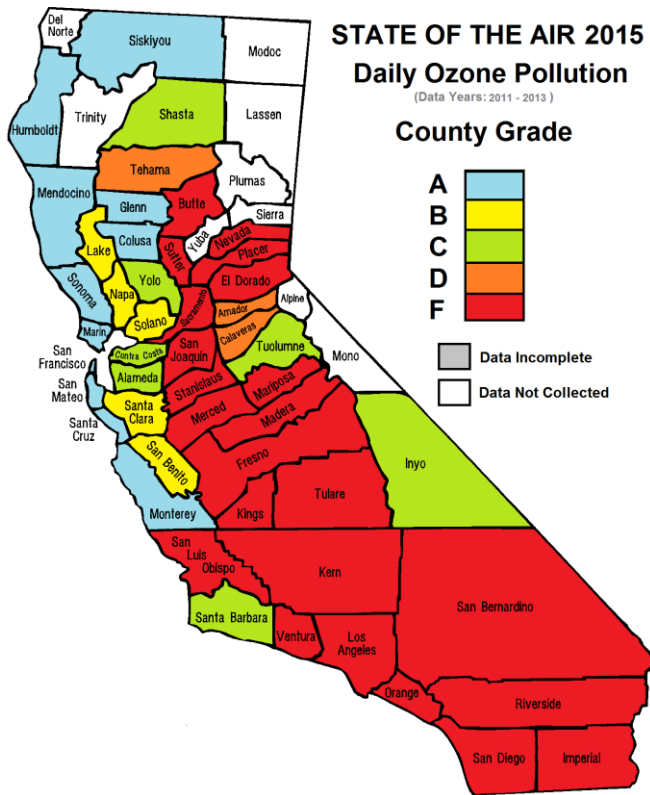
# The Setting: The Inland Valley

The Inland Valley (I.E.) refers to the cities of western Riverside County and southwestern San Bernardino County and extends to eastern Los Angeles County cities in the Pomona Valley, and the desert community of Palm Springs.

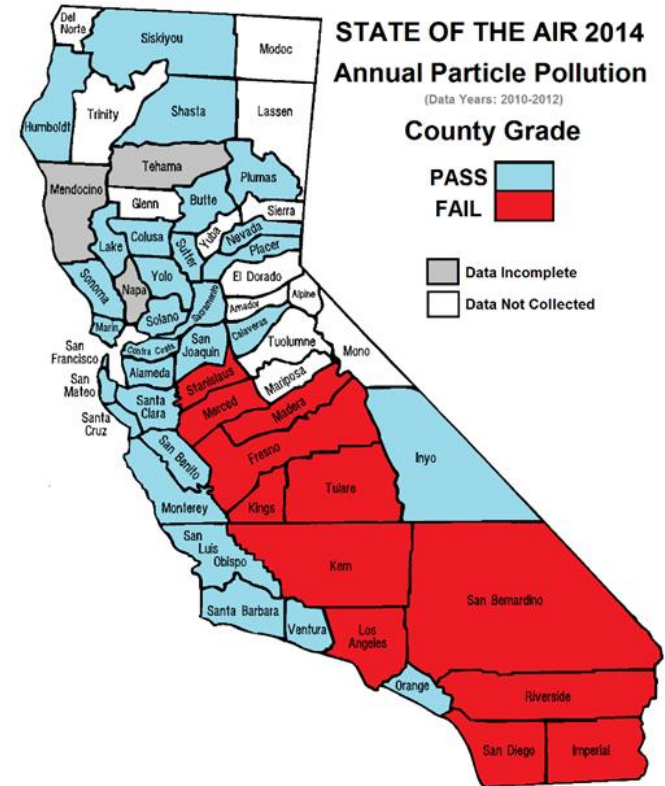


# Environmental Injustice:

## Health Impacts of shortsighted Land use planning



- During 2005-2007, unhealthy air cost \$193M in hospital admissions and emergency room visits. (2010 RAND Corporation)
- Meeting federal clean air standards could result in significant Public Health savings, almost \$22 billion in the Inland Empire Region (2008 CSU Fullerton research)
- Annual ozone-related public health costs could reach \$10 billion (2008 UC Berkeley Research)



# Environmental Justice (EJ): The Role of Equity in Planning



- Limited Community engagement during the Planning Process have put the overwhelming majority of polluting practices in the most vulnerable communities in the region.
- This inequity is a result of many factors: a history of residential segregation and discriminatory zoning, lower levels of political and economic power, and market-driven land use and economic development patterns that exacerbate the concentration of environmental hazards in disadvantaged communities, while distributing their benefits elsewhere.

# SB 1000: Environmental Justice and Planning



## City of Jurupa Valley EJ Element:

- Benefits of an EJ Element Planning Process: The EJ Element lays out the process for EJ communities to be meaningfully engaged in decision making about land use
- Immediate results: Increased civic participation and engagement, the city standardized and developed meaningful community development approaches.
- EJ Policies in the GP: restricted truck route, increased safety, increased access to opportunity, community ownership of GP



# SB 1000: Environmental Justice and Planning



## San Bernardino County EJ Element:

- The County is currently in GP update process
- Opportunity to identify, plan for and catalyze investments to SB County's most vulnerable residents.
- Current multi-stakeholder table of CBO's Industry, County staff to identify common goals and projects that have broad benefits.