

# **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  
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Bell Gardens, CA 90201

**Prepared By:**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

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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. **List of Preparers and Persons Consulted:** 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

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### 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**

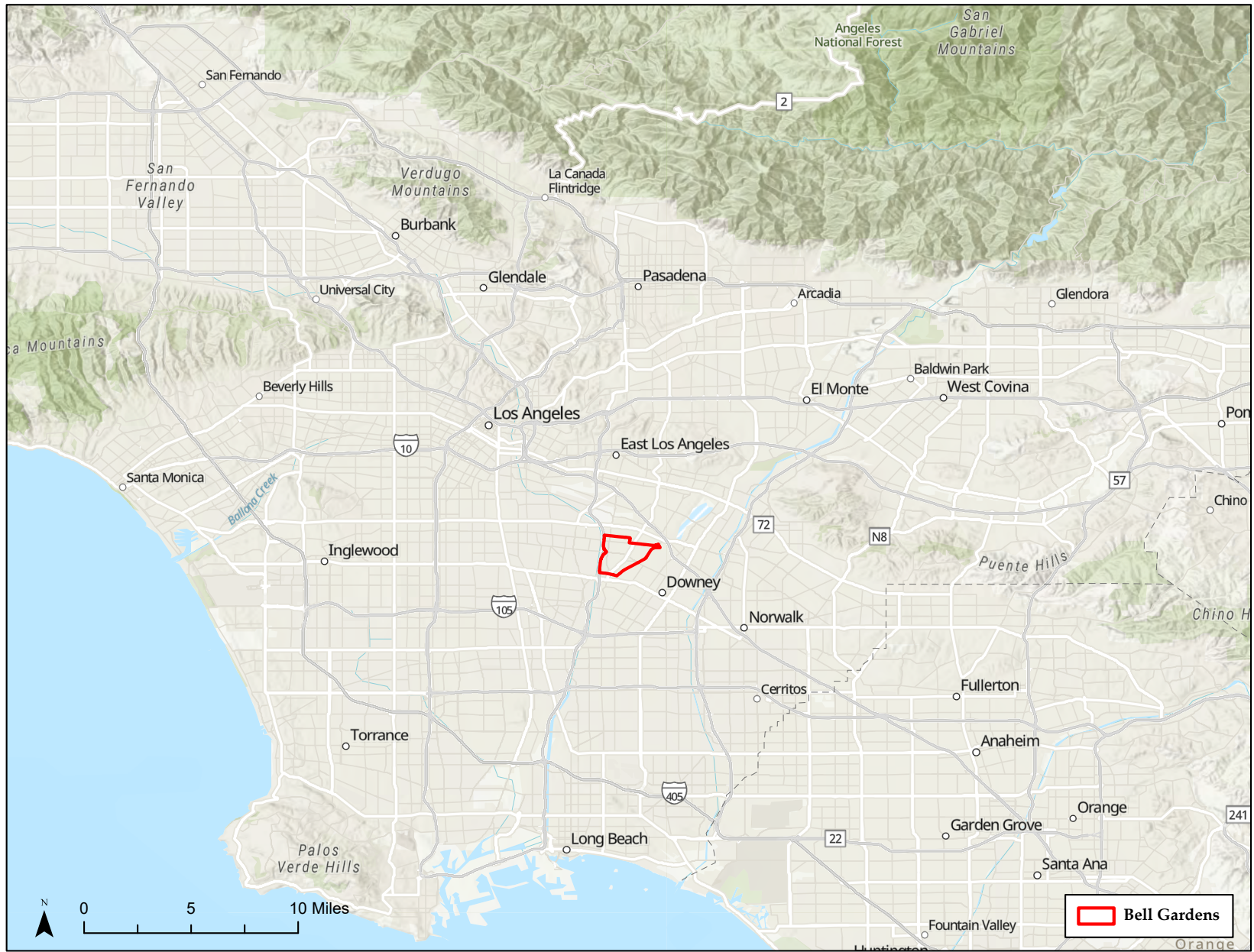
The Project will apply to the entire geographic area located within the boundaries of the City of Bell Gardens. The City, located in southeast Los Angeles County, is approximately 2.5 square miles with a population of 38,447 people, according to a January 2023 estimate from the State of California’s Department of Finance.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.”<sup>3</sup> 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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<sup>2</sup> 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](https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf), accessed April 3, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> 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<sup>4</sup> 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;

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<sup>4</sup> 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](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**).<sup>5</sup> **Table 2-1, Analyzed Indicators**, lists the indicators provided by CalEnviroScreen as indicators analyzed in the EJ Element.

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<sup>5</sup> 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 Policies**, 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			

II. Project Description

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.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology and Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>

*III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis*

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.

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Printed Name

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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
<b>Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099:</b>				
<b>a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.

*III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis*

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
<p><b>b. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>6</sup> The closest eligible state scenic highway would be State Route 1, located approximately 11.4 miles southeast of the City of Bell Gardens.<sup>7</sup> 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**).<sup>8</sup> 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.

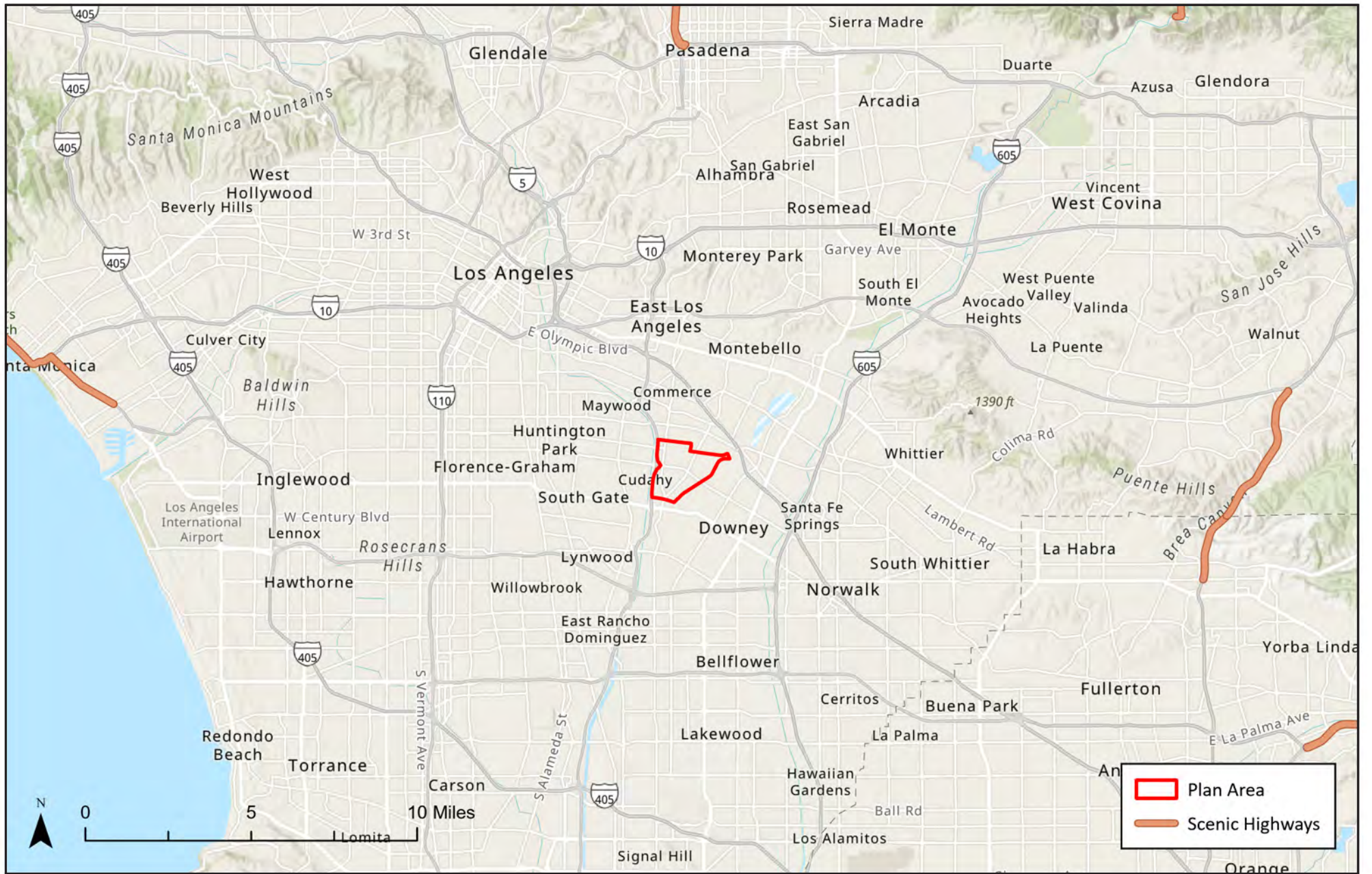
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. <b>Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are 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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Transportation, "State Scenic Highway Map." Available online at: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>, accessed April 5, 2024.



SOURCE: Caltrans, 2024; Esri, 2024

Figure 3.3-1 Scenic Highways

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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**.<sup>9</sup> 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.”<sup>10</sup>

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>b. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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,<sup>11</sup> there is no land in the City designated as enrolled under a

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

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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)).<sup>13</sup>

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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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."<sup>14</sup> 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."<sup>15</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

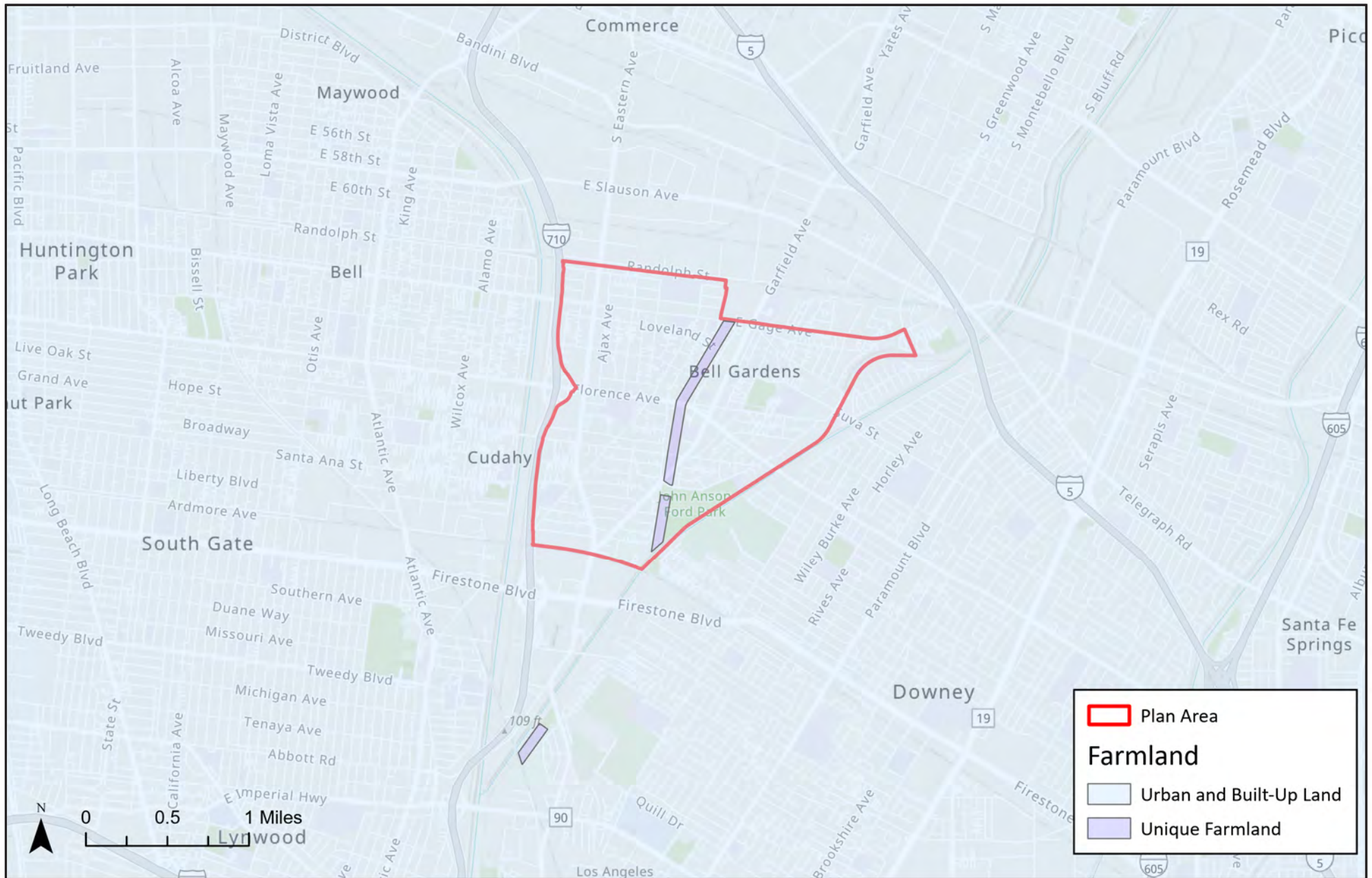
**No Impact.** See responses to **Sections 2.a** through **d**, above. The City is located in an urbanized area, and there are no agricultural uses or related uses within the City. The Project will not result in the approval of any physical improvements and does not include any changes to the General 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.

<sup>14</sup> California Public Resources Code, Section 12220(g).

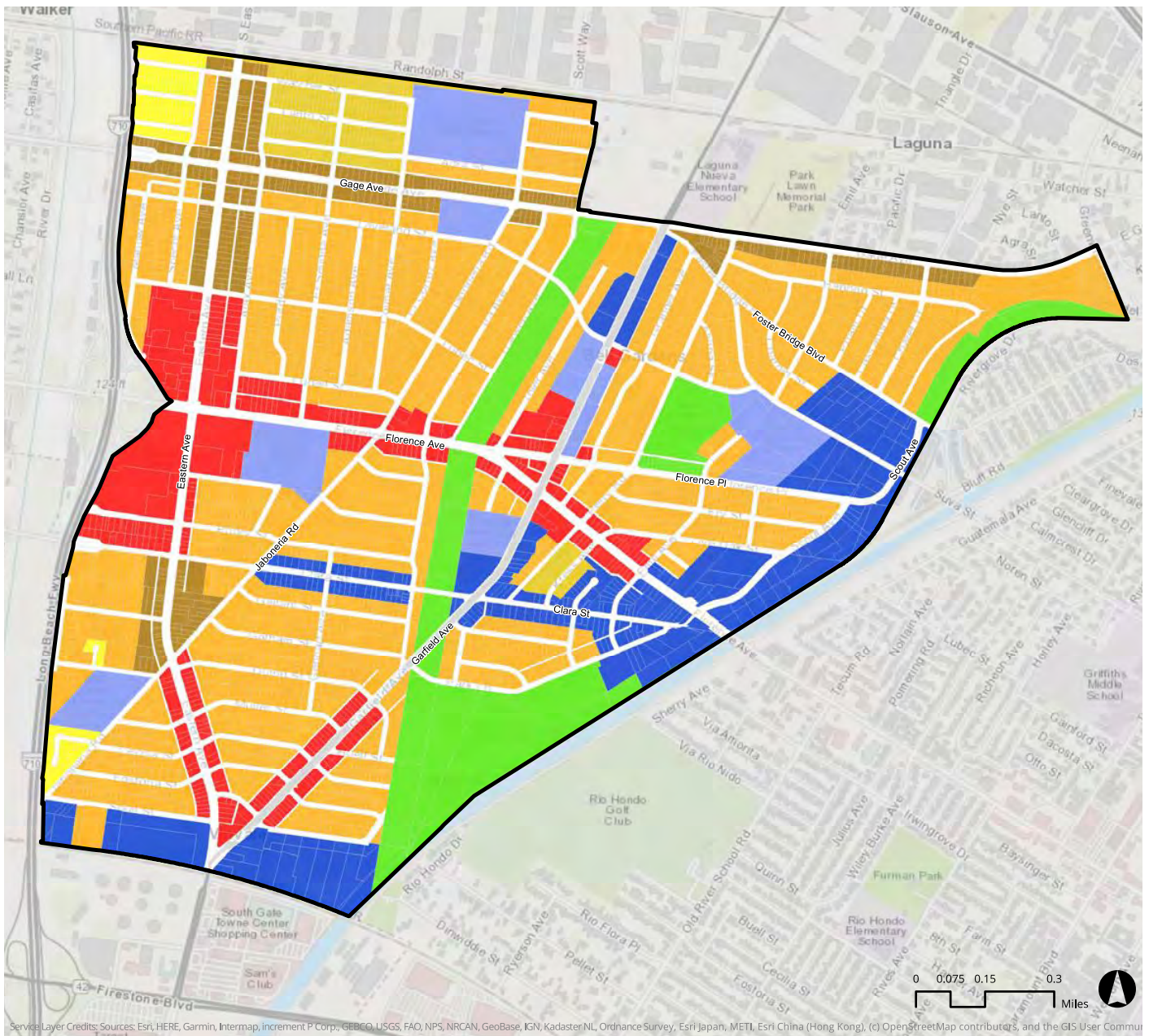
<sup>15</sup> PRC, § 4526.

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**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

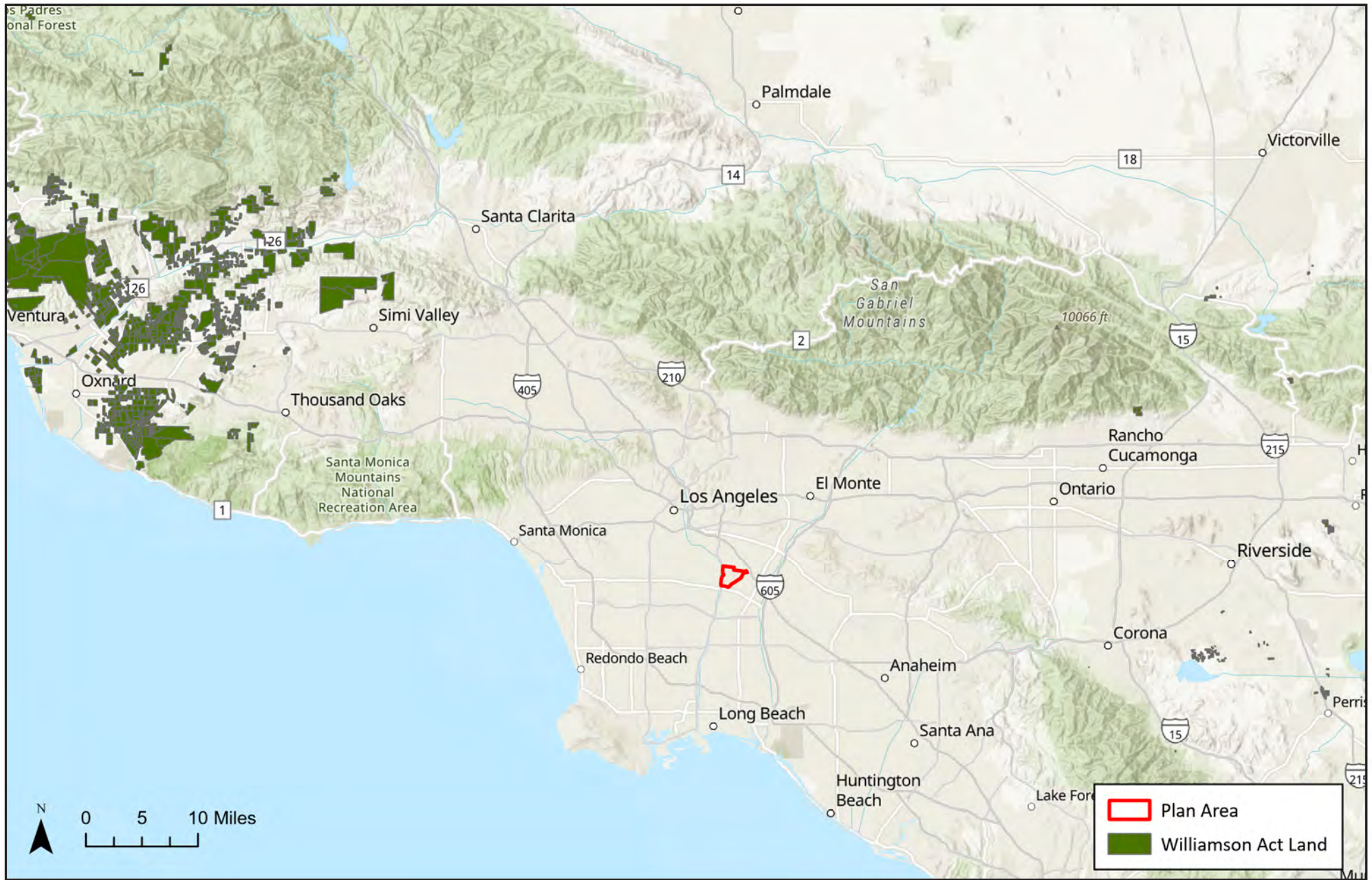


SOURCE: California Department of Conservation; Esri, 2024



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

SOURCE: SCAG, 2019



SOURCE: California Department of Conservation; Esri, 2024

Figure 3.3-4 Williamson Act Land





SOURCE: CDFW, 2024

### 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.<sup>16</sup> 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

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<sup>16</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	Year		
		2020	2021	2022
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO)<sup>a</sup></b>				
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
<b>Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)<sup>a</sup></b>				
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
<b>Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>a</sup></b>				
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
<b>Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)<sup>b</sup></b>				
Maximum 24-hour concentration monitored (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		43.20	102.10	52.80
Annual average concentration monitored (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		13.57	13.41	12.25
Number of samples exceeding federal standard	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	7	12	6

<sup>a</sup> Data from CARB No. 177

<sup>b</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Parts by volume per million of air (ppm), micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), or annual arithmetic mean (aam).

<sup>2</sup> The 8-hour federal O<sub>3</sub> 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 (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter less than 10 micrometers (coarse or PM<sub>10</sub>), particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers (fine or PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and lead. However, ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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 PM<sub>10</sub> CAAQS, and 24-hour and annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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.

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- 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**.

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**Table 2-4**  
**SCAQMD Regional Thresholds of Significance**

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

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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.

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## 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. <b>Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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. <b>Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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).<sup>18</sup> 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.

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<sup>18</sup> 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**.<sup>19</sup> 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.

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<sup>19</sup> 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.

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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](https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/9.1_Chapter9_Figures.pdf), accessed April 3, 2024.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>21</sup>

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.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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**.<sup>22</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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

<sup>22</sup> 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 (CFGF) 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 CFGF Section 3511 (birds), Section 4700 (mammals), Section 5515 (fish), and Section 5050 (reptiles and amphibians) are also considered special-status animal species.<sup>23</sup> 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. <b>Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.

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

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

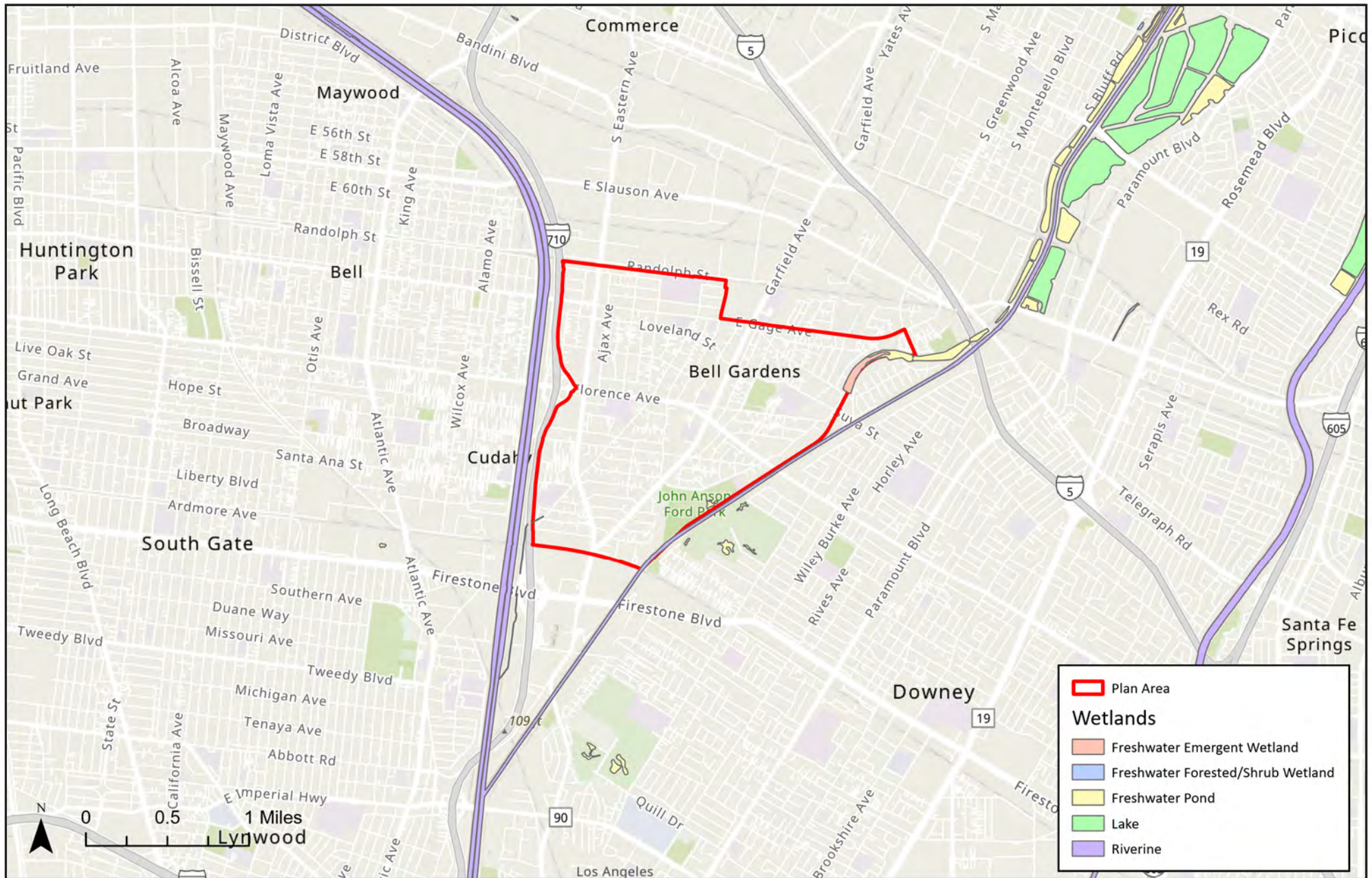
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, no impact would occur.

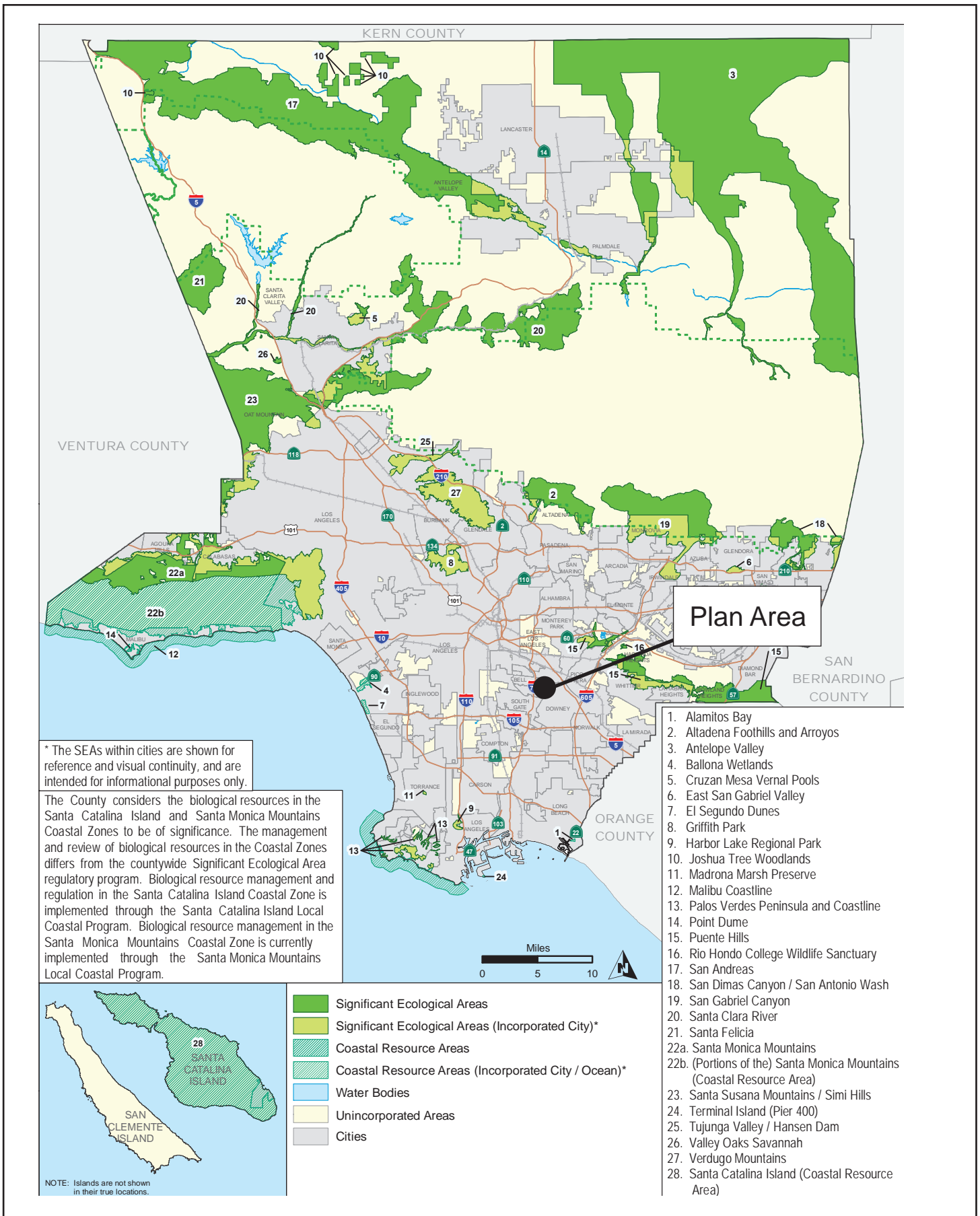
**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

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<sup>24</sup> 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



SOURCE: Department of Regional Planning, 2019

## 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.

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Less than Significant Impact.** The Conservation Element of the City’s General Plan identifies five historic properties within the City.<sup>25</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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

<sup>25</sup> 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. <b>Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal ceremonies?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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

### *III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis*

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. <b>Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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<sup>26</sup>.

### *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. <b>Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. <b>Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<sup>26</sup> 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](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
<b>Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</b>				

**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.<sup>27</sup>

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
<b>ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.**<sup>28</sup> However, there are several faults within the region that could have an impact on

<sup>27</sup> 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](https://filerequest.conservation.ca.gov/?q=SOUTH_GATE_EZRIM.pdf), accessed August 30, 2023.

<sup>28</sup> 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](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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.**<sup>29</sup>

<sup>29</sup> 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](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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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 shear 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.<sup>30</sup> As such, implementation of the EJ Element would not exacerbate environmental conditions that would result in landslides, and no impacts would occur.

<sup>30</sup> 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](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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**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. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

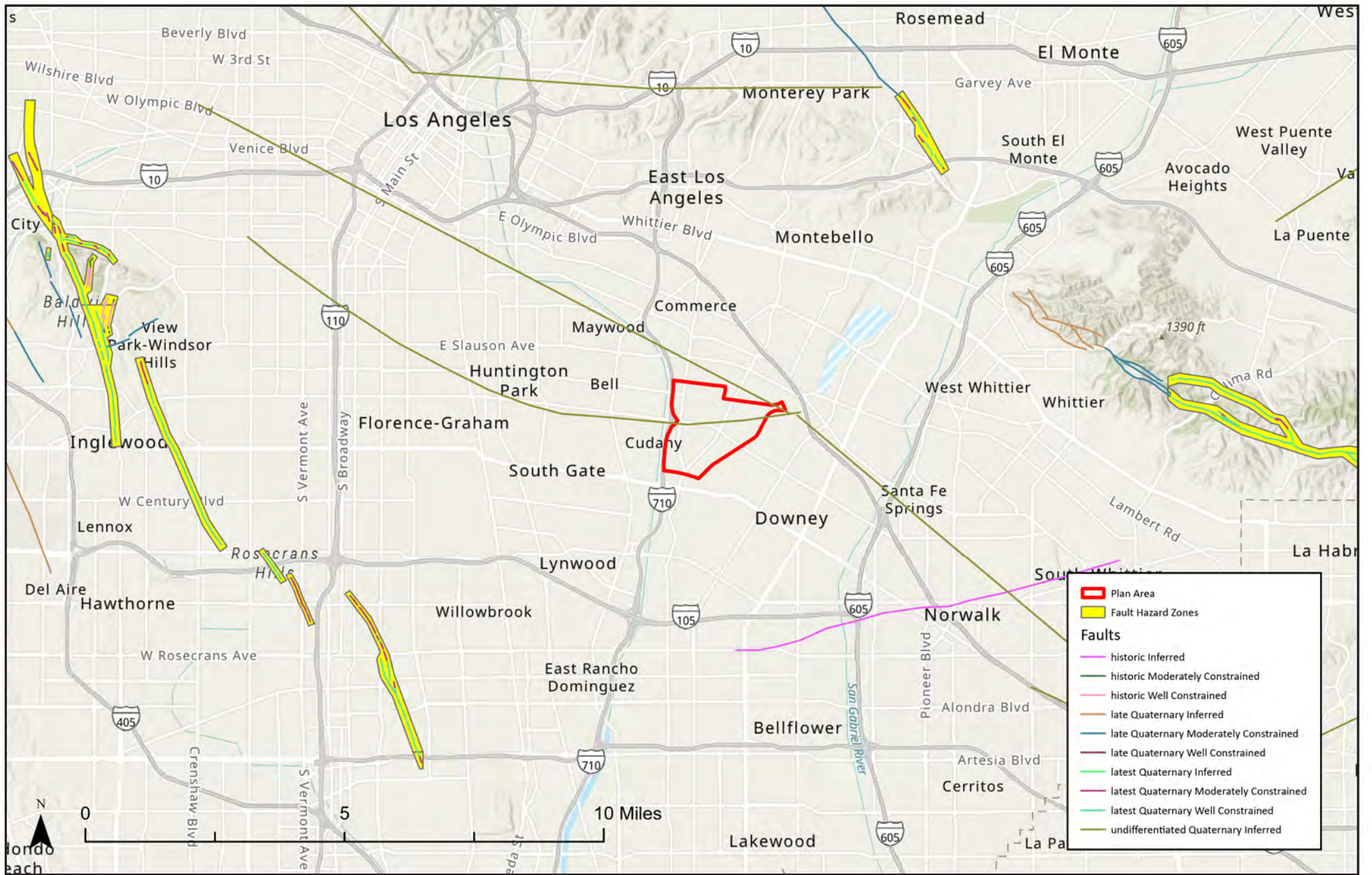
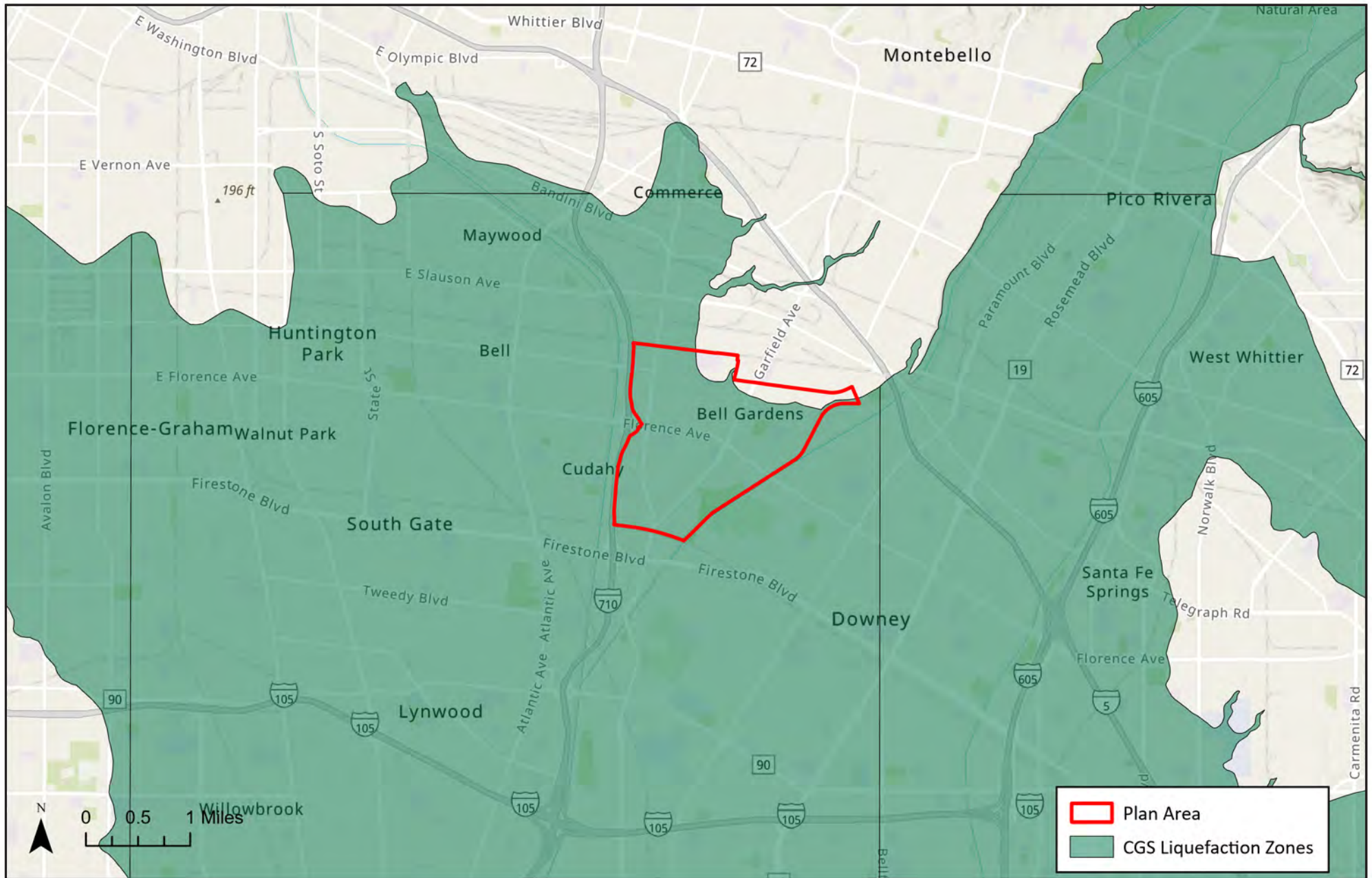
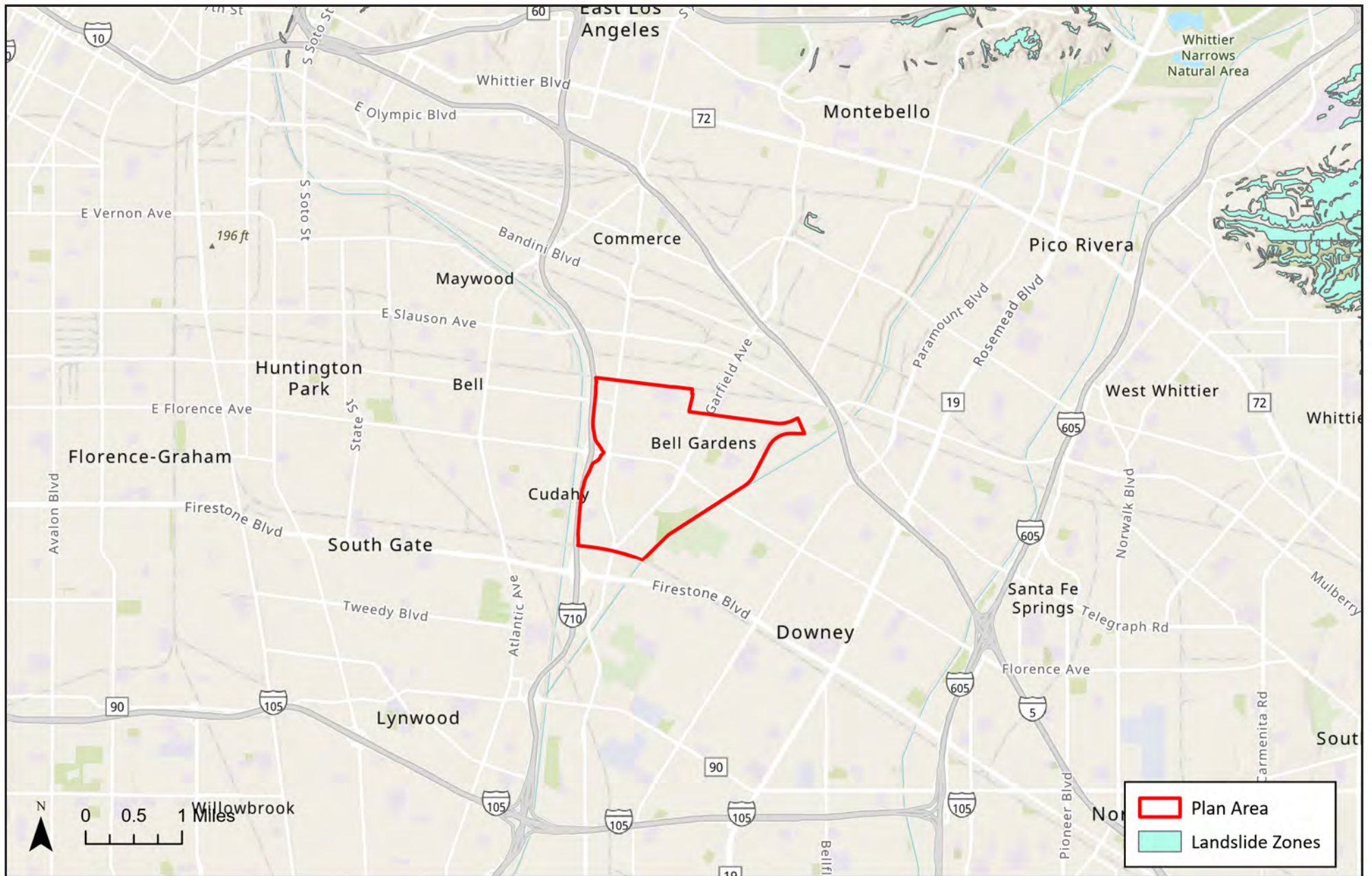


Figure 3.3-8 Fault Hazard Areas



SOURCE: California Geological Survey, 2024; Esri, 2024



SOURCE: California Department of Conservation, 2024; Esri, 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<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). 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. <b>Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>31</sup>

### *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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<sup>31</sup> 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. <b>Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup> 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

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> 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-OAEO-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.

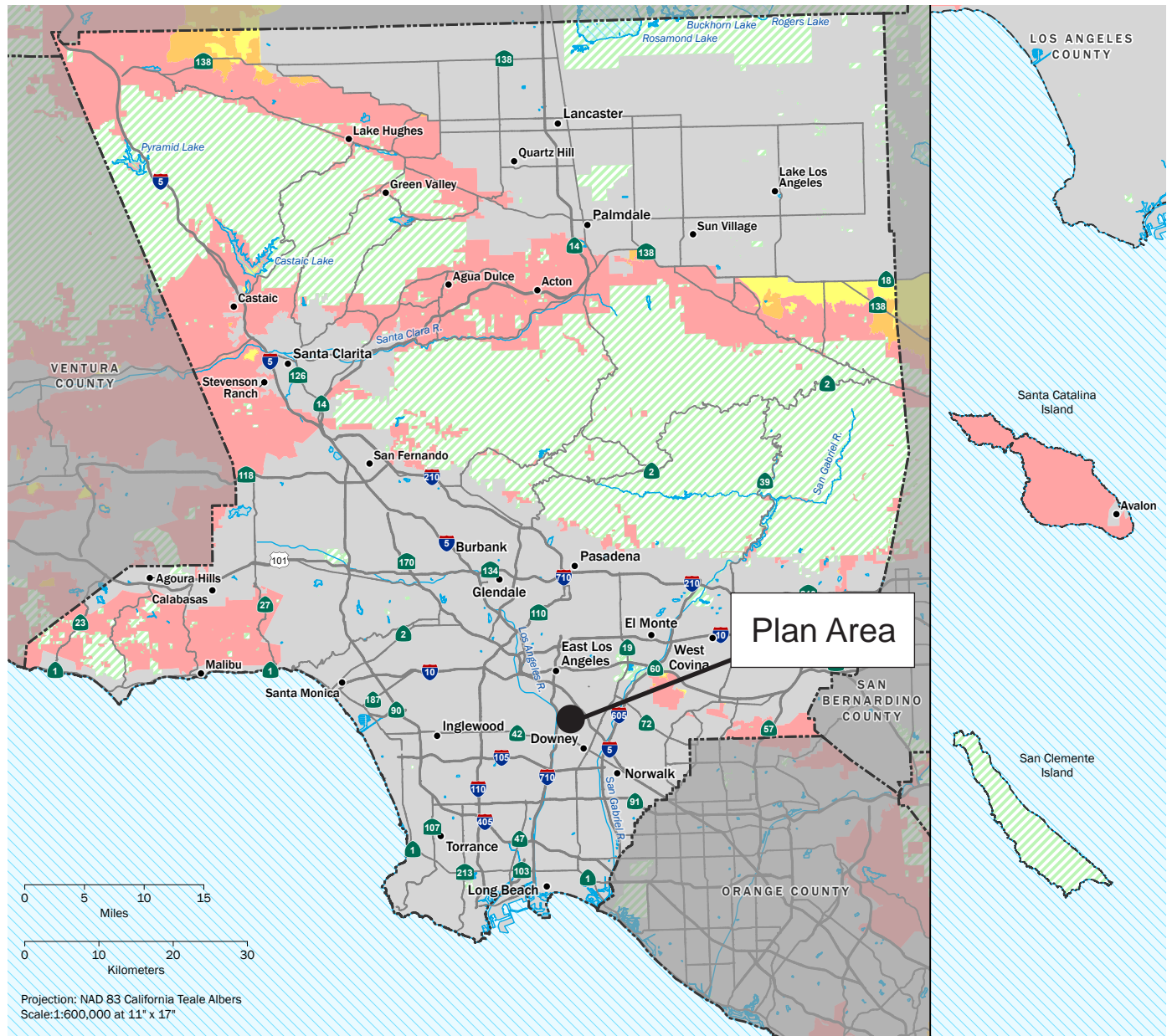
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>34</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>34</sup> See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 702A for a definition of “fire hazard severity zones.”

<sup>35</sup> CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: [https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjf2kl/fhsz\\_county\\_sra\\_11x17\\_2022\\_losangeles\\_3.pdf](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjf2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf), accessed November 1, 2023.



**Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area (SRA)**

	Very High	456,333 Acres
	High	21,344 Acres
	Moderate	18,069 Acres

**Fire Protection Responsibility Areas (non-SRA)**

	Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
	Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
	Waterbody

SOURCE: Cal Fire, 2024

Figure 3.3-11 Fire Severity Zones

## 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>36</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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,

<sup>36</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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**.<sup>37</sup> 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

<sup>37</sup> 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<sup>38, 39</sup>. 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.

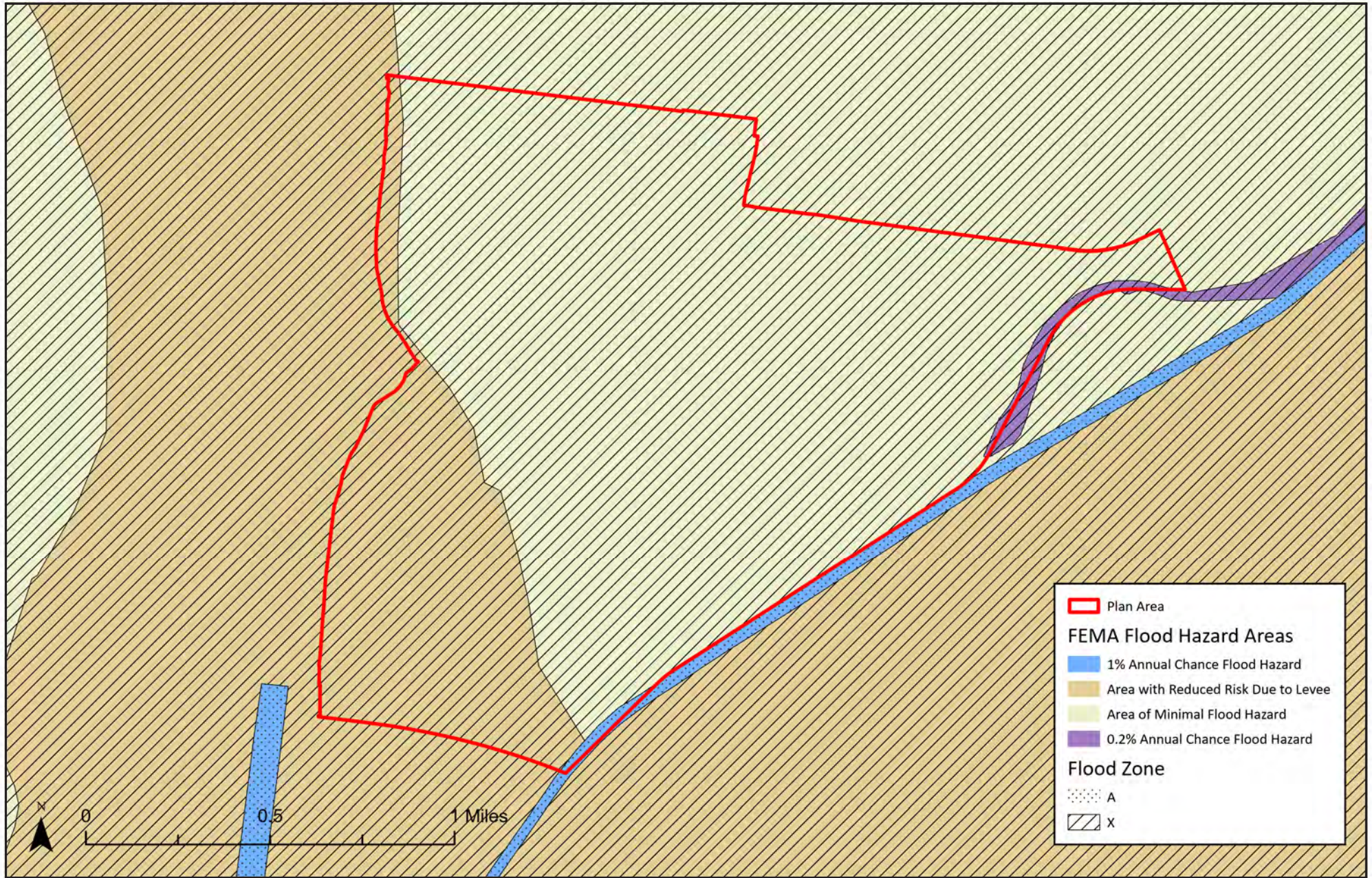
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. <b>Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

<sup>38</sup> 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.

<sup>39</sup> 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

## 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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**.<sup>40</sup>

### *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. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**No Impact.** According to the DOC, Division of Mine Reclamation, and further indicated on **Figure 3.3-13**, the City has no active mines.<sup>41</sup> 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

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

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

*III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis*

likelihood exists for their presence.<sup>42</sup> 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
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

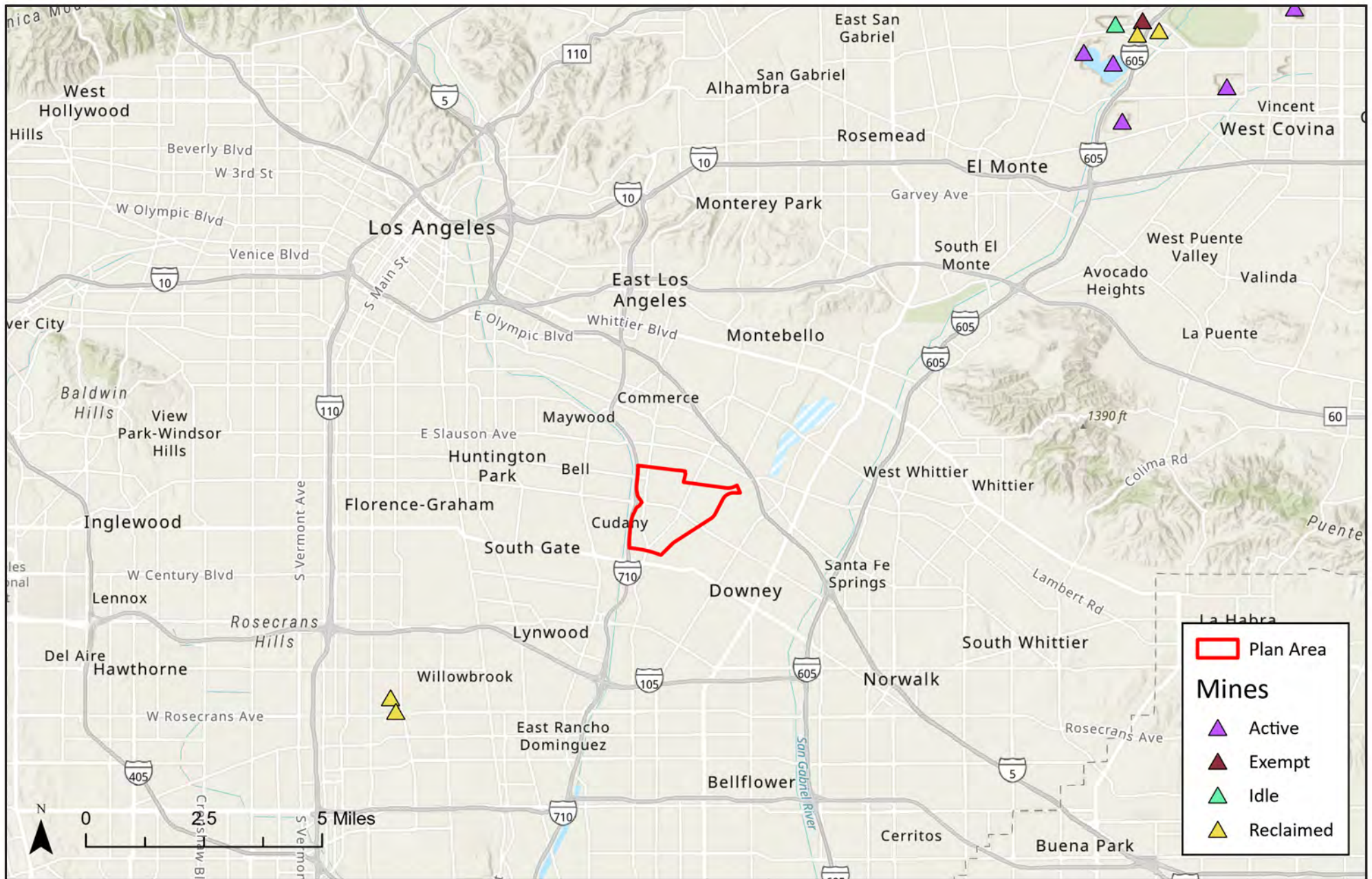
**No Impact.** According to the DOC and shown in **Figure 3.3-13**, there are no active mines identified within the City.<sup>43</sup> Additionally, there are no areas in the City that are classified as mineral resource deposit areas. The Project is a policy-level document. Any subsequent project that 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.

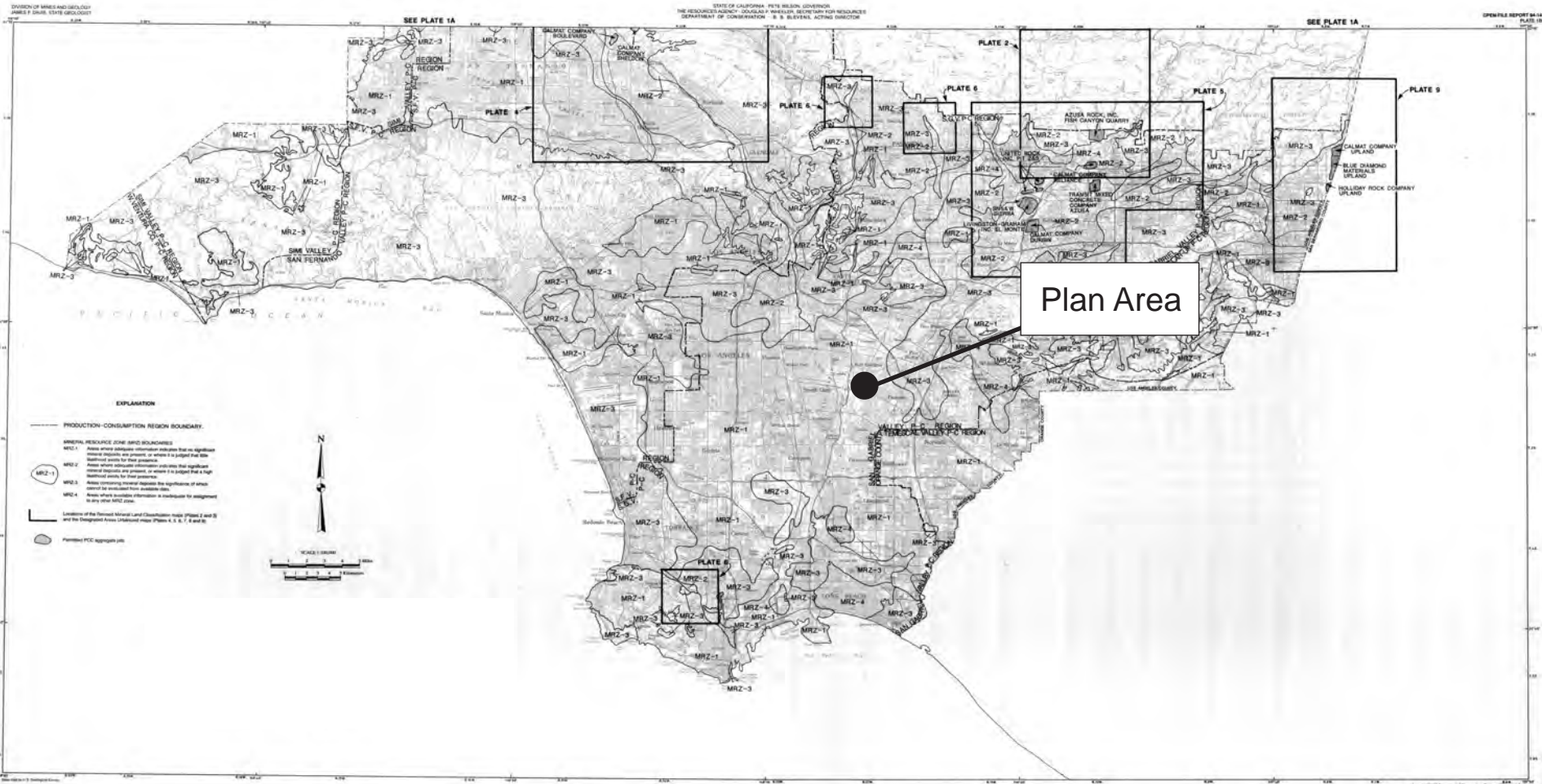
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<sup>42</sup> California Department of Conservation, "Mines Online." Available online at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.

<sup>43</sup> 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



SOURCE: County of Los Angeles

## 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<sub>dn</sub>), 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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



### *III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis*

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<sup>44</sup> and 9,633 housing units according to SCAG Local Housing Data.<sup>45</sup>

### *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 65584(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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<sup>44</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Bell Gardens City," Available online at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/bellgardenscitycalifornia/PST045222> , accessed on April 3, 2024.

<sup>45</sup> 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. <b>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)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>46</sup> 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.

<sup>46</sup> 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. <b>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:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Less than Significant Impact.** The City operates the Bell Gardens Police Department (BYPD). The BYPD 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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 than significant impacts to the substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities or otherwise cause the acceleration of deterioration. Future discretionary projects following

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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. <b>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)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**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 patterns 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.<sup>47</sup> 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).<sup>48</sup> 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.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> 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](https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808), accessed May 2, 2023.

<sup>48</sup> 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](https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808), accessed May 2, 2023.

<sup>49</sup> 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.<sup>50</sup>

## Electricity, Gas, and Telecommunications

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) provides gas service within the City.<sup>51, 52</sup> 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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<sup>50</sup> 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.

<sup>51</sup> 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.

<sup>52</sup> 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](https://download.newsroom.edison.com/create_memory_file/?f_id=5cc32d492cfac24d21aecf4c&content_verified=True), accessed December 5, 2023.

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**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Less than Significant Impact.** The City and Golden State Water Company deliver water to residents in the City.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup>

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).<sup>55</sup> 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

<sup>53</sup> 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](https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808), accessed May 2, 2023.

<sup>54</sup> 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](https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808), accessed May 2, 2023.

<sup>55</sup> 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](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.<sup>56</sup>

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) provides gas service within the City.<sup>57, 58</sup> 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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<sup>56</sup> 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.

<sup>57</sup> 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](https://tariff.socalgas.com/regulatory/tariffs/tm2/pdf/CITIES.pdf?_ga=2.260165455.312924021.1639588899-1879876423.1636571672), accessed December 5, 2023.

<sup>58</sup> 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](https://download.newsroom.edison.com/create_memory_file/?f_id=5cc32d492cfac24d21aecf4c&content_verified=True), accessed December 5, 2023.

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	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Less than Significant Impact.** The City of Bell Gardens and Golden State Water Company deliver water to residents in the City.<sup>59</sup> 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 than significant impacts to water availability and supply in the City.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

<sup>59</sup> 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](https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808), accessed May 2, 2023.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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).<sup>60</sup> 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.

<sup>60</sup> 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](https://www.gswater.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/bell-bell_gardens_2020_uwmp_0.pdf?1624993808), accessed May 2, 2023.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. <b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>61</sup> 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;<sup>62</sup> 205,000,000 CY for Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill;<sup>63</sup> and 54,219,377 CY for the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill.<sup>64</sup>

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.

<sup>61</sup> 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.

<sup>62</sup> 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.

<sup>63</sup> 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.

<sup>64</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Less than Significant.** The City contracts with Athens Services for disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and green waste.<sup>65</sup> 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.<sup>66</sup> 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.<sup>67</sup>

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.

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<sup>65</sup> 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.

<sup>66</sup> 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.

<sup>67</sup> 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.<sup>68</sup> 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.<sup>69</sup> 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.<sup>70</sup>

### *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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<sup>68</sup> CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: [https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjif2kl/fhsz\\_county\\_sra\\_11x17\\_2022\\_losangeles\\_3.pdf](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjif2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf), accessed November 1, 2023.

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

<sup>70</sup> 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.

III. Environmental Initial Study Checklist and Impact Analysis

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>71</sup> According to CAL FIRE, the City of Bell Gardens is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.<sup>72</sup> 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.<sup>73</sup> 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.<sup>74</sup>

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

<sup>71</sup> See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 702A for a definition of “fire hazard severity zones.”

<sup>72</sup> CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: [https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjif2kl/fhsz\\_county\\_sra\\_11x17\\_2022\\_losanjeles\\_3.pdf](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjif2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losanjeles_3.pdf), accessed November 1, 2023.

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

<sup>74</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>75</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>75</sup> 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.<sup>76</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.<sup>77</sup> 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.

<sup>76</sup> CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County-State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones*, September 29, 2023. Available online at: [https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjf2kl/fhsz\\_county\\_sra\\_11x17\\_2022\\_losangeles\\_3.pdf](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/svjf2kl/fhsz_county_sra_11x17_2022_losangeles_3.pdf), accessed November 1, 2023.

<sup>77</sup> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.

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	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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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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Persons directly involved in the review and preparation of this study include:

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**APPENDIX A**

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**Environmental Justice Element**

**City of Bell Gardens  
Environmental Justice Element  
can be found in the following link:**

**<https://www.bellgardens.org/home/showpublisheddocument/7816>**

**APPENDIX B**

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**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**

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**Community Engagement Report**

## ***Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Community Outreach Summary***

To understand 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/ivers	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?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Schooling      | <input type="checkbox"/> Some College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School     | <input type="checkbox"/> Masters      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School       | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate    |

19. Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino  | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> White            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian            | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to state |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern   |   |
| Other (please specify) _____              |   |

20. What is your yearly household/family income?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under \$15,000      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$55,001 - \$60,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,001 – \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,001 - \$65,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,001 – \$30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$65,001+           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,001 – \$45,000 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45,001 – \$55,000 |  |

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?

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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](mailto: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](#)

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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.

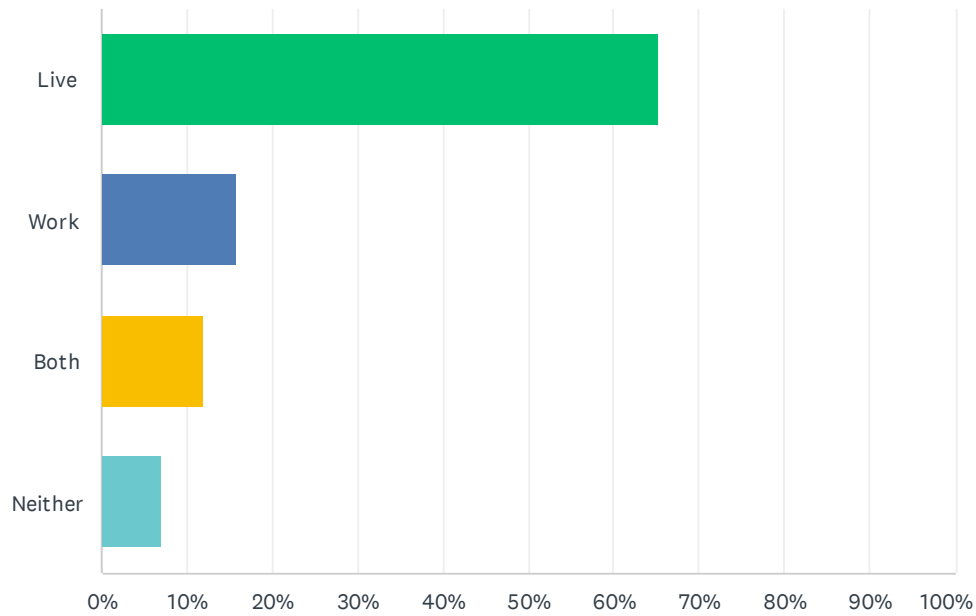
Thank you for your assistance in helping collect the views and opinions of stakeholders of the City of Bell Gardens. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

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](mailto:moises@lani.org)  
<http://blqbid.org>

## Q1 Do you live or work in the City of Bell Gardens?

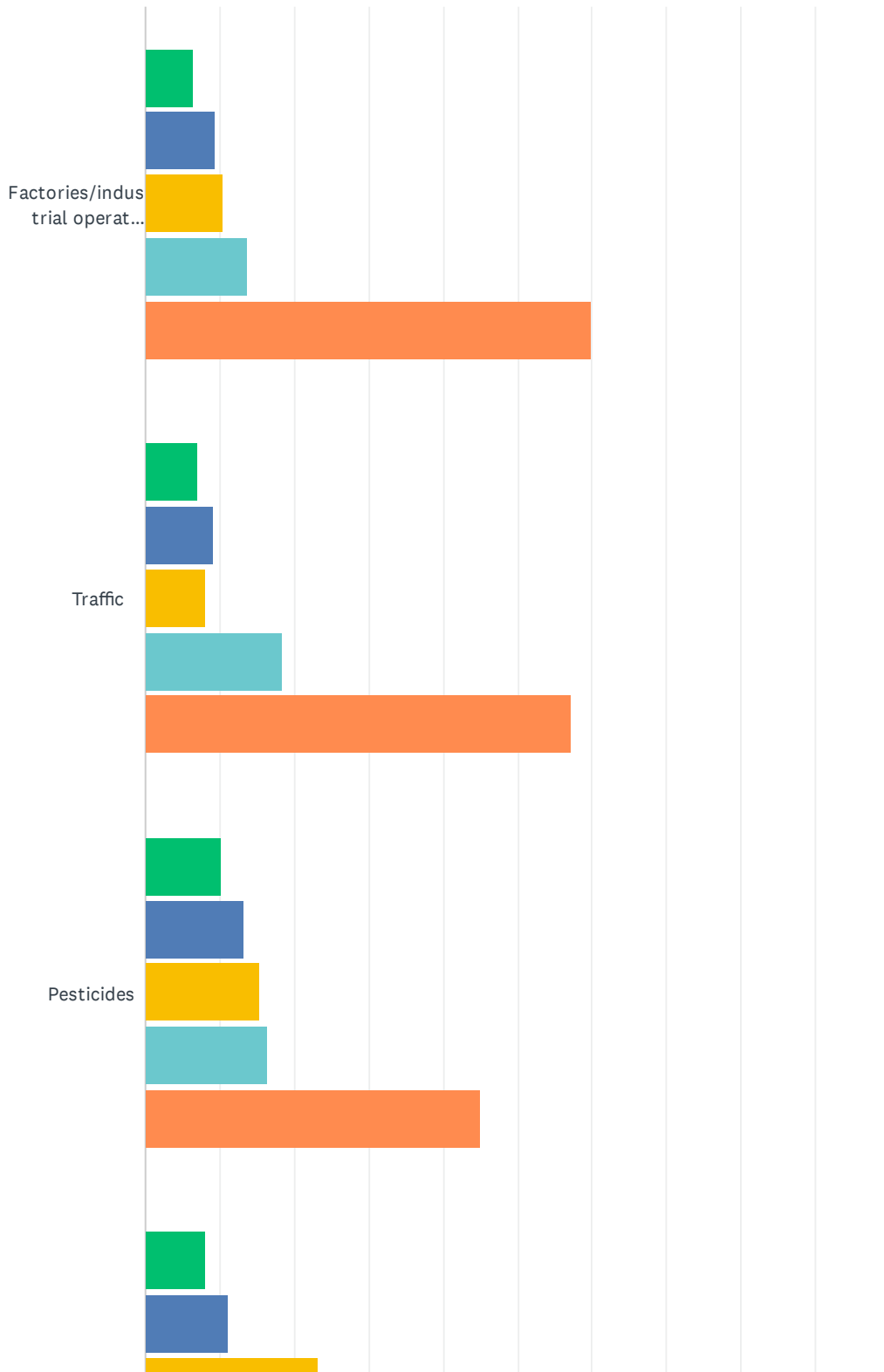
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Live	65.35%	66
Work	15.84%	16
Both	11.88%	12
Neither	6.93%	7
TOTAL		101

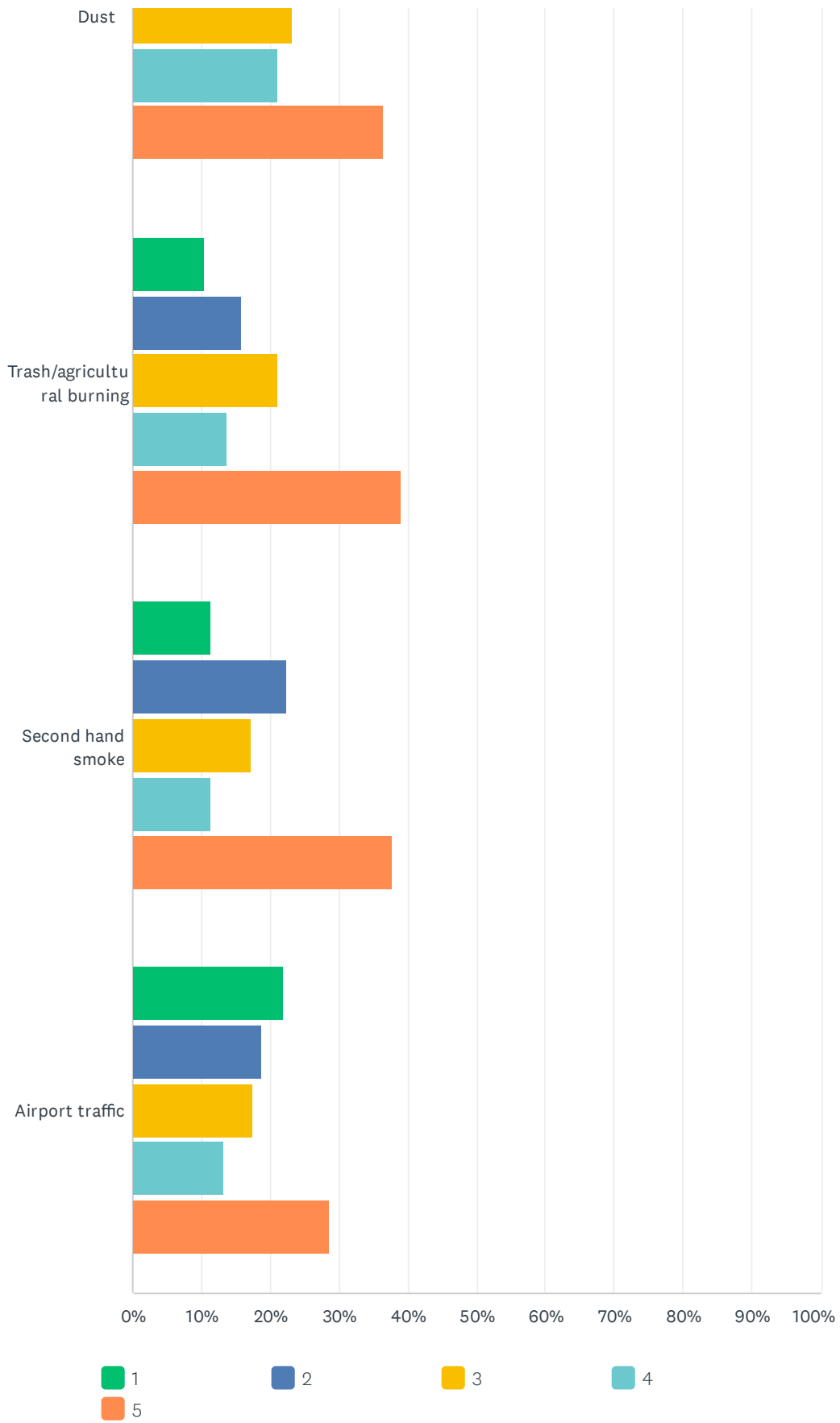
## Q2 How concerned are you regarding the following external air pollution issues? (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not concerned and 5 being strongly concerned)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0





# City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

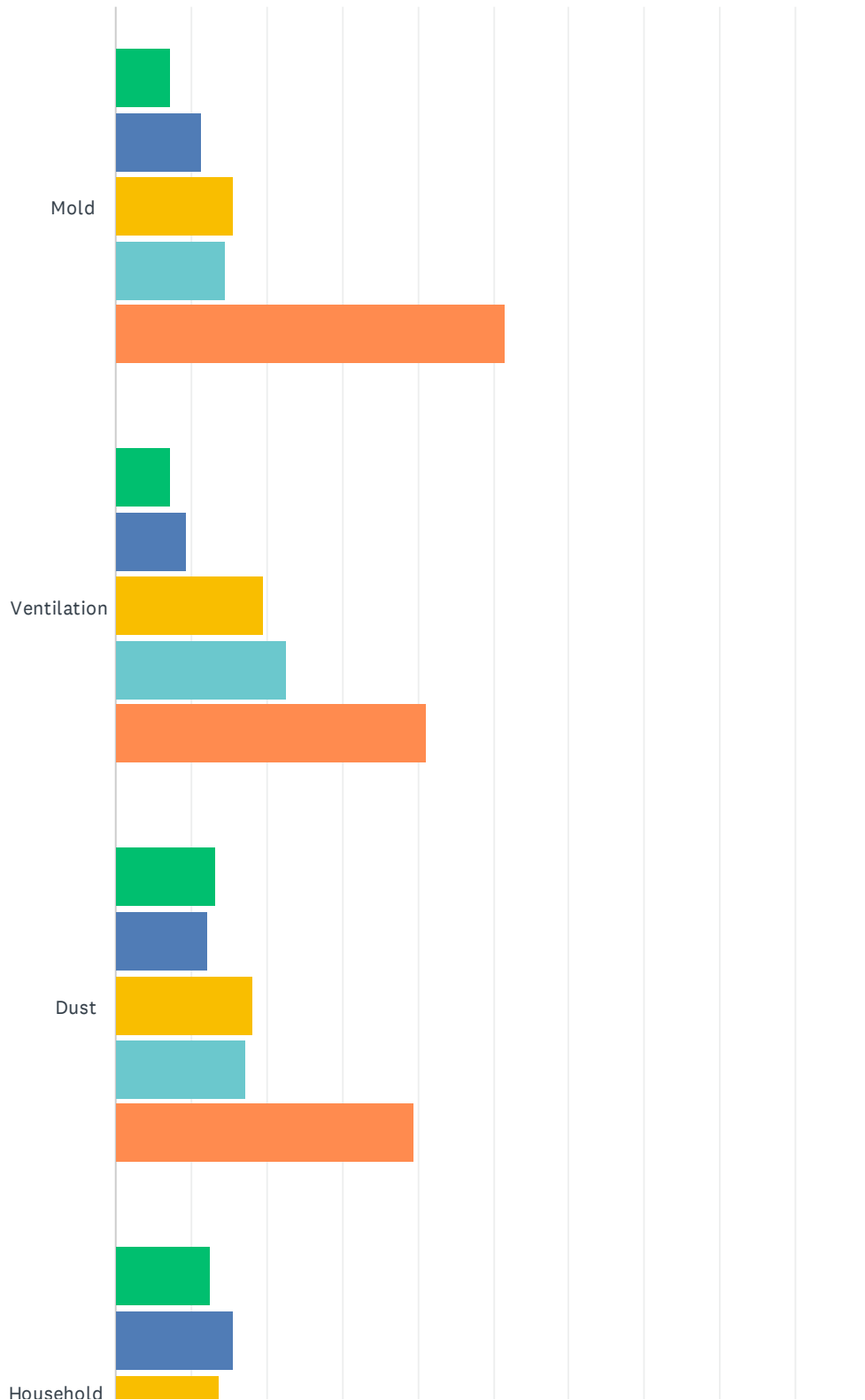


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

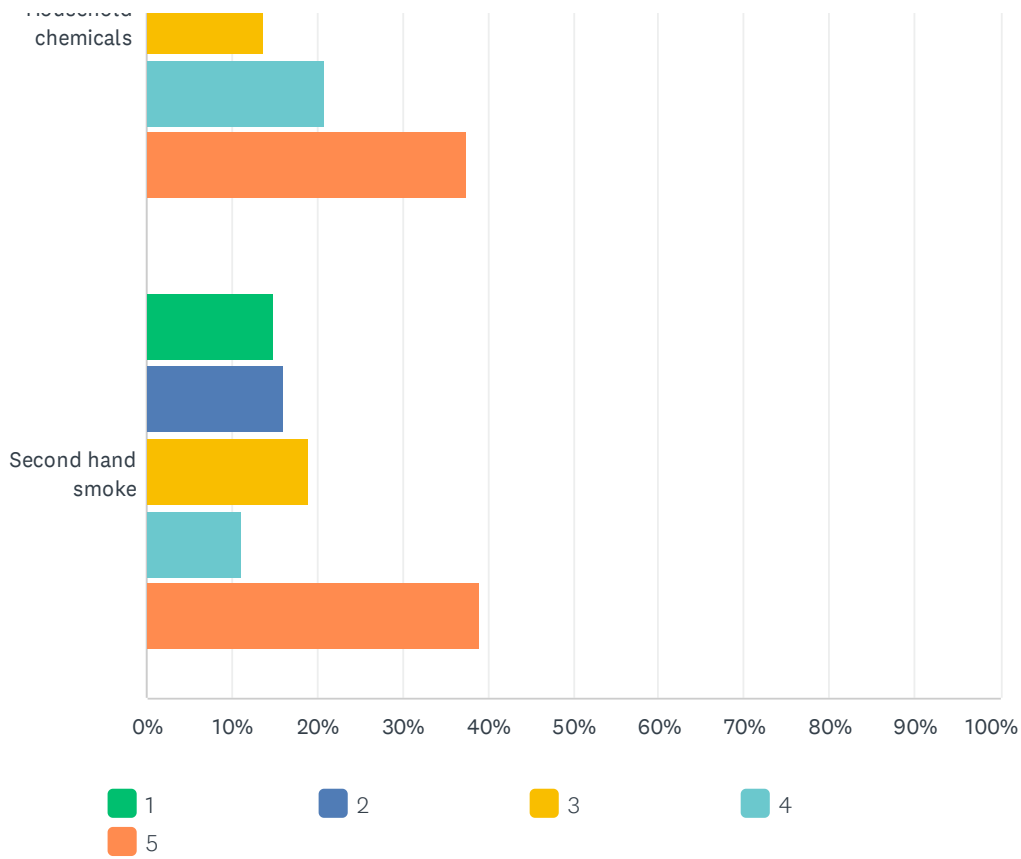
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Factories/industrial operation emissions	6.32% 6	9.47% 9	10.53% 10	13.68% 13	60.00% 57	95	4.12
Traffic	7.14% 7	9.18% 9	8.16% 8	18.37% 18	57.14% 56	98	4.09
Pesticides	10.20% 10	13.27% 13	15.31% 15	16.33% 16	44.90% 44	98	3.72
Dust	8.08% 8	11.11% 11	23.23% 23	21.21% 21	36.36% 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



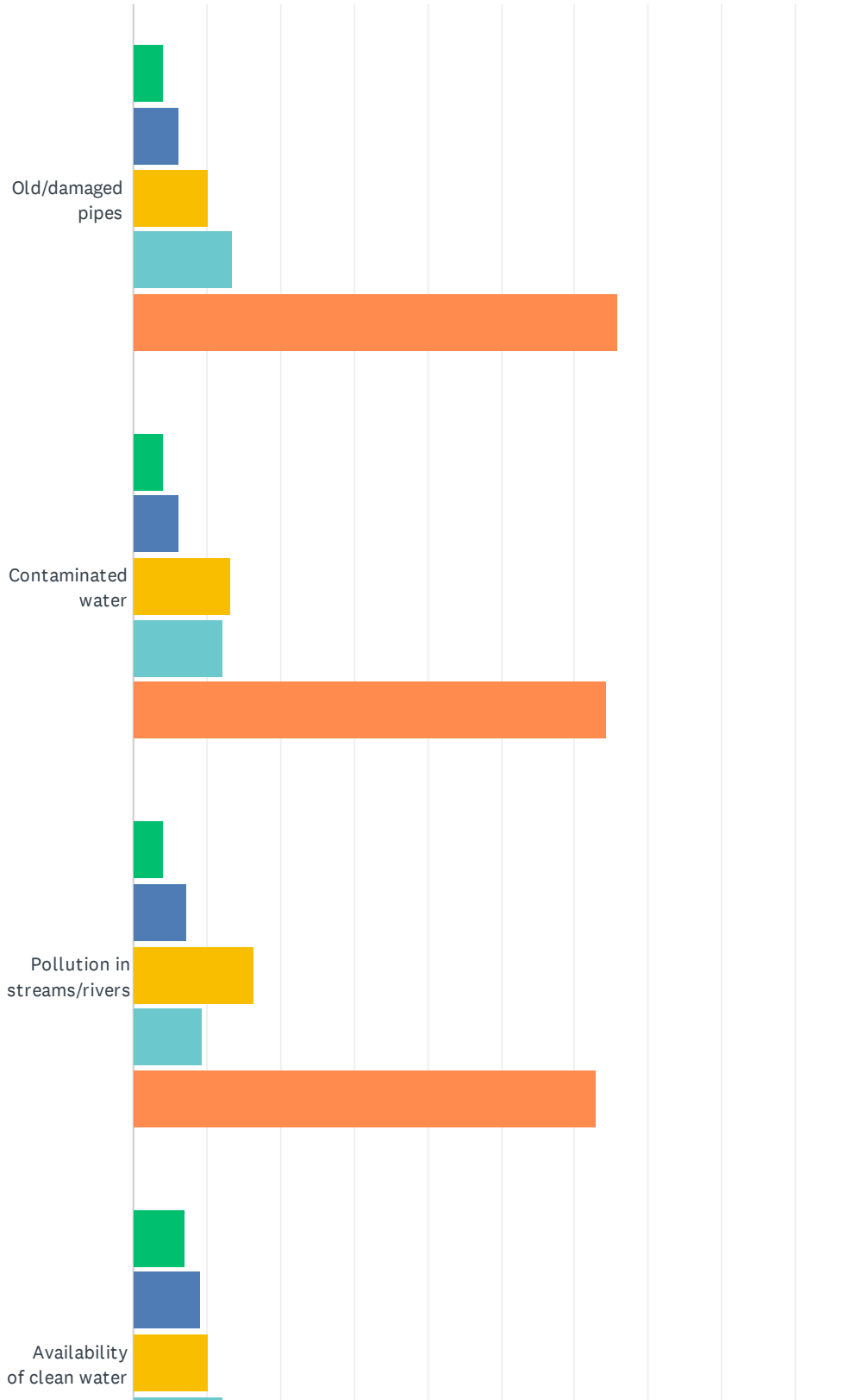
## City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



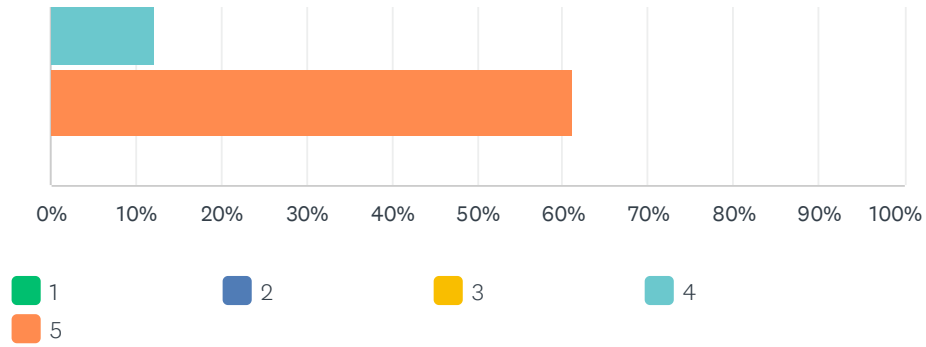
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Mold	7.22% 7	11.34% 11	15.46% 15	14.43% 14	51.55% 50	97	3.92
Ventilation	7.22% 7	9.28% 9	19.59% 19	22.68% 22	41.24% 40	97	3.81
Dust	13.13% 13	12.12% 12	18.18% 18	17.17% 17	39.39% 39	99	3.58
Household chemicals	12.50% 12	15.63% 15	13.54% 13	20.83% 20	37.50% 36	96	3.55
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



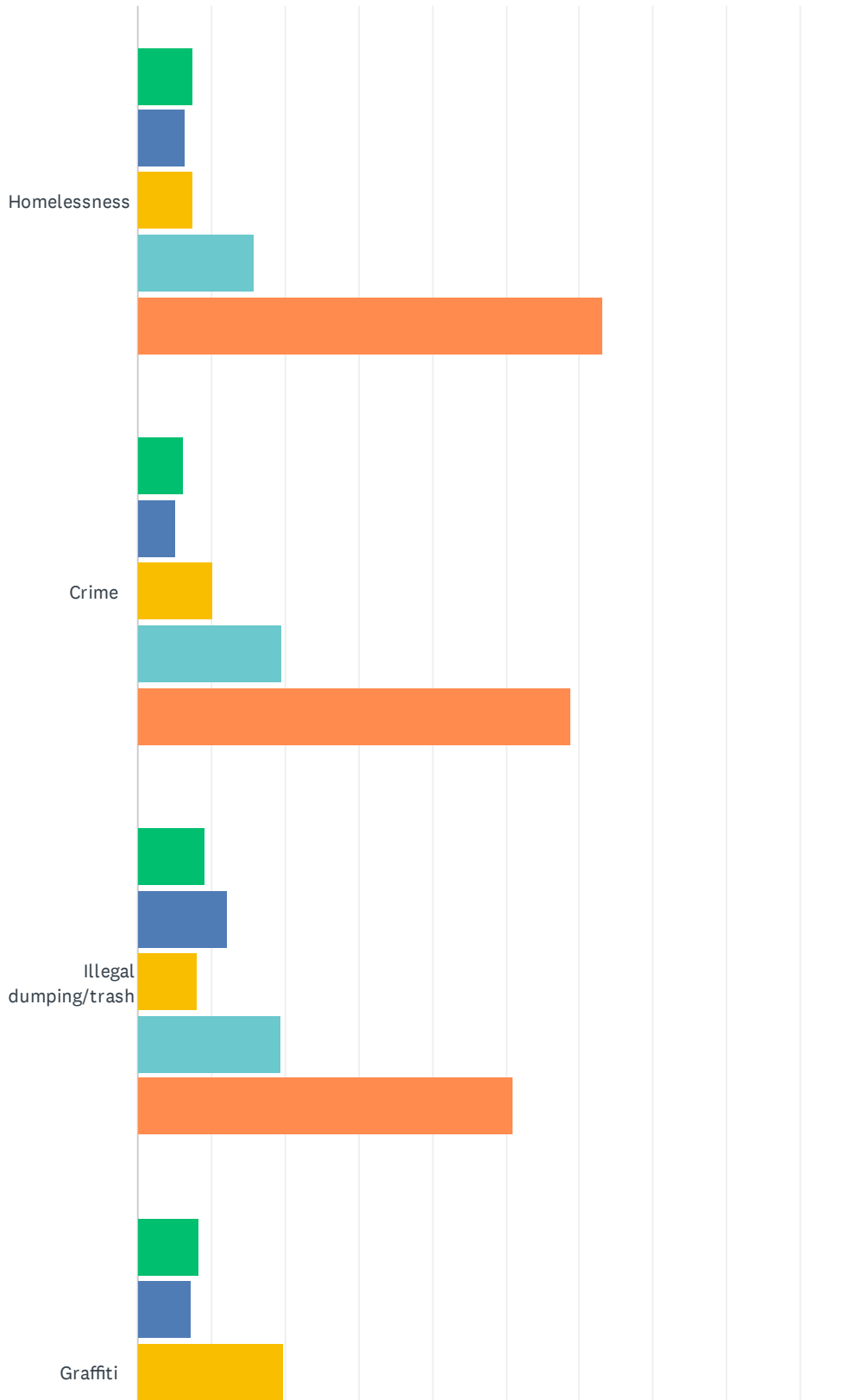
## City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



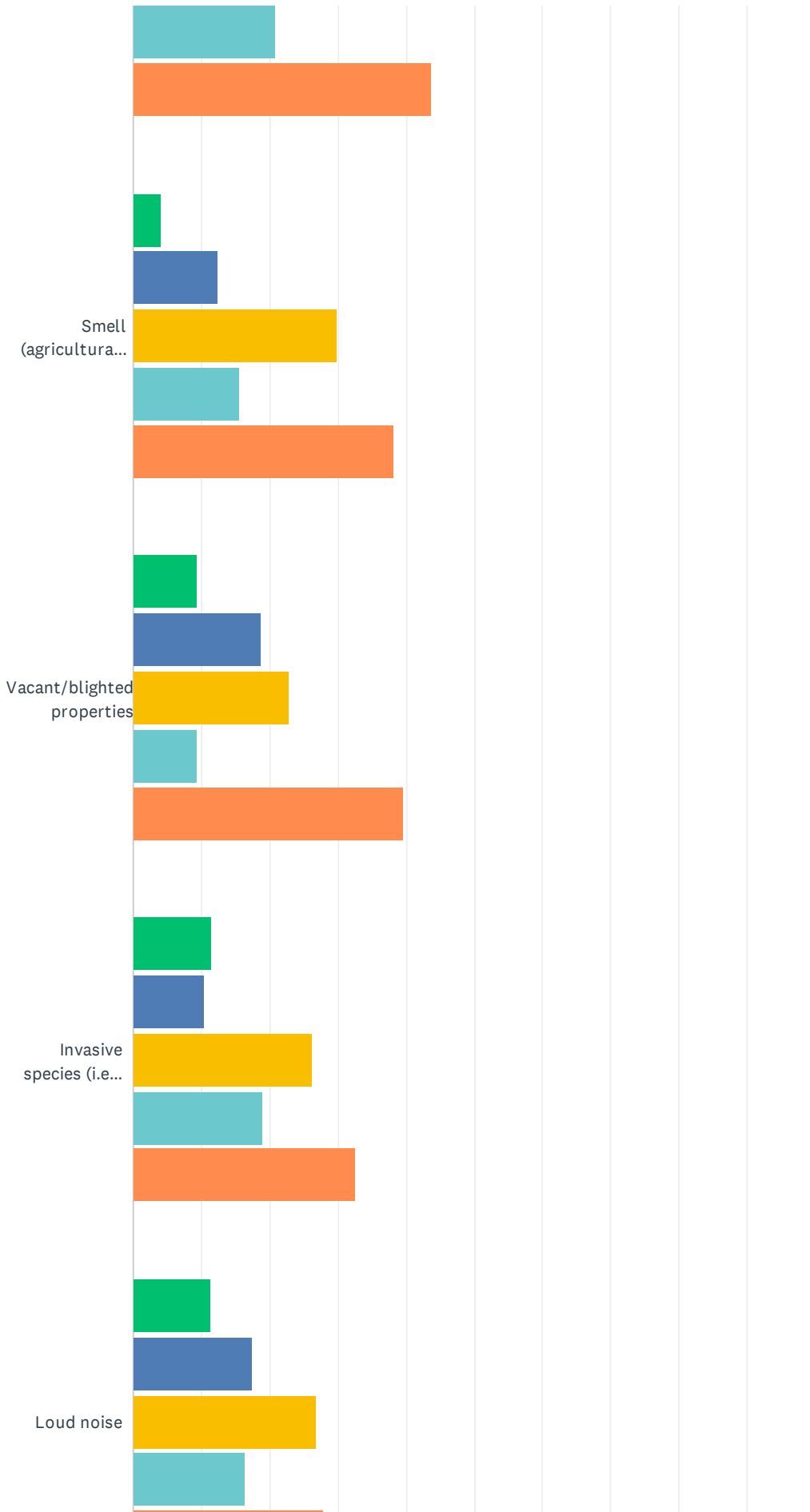
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Old/damaged pipes	4.12% 4	6.19% 6	10.31% 10	13.40% 13	65.98% 64	97	4.31
Contaminated water	4.08% 4	6.12% 6	13.27% 13	12.24% 12	64.29% 63	98	4.27
Pollution in streams/rivers	4.12% 4	7.22% 7	16.49% 16	9.28% 9	62.89% 61	97	4.20
Availability of clean water	7.14% 7	9.18% 9	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

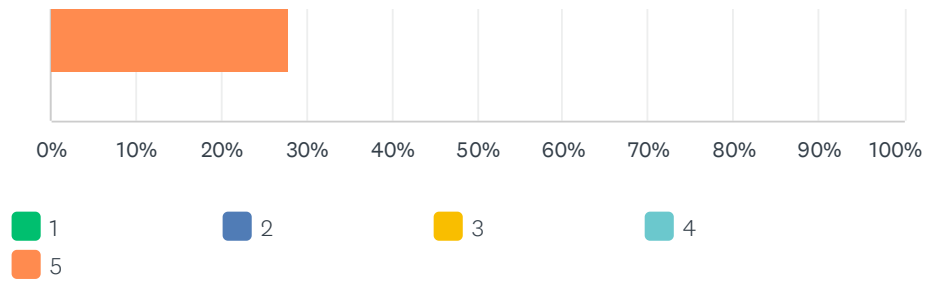


# City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey





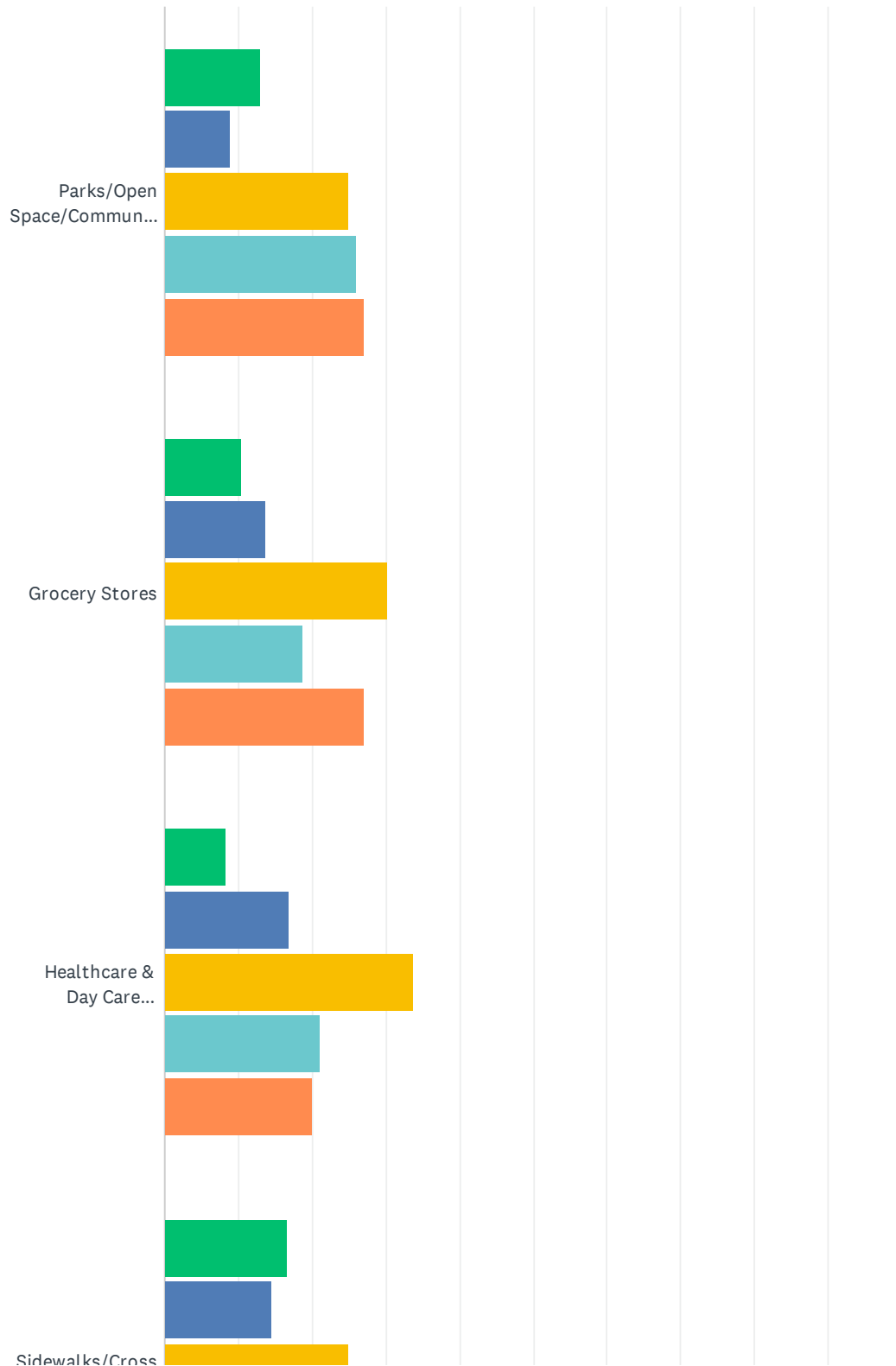
## City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



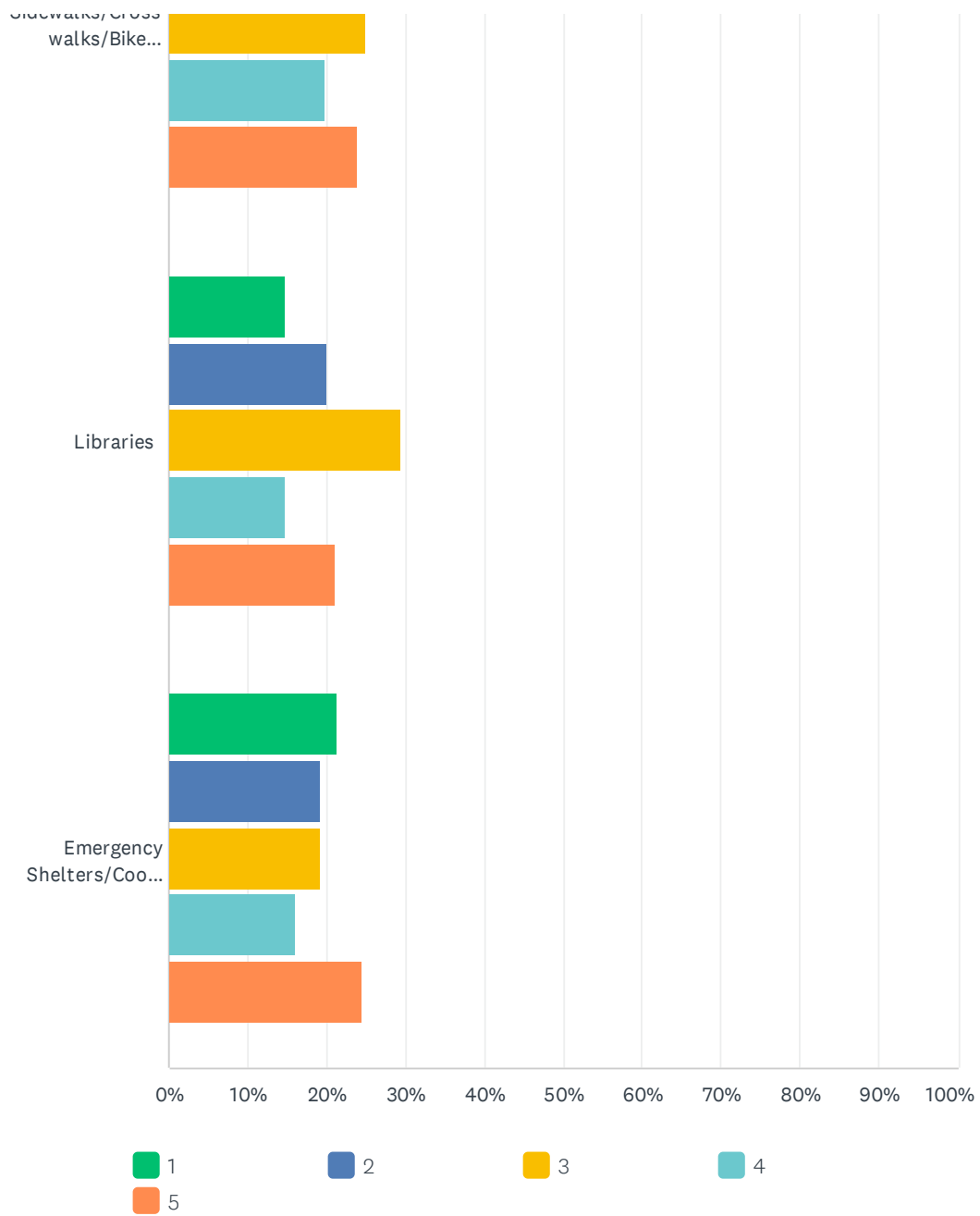
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Homelessness	7.37% 7	6.32% 6	7.37% 7	15.79% 15	63.16% 60	95	4.21
Crime	6.19% 6	5.15% 5	10.31% 10	19.59% 19	58.76% 57	97	4.20
Illegal dumping/trash	9.18% 9	12.24% 12	8.16% 8	19.39% 19	51.02% 50	98	3.91
Graffiti	8.33% 8	7.29% 7	19.79% 19	20.83% 20	43.75% 42	96	3.84
Smell (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



# City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

	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%	12.87%	39.60%	32.67%	4.95%	5.94%	101	3.23
	4	13	40	33	5	6		

## 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

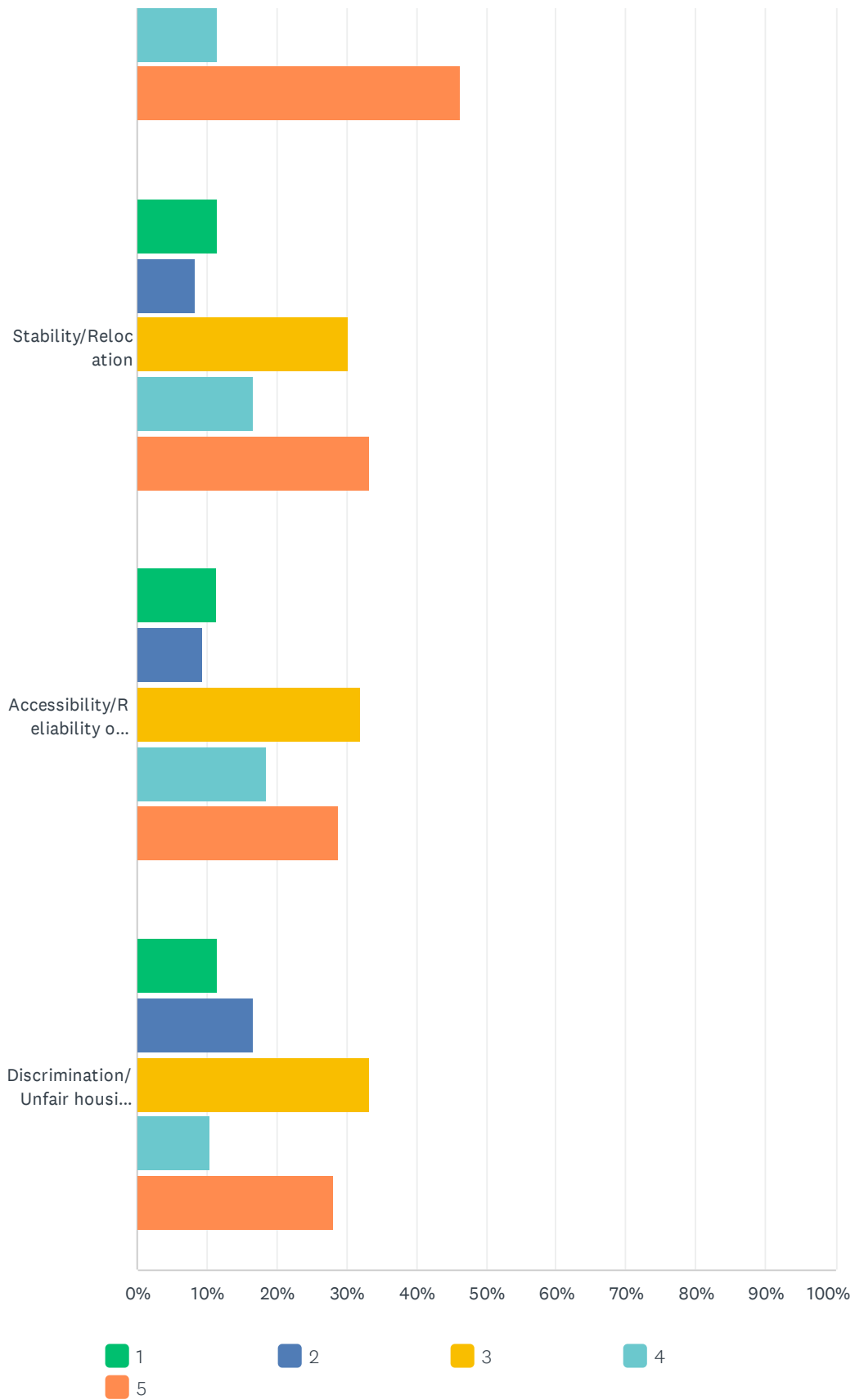
# Q10 Please rank your concerns about housing (on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not worried and 5 being very worried)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0





# City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

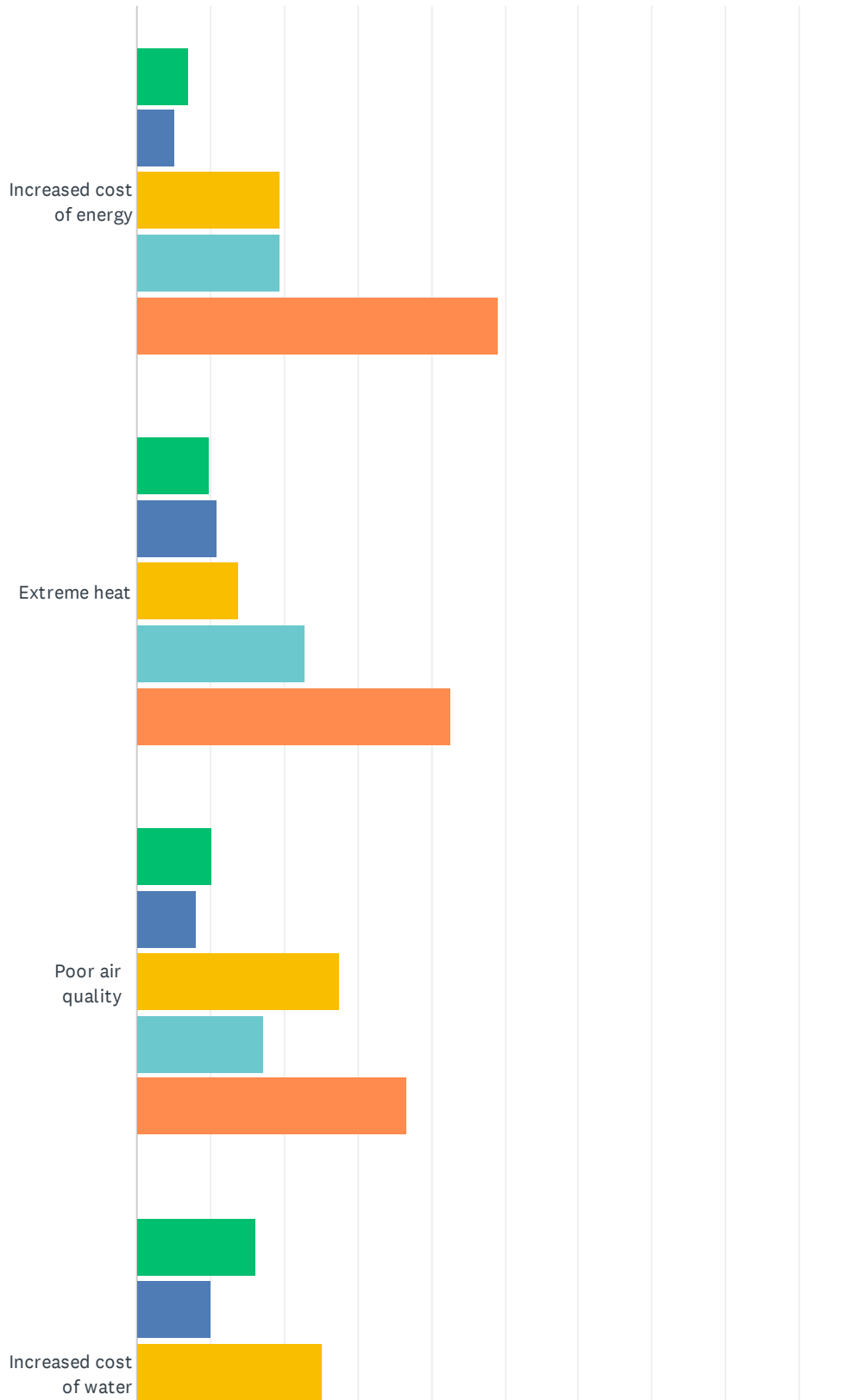


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

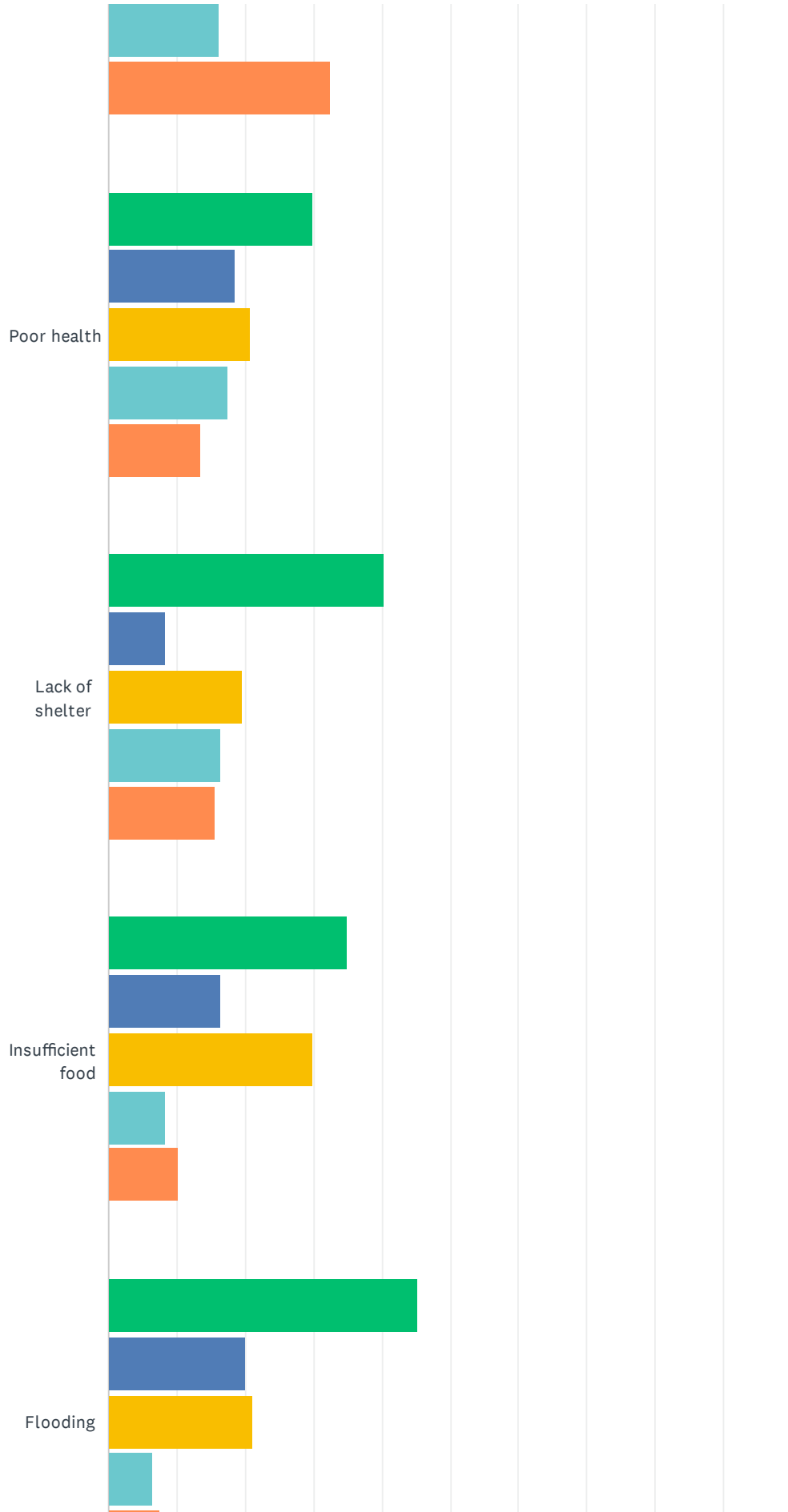
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Parking Availability	8.25% 8	8.25% 8	18.56% 18	12.37% 12	52.58% 51	97	3.93
Cost/Affordability	9.38% 9	9.38% 9	14.58% 14	18.75% 18	47.92% 46	96	3.86
Maintenance	6.19% 6	7.22% 7	21.65% 21	26.80% 26	38.14% 37	97	3.84
Overcrowding	8.42% 8	9.47% 9	24.21% 23	11.58% 11	46.32% 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)

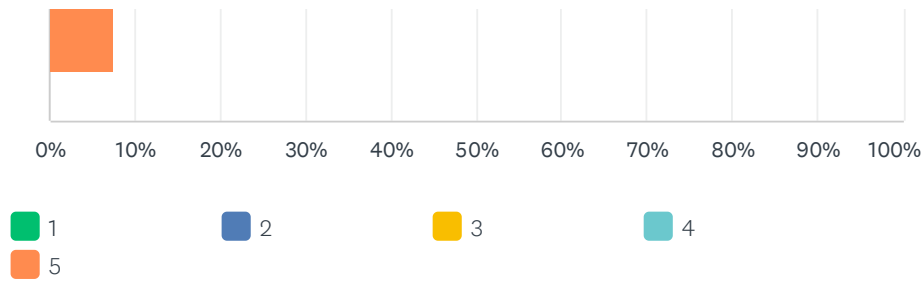
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



# City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



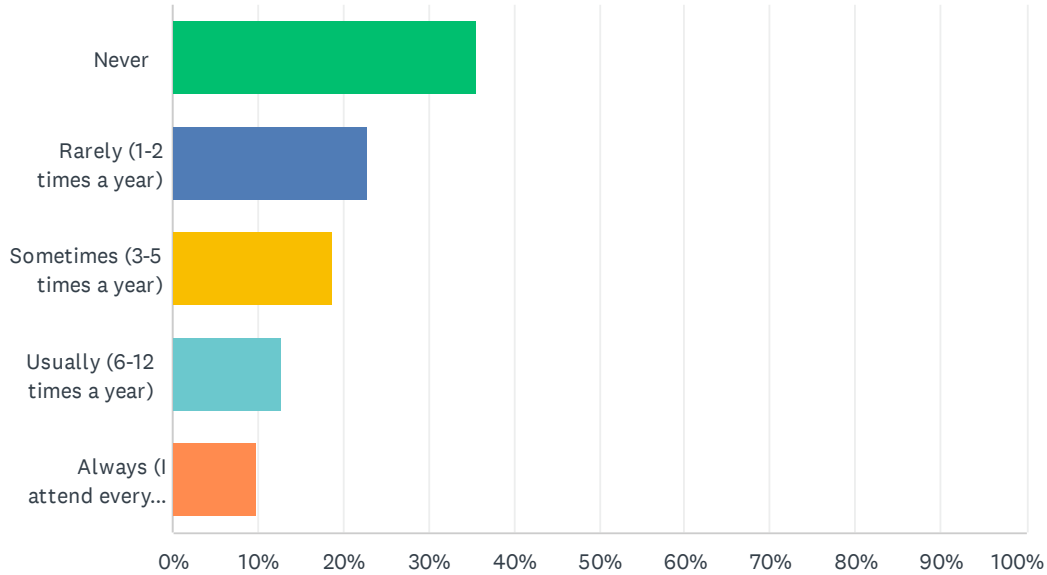
## City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



	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?

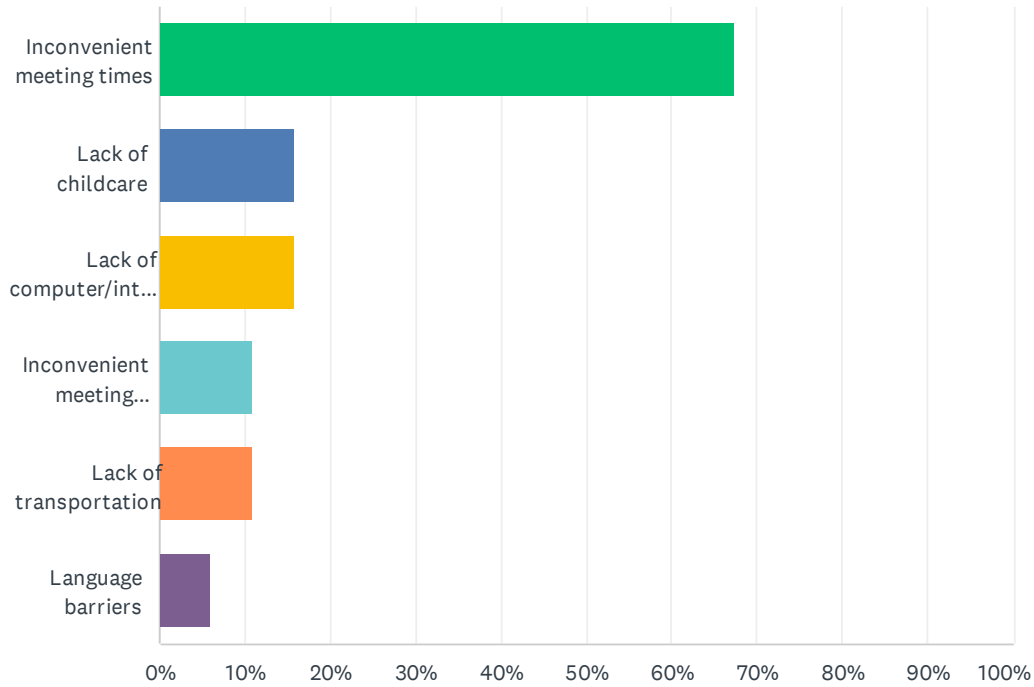
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>101</b>

### Q13 If you don't always participate in council or commission meetings, what are the barriers to attending? (Check all that apply)

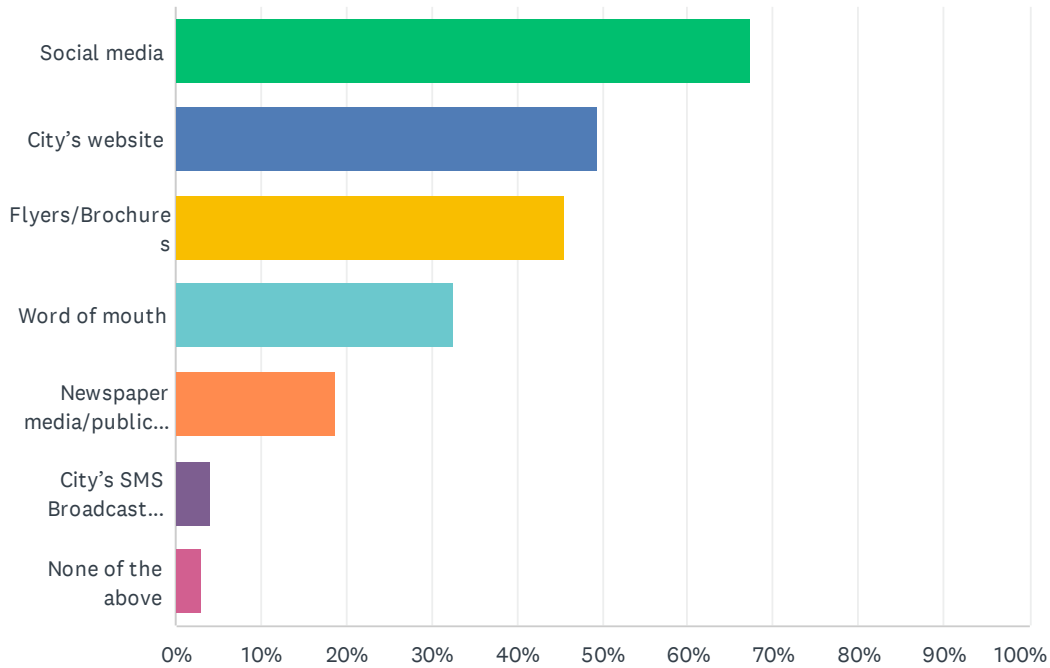
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



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★

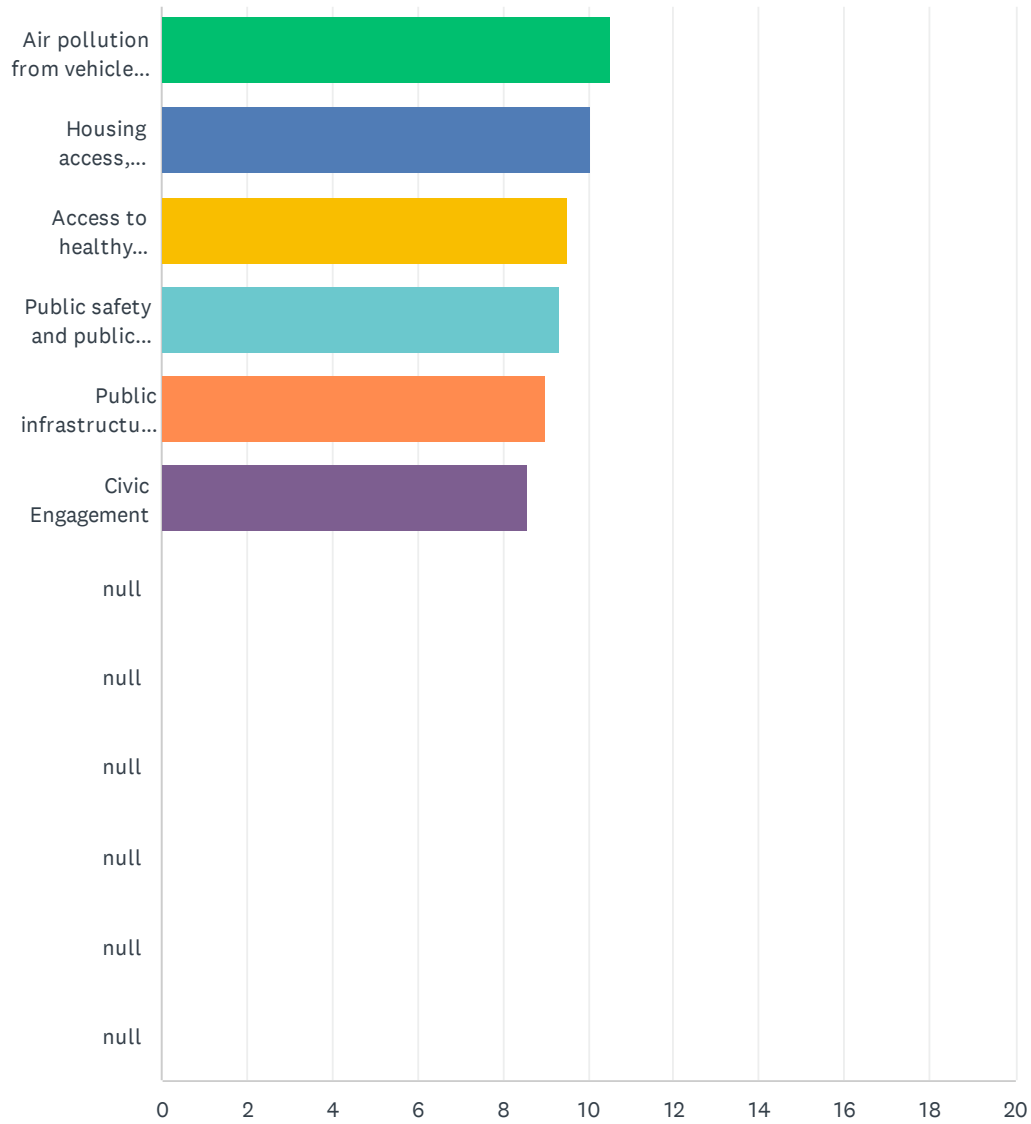
average rating



	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

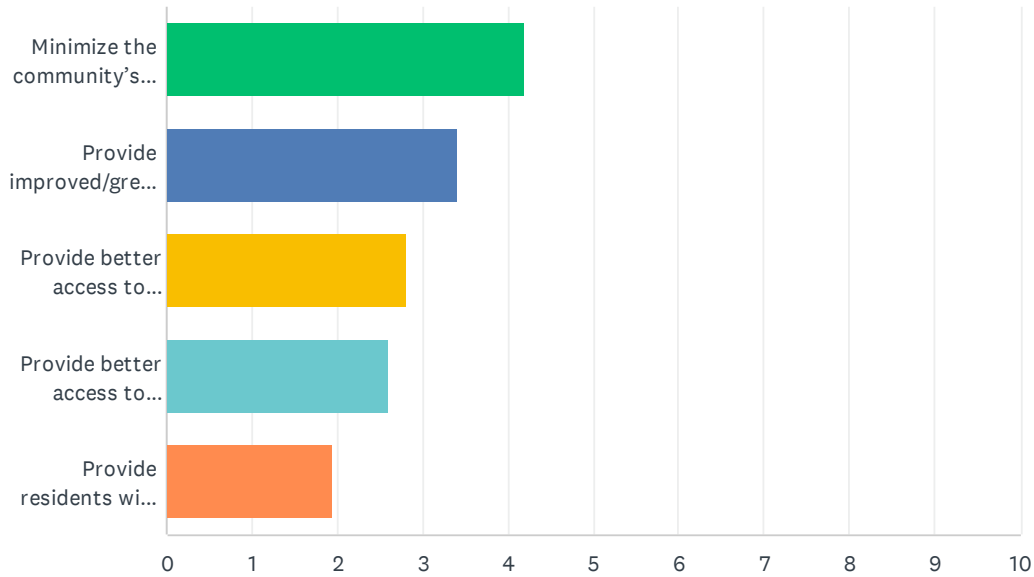


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

	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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0
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% 0

### Q17 What are your goals for the Environmental Justice Element? (rank the following)

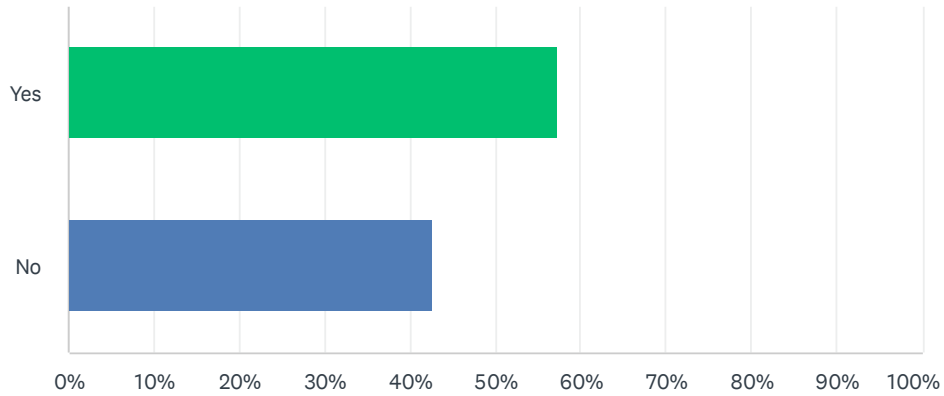
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



	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?

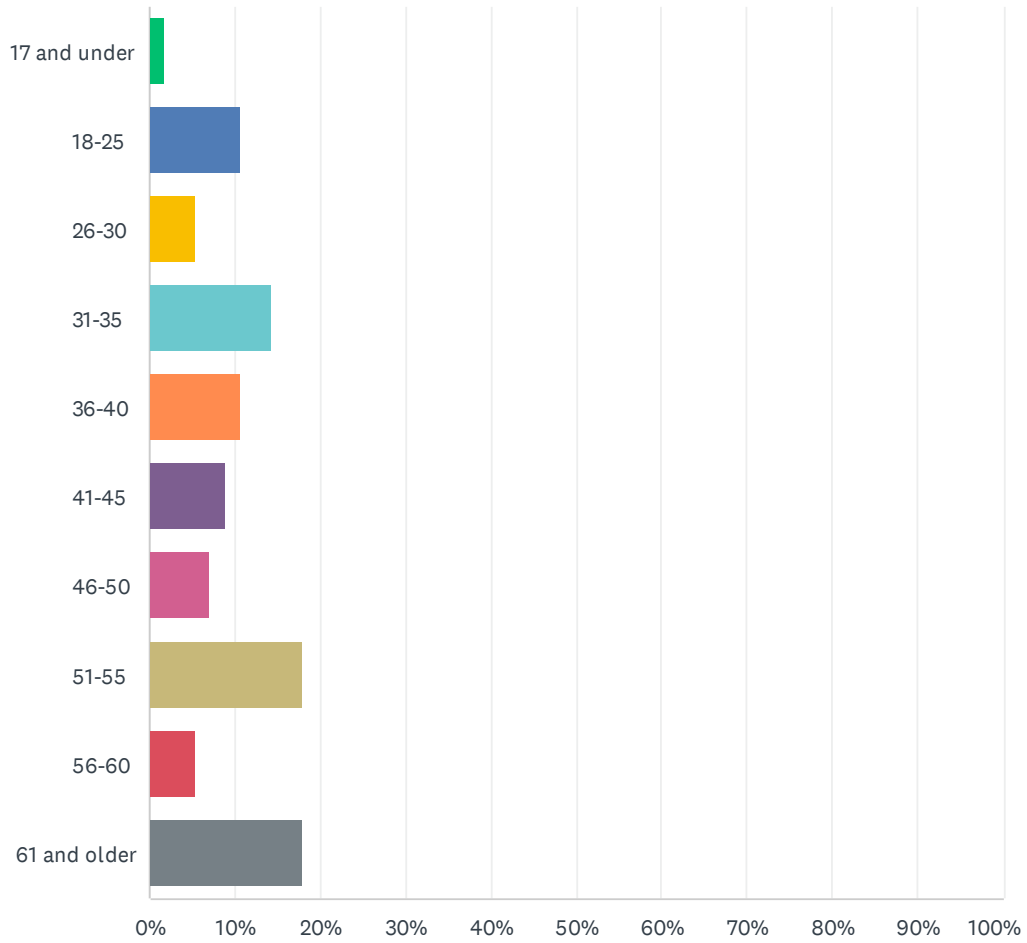
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.43%	58
No	42.57%	43
TOTAL		101

## Q19 What is your age group?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 45

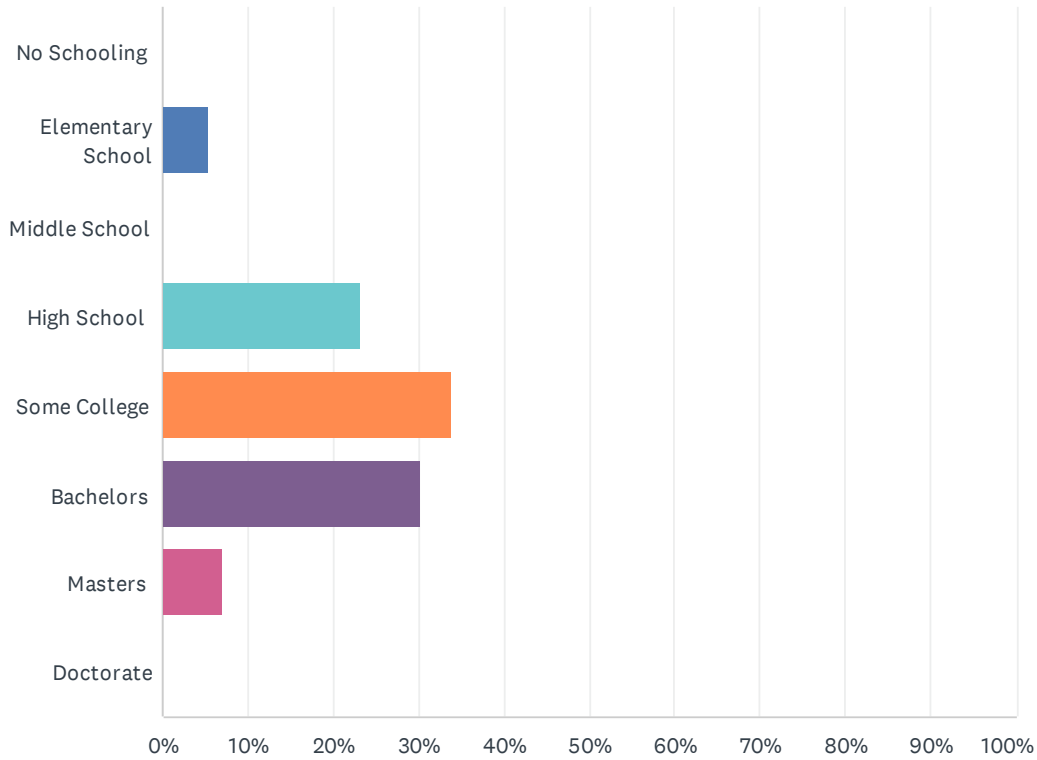


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

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

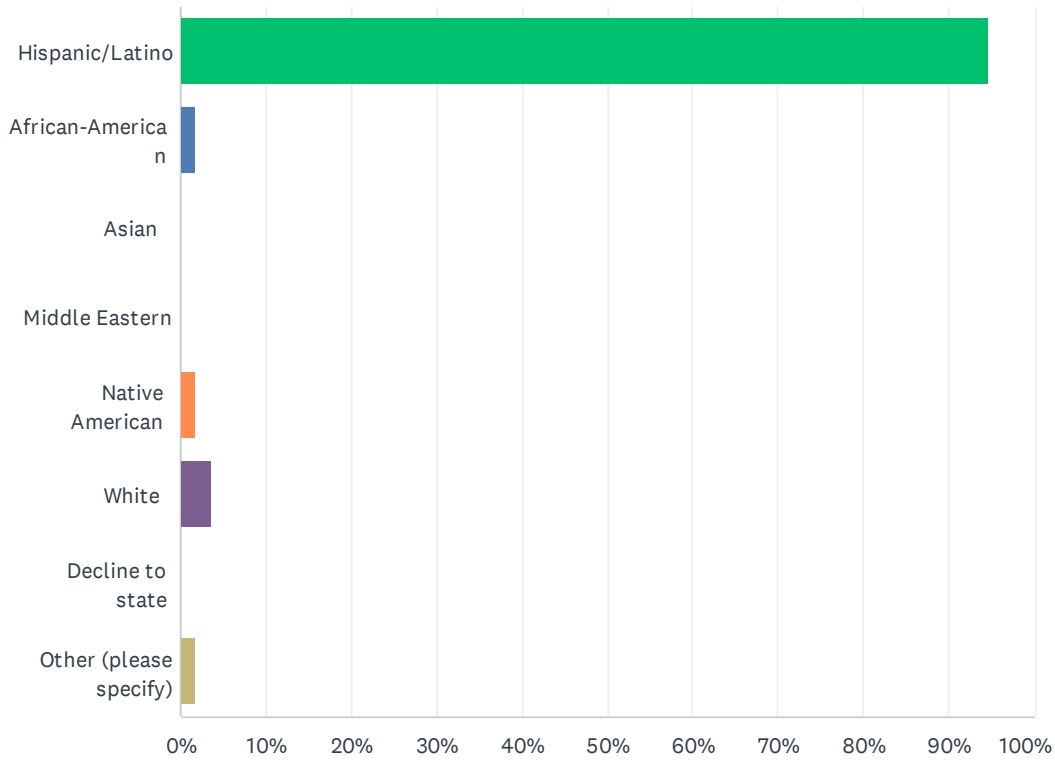


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Schooling	0.00%	0
Elementary School	5.36%	3
Middle School	0.00%	0
High School	23.21%	13
Some College	33.93%	19
Bachelors	30.36%	17
Masters	7.14%	4
Doctorate	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>56</b>



## Q21 Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

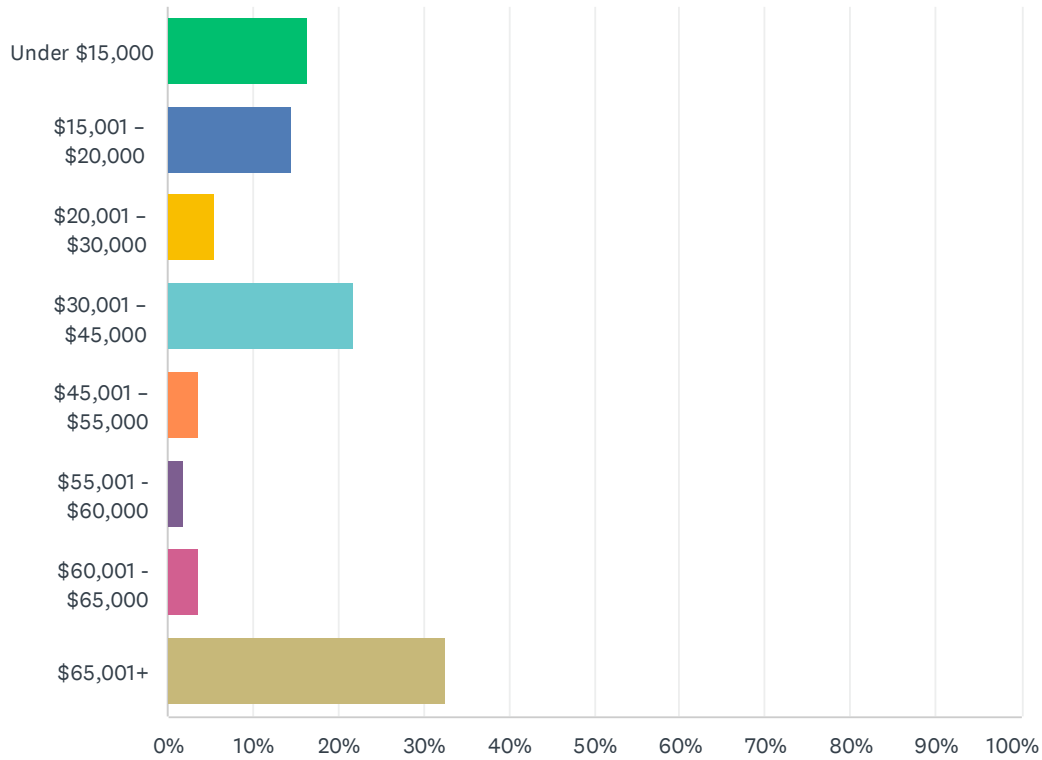
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



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?

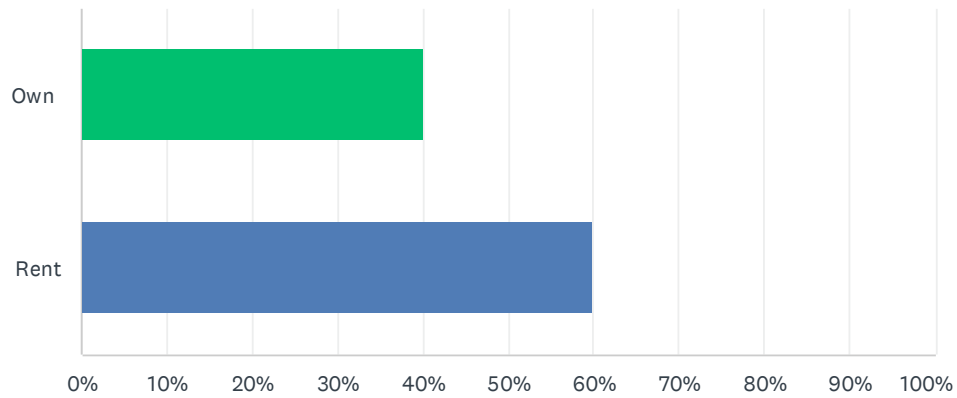
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>

## Q23 Do you own or rent your home?

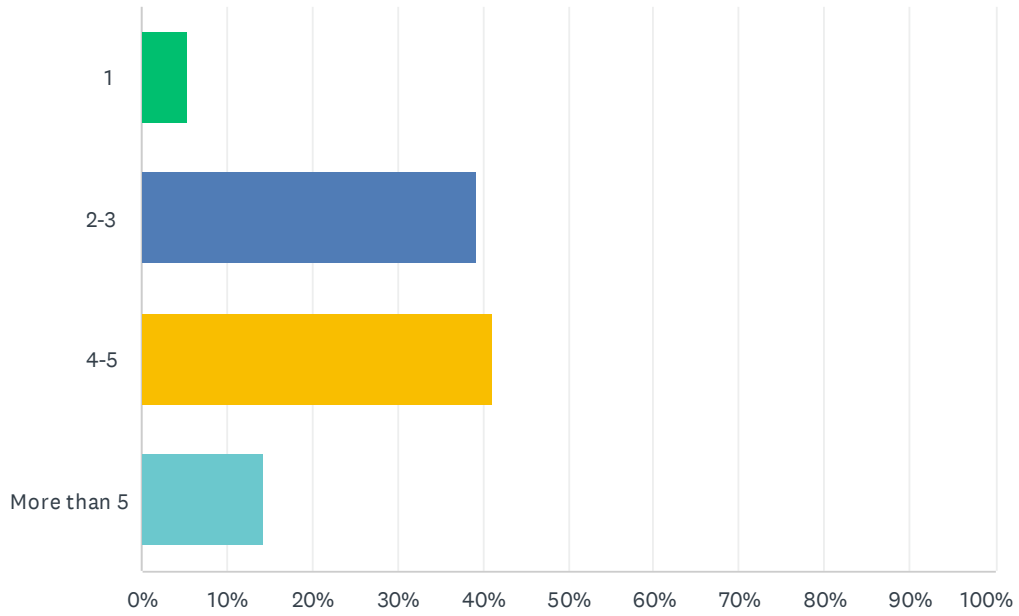
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	40.00%	22
Rent	60.00%	33
TOTAL		55

## Q24 How many people live in your home?

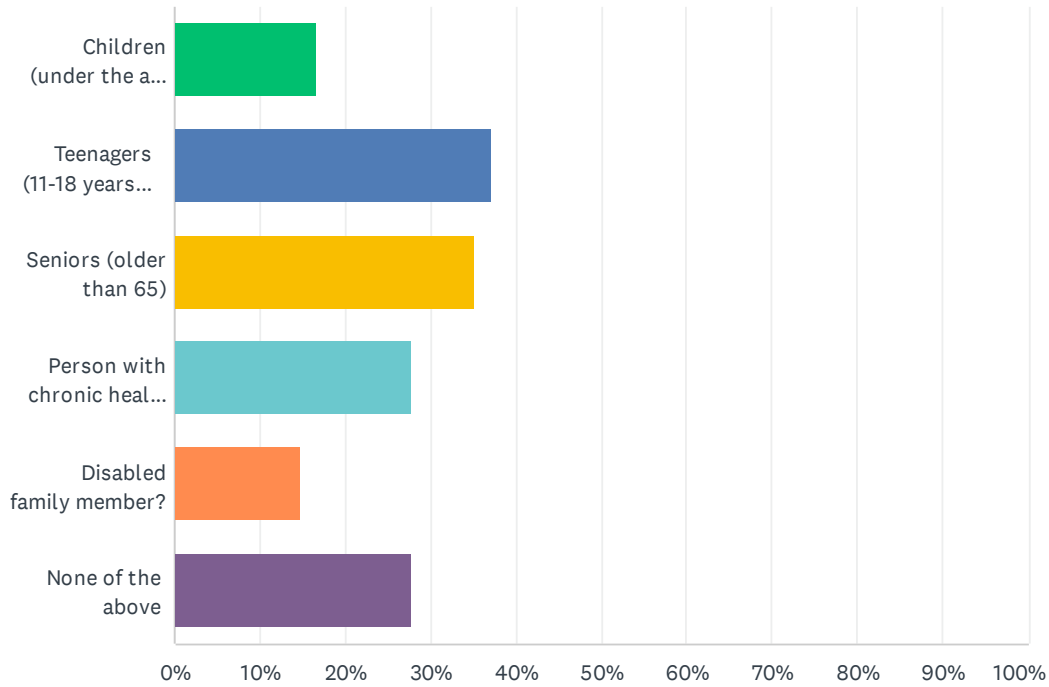
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



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**

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Abode Communities		<a href="mailto:info@abodecommunities.org">info@abodecommunities.org</a>	
Abode Communities		<a href="mailto:info@abodecommunities.org">info@abodecommunities.org</a>	
American Legion Post 465	7550 Eastern Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		
Azure Development		<a href="mailto:info@azuredevelopmentco.com">info@azuredevelopmentco.com</a>	
Bell Gardens Chamber of Commerce	6119 Agra Street	<a href="mailto:info@bellgardenschamber.biz">info@bellgardenschamber.biz</a>	562-291-0492
Bell Gardens Community Services Center	8000 Park Ln, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	<a href="mailto:bgcommunity@bellgardens.org">bgcommunity@bellgardens.org</a>	
Bell Gardens Convalescent Center/ Briarcrest Nursing Home		<a href="mailto:business-office@BriarcrestNursing.com">business-office@BriarcrestNursing.com</a>	562-927-2641
Bell Gardens Family Medical Center	6501 Garfield Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	<a href="mailto:CMuniz@fhccga.org">CMuniz@fhccga.org</a>	(562) 928-9600
Bell Gardens Lions Club		<a href="mailto:bgions@hotmail.com">bgions@hotmail.com</a>	
Bell Gardens Neighborhood Watch		<a href="mailto:mtrevis@bgpd.org">mtrevis@bgpd.org</a>	
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice		<a href="mailto:info@clrj.org">info@clrj.org</a>	
Del Rio Convalescent Center	7004 E Gage Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		(562) 927-6586
East Rancho Dominguez Service Center		<a href="mailto:TBrookins@wdacs.lacounty.gov">TBrookins@wdacs.lacounty.gov</a>	
Fraternal Order of Eagles		<a href="mailto:fraternaleagles@sbcglobal.net">fraternaleagles@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Habitat for Humanity		<a href="mailto:USSupportCenter@habitat.org">USSupportCenter@habitat.org</a>	
Human Services Association	6800 Florence Ave, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	<a href="mailto:ricardo.mota@hsala.org">ricardo.mota@hsala.org</a>	(562) 806-5400
East Yard Community for EJ - Laura Cortez	2317 Atlantic Blvd, Commerce CA 90040	<a href="mailto:Laurac.eycej@gmail.com">Laurac.eycej@gmail.com</a>	
Luis Rincon		<a href="mailto:lrincon7777@gmail.com">lrincon7777@gmail.com</a>	
Maravilla Foundation		<a href="mailto:Info@Maravilla.org">Info@Maravilla.org</a>	
Mayans Development		<a href="mailto:scott@mayansdevelopment.com">scott@mayansdevelopment.com</a>	
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation		<a href="mailto:rla@maof.org">rla@maof.org</a>	
National Core		<a href="mailto:info@nationalcore.org">info@nationalcore.org</a>	
New Image Emergency Shelter		<a href="mailto:newimage-inc@msn.com">newimage-inc@msn.com</a>	
Olson Company	3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100, Seal Beach, CA 90740	<a href="mailto:tolson@theolsonco.com">tolson@theolsonco.com</a>	(562) 596-4770
Park View Terrace	6728 Clara St, Bell Gardens, CA 90201		562-928-0348
Patel		<a href="mailto:dpatel@kamlahotels.com">dpatel@kamlahotels.com</a>	
Public Counsel- Brandon Payette		<a href="mailto:bpayette@publiccounsel.org">bpayette@publiccounsel.org</a>	
Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors	10900 E. 183rd Street Suite # 120, Cerritos, CA 90703	<a href="mailto:administrative@ranchosoutheast.com">administrative@ranchosoutheast.com</a>	562-860-5536
Rio Hondo Boys and Girls Club	7104 Perry Rd, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	<a href="mailto:info@bgcmla.org">info@bgcmla.org</a>	(562) 231-2500
Salvation Army Homeless Shelter		<a href="mailto:Steve.Lytle@usw.salvationarmy.org">Steve.Lytle@usw.salvationarmy.org</a>	
San Pedro Region of Catholic Charities		<a href="mailto:bhackman@ccharities.org">bhackman@ccharities.org</a>	
Steven Senemar	18340 YORBA LINDA BLVD # 107 YORBA LINDA, CA 92886	<a href="mailto:sencollc@hotmail.com">sencollc@hotmail.com</a>	323-589-7700
Sunrise Community Counseling		<a href="mailto:info@sunriseccc.org">info@sunriseccc.org</a>	
TELACU Development Corporation		<a href="mailto:info@TELACU.com">info@TELACU.com</a>	
Terra Bella	5720 Clara Street Bell Gardens , CA 90201	<a href="mailto:info@terrabellamanagement.com">info@terrabellamanagement.com</a>	562.479.0101 562) 806-5000
The Enki Center			
The Lee Group	475 WASHINGTON BLVD, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292		
Tony Lee		<a href="mailto:tonylee98@gmail.com">tonylee98@gmail.com</a>	562-688-2505
Westminster Court	6850 Florence Ave., Bell Gardens, CA 90201	<a href="mailto:valeria.cabrera@humangood.org">valeria.cabrera@humangood.org</a>	(562) 806-2893
Young at Heart Senior Citizens Group	6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens, CA, 90201	<a href="mailto:YAHRIK@outlook.com">YAHRIK@outlook.com</a>	775-782-5500
		<a href="mailto:darren.dunaway@hsala.org">darren.dunaway@hsala.org</a>	
Gabriel Garcia		<a href="mailto:gabriel@coreinvestments.com">gabriel@coreinvestments.com</a>	323-855-3696
Neighborhood Watch - Hannali Paniagua - Coordinator	7100 Garfield Ave	<a href="mailto:hpaniagua@bgpd.org">hpaniagua@bgpd.org</a>	562-806-7686 562-843-4139 (mobile)
64th District Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco - Kayla Terraza (Field Representative)	8255 Firestone Blvd., Ste 203, Downey CA 90241	<a href="mailto:Kayla.Terrazas@asm.ca.gov">Kayla.Terrazas@asm.ca.gov</a>	562-861-5803



**APPENDIX D**

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**Cultural Resources Information**

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

December 4, 2023

Eleni Getachew  
Impact Sciences, Inc.Via Email to: [egetachew@impactsciences.com](mailto: 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:



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](mailto: nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
NAHC.ca.gov

- 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](mailto:Cody.Campagne@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Cody Campagne  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



811 W. 7th Street, Suite 200  
 Los Angeles, CA 90017  
 (213) 935-1901  
 www.impactsciences.com

**SENT VIA EMAIL: [sccic@fullerton.edu](mailto: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	<b>South Gate</b>	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@impactsociences.com](mailto:egetachew@impactsociences.com).

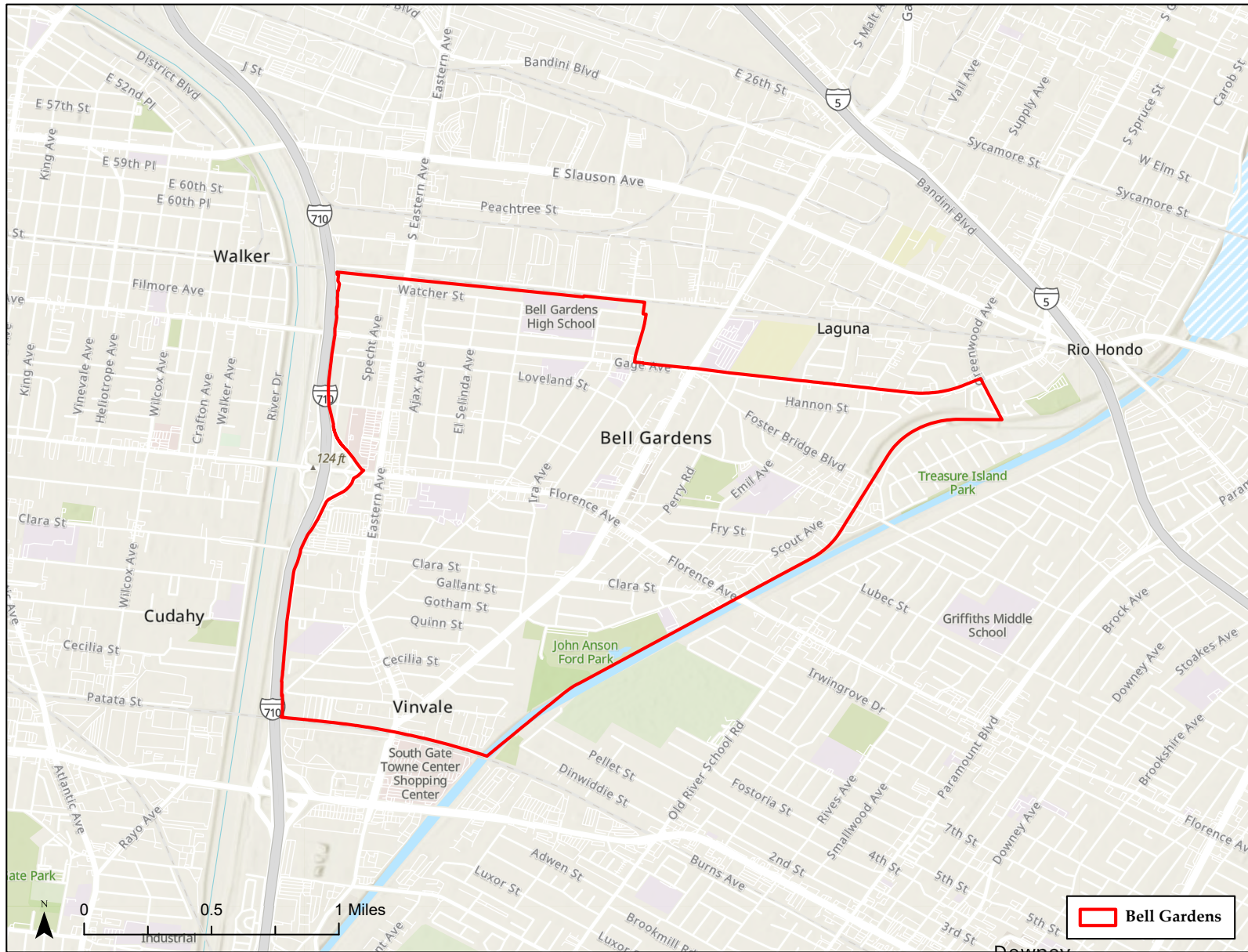
Sincerely,

Eleni Getachew  
Planner



811 W. 7th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
o: 213.935.1901 Ext. 323 | c: 805.453.2862  
[egetachew@impactsociences.com](mailto:egetachew@impactsociences.com)

**Attachment 1: City of Bell Gardens Map**



SOURCE: Esri, 2023

FIGURE 1