



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

City of Bell Gardens

April 2024

CITY OF BELL GARDENS

Environmental Justice Element

Prepared for:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| 1.0 | Introduction | 1.0-1 |
| 2.0 | Background | 2.0-1 |
| 3.0 | Existing General Plan Goals and Policies | 3.0-1 |
| 4.0 | Goals and Policies..... | 4.0-1 |
| 5.0 | Implementation..... | 5.0-1 |
| 6.0 | List of Preparers | 6.0-1 |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

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

A. RELATIONSHIP TO THE GENERAL PLAN

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

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

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

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

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

B. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

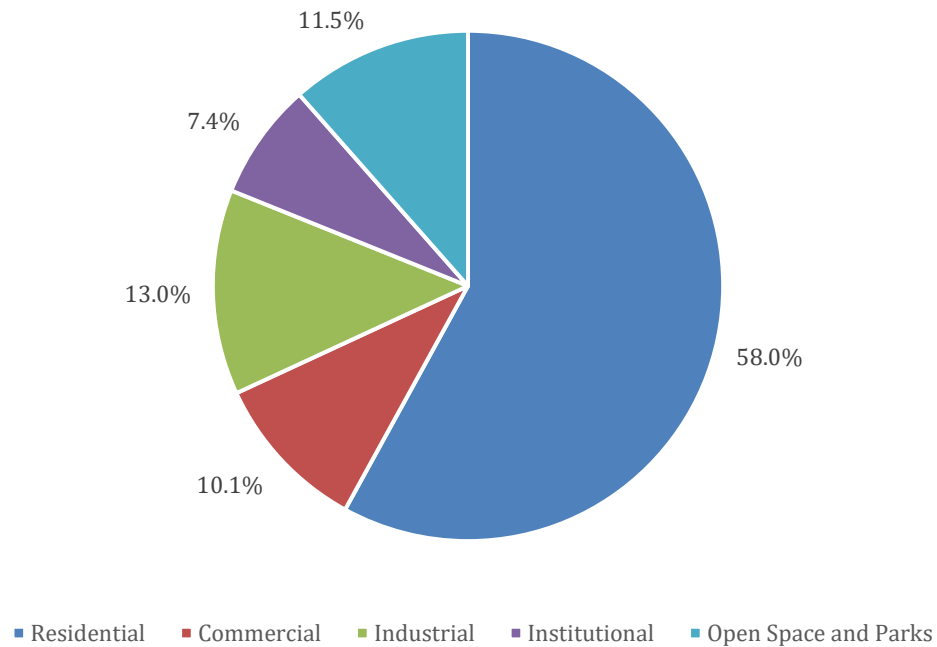
The City is located in the southeast portion of Los Angeles County, approximately 13 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. The City is bound by the City of Commerce to the north, the City of Downey to the east, the City of South Gate to the south, and the cities of Bell and Cudahy to the west.

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

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

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

Bell Gardens Land Uses



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

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

C. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE HISTORY GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

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

D. FEDERAL

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

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

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

E. STATE

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

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

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

- (A) The availability of a healthy environment for all people;
- (B) The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities;
- (C) Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

F. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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

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

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

that provide equal access to resources and safe spaces.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.0 BACKGROUND

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

2.0 BACKGROUND

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

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

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

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

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

disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above;

- Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities; and
- Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

A. PRIORITIZATION OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

EJ communities, referred to as “disadvantaged communities,” are identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code² or defined as or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Disadvantaged communities are defined as low-income areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards, including climate change, that can lead to negative health effects through adverse environmental living conditions. Indicators for disadvantaged communities include low-income areas, educational attainment, lack of employment, housing burdened low-income households, linguistic isolation, poverty, race and ethnicity, single-parent households, lack of American citizenship, violent crime rate, and inability to vote. Low-income areas are further defined as “an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093.”

OPR recommends the following methods for identifying disadvantaged communities:

1. Use CalEnviroScreen to examine whether the planning area for the general plan contains census tracts that have a combined score of 75% or higher.³
2. Map the household median incomes by census tract in the planning area at or below statewide median income and examine for disproportionate pollution burden.
3. Map the household median incomes by census tract in the planning area at or below the Department of Housing and Community Development’s state income limits and examine

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

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

for disproportionate pollution burden.

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

B. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND EXISTING SETTINGS

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed and maintains the CalEnviroScreen⁴ tool on behalf of the CalEPA. CalEnviroScreen provides a science-based method for identifying impacted communities by taking into consideration pollution exposure and its effects, as well as health and socio-economic status, at the census-tract level. The mapping tool helps identify California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution, and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects. On December 1, 2022, CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was released. The interactive online tool provides 21 indicators:

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

Based on the CalEnviroScreen data, the nine census tracts⁵ within the City have overall scores ranging from 79.7 to 99.6% and an average of 95.4%. The entire City has a score higher than the OPR recommended threshold of 75% to identify disadvantaged communities (see **Figure 2.0-1, CalEnviroScreen Percentiles**). In addition, the household median income for the City was

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

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

\$50,311,⁶ which was below the state median of \$90,100.⁷ Therefore, the entire City meets the definition as a disadvantaged community.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the most recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau (July 2021), the City has a total population of 38,552⁸. This is lower than the population count of 42,072 recorded in 2010. The City has a population density of 16,063 people per square mile, among the highest densities for the region and the County. From 2010 to 2020, the City's population decreased by 8.3% compared to a 1.9% increase for Los Angeles County.⁹ 2021 Census data shows that City's population is more than 95.6% Hispanic. The population of the City that is under 18 years of age is 29%, which is higher than the regional share of 21.1%, while seniors (65 and above) account for 8.3% of the population, which is lower than the regional share of 14.6%.¹⁰

The Department of Housing and Community Development's revised state income limits for 2021, identified that the Los Angeles County median income was \$80,000¹¹. The median household income in 2021 for the City was \$50,311,¹² which was below the Los Angeles County's median of \$80,000 (see **Figure 2.0-2, Median Household Income**). Approximately one-quarter of the City's residents live below the poverty line which was \$27,479 for a family of four with two children under 18.¹³ In addition, the homeowner occupied housing unit rate is at 21.1%, which is below the County's rate of 46.2%.

Asthma

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19.^{14,15} Asthma rates provide a good indicator of population sensitivity to environmental stressors because asthma is caused by and worsened by air pollution. Asthma rates within a community are measured through emergency room visits from asthma symptoms and deaths from asthma. CalEnviroScreen collects this information and spatially models' asthma prevalence as the age-adjusted rate of emergency room visits for asthma per 10,000 people averaged over a two-year period.¹⁶ Within the City, the census tract asthma percentiles ranged from 35 to 62% (representing 36 to 54 per 10,000 people visited the emergency room due to asthma) with the highest rates within the census tracts located in the western and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-3, Emergency Room Visits Due to Asthma**). The average asthma rate of emergency room visits for asthma in the City is 50 per 10,000 people which is 0.1% lower than the County average of 54 per 10,000 people¹⁷. However, it should be noted that the dataset does not capture all individuals burdened with asthma because not everyone with asthma requires emergency care.¹⁸

Cardiovascular Disease

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

Exposure to outdoor air pollution following a heart attack has been shown to increase the risk of death. In addition to people with a past heart attack, the effects of air pollution may also be greater in the elderly and people with other preexisting health conditions. Within the City, the census tract cardiovascular disease percentiles ranged from 69 to 95% (representing 15 to 24 people per 10,000 people visited the emergency room for a heart attack), with the highest rates within the western and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-4, Cardiovascular Disease Rates**). The average rate of emergency room visits for cardiovascular disease in the City is 22 per 10,000 people which is 57% higher than the County average of 14 per 10,000 people¹⁹.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low Birth Weight

Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (or 2,500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight. Poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother are known to increase the risk of having a baby with a low birth weight. Studies suggest that pollution (from traffic, industry, or agriculture) could also be a factor. Low birth-weight babies may face a greater risk of developing asthma or other chronic diseases later in life. They are also more likely to die as infants than babies who are not born low weight. Within the City, the census tract low birth weight percentiles ranged from 6 to 86% (representing that 3 to 7 per 10,000 babies were born with low birth weights), with the highest rates within the center of the City (see **Figure 2.0-5, Low Birth Weight Rates**). The City's average rate of babies born with low-birth-weight is 4 per 10,000, which is 20% lower than the County average of 5 per 10,000. However, this data does not take into account out-of-state births and births with no known residential addresses.²⁰

Education

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

Housing Burden

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

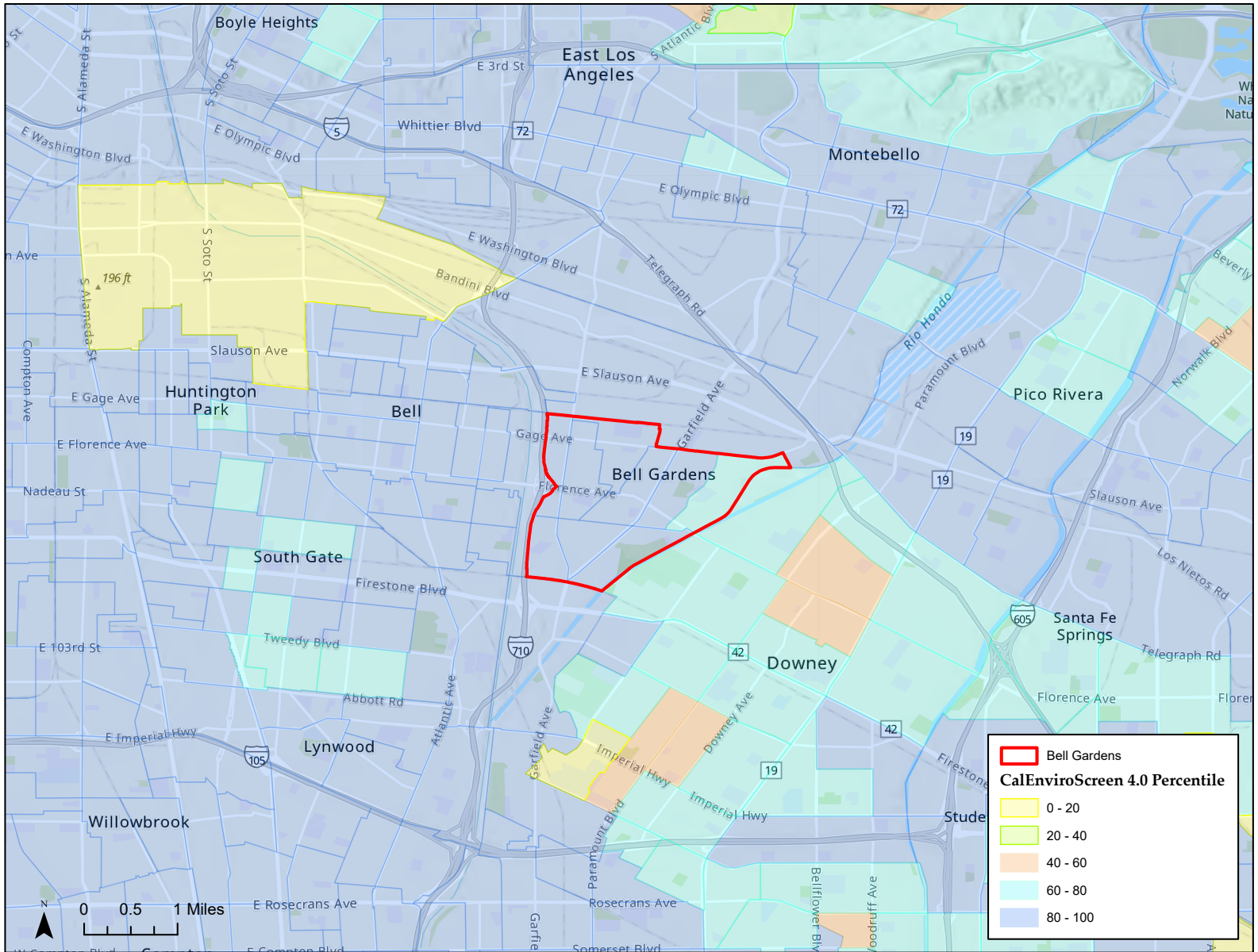
²⁰ *Id.* OEHHA and CalEPA, *CalEnviroScreen 4.0*, 2021.

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

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

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

to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing affordability is an important determinant of health and well-being. Low-income households with high housing costs may suffer adverse health impacts due to a greater likelihood to postpone medical services for financial reasons. Furthermore, as climate change continues, and heat waves become more frequent, the increased cost of energy may further exacerbate poverty levels.

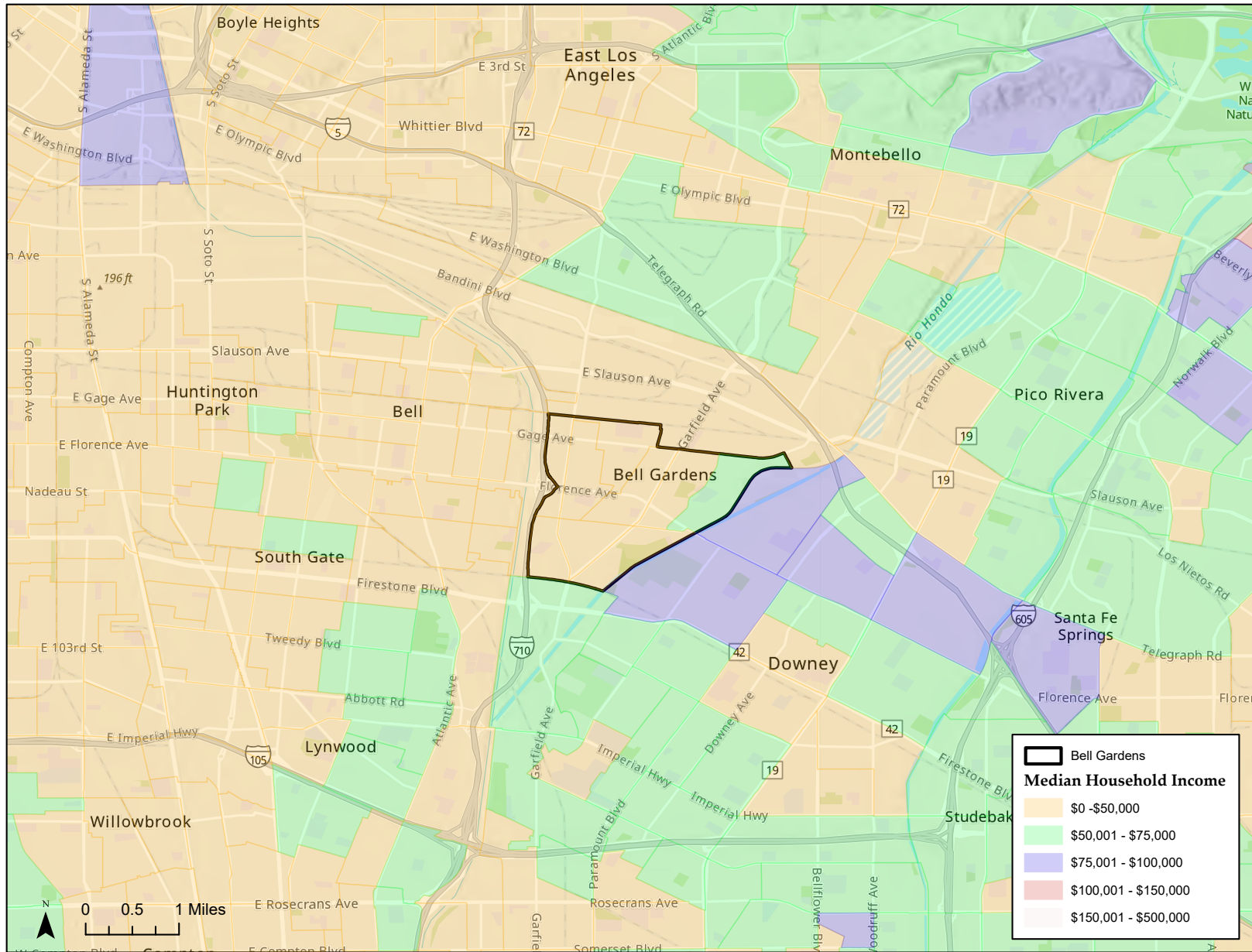


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE 2.0-1

CalEnviroScreen Percentiles



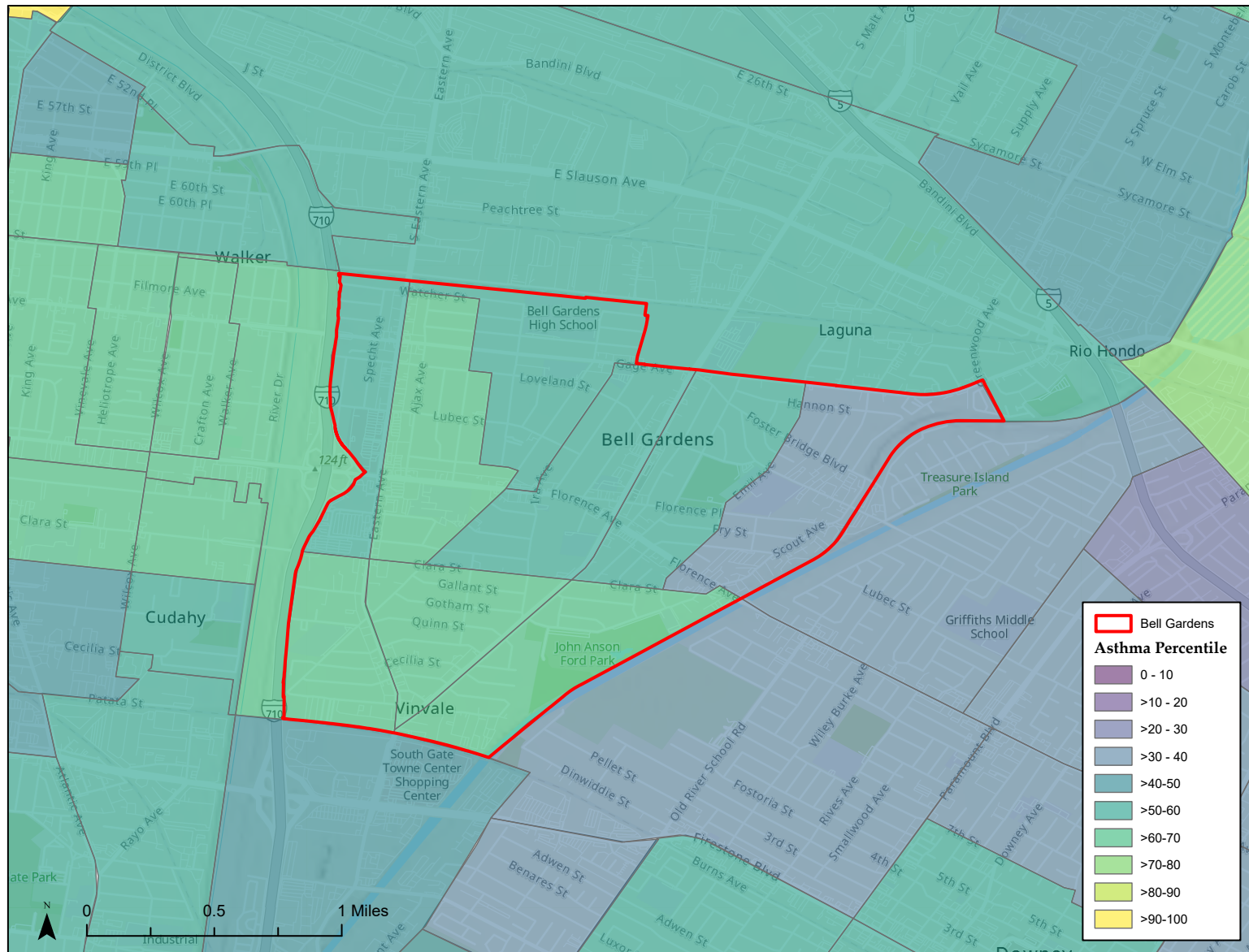


SOURCE: SCAG, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE 2.0-2

Median Household Income

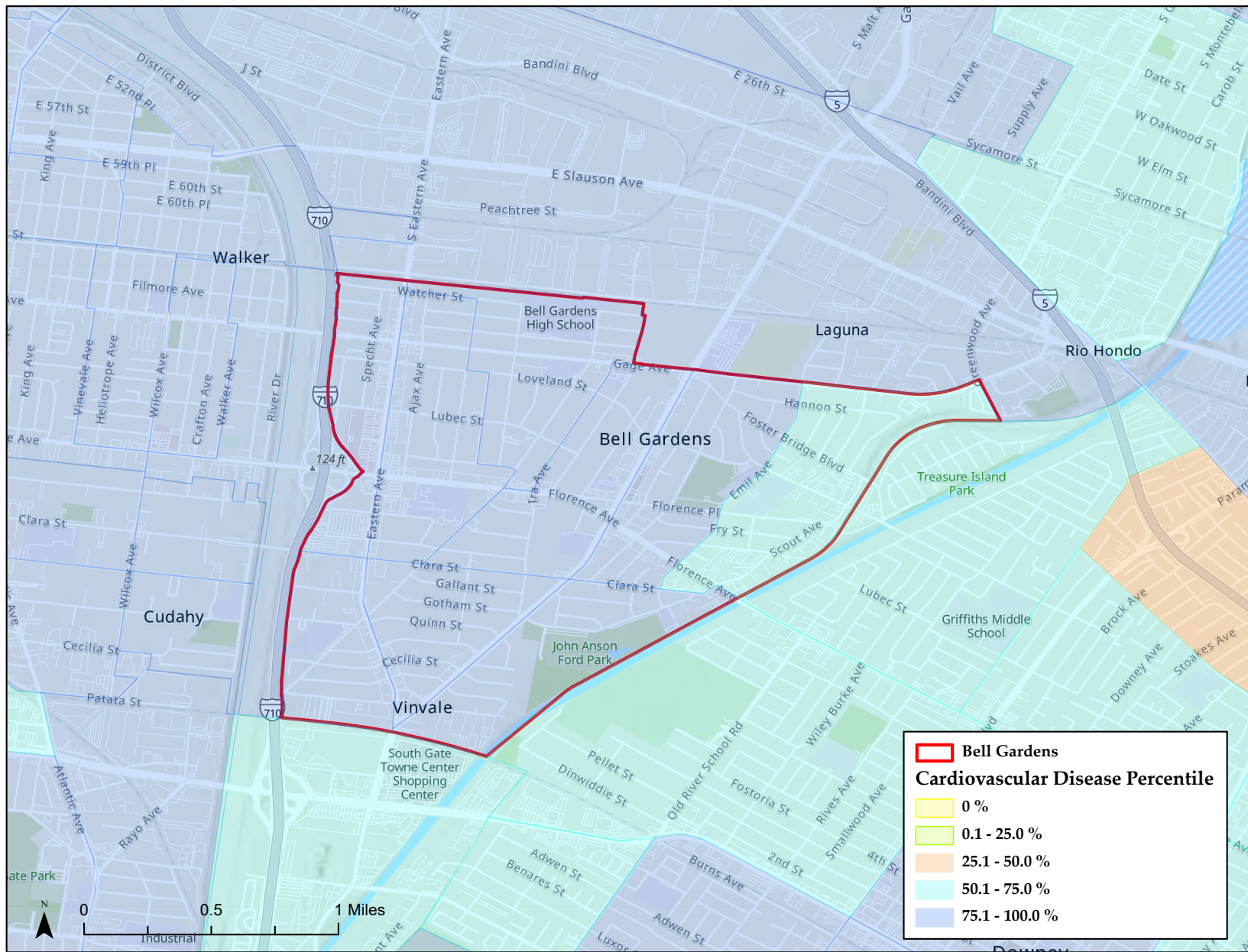




SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE 2.0-3

Emergency Room Visits Due to Asthma in Bell Gardens

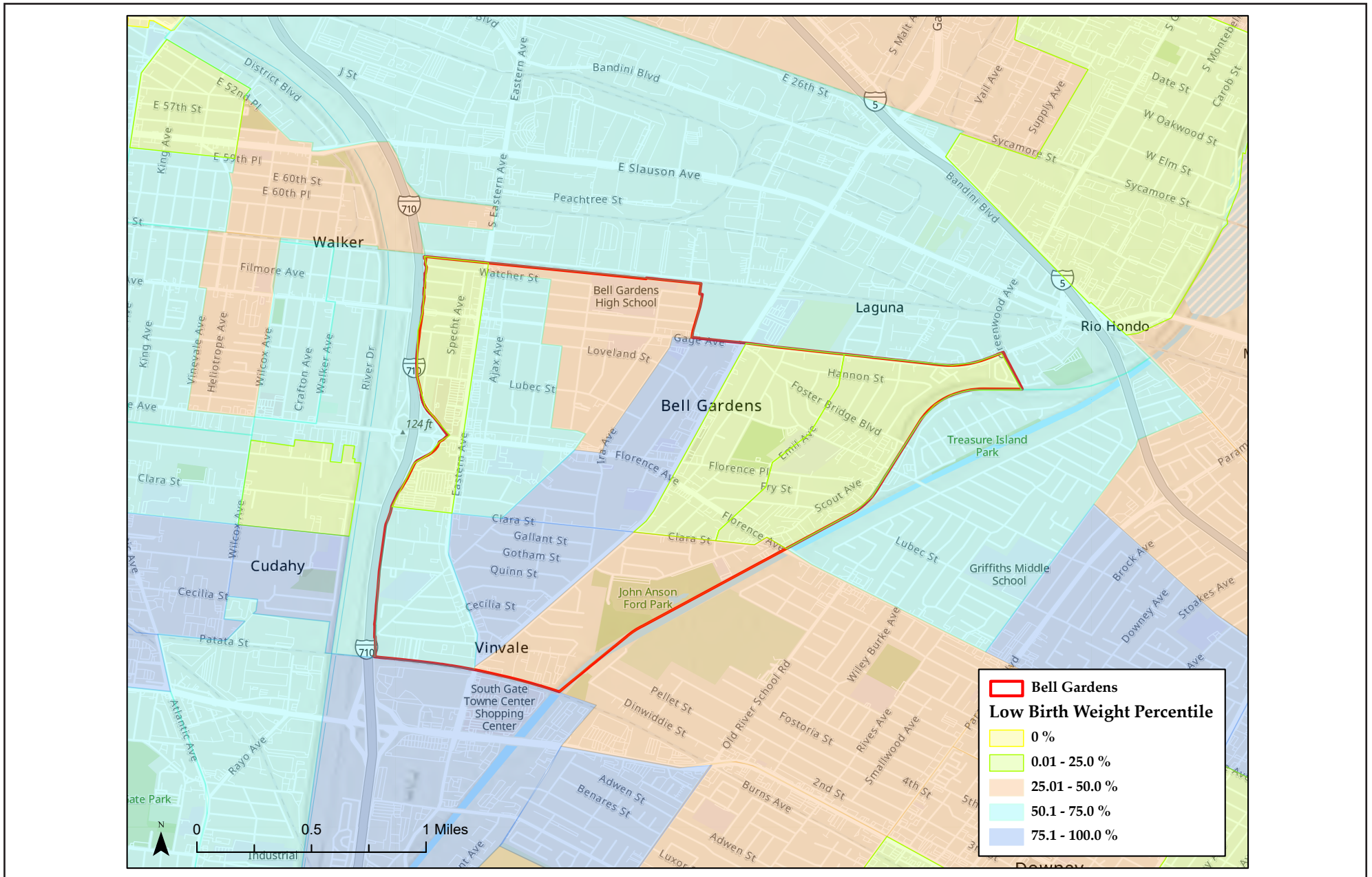


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-4

Cardiovascular Disease Percentile

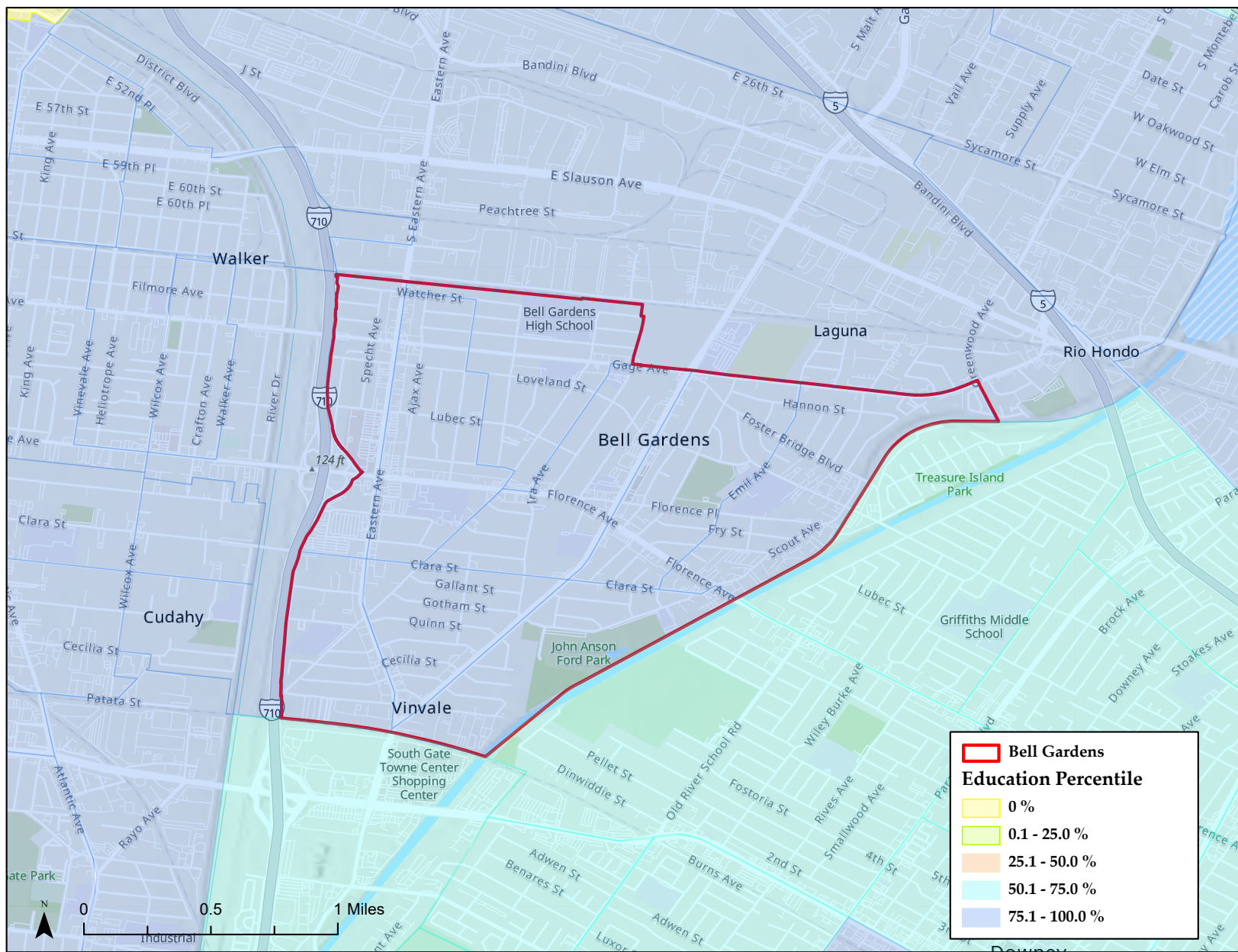




SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-5

Low Birth Weight Percentile



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-6

Educational Attainment Percentile



Safe and Sanitary Homes: Providing safe and sanitary homes is a required element of Environmental Justice under Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A). The EJ Element of a general plan evaluates the safety and sanitation of homes based on housing location, quality, and affordability. Poorly maintained conditions can lead to unsafe living conditions such as pest infestation, water intrusion, mold, poor insulation, and exposure to toxins (such as mold or lead). These conditions can exacerbate respiratory illnesses including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, while exposure to lead can have lifelong health consequences for young children. Age of housing stock is a consideration in the evaluation of safe and sanitary homes. The housing in the City is relatively older than the surrounding Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) region²⁴. The highest share of the City's housing units was built between 1940-1949, while in the SCAG region more units were built during 1970-1979 than any other period.²⁵ In the City 80.5% of all housing units were constructed prior to 1979. Moreover, only 4.7% of the City's housing were constructed since the year 2000, compared to 12.6% housing units built within the SCAG region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linguistic Isolation

Linguistic isolation is a term used by the U.S. Census Bureau for limited English-speaking households (all members 14 years of age or above that have a least some difficult speaking English). More than 40% of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those use a language other than English as their primary language. Adults who are not able to speak English well often have trouble talking to the people who provide social services and medical care. Linguistically isolated households may also not hear or understand important information when there is an emergency like an accidental chemical release or spill. Approximately 41.3% of the population in the City is foreign born, in comparison to 33.5% countywide.³³

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

Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau determines the federal poverty level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the age of family members. If a person or family's total income before taxes is less than the poverty level (two times the federal poverty level³⁵), the person or family is considered to be living in poverty. Many studies have found that people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution. The poverty percentiles of the census tracts within the City range from 80 to 99% (representing that 48 to 80% of residents in the City are living below the federal poverty level). With the greatest concentration towards the center and southern portions of the City (see **Figure 2.0-9, Poverty Percentile**). The average percentile of people living below twice the federal poverty level for the census tracts in the City is 60% which is 71% higher than the County average of 35%.³⁶

Unemployment

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

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

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

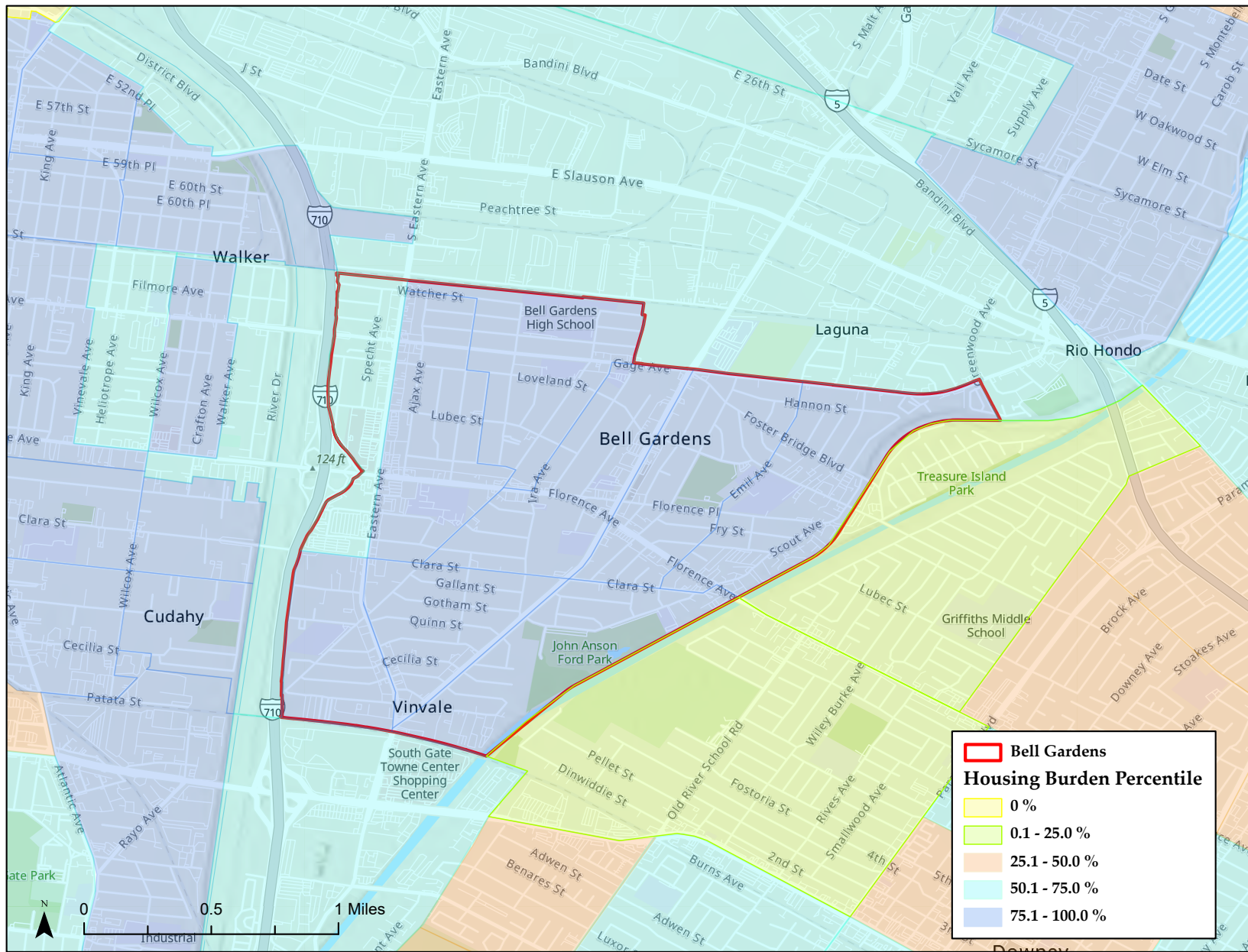
³⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States:2022. Available online at: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.pdf>, accessed on April 2, 2024.

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

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

³⁷ SGAG. Pre-Certified Local Housing Data. April 2021.

³⁸ *Id.* OEHHA and CalEPA, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2021.

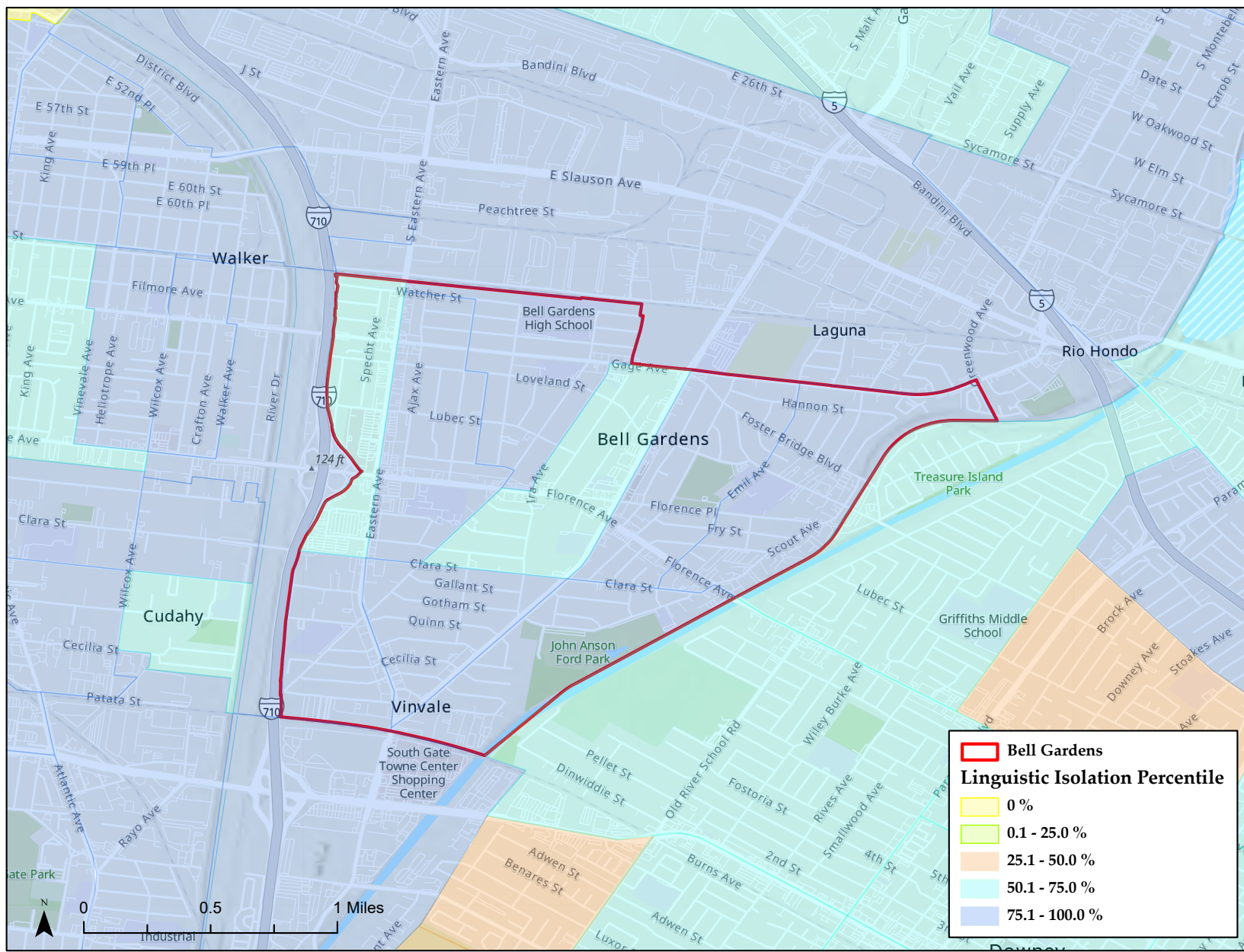


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-7

Housing Burden Percentile

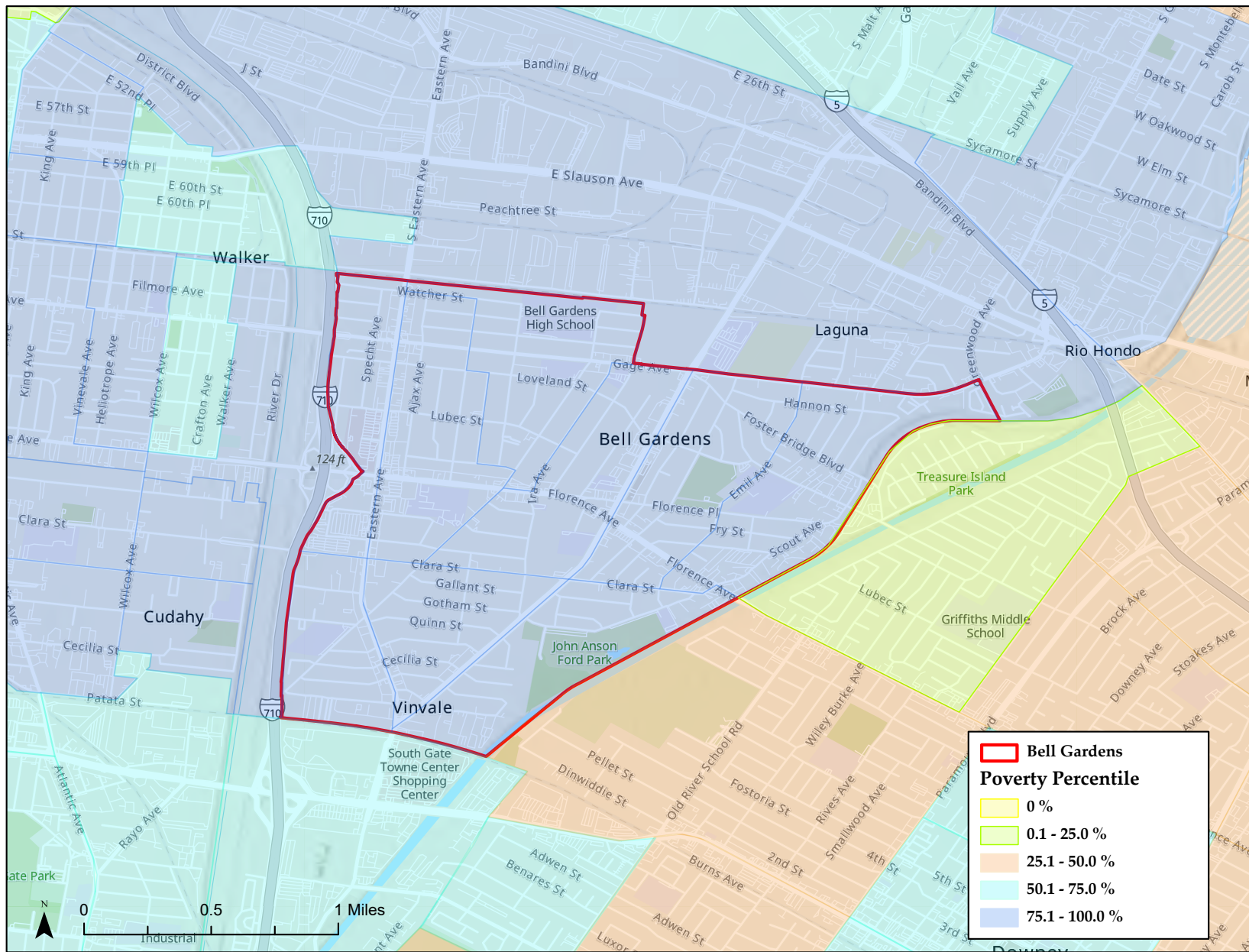




SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-8

Linguistic Isolation Percentile

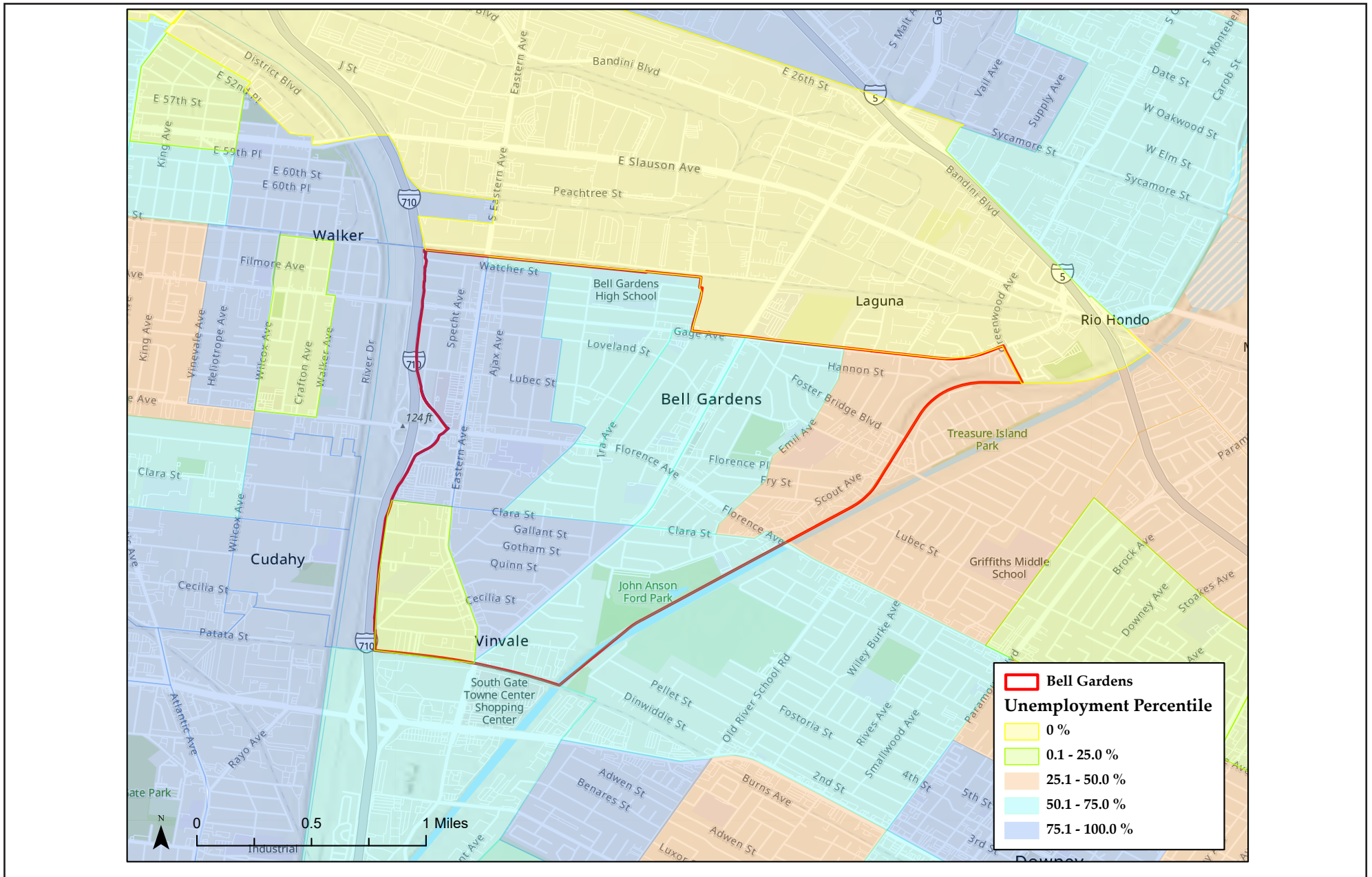


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-9

Poverty Percentile





SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-10

Unemployment Percentile

D. POLLUTION BURDEN

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

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

Children's Lead Risk from Housing

Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing (built before 1979). As noted in the City's Housing Element, 80% of the units in the City were built before 1979 and could potentially have lead based paint. Exposure to lead through paint is the most significant source of lead exposure for children. There are no known safe levels of lead exposure. Young children are

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

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

especially susceptible to the effects of lead exposure and can suffer adverse health effects, particularly in the brain and nervous system. This increased susceptibility is due to children's unique exposure pathways, developing brains, and differences in the absorption of ingested lead. Children's exposure to lead even at low levels can lead to a higher likelihood of lower IQ and educational performance outcomes, and symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The children's lead risk from housing scores are calculated based on the percent of homes likely to contain lead-based paint hazards and the percent of low income households with children. The lead risk percentiles for the census tracts within the City ranges from 89 to 93% (representing that the children's lead risk from housing score ranges from 77 to 92) (see **Figure 2.0-12, Children's Lead Risk from Housing**). The average children's lead risk from housing percentile from the census tracts in the City is 86% which is 24% higher than the County average of 62%.⁴¹

Cleanup Sites

Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with hazardous chemicals and require clean up by the property owners or government. Chemicals at cleanup sites can move through the air or groundwater. People living near these sites have a greater potential to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods. In addition, studies have shown that living near cleanup sites may result in an increased probability of having a low birth weight, elevated blood lead levels and other health impacts.⁴² The land may take many years or decades to clean up, reducing possible property values and quality of life for neighboring residents. The cleanup percentiles consider the number of cleanup sites including Superfund sites⁴³ on the National Priorities List, the weighted score of each site, and the distance to the census tract. The cleanup site percentile for census tracts within the City ranges from 43 to 95% (representing an average of 21 cleanup sites). The City's average is 75% higher than the County average of 12 cleanup sites (see **Figure 2.0-13, Cleanup Sites Percentile**).⁴⁴

Diesel Particulate Matter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Traffic Impact

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

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

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

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

48 *Ibid.*

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

Drinking Water Contaminants

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

One common contaminant, arsenic, occurs naturally in some rocks and soil and is often found in groundwater in California and can cause cancer. Nitrate from fertilizer or manure can leach into groundwater and contaminate wells. Nitrate can cause a blood disorder in infants called blue baby syndrome. The drinking water contaminant score is based on the average concentration of contaminants and average violation percentiles for each census tract. This indicator is not a measure of whether water is safe to drink but indicates a combination of contaminant data that takes into account the relative concentrations of different contaminants and whether multiple contaminants are present. Within the City, the drinking water contaminant percentiles range from 56 to 62% (representing drinking water contaminant score ranges from 463 to 518); with the highest percentage of contaminants located towards the northern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-16, Drinking Water Contaminants**). The average drinking water contaminants scores for the census tracts in the City is 504, which is 17% lower than the County average of 608⁴⁹. Based on input from the Community Survey, groundwater quality due to old and damaged pipes was an area of concern for the community.

Groundwater Threats

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

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

Figure 2.0-17, Groundwater Threats Percentile).

Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities

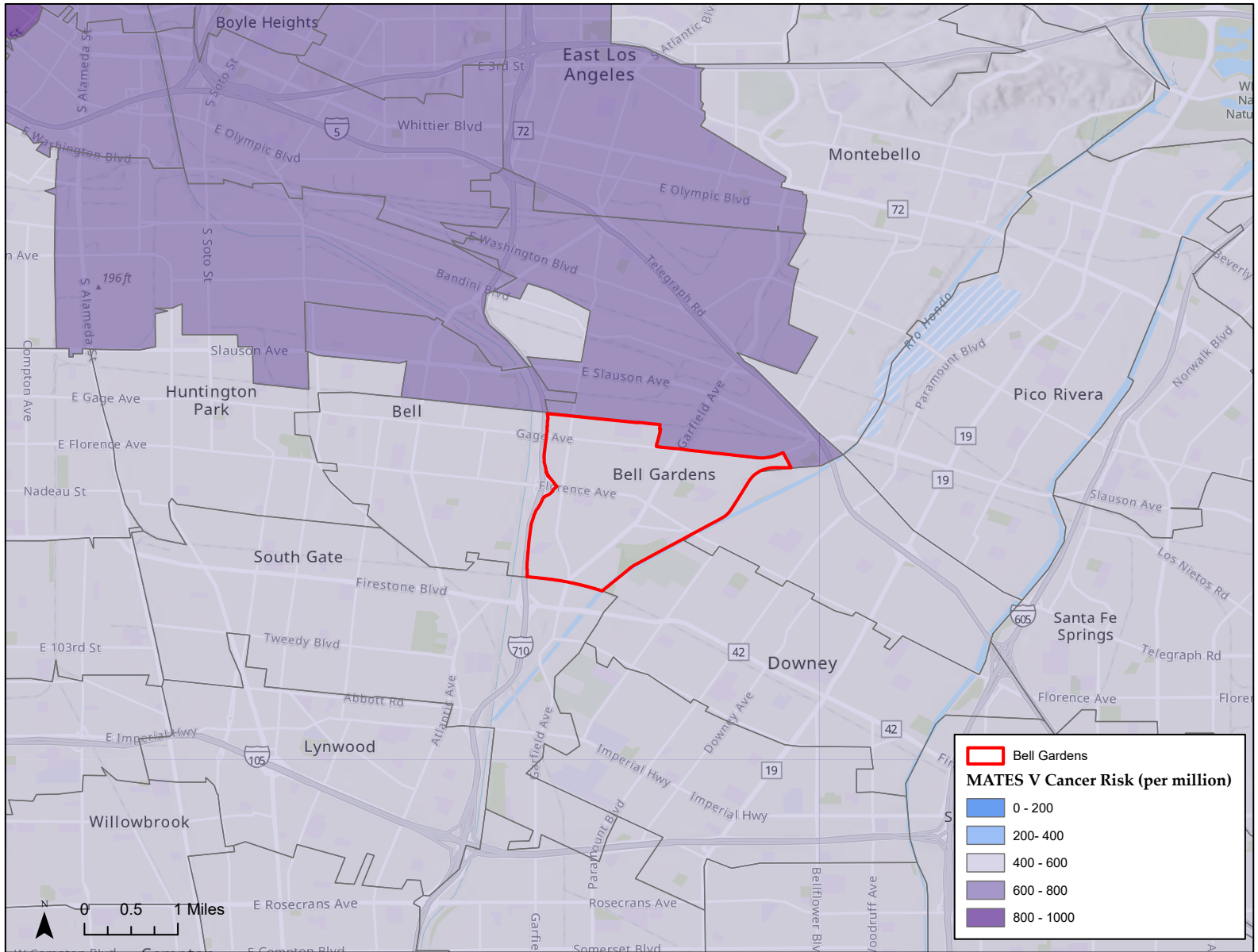
Hazardous waste includes waste created by different commercial or industrial activities containing chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health.⁵⁰ Only certain facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. Hazardous waste can range from used automotive oil to highly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

Impaired Waters

Water bodies such as streams, rivers or lakes are used for recreation and fishing or may provide water for drinking or irrigation. When water bodies are contaminated by pollutants, they are considered “impaired waters.” These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. These impairments can harm wildlife habitats and prevent recreational and other uses of the water body. The impaired water percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 67 to 83% (representing 7-10 impairments) (see **Figure 2.0-19, Impaired Water Bodies Percentiles**, between the Rio Hondo Channel and the Los Angeles River). The average number of impairments for the census tracts in the City is 9 which is 200% greater than the County average of 3.⁵¹

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

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

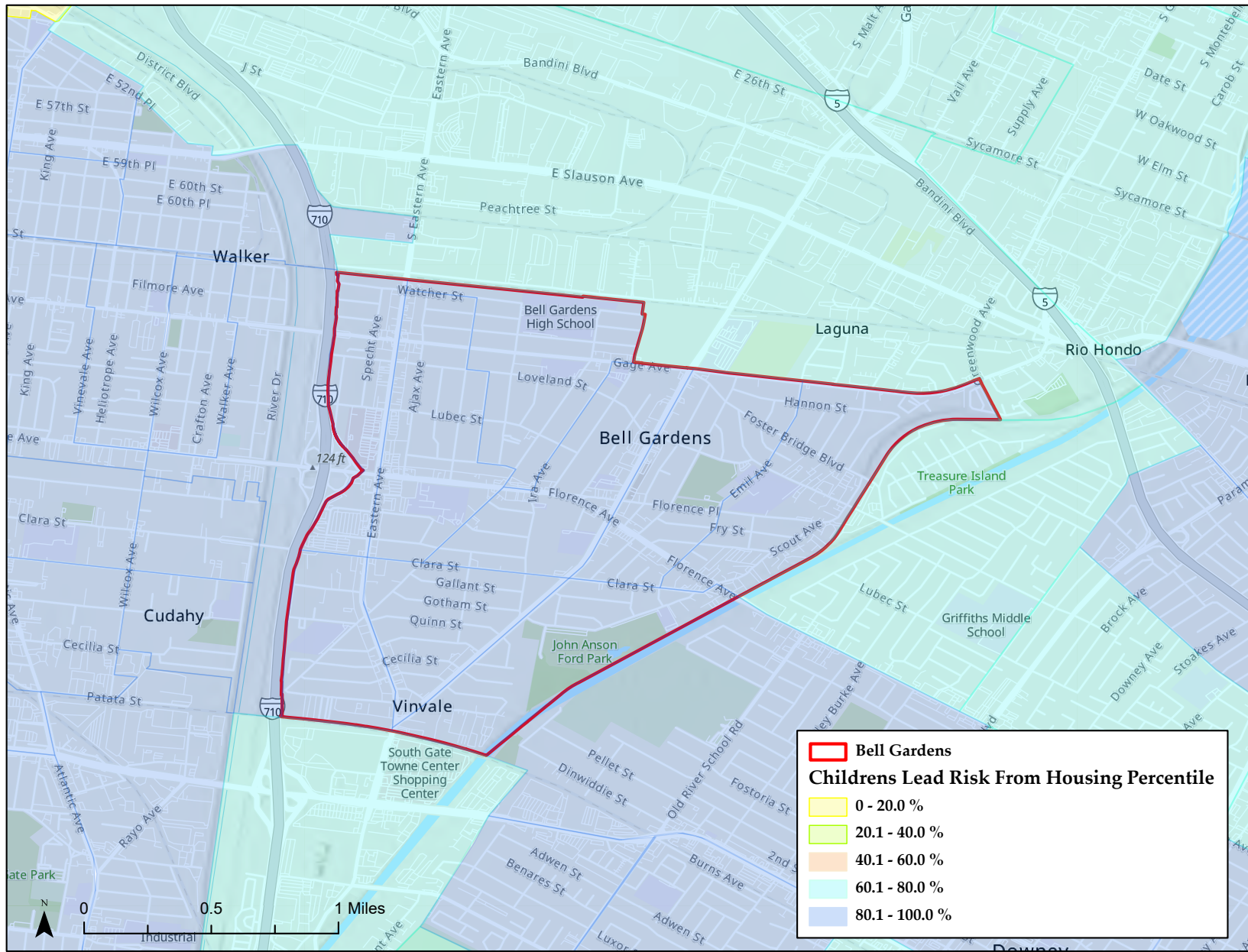


SOURCE: MATES V, 2022; Esri, 2022

FIGURE 5

Background Cancer Risk in Bell Gardens

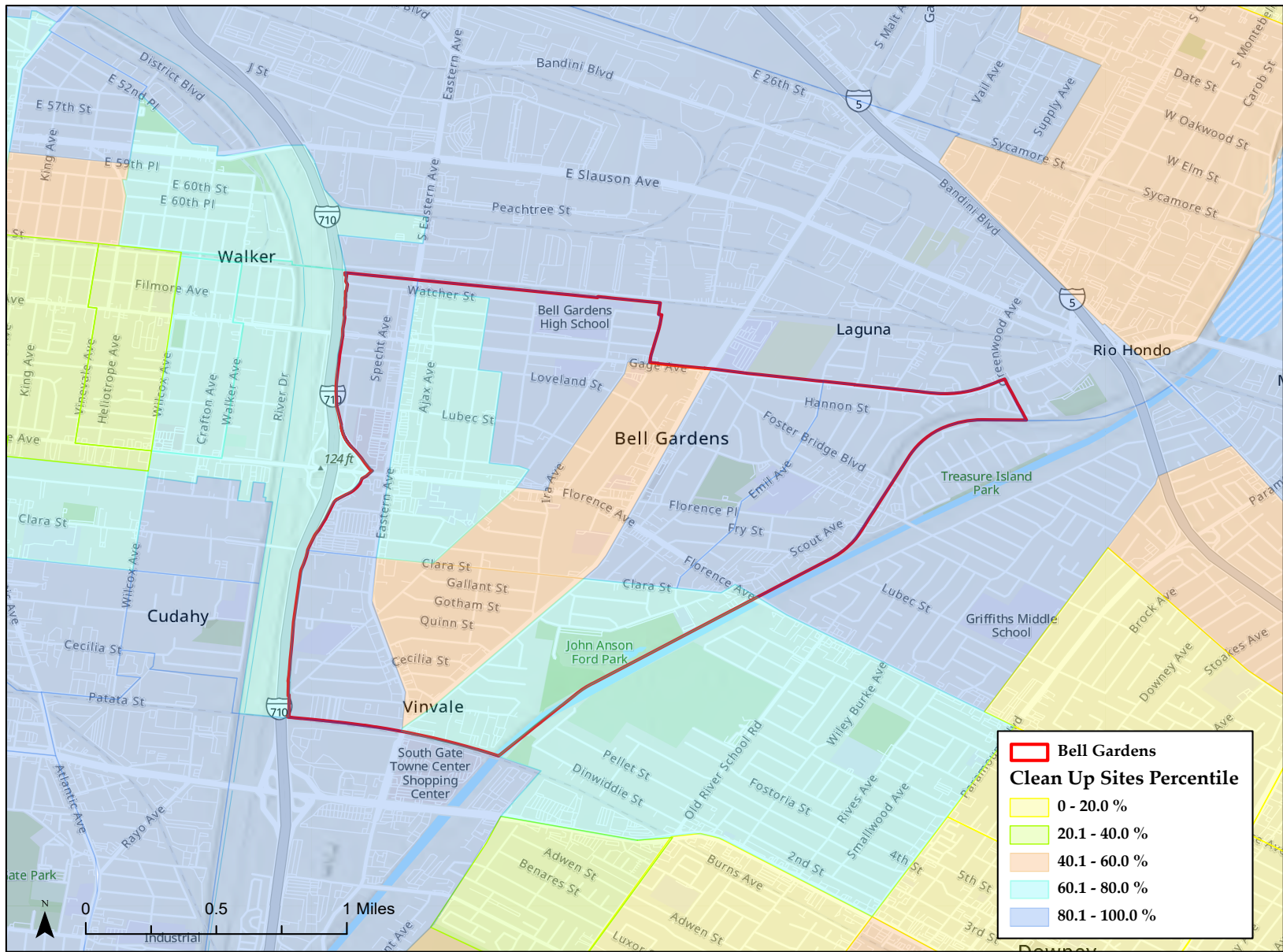




SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-12

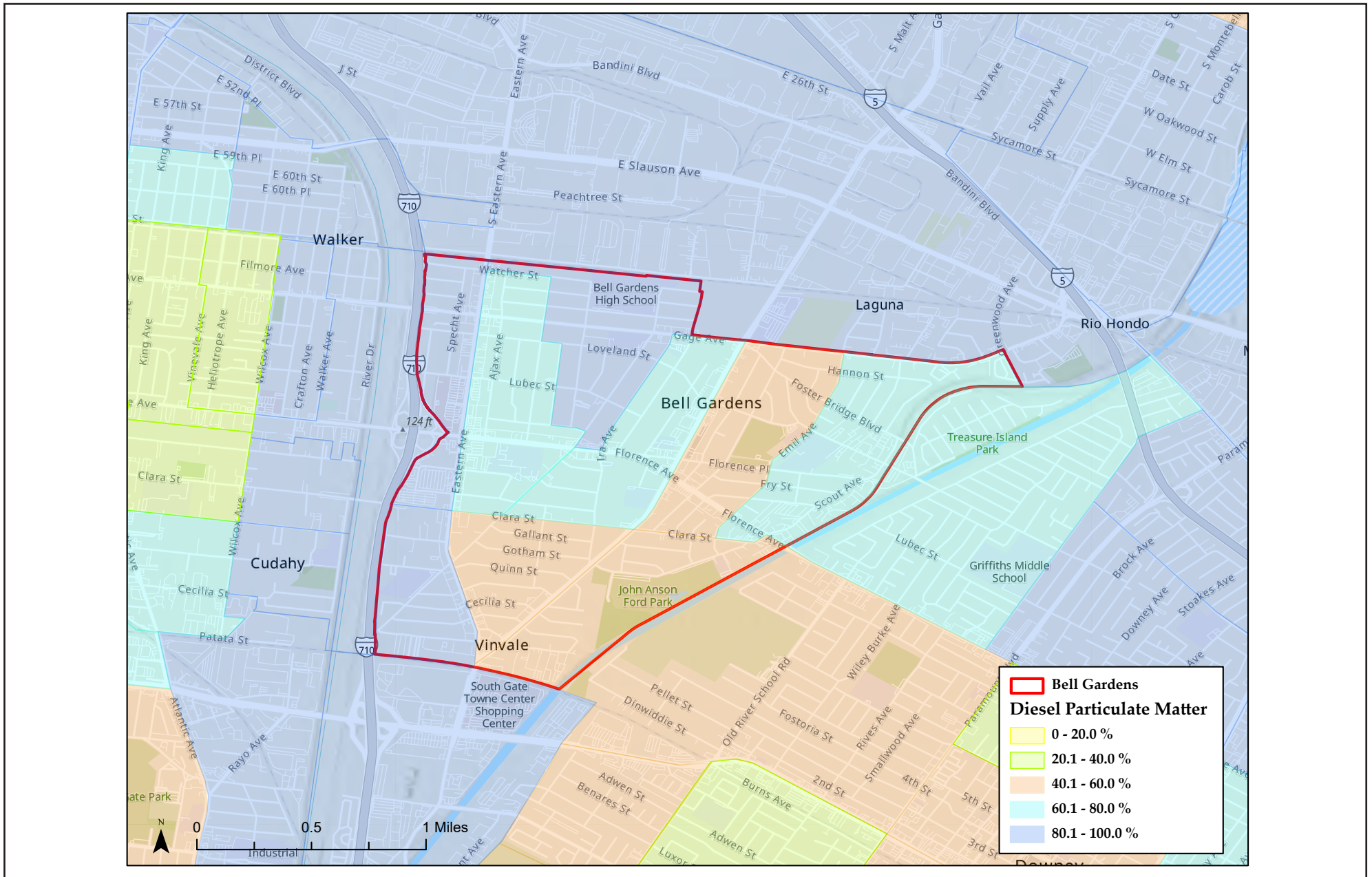
Childrens Lead Risk From Housing Percentile



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-13

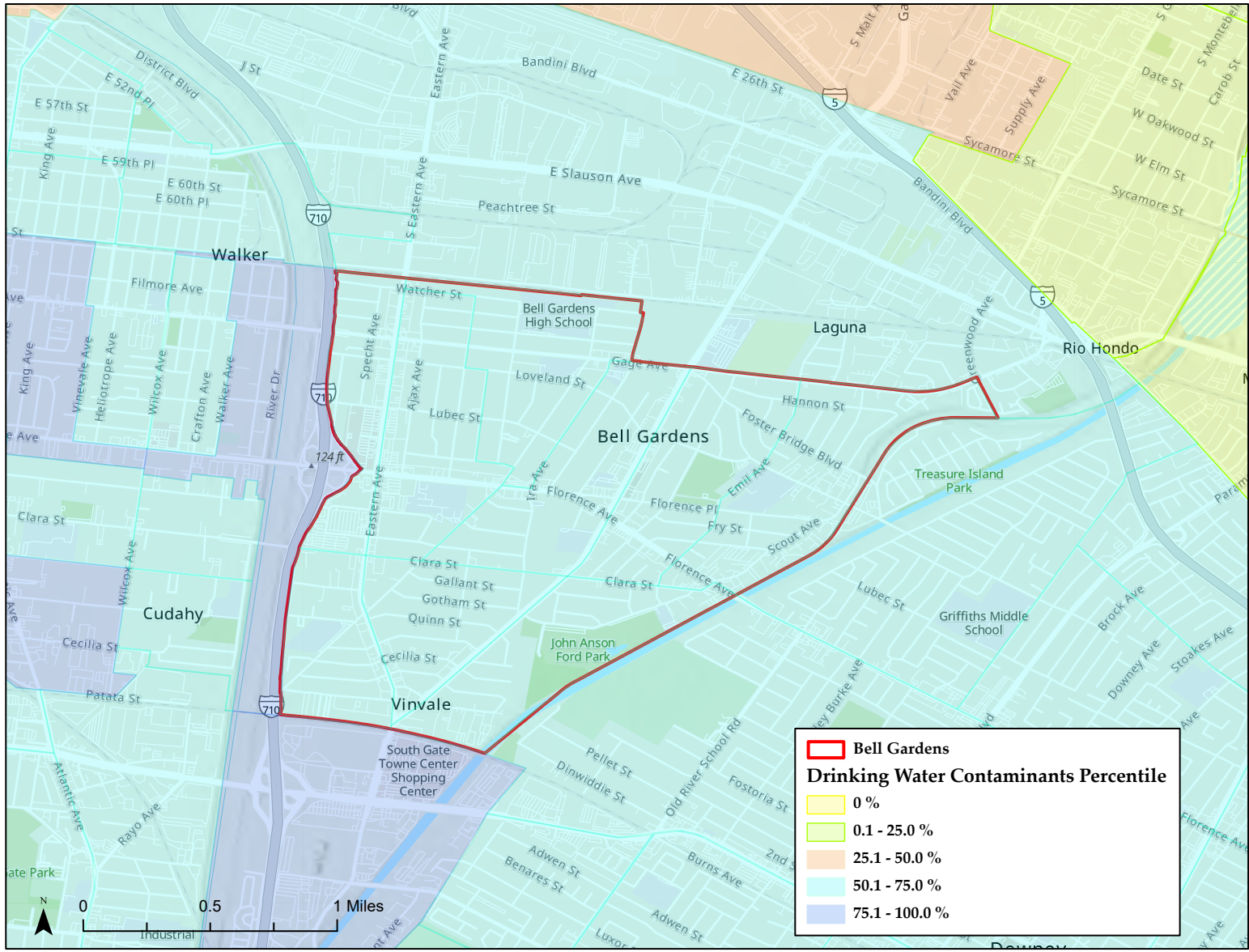
Clean Up Sites Percentile



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-14

Diesel Particulate Matter Percentile

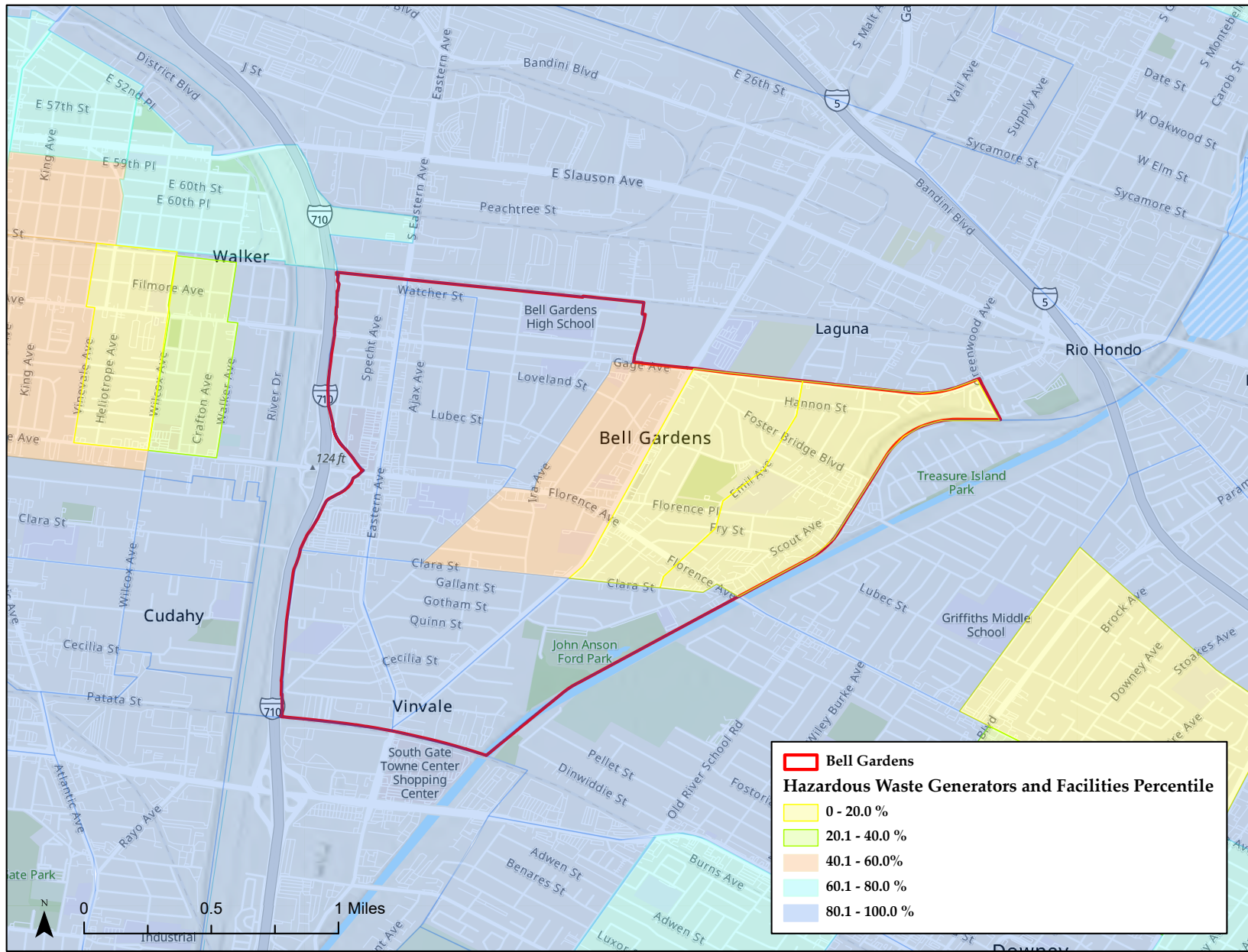


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-16

Drinking Water Contaminants Percentile



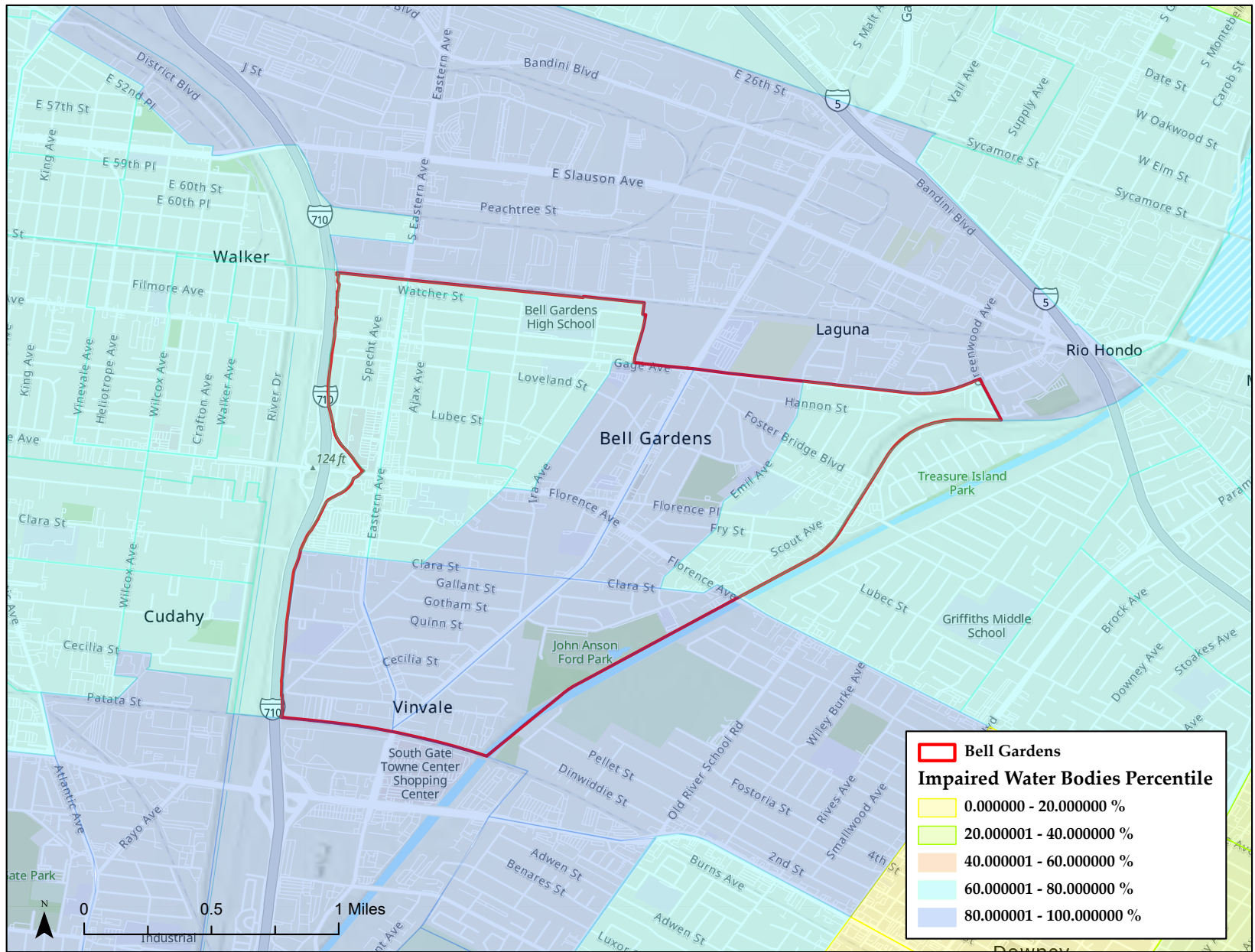


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-18

Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities Percentile





SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-19

Impaired Water Bodies Percentile

Ozone

Volatile organic compounds that combine with other substances in the air form ground-level ozone or air pollution (also known as smog). The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone can irritate the lungs, cause inflammation, and make chronic illnesses worse, even at low levels of exposure. Children and the elderly are sensitive to the effects of ozone. Ozone levels are highest in the afternoon and on hot days.⁵² The ozone percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 47% to 51% with the higher concentrations located towards the northern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-20, Ozone Percentile**). The average amount of daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentration for the census tracts in the City is 0.047 which is 10% lower than the County average of 0.052.

Pesticide Use

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

PM2.5

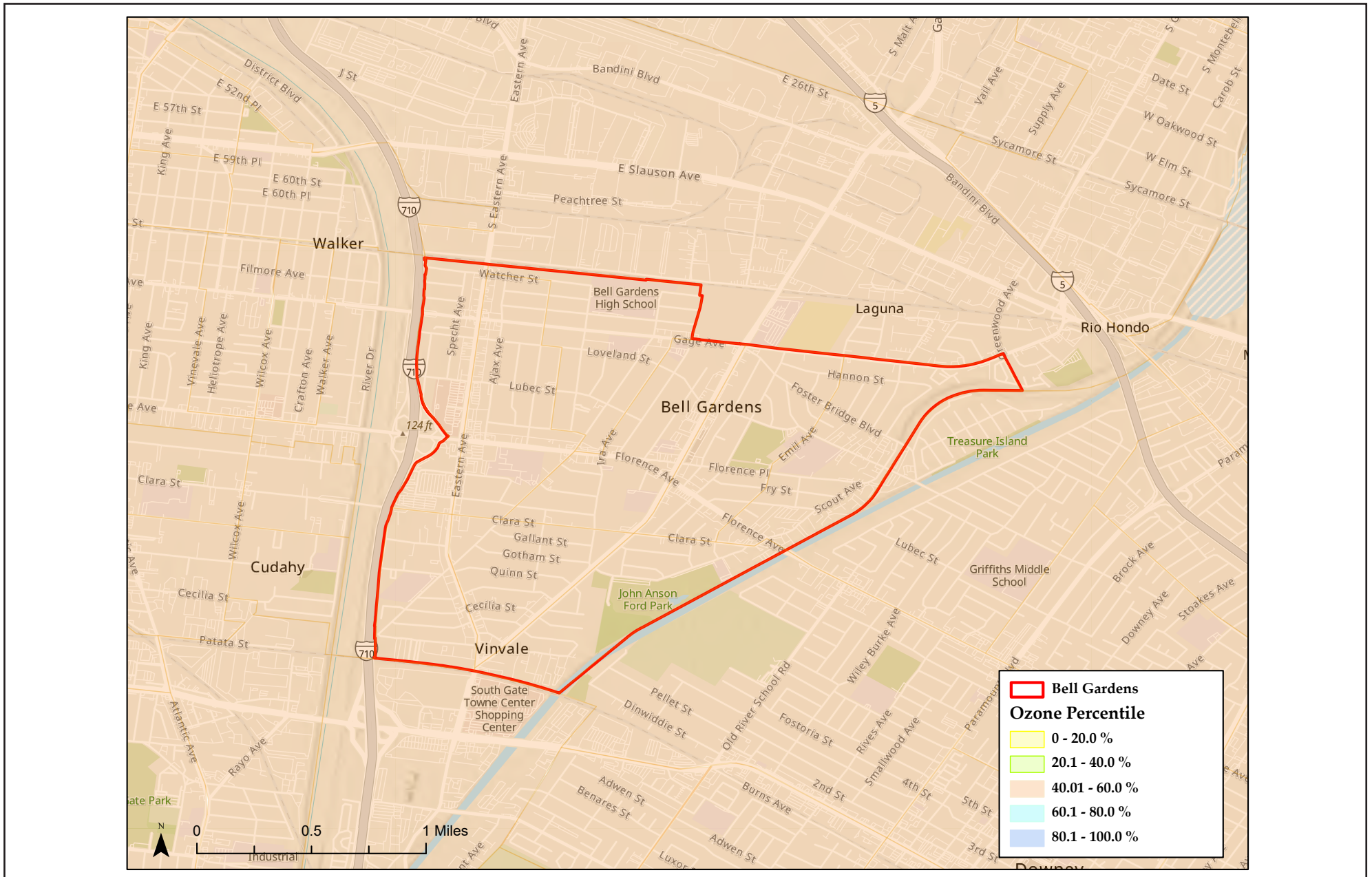
Particulate matter or PM2.5 is very small airborne particle pollution, less than 2.5 micrometers, which is less than the thickness of a human hair. PM2.5 is a mixture of particles that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities. They can travel deep into the lungs because they are so small and cause various health problems including heart and lung disease. Children, the elderly, and people suffering from heart or lung disease, asthma, or chronic illness are most sensitive to the effects of

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

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

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

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

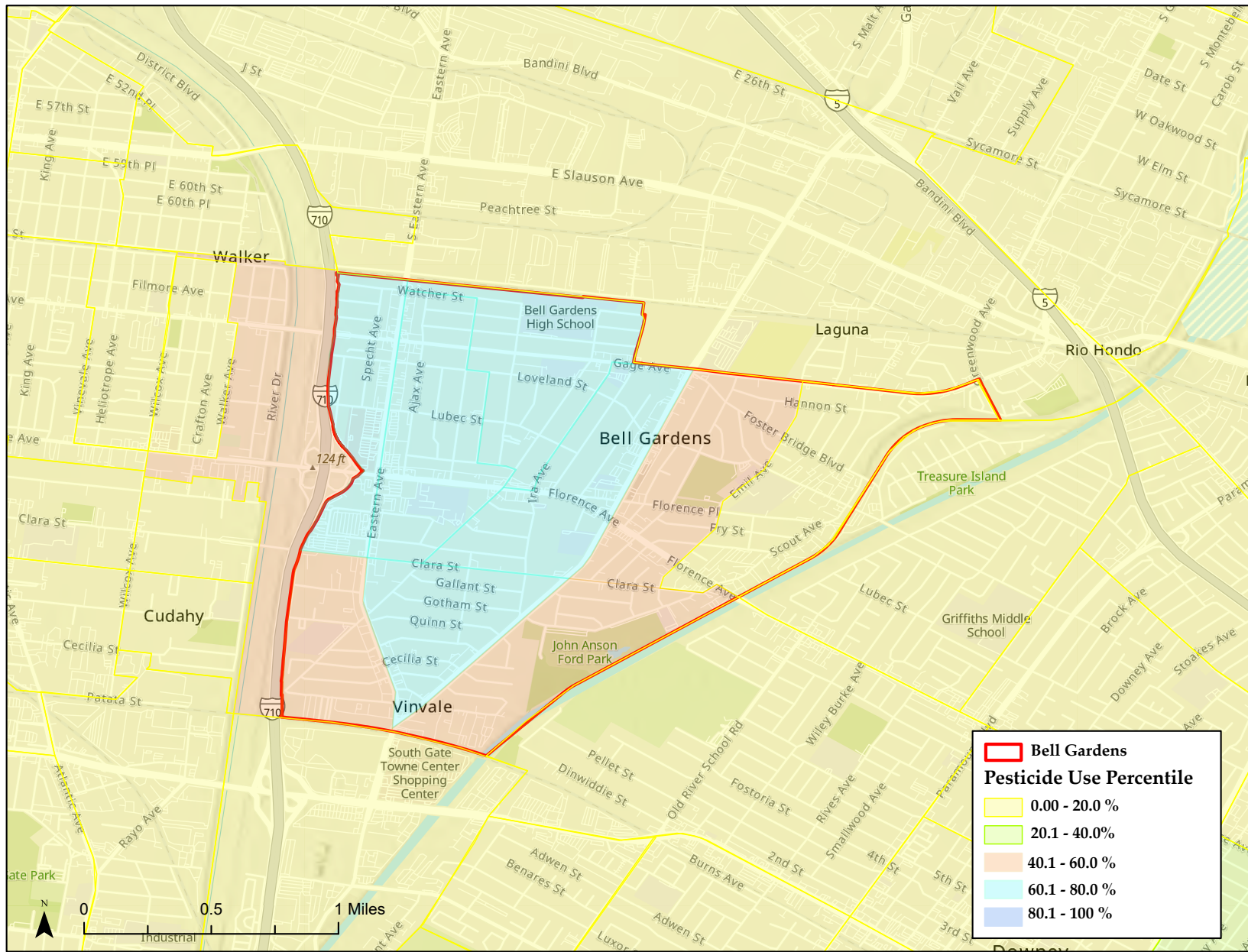


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-20

Ozone Percentile



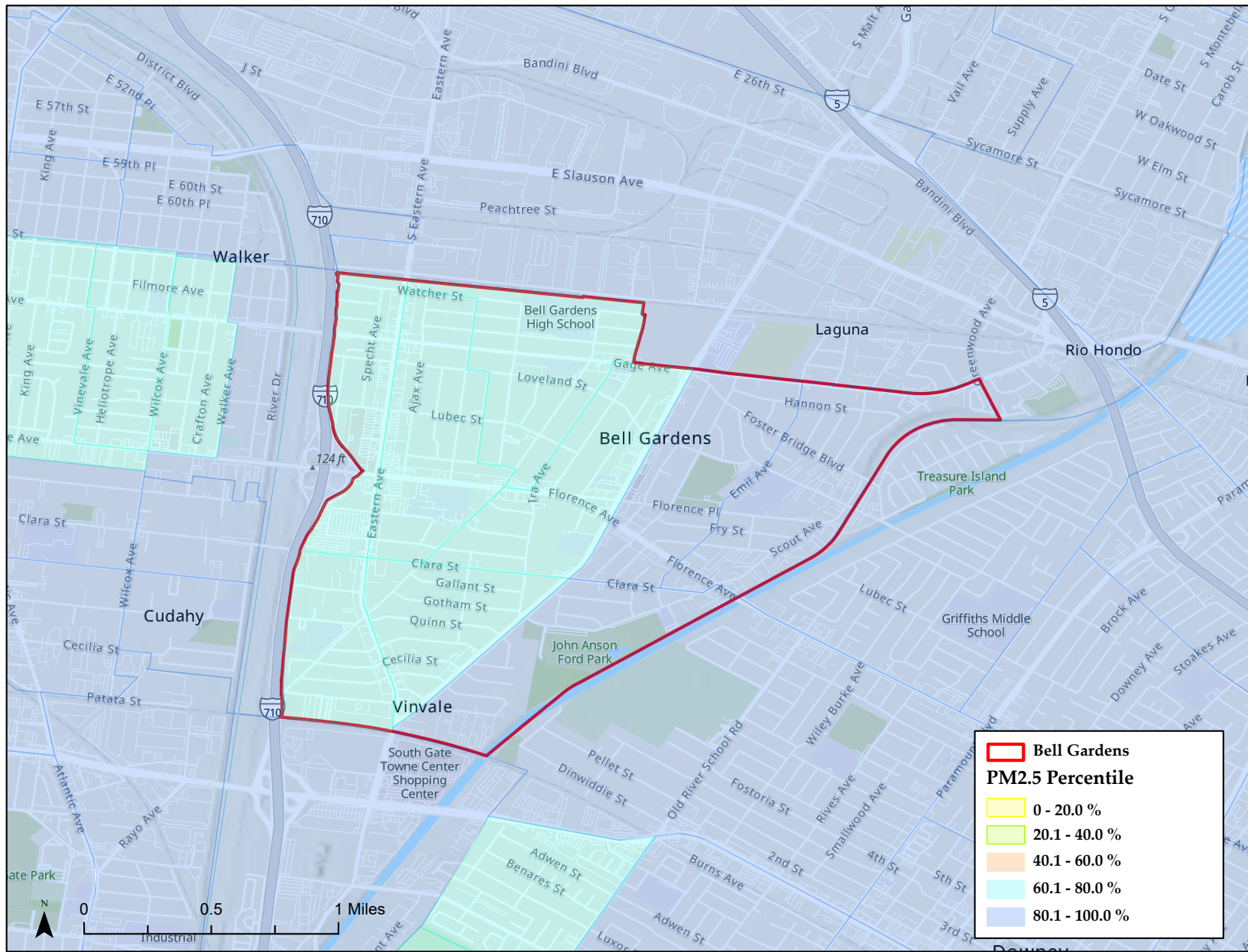


SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-21

Pesticide Use Percentile





SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-22

PM2.5 Percentile

Solid Waste Facilities

“Solid waste facilities” are places where household garbage and similar kinds of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills and composting or recycling facilities. The waste material may come from homes, factories, or businesses. Most of these operations require permits from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Regulated facilities as well as unpermitted sites that do not comply with the law can harm the environment and potentially expose people to hazardous substances. Solid waste facilities can also raise concern in a community about odors, insect pests, vermin, and truck traffic. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and communities of color. The solid waste percentile considers the number of solid waste facilities including unpermitted sites, the weight of each facility or site, and the distance to the census tract. The solid waste site percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 10 to 75% (representing an average of 2.27 solid waste sites and facilities within the City). This is 0.4% higher than the County average of 2.26 sites, with the highest percentiles located towards the eastern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-23, Solid Waste Sites and Facilities Percentile**).

Toxic Release from Facilities

Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States.⁵⁵ These chemicals are sometimes detected in the air of communities nearby. People living near facilities may breathe contaminated air regularly or if contaminants are released during an accident. The toxic release scores are based on modeled air concentration of chemical releases from large facility emissions in and nearby the census tract. The toxic release percentiles from the census tracts within the City range from 89 to 93% (representing toxic release scores from 4,019 to 5,507), with the higher percentiles located towards the southern portion of the City (see **Figure 2.0-24, Toxic Release from Facilities Percentiles**). The average toxic release concentrations for the census tracts in the City is 4,589, which is 24% greater than the concentration of the County average of 3,699.⁵⁶

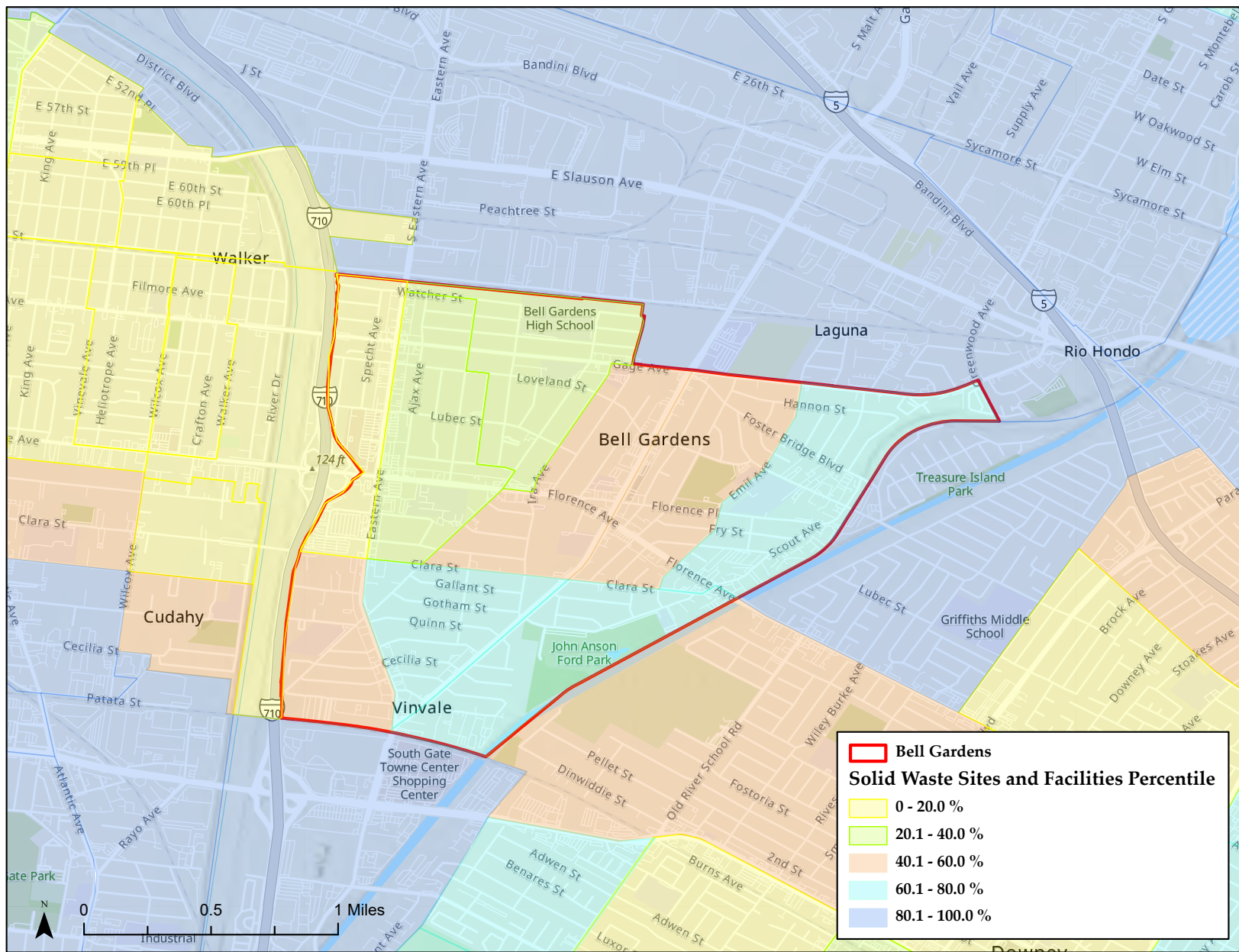
E. LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

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

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

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

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



SOURCE: CalEnviroScreen 2023; Esri, 2023

FIGURE 2.0-23

Solid Waste Sites and Facilities Percentile

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

Public Facilities

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

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

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

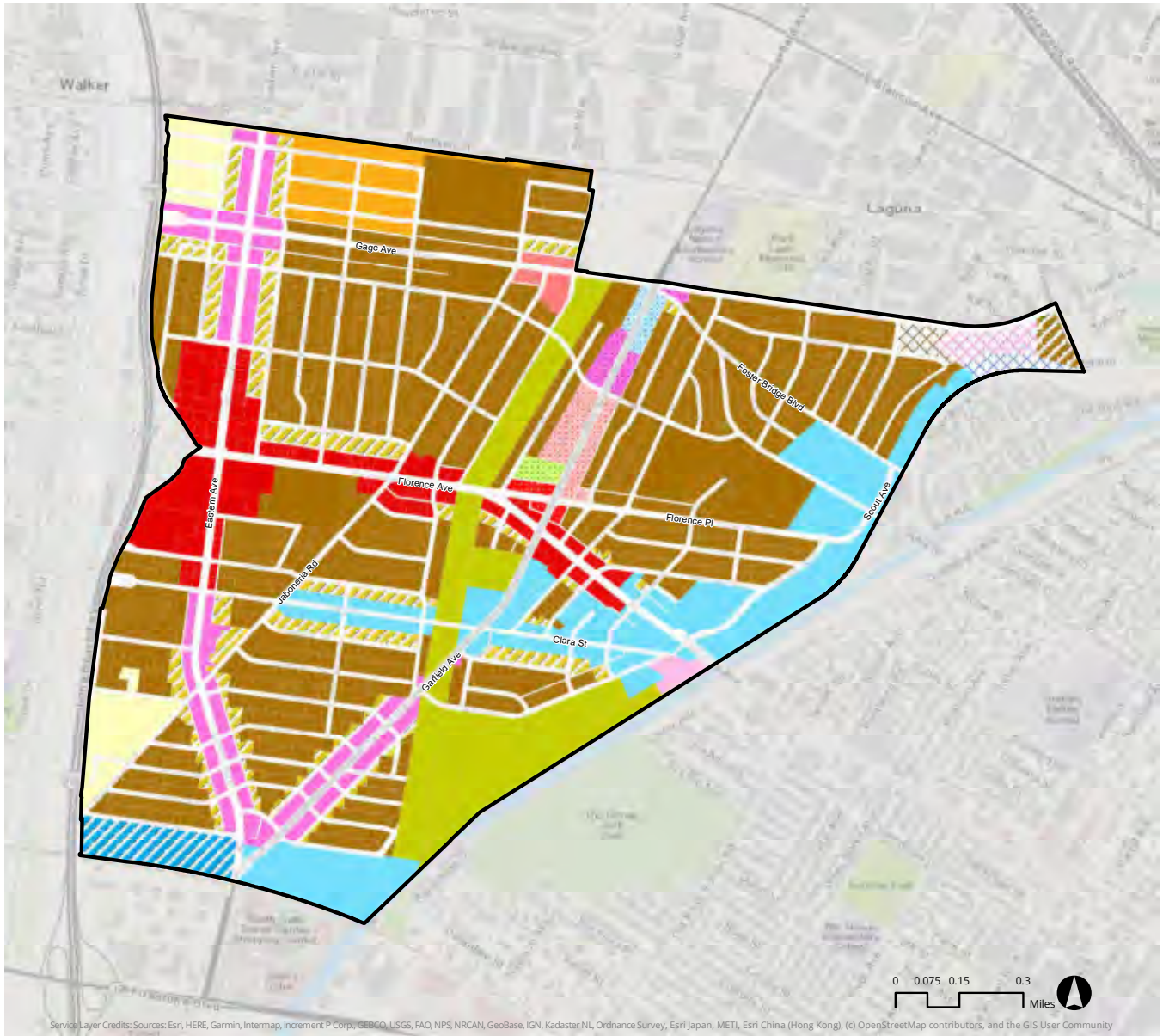
Accessibility to Public Transit, Employment, and Services

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

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

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

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



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

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

SOURCE: SCAG 2019

FIGURE 2.0-25

Zoning Map

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

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

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

F. CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.1% of the City's residents held at least a bachelor's degree, as opposed to nearly a third of all LA County residents⁶⁵. Finally, about a quarter of residents in the City live below the poverty line.⁶⁶

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

G. PUBLIC OUTREACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.0 EXISTING GENERAL PLAN GOALS & POLICIES

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

3.0 EXISTING GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES

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

A. HOUSING ELEMENT

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

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

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

**Table 3.0-1
Housing Element Goals and Policies**

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

3.0 Existing General Plan Goals and Policies

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

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

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

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

Program 1: Code Enforcement and Community Preservation Activities

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

The Code Enforcement program is divided into two separate programs:

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

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

Program 2: Preservation of Affordable Housing:

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

Program 3: Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)

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

Program 4: Affordable Housing Development

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

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

Program 5: Homebuyer/Homeowner Assistance Programs

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

Program 6: Adequate Sites for Lower Income RHNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Program 8: Monitoring of No Net Loss

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

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

Program 9: Lot Consolidation

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

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

Program 10: Density Bonus Ordinance

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

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

Program 11: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

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

Program 12: Housing for Special Needs

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

Residential Care for Seven or More Persons.

Program 13: Development Standards

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

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

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

Program 15: Housing Mobility and Housing Choices

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

- Actively pursue affordable housing opportunities in the City. Encourage the inclusion of ownership units in affordable housing projects citywide. Specifically, promote homeownership housing opportunities such as condominiums and townhomes through the City’s Mixed Use Overlay. As stated earlier, the City is in the process of negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Development Agreement with an affordable housing developer and continues to promote density bonus incentives to any residential developer that inquires about development in the City.
- Promote the use of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) by educating the community about Source of Income protection (see Program 3).
- Promote available homeownership assistance (Program 5) to lower and moderate income households, with targeted outreach plan to areas of High Segregation and

Program 16: Place-Based Neighborhood Improvements

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

- Eastern Avenue Arterial Street Improvement (Garfield to Gotham): Pavement rehabilitation
- Garfield Avenue and Eastern Avenue Intersection Improvement: Realigning intersection with traffic signal modifications, and construction of other improvements
- Florence Avenue and Eastern Avenue Intersection Improvement: Improvements to add a second westbound left turn lane and one westbound right turn lane, traffic signal

modifications, and street improvements

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

Program 16: Place-Based Neighborhood Improvements

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

B. LAND USE ELEMENT

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

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

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

**Table 3.0-2
Land Use Element Policies and Programs**

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

3.0 Existing General Plan Goals and Policies

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

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

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

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

C. SAFETY ELEMENT

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

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

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

**Table 3.0-3
Safety Element Policies and Programs**

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

3.0 Existing General Plan Goals and Policies

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

3.0 Existing General Plan Goals and Policies

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

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

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

D. CIRCULATION AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

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

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

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

- Establish a multi-modal transportation network which offers safe, comfortable, and convenient travel for users of all modes including drivers, transit riders, bicyclists, walkers, and rollers. Infrastructure shall support the needs of diverse the Bell Gardens residents and visitors such as children, elderly, people with disabilities, emergency responders, and movers of commercial goods.
- Employ transit-oriented land use planning and provide appealing, safe, and widely accessible alternatives to private automobile use in order to reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita with the goals of reducing risk of traffic collisions, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and improving public health.

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

**Table 3.0-4
Circulation and Transportation Element Policies**

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

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

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

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

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

- Cultural Resources
- Ecological Resources
- Water Resources

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

**Table 3.0-5
Conservation Element Policies and Programs**

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

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

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

E. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

The City’s Open Space and Recreation Element was adopted in July 1995 as part of the General Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Element outlines preserving remaining open space areas in

the City to meet the recreational needs of the community. The following issues were identified in the Open Space and Recreation Element:

- Public Parks
- Recreational Facilities

The Open Space and Recreation Element policies and programs provide the framework for the City’s commitment to preserving and enhancing the City’s public parks and recreational facilities (see **Table 3.0-6, Open Space and Recreation Element Policies and Programs**). Implementation of these policies and programs will help further environmental justice by reducing pollution exposure, promoting land use compatibility, promoting public facilities, promoting physical activity, promoting civic and community engagement, and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

**Table 3.0-6
Open Space and Recreation Element Policies and Programs**

| | |
|--|--|
| Policy 1: The City of Bell Gardens shall continue to protect and maintain existing open space used for recreation and shall explore opportunities for providing additional park land. | |
| Adopt-a-Park/Park Watch | The City will analyze the feasibility of implementing an adopt-a-park program along with a park watch program. Individual neighborhoods become involved with the operation, maintenance and safety of their parks, with assistance from the City. The Police Department shall review all programs to ensure safety and coordination with their programs. |
| Joint Use Facilities | The City will continue to support existing joint agreements and explore opportunities for expanding joint use agreements to include other schools. The City will continue joint use agreements with City Commerce and Montebello School District. |
| Renovation of Existing Parks | The City will pursue the development and adoption of land use regulations which protect and renovate existing public open space from encroachment or conversion to other uses, in particular Bell Gardens and Marlow Parks. This new development will comply with the guidelines set forth by the American Disabilities Association (ADA). Renovation shall be reviewed by the Police Department to ensure safety and crime regulations are met. |
| Policy 2: The City of Bell Gardens shall expand existing open space through land acquisition and multi-use corridors, particularly in the northwest of the City. | |
| Parkway Landscaping | The City shall continue the program of parkway landscaping and maintenance and include new areas where appropriate. |
| New Park Development | The Parks Master Plan establishes a long-range park development plan identifying desirable park areas and their associated recreational uses and facilities. The Parks Master Plan, together with the Open Space and Recreation Element, will serve as the guide for development of recreational facilities. Periodic review of the Master Plan will facilitate implementation and monitoring of programs. Candidates for new park development and/or acquisition include a new park in the vicinity of Jaboneria and Fosteria and the gradual expansion of Bell Gardens Park. A number of facilities may eventually be constructed, including a sports complex, gym, pool, etc. |

3.0 Existing General Plan Goals and Policies

| | |
|--|---|
| Quimby Act Ordinance | The City has set forth, be proposed adoption of provisions in the subdivision ordinance for the declaration of land for park use pursuant to Section 66477 of the California Government Code. This provision allows local governments to exact land dedications, in-lieu fees, or a combination of both for park and recreation purposes as a condition of approving a final subdivision or parcel map. |
| Railroad Rights-of-Way Participation | The City shall solicit the cooperation and participation of the railroad companies in the development of existing railroad rights-of-way; particularly those rights-of-way adjacent to public streets, for use as multi-purpose open space areas and for bicycling, jogging, etc. |
| Policy 3: The City of Bell Gardens shall maximize the City's recreational resources through the adoption of a Quimby Act ordinance. | |
| Gift Catalogues | The City will analyze the feasibility of preparing and distributing a gift catalogue for specific items the community needs. The catalogue may list services that the City will perform in exchange for a donation. |
| State and Federal Grants | The City will actively pursue the available grants for local governments, including the Roberti-Z'berg -Harris Urban Open Space and Recreation Program, which awards grants to specific projects. |

Source: City of Bell Gardens, Open space and Recreation Element, 1995.

4.0 GOALS AND POLICIES

This section offers a detailed list of the policies for each of the goals set forth by the City of Bell Gardens' Environmental Justice Element.

4.0 GOALS AND POLICIES

As outlined in **Section 1.0, Introduction**, Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (Leyva, 2016) requires cities to develop and adopt environmental justice policies as a part of a city's environmental justice element that encompass eight broad topics including:

- (1) Reduce pollution exposure and promote land use compatibility (Land Use Compatibility);
- (2) Reduce unique or compounded health risks (Health Risks);
- (3) Promote public facilities; including access to public transit, employment, and services (Public Facilities);
- (4) Promote physical activity (Physical Activities);
- (5) Promote food access (i.e., affordable, healthy choices, etc.) (Food Access);
- (6) Promote safe and sanitary homes (Safe and Sanitary Homes);
- (7) Promote civic and community engagement (Civic and Community Engagement); and
- (8) Prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities (Disadvantaged Communities)

In addition to the above topics, this EJ Element includes policies to address climate change vulnerabilities and provide equitable access to emergency resources (collectively, "Climate Change") in accordance with Government Code Section 65302(g) as amended by SB 379 (Jackson, 2015).

Through an analysis of the existing conditions and input from the community through civic and community engagement (as described in **Section 2.0, Background**) the following Goals and Policies have been developed to address environmental justice in the City of Bell Gardens (City).

A. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS AND POLICIES

Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies; and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This EJ Element sets forth goals and policies to enhance the quality of life for the City's residents, employees, and visitors; addresses pollution burdens and health risks for disadvantaged communities; and addresses climate change vulnerabilities and provide equitable access to emergency resources. As shown in **Table 4.0-1, Environmental Justice / Climate Change Topics and Goals**, each of this EJ Element Goals address statutorily required environmental justice topic and climate change as described in further detail below.

**Table 4.0-1
Environmental Justice / Climate Change Topics and Goals**

| Environmental Justice Topics | Goal 1 | Goal 2 | Goal 3 | Goal 4 | Goal 5 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Land Use Compatibility | X | | | | |
| 2. Health Risks | X | | | | |
| 3. Public Facilities | | X | | X | |
| 4. Physical Activities | | X | | | |
| 5. Food Access | | X | | | |
| 6. Safe and Sanitary Homes | | | X | | |
| 7. Civic and Community Engagement | | | | | X |
| 8. Disadvantaged Communities | X | X | X | X | X |
| 9. Climate Change | X | X | | X | |

Source: Impact Sciences, 2023.

The EJ Element Goals include the following, and are further discussed below:

- Goal 1:** Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution.
- Goal 2:** Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention.
- Goal 3:** Ensure that the existing and future housing stock includes accessible, well-maintained, and affordable housing.
- Goal 4:** Expand and provide new public services to accommodate persons of all ages and socioeconomic levels.
- Goal 5:** Enhance public outreach and increase opportunities for civic engagement.

Goal 1: Minimize the Community's Exposure and Impacts from Environmental Pollution.

Goal 1 aims to minimize environmental pollution exposures and provide a clean and healthy environment. The quality of life for the City's residents relies heavily on the availability of a clean and healthy environment. Too often urban environments consist of conditions that can negatively affect public health, including exposure to air pollution and the effects of climate change. In the City of Bell Gardens, air and water pollution have affected the community. As shown in **Figure 2.0-14, Diesel Particulate Matter Percentile**, and **Figure 2.0-22, PM2.5 Percentile**, the diesel particulate matter percentiles for the census tracts within the City range from 49 to 98% and particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) exposure percentiles range from 78 to 88%. As the City's first Environmental Justice Element, it focuses on protecting traditionally disadvantaged populations as they experience a greater amount of air pollution burden than other communities. The EJ Element includes policies that aim to reduce the community's exposure to adverse environmental conditions and minimize the risk of potential pollution exposure. This includes the effects of climate

change impacts such as increased frequency and duration of heat waves.

The results of the Community Survey indicated that air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses was the leading environmental pollution concern. As discussed in **Section 2.0, Background**, the I-710 freeway runs parallel to the eastern border of the City. Additionally, the City is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) which is highly urbanized and has some of the highest concentrations of industrial and commercial operations in the country¹. In addition to air pollution, the Community Survey indicated that the primary effects of climate change on the community included the increased cost of energy and extreme heat. Approximately 59% of respondents identified contaminated water and pollution in rivers and streams as the leading water pollution issue and the primary water pollution concern is related to old and damaged pipes.² However, as discussed in **Section 2.0, Background**, the average percentile of drinking water contaminants for the census tracts in the City is 17% lower than the County average. This indicates that a focus in pipe maintenance and an increase in public education regarding the City's water quality could help minimize concerns regarding the City's drinking water.

Goal 2: Improve Citywide Health by Focusing on Prevention and Intervention.

The overall health, safety, and welfare of a community is a primary area of concern for the City. In urban environments, compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities could result from several indicators, such as exposure to environmental pollution, the lack of efficient recreational facilities or green spaces, or the limited availability of educational programs. Goal 2 aims to enhance the overall health of residents in the City by providing prevention and intervention strategies.

There are several single-family residences located along the western border of the City that abut the I-710 Freeway, and as a result these residences are exposed to higher levels of DPM than other areas of the City (see **Figure 2.0-14, Diesel Particulate Matter**). Green spaces are also limited in the City. Veteran's Park is the only park maintained by the City, and there are three pocket parks within the City. The City's bicycle facilities are limited to Class III bicycle facilities on Eastern Avenue, Garfield Avenue, Gage Avenue, Florence Avenue, Florence Place, and parts of Jaboneria Road. The 2022 Circulation Element Update incorporated the 2020 City of Bell Gardens Complete Streets Plan, which included pedestrian and bicycle treatments to reduce risk of collision, increase accessibility for people with various mobility needs, improve bicycle comfort, and allowing convenient safe bicycle storage at key destinations. In addition, the Complete Streets Plan included recommendations to incorporate Class II bike lanes along boulevards and 4-lane avenues, and Class

¹ South Coast Air Quality Management District. MATES-V Final Report. 2021. Available online at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/mates-v/mates-v-final-report-9-24-21.pdf?sfvrsn=6>, accessed December 16, 2022.

² Based on Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Community Survey conducted electronically in July 2023. 101 community members responded to the survey. Full results for the survey available here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-kCJU5Lr11X6SnT1V2fzrXg_3D_3D/

Ill bike routes along 2-lane avenues and collectors.

As discussed in **Section 2.0, Background**, the City's average CalEnviroScreen score was 95.4% which is higher than the Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) recommended threshold of 75%. In addition, the average rate of emergency room visits for cardiovascular disease in the City is 57% higher than the County's average rate of 14 per 10,000 people (see **Figure 2.0-4, Cardiovascular Disease Percentile**). The average asthma rate of emergency room visits for asthma in the City is 50 per 10,000 people which is 0.1% lower than the County average of 54 per 10,000 people (see **Figure 2.0-3, Emergency Room Visits Due to Asthma**). The City's average rate of babies born with low-birth-weight is 4 per 10,000, which is 20% lower than the County average of 5 per 10,000 (see **Figure 2.0-5, Low Birth Weight Rates**). It is important to note that the CalEnviroScreen data indicates that the City has slightly lower rates of asthma related emergency room visits, and low birth weights compared to the County. However, these lower rates may be attributed to limitations in data collection. For example, not everyone with asthma requires emergency care and out of state births or births with no known residential addresses are not captured.

According to the Community Survey, 40% of respondents identified air pollution from vehicles and industrial uses within close proximity to residential uses as the primary environmental pollution concern. Approximately 28% of respondents indicated that at least one person with a chronic health condition (i.e., asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease) lives in their household with them. Approximately 35% of respondents indicated that senior citizens live in their households. Approximately 43% of respondents indicated that extreme heat was the primary way they have been affected by climate change. As the region continues to face more extreme weather conditions, public services and programs such as cooling stations will play an important role in maintaining the health and safety of disadvantaged communities.

Goal 3: Ensure that the Existing and Future Housing Stock Includes Safe, Accessible, Well-Maintained, and Affordable Housing.

In the midst of the on-going housing crisis, available and affordable housing options have become a primary concern across the State, as well as on a local level. Housing affordability is one of the most important factors in alleviating undue stress resulting from unstable living conditions. Access to affordable housing remains one of the most important issues for Los Angeles County residents. As housing prices rise, household occupancy rates often increase, which can result in unsafe and unsanitary living conditions and increase the risk of spreading infectious diseases. Rising rents can also displace residents, which would lead to lifestyle instability such as disrupting social networks for families and school attendance for youth. Given the additional health impacts associated with safe and affordable housing, housing is a priority for EJ communities. Goal 3 aims to improve the housing stock to ensure residents have safe, well maintained, and accessible affordable housing.

Safe and sanitary housing depends on three primary factors: location, quality, and affordability. By improving the location of housing, many EJ issues, inclusive of access to public transportation and minimization of air pollution exposure to residents, could be improved. Location of housing also impacts how individuals and families engage within their communities. Strategically locating housing can provide residents with greater accessibility to public facilities such as public transportation or parks and can minimize health impacts related to the exposure to toxic air pollutants.

Providing safe and sanitary housing is also important in EJ communities. Safety and sanitation of homes based on housing location, quality, and affordability. Age of housing stock is a consideration in the evaluation of safe and sanitary homes. Poorly maintained conditions can lead to unsafe living conditions such as pest infestation, water intrusion, mold, poor insulation, and exposure to toxins (such as mold or lead). These conditions can exacerbate respiratory illnesses including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, while exposure to lead can have lifelong health consequences for young children.

As discussed in **Section 2.0, Background**, a total of 58% of the City's households are experiencing a housing cost burden. Renters experience cost burdens at a higher rate than homeowners with 63% of rental units compared to 42% of owner occupied units experiencing some sort of housing cost burden. Furthermore, the average housing cost burden percentiles for low income households in the City are 86, which is 22% higher than the County average of 64 (see **Figure 2.0-7, Housing Burden Percentile**). Results of the Community Survey also indicated that housing affordability and homelessness are major concerns for City residents.

According to the Community Survey, approximately 65% of respondents indicated that they are strongly concerned about homelessness. Approximately 48% of respondents identified cost and affordability as high concern about housing, while approximately 46% of respondents cited overcrowding as a major concern. Parking availability was also identified as another primary concern that is associated with the issue of overcrowding. These concerns indicate that housing security and stability is an issue in the City.

Goal 4: Expand and Provide New Public Services to Accommodate Persons of All Ages and Socioeconomic Levels.

Public services, such as fire, police, and medical services, and access to public facilities such as libraries, parks, and community centers are vital services for all individuals. Providing equitable access to public services is critical to the creation of a thriving community. These programs and facilities often play a critical role in the quality of life for disadvantaged communities (i.e., after

school and recreational programs for low-income households; or community centers and activities for senior citizens). Disadvantaged communities traditionally experience higher crime rates and have less access to public services. Goal 4 aims to expand public services for the entire community with equitable access to all public services.

According to the Community Survey, approximately 59% of respondents indicated that they were strongly concerned with crime rates in the City. Illegal dumping/trash and graffiti occurring in the City were also community issues in which respondents expressed concerns. Access to libraries, active transportation and public transit services (i.e., sidewalks/crosswalks/bike routes), and emergency shelters/cooling stations were also determined to be unsatisfactory and have opportunities for improvement.

Goal 5: Enhance Public Outreach and Increase Opportunities for Civic Engagement.

Authentic community engagement is needed to address equity gaps, build trust, and empower underrepresented communities. The results of the public survey indicated that civic engagement in the City experiences a lack of participation primarily because of inconvenient meeting times, lack of childcare, and/or lack of computer or internet access. Approximately 40% of the survey's respondents do not participate in City Council or Planning Commission meetings. Goal 5 aims to remove barriers to civic engagement and increase public outreach efforts.

Disadvantaged communities generally face obstacles in fully participating in the planning and policy decisions that affect their lives. This lack of participation results in a decision-making process that is not representative of the community at large. Therefore, it is critical that the City engages with all stakeholders. By enhancing the City's public outreach strategies and creating more opportunities for civic engagement the City can ensure that future decision making is inclusive of individuals of all races, ethnicity, age, housing tenure, and socioeconomic status. In hosting public events that cater to the language and culture of the area, the City can create an inclusive environment where residents feel safe to use City services and become engaged with their community.

The following **Table 4.0-2, Goals and Policies**, provides the EJ Element policies and identifies the EJ Element goals they are related to.

**Table 4.0-2
Goals and Policies**

| Policy | Goal 1: Environmental Pollution | Goal 2: Public Health | Goal 3: Housing Stock | Goal 4: Public Services | Goal 5: Public Outreach |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Minimize resident's exposure to air pollution near high-volume roadways (ex, freeways) through site planning, building design, and other measures, focusing on the needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., families with children, people with disabilities, and seniors). | X | X | | | |
| 2. Minimize siting sensitive receptors (i.e., residential and institutional uses) near pollution sources, such as freight-handling and manufacturing facilities. | X | X | | | |
| 3. Promote the use of indoor air filtration systems on individual properties through education and exploration of grants or other funding incentives. | X | | | | X |
| 4. Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies within public open spaces to reduce air pollution impacts and heat exposure. | X | | | | |
| 5. Protect potable water and groundwater resources from future contamination by implementing pollutant concentration standards and conducting routine testing to the City's potable water system. | X | X | | | |
| 6. Protect the existing groundwater quality by conducting annual testing and reporting of the Central Basin to confirm conformance with local, state, and federal standards. | X | X | | | |
| 7. Ensure sufficient water availability and supply to meet current and future demand. | X | | | X | |
| 8. Coordinate with the applicable public and non-profit agencies (i.e., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) to create/expand educational programs and campaigns regarding health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc. | X | | | | X |

| Policy | Goal 1: Environmental Pollution | Goal 2: Public Health | Goal 3: Housing Stock | Goal 4: Public Services | Goal 5: Public Outreach |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9. Discourage the siting of commercial uses and industrial facilities that might significantly impact the overall air quality, especially near impacted communities that are vulnerable to the effects of asthma. This includes communities in neighboring jurisdictions. | | X | | | |
| 10. Provide streamlining opportunities for grocery stores and farmers markets. | | X | | | |
| 11. Expand recreational opportunities and programs to be accessible to all residents | | X | | | |
| 12. Expand the existing pedestrian and bicycle network to be safe and accessible for all ages. | | X | | | |
| 13. Implement an occupancy inspection program that would ensure the health and sanitation of existing housing. | | X | X | | |
| 14. Encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes owned/occupied by lower income households, including retrofitting for environmental sustainability. | X | X | X | | |
| 15. Support land use policies and programs that allow development of residential densities in a variety of sizes to accommodate all families. | | | X | | |
| 16. Encourage affordable and workforce housing through limited-equity housing cooperatives, community land trusts, nonprofit-run housing, and/or use of city-owned land. | | | X | | |
| 17. Encourage affordable housing by offering density bonuses, or fee waivers and relief from development standards, where appropriate. | | | X | | |
| 18. Increase outreach and educational services regarding tenant rights. | | | X | | |
| 19. Implement programs that support persons in transitional housing | | | X | X | X |
| 20. Partner with non-profit organizations that address housing issues between the tenants and landlords. | | | X | X | |

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

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The following includes the programs and measures associated with the implementation of the goals and policies outlined in the Environmental Justice Element.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

This Environmental Justice (EJ) Element is intended to be a living document and should be updated on a regular basis to ensure the goals, policies, programs, and implementation measures meet the needs of the community. Five initial programs have been identified to implement the EJ Element goals and policies in the City of Bell Gardens (City).

A. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT PROGRAMS

The following programs have been developed to implement the goals and policies of the EJ Element.

Program 1: Community Outreach Program

The Community Outreach Program serves as a framework for all departments to participate in meaningful two-way communication with the public on all aspects of City governance and delivery of services. The program would ensure future programs and events are made available to all community members.

Program 1: Implementation Measures

- Measure 1.1** Promote civic engagement and public participation by performing direct outreach and partnering with community groups and others to increase public participation from community members.
- Measure 1.2** Coordinate with all City departments to ensure that programs and services are available to all community members.
- Measure 1.3** Report on emergency services response times on an annual basis.
- Measure 1.4** Provide a forum for residents to provide feedback on City programs and services (i.e., Police Department, Community Services, and Los Angeles County Fire Department) through the Bell Gardens Connect software application and other mechanisms.
- Measure 1.5** Conduct Citywide surveys and provide other public feedback opportunities to determine the most efficient and effective methods of communicating with residents.
- Measure 1.6** Establish best practices and communications protocols for information sharing, and civic engagement.
- Measure 1.7** Require that public communications be provided in English and Spanish.

Applicable EJ Goals: Implementation measures of the Community Outreach Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention. Program 1 is intended improve overall Citywide health by establishing two-way communication between City officials, public health officials, and the public through outreach programs and citywide surveys. Providing residents with information regarding available public services and facilities can improve their quality of life.
- Goal 4: Expand and provide new public services to accommodate persons of all ages and socioeconomic levels. Program 1 would promote public facilities by implementing new methods and opportunities for the public to provide their input to public agencies.
- Goal 5: Enhance public outreach and increase opportunities for civic engagement. Program 1 aims to promote public facilities through community outreach and civic engagement. By providing more opportunities for the public to provide input and the City to disseminate information, the City can foster conversations regarding the needs of the residents to ensure constituents feel heard and build a greater sense of trust.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Community Outreach Program would further support the following existing programs listed in the City's *Safety Element*:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Police and Fire Protection Services

Program 2: Land Use Program

The City will explore land use amendment and rezoning opportunities to ensure that newly introduced sensitive land uses are not located adjacent to high-polluting activities (i.e., I-710, industrial uses with high air pollution emissions) (Land Use Program). The Land Use Program would serve as an opportunity for the City to implement land use and zoning changes to avoid the placement of vulnerable populations near known environmental pollutants or other health risks. Under this program, the City would evaluate potential sites for rezoning or redesignation to avoid incompatible uses. In addition, the Program would provide the City with the opportunity to develop new regulations or policies to enhance the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Program 2 Implementation Measures

Measure 2.1 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial designations and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses and implement strategies to reduce environmental impacts to the sensitive land uses.

Measure 2.2 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial zoning and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses and implement strategies to reduce environmental impacts to the sensitive land uses.

Measure 2.3 Adopt and implement a tree preservation ordinance for public and private trees.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Land Use Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution. Program 2 would identify areas within the City that may be disproportionately impacted by existing pollution due to land use conflicts and support opportunities for rezoning. Further, Program 2 would support land use and zoning changes to avoid the placement of vulnerable populations near known environmental pollutants or other health risks.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Land Use Program would further support the following existing programs listed in the City's *Land Use Element* and *Conservation Element*:

- "Bell Gardens Now" Surveys
- Development Monitoring Program
- Environmental Review
- County Coordination
- Sidewalk and Parkway Development and Maintenance Program

Program 3: Environmental Monitoring Program

The Environmental Monitoring Program will provide the City with an opportunity to monitor and disseminate information regarding air and water quality to residents on an ongoing basis. The Program would require the City to coordinate with regional agencies such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD), Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC).

Program 3 Implementation Measures

Measure 3.1 Provide annual presentations regarding the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to the public.

Measure 3.2 Coordinate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to implement their incentives, as appropriate, within the community.

Measure 3.3 Coordinate with the Central Basin Municipal Water District to conduct annual

testing at all groundwater wells within the City. Results will be reported and presented to the public.

Measure 3.4 Coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to disseminate information regarding any remediation efforts in the City to residents as they occur.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Environmental Monitoring Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 1: Minimize the community's exposure and impacts from environmental pollution. Program 3 aims to reduce potential compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities through coordination with regional environmental agencies to provide greater transparency and accountability.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Environmental Monitoring Program would further support the following existing programs listed in the City's *Conservation Element*:

- Environmental Review
- County Coordination
- Water/Landscape Conservation Ordinance

Program 4: Affordable Housing Program

The Affordable Housing Preservation Program would add to the existing housing programs that are outlined in the City's Housing Element (2021-2029). The program would identify the existing and future affordable housing stock (i.e., under Section 8 or other Housing and Urban Development contracts) and preserve their affordability.

Program 4 Implementation Measures

Measure 4.1 Develop an inventory of the existing affordable housing units in the City.

Measure 4.2 Conduct an annual review of the affordable housing units to determine if any of the unit's affordability levels will be changed in the upcoming year.

Measure 4.3 Establish a list of available State and federal funding sources to support affordable housing.

Measure 4.4 Conduct an annual housing workshop to provide property owners and tenants with updates on recent housing legislation and funding sources.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Affordable Housing Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 3: Ensure that the existing and future housing stock includes accessible, well-maintained, and affordable housing. Program 4 aims to address existing concerns regarding housing access, affordability, and stability by complementing the existing affordable housing programs contained in the Housing Element and ensuring the affordable housing stock is safe and sanitary.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Affordable Housing Program would further support the following existing programs identified in the City's *2021-2029 Housing Element Update*:

- Program 1: Code Enforcement and Community Preservation Activities
- Program 5: Homebuyer/Homeowner Assistance Programs.
- Program 6: Adequate Sites for Lower Income RHNA.
- Program 9: Lot Consolidation.
- Program 10: Density Bonus Ordinance.

Program 5: Health Improvement Program

The Health Improvement Program will increase the number of recreational opportunities that are available to residents in the City. The City would evaluate potential incentives that would improve the overall health of the City and promote active transportation through the expansion of existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Program would also integrate the Community Outreach Program to announce and gain feedback on potential recreational programs events. The Program would also include an educational campaign aimed at providing residents with information on the proper use and maintenance of indoor filtration systems.

Program 5 Implementation Measures

Measure 5.1 Identify subsidy or grant opportunities to provide low-income residents with HVAC or room HEPA filters.

Measure 5.2 Provide educational programs to inform households in the City regarding the proper use and maintenance of indoor filtration systems.

Measure 5.3 Create an Occupancy Inspection Program with the City's Community Development Department, Building and Safety Department, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to conduct regular inspections of multi-family residential units to ensure adequate housing maintenance.

Measure 5.4 Implement programs that encourage City residents to bike more.

Measure 5.5 Expand the Department’s STAR (Special Time for Adaptive Recreation) Program.

Measure 5.6 Upgrade non-compliant sidewalks and intersections to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Measure 5.7 Provide application streamlining for grocery stores and farmers markets.

Applicable Goals: Implementation measures of the Health Improvement Program would further the following goals of the EJ Element:

- Goal 2: Improve citywide health by focusing on prevention and intervention. Program 5 provides a proactive approach towards public health by addressing existing concerns such as air quality by improving access to indoor filtration systems and promoting safe and sanitary homes; improving walkability to increase physical activity; and providing more opportunities for grocery stores and farmers markets to increase accessibility to healthy food options.

Complementary General Plan Programs: In addition, the implementation measures from the Affordable Housing Program would further support the following existing programs identified in the City’s *Circulation Element Update*:

- M 4.a: Development Review.
- M 4.d: Encourage Active Transportation.
- M 4.g: Regional Bike Network
- M 4.h: Bicycle Storage.
- M 4.i: Expand Crossing Guard Program

As discussed in **Section 4.0, Goals and Policies**, each of the EJ Element Goals and Policies address the eight environmental justice topics specified in SB 1000. In October 2023, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research updated the General Plan Guidelines to respond to SB 1000 and provided a Completeness Checklist outlining each of the statutory requirements that the EJ Element should address. As shown below, **Table 5.0-1, Implementation Program’s Consistency with the EJ Completeness Checklist**, outlines each Program’s consistency with Governor’s Office of Planning & Research (OPR) General Plan Guidelines Completeness Checklist.

**Table 5.0-1
Implementation Program’s Consistency with the
EJ Completeness Checklist**

| Completeness Checklist | Program 1 | Program 2 | Program 3 | Program 4 | Program 5 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Identify disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)) | | X | | | |
| Identify objectives and policies to reduce exposure to pollution including improving air quality in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A)) | | X | X | | |
| Identify objectives and policies to promote public facilities in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A)) | X | X | | | |
| Identify objectives and policies to promote food access in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A)) | | | | | X |
| Identify objectives and policies to promote safe and sanitary homes in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A)) | | | | X | X |
| Identify objectives and policies to promote physical activity in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(A)) | | | | | X |
| Identify objectives and policies to reduce any unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(B)) | | | X | X | X |
| Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(1)(C)) | X | | | | |

Source: California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, *General Plan Guidelines, Chapter 4, Required Elements – Completeness Checklist* (https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf) and Impact Sciences, 2023.

Table 5.0-2, Implementation Measures, outlines the estimated timeline and budget for each implementation measure, as well as the responsible party. The purpose of the Implementation Measures Table is to assist the City in its annual budget process and to help identify funding opportunities to implement the EJ Element.

**Table 5.0-2
Implementation Measures**

| Implementation Measure | Timeline | Budget | Responsible Department |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Measure 1.1 Create a Community Outreach Working Group, comprised of City Staff and community members | Long Term | \$\$ | Community Development City Manger |
| Measure 1.2 Coordinate with all City departments to ensure that programs and services are available to all community members. | Long Term | \$\$ | Community Development City Manager |
| Measure 1.3 Report on emergency services response times on an annual basis. | Ongoing | \$ | Community Development City Manager |
| Measure 1.4 Provide a forum for residents to provide feedback on City programs and services (i.e., Police Department, Community Services, and Los Angeles County Fire Department). | Ongoing | \$ | City Manager |
| Measure 1.5 Conduct Citywide surveys and provide other public feedback opportunities to determine the most efficient and effective methods of communicating with residents. | Short Term | \$ | Community Development Planning Division |
| Measure 1.6 Establish best practices and communications protocols for information sharing, and civic engagement. | Short Term | \$\$ | City Manager |
| Measure 1.7 Require that public communications be provided in English and Spanish and create a bilingual program for City Staff. | Ongoing | \$\$ | City Manager |
| Measure 2.1 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial uses and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses for redesignation. | Long Term | \$ | Community Development Planning Division |
| Measure 2.2 Conduct a sites inventory to identify potential sites containing heavy industrial uses and other environmental pollution generating facilities adjacent to sites containing sensitive land uses for rezoning. | Long Term | \$ | Community Development Planning Division |
| Measure 2.3 Adopt and implement a tree preservation ordinance for public and private trees. | Short Term | \$ | Community Development Planning Division |
| Measure 3.1 Provide annual presentations regarding the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to the public. | Long Term | \$\$ | Community Development |
| Measure 3.2 Coordinate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to implement their incentives, as appropriate, within the community. | Long Term | \$\$ | Community Development |
| Measure 3.3 Coordinate with the Central Basin Municipal Water District to conduct annual testing at all groundwater wells within the City. Results will be reported and presented to the public. | Ongoing. | \$ | Community Development |

| Implementation Measure | Timeline | Budget | Responsible Department |
|--|------------|--------|---|
| Measure 3.4 Coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to disseminate information regarding any remediation efforts in the City to residents as they occur. | Long Term | \$\$ | City Manager's Office |
| Measure 4.1 Develop an inventory of the existing affordable housing units in the City. | Ongoing | \$ | Community Development Housing Division |
| Measure 4.2 Conduct an annual review of the affordable housing units to determine if any of the unit's affordability levels will be changed in the upcoming year. | Short Term | \$\$ | Community Development Housing Division |
| Measure 4.3 Establish a list of available State and federal funding sources to support affordable housing. | Short Term | \$ | Community Development Housing Division |
| Measure 4.4 Conduct an annual housing workshop to provide property owners and tenants with updates on recent housing legislation and funding sources. | Long Term | \$\$ | Community Development Housing Division |
| Measure 5.1 Coordinate with local HVAC companies to provide technical and financial incentives for low-income households to install indoor air filtration systems. | Short Term | \$\$ | Community Development |
| Measure 5.2 Implement educational programs to inform households in the City the proper use and maintenance for indoor filtration systems. | Long Term. | \$\$ | Community Development |
| Measure 5.3 Coordinate with the City's Community Development Department, the City's Building and Safety Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop an inspection program that would ensure the health and sanitation of existing housing. | Long Term | \$\$ | Community Development |
| Measure 5.4 Coordinate with the City of Bell Gardens Recreation and Community Department to implement programs that encourage City residents to bike more. | Short Term | \$\$ | Community Development Recreation & Community Services |
| Measure 5.5 Coordinate with the City's Recreation and Community Department to expand the Department's STAR (Special Time for Adaptive Recreation) Program. | Short Term | \$\$ | Community Development Recreation & Community Services |
| Measure 5.6 Upgrade non-compliant sidewalks and intersections to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). | Long Term | \$\$\$ | Public Works |
| Measure 5.7 Provide application streamlining for grocery stores and farmers markets. | Long Term | \$ | Community Development Planning Division |

Source: Impact Sciences, 2023.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Agency and consultant contributors to this document are acknowledged herein.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The City of Bell Gardens has directed this work effort. Impact Sciences prepared the Environmental Justice Element with assistance from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative.

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APPENDIX 2.0

Community Engagement Report

Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Community Outreach Summary

To 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/streams | 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?

Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding updates regarding the environmental justice plan? Please provide a name, cell phone number, or e-mail address.

Name _____

Cell phone number _____

E-mail _____

From: [Moises Gomez](#)
To: sencollc@hotmail.com
Bcc: [Mona Mossayeb](#)
Subject: FW: City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Survey
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:48:00 PM
Attachments: [Unified Outreach Flyer.pdf](#)

Hello, Steven Senemar,

My name is Moises Gomez from the [Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative](#), and I am serving as the community outreach lead for the City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element community outreach efforts.

We are asking community stakeholders to disseminate a link to the city's environmental justice online survey to gather information regarding the updating of the city's environmental justice element.

The survey, which is available in English and Spanish, will allow us to learn about the concerns that residents, stakeholder organizations, and local businesses have when it comes to their potential exposure to sources of pollution that may be affecting them.

To take the survey please use the following link: <https://bit.ly/BellGardensEJ>

Please note that the survey collection period will end on **Friday, September 15, 2023**.

I have also attached a copy of the PDF flyer for your use.

If residents feel unable to fill out the online survey, they can fill out a paper survey and drop it into a collection box located at the City's Community Development Office.

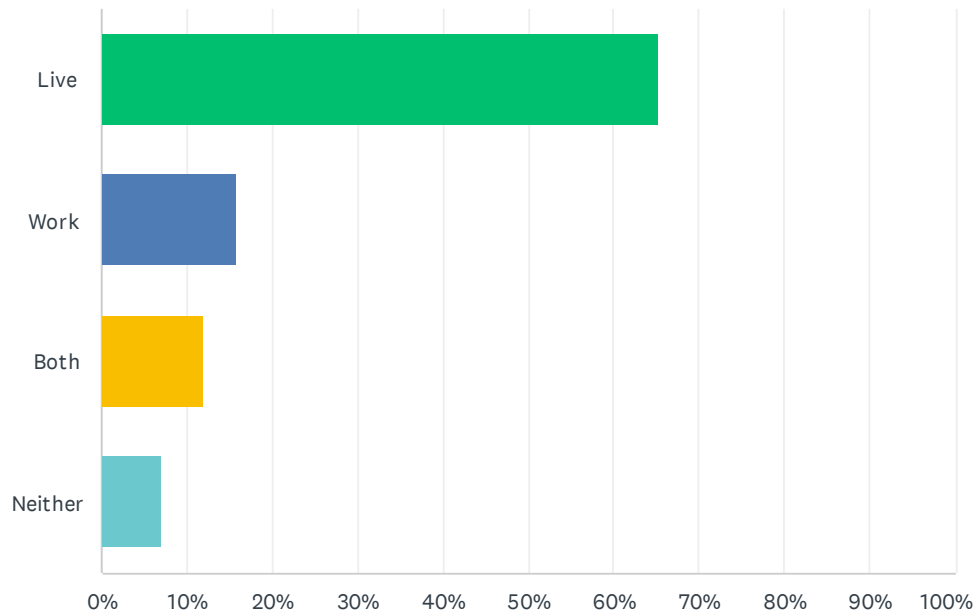
Thank you for your assistance in helping collect the views and opinions of stakeholders of the City of Bell Gardens. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Moises Gomez
Program Manager
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
800 Figueroa St., Ste. 670
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 627-1822 x18
(323) 200-9132 mobile
(213) 627-1821 fax
moises@lani.org
<http://blqbid.org>

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

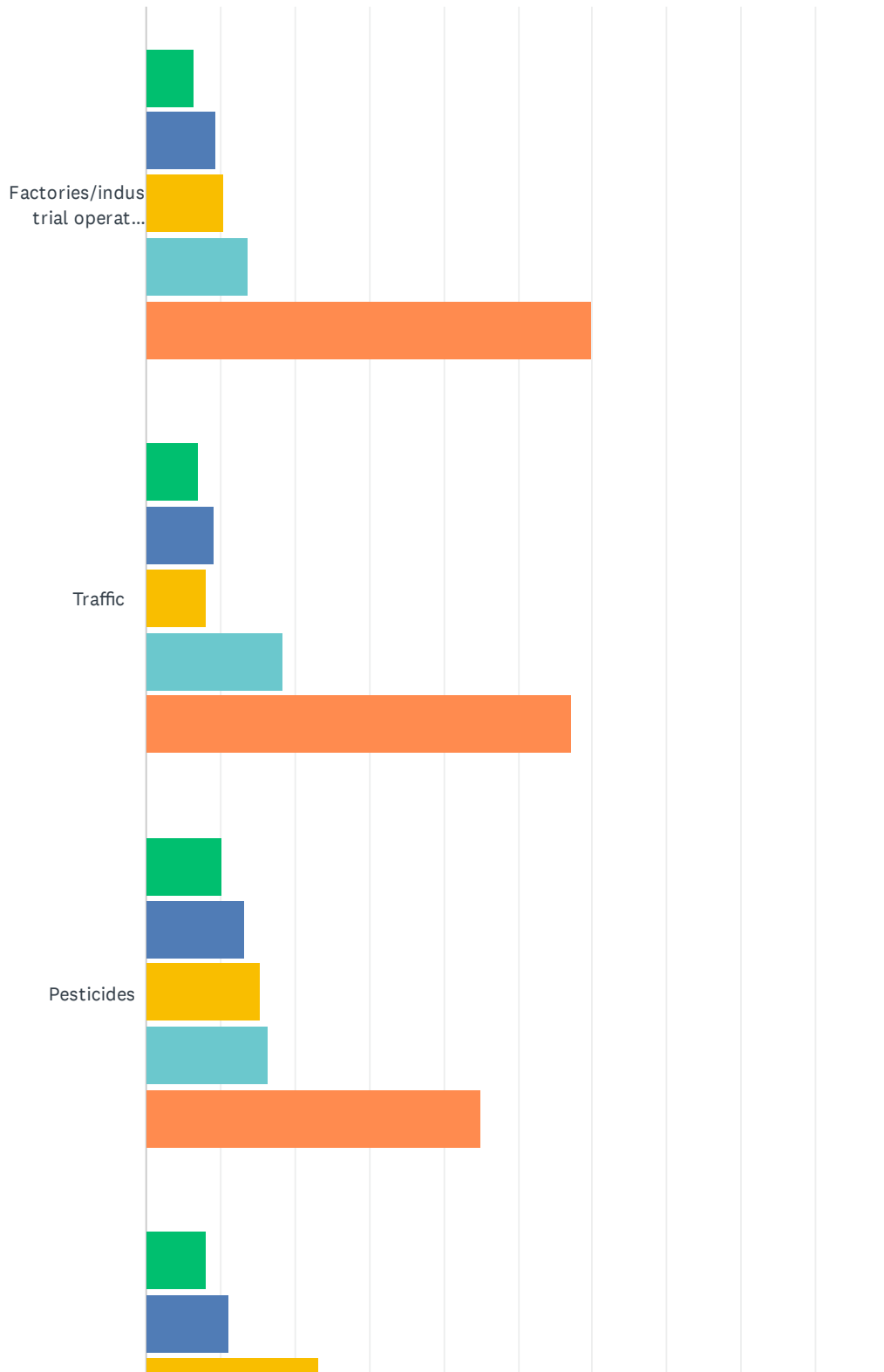
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



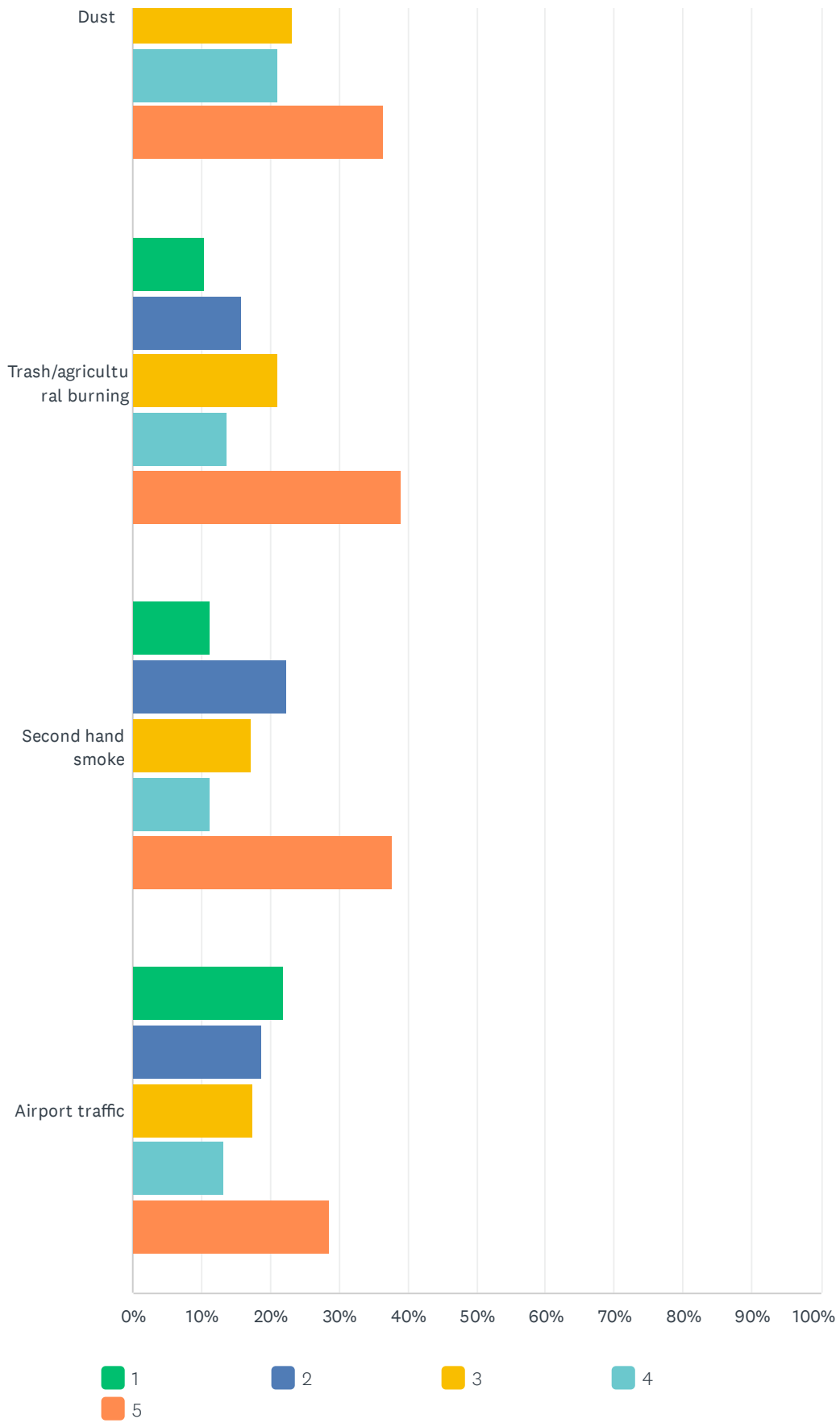
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Live | 65.35% | 66 |
| Work | 15.84% | 16 |
| Both | 11.88% | 12 |
| Neither | 6.93% | 7 |
| TOTAL | | 101 |

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

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

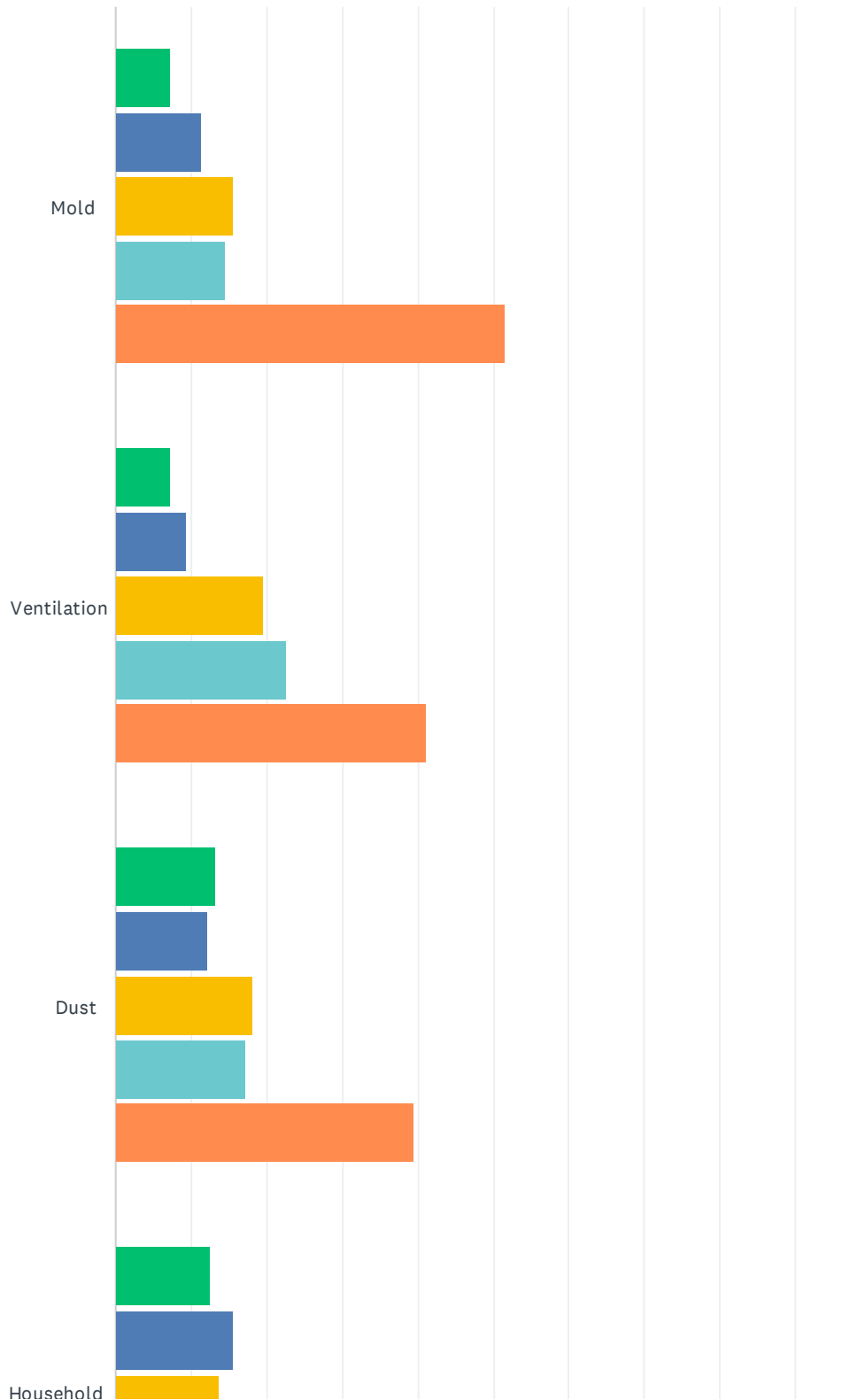


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

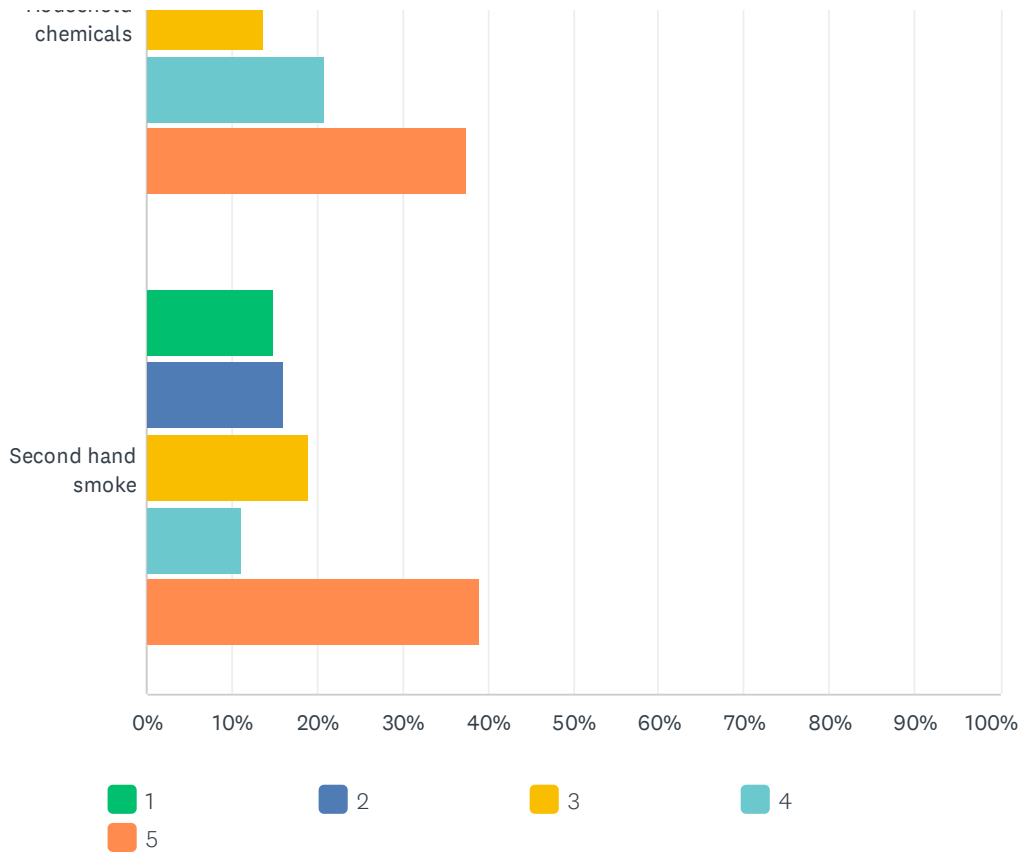
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Factories/industrial operation emissions | 6.32% 6 | 9.47% 9 | 10.53% 10 | 13.68% 13 | 60.00% 57 | 95 | 4.12 |
| Traffic | 7.14% 7 | 9.18% 9 | 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



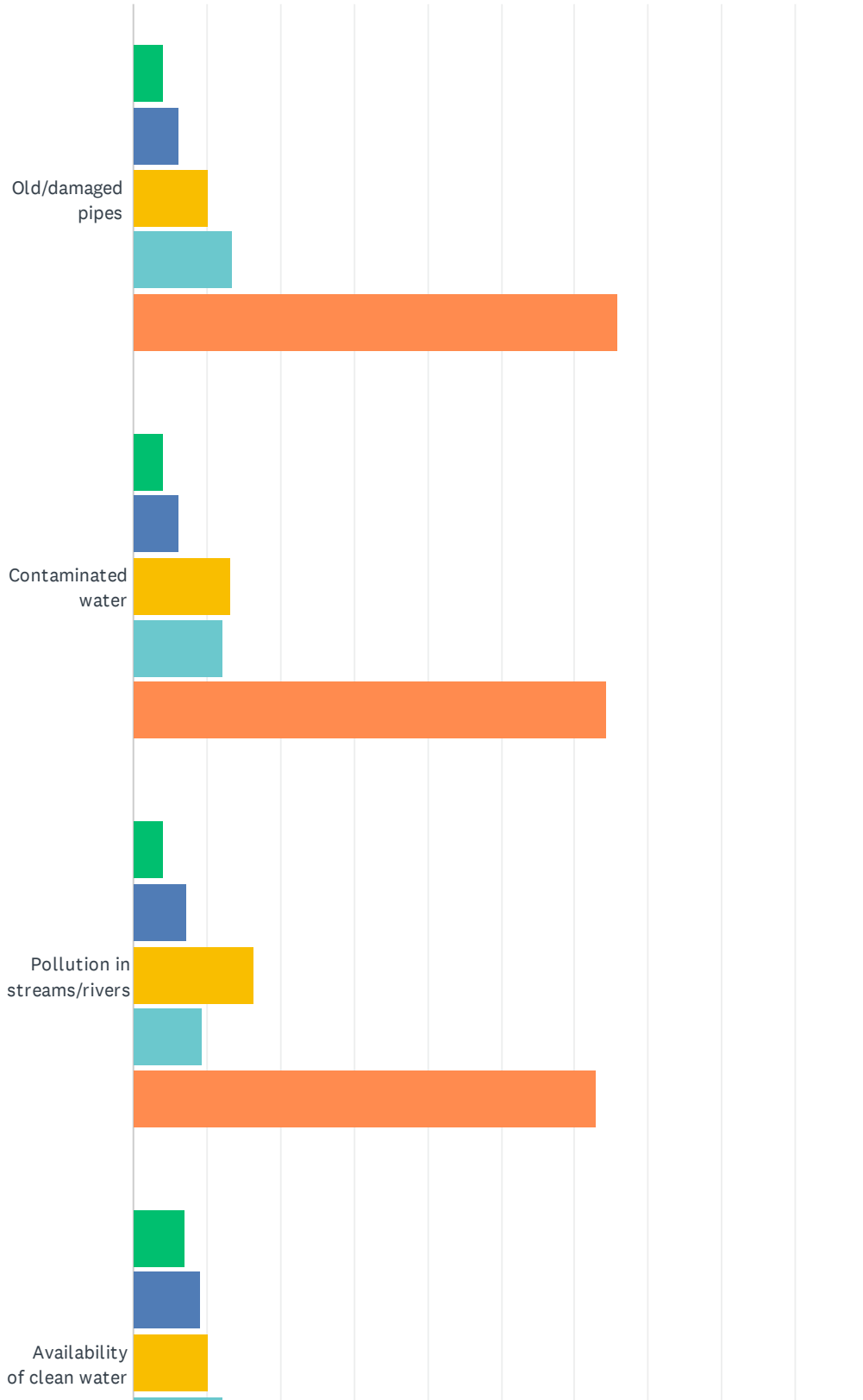
City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



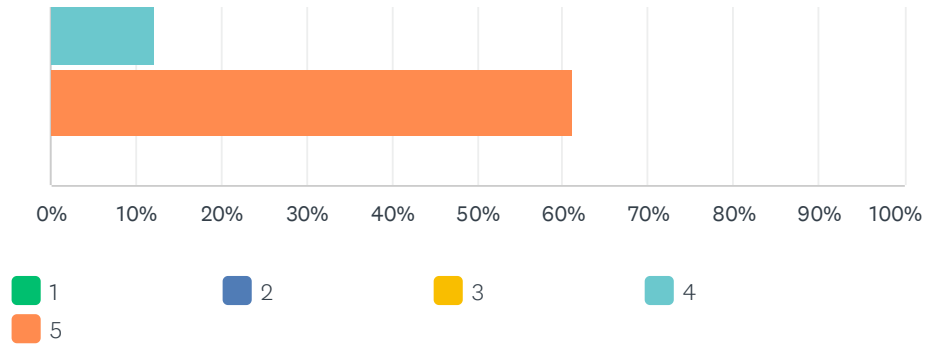
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Mold | 7.22% 7 | 11.34% 11 | 15.46% 15 | 14.43% 14 | 51.55% 50 | 97 | 3.92 |
| Ventilation | 7.22% 7 | 9.28% 9 | 19.59% 19 | 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



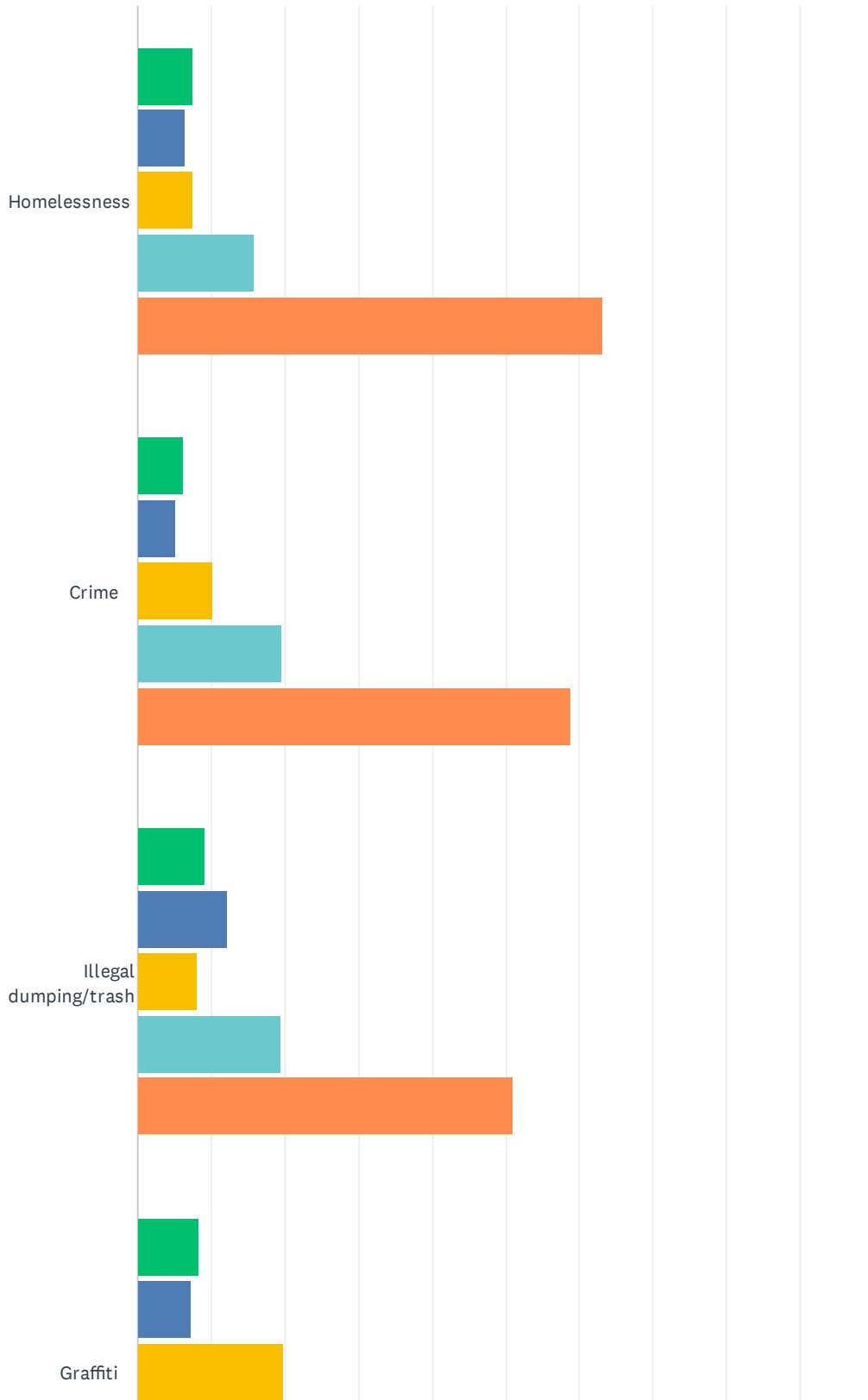
City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



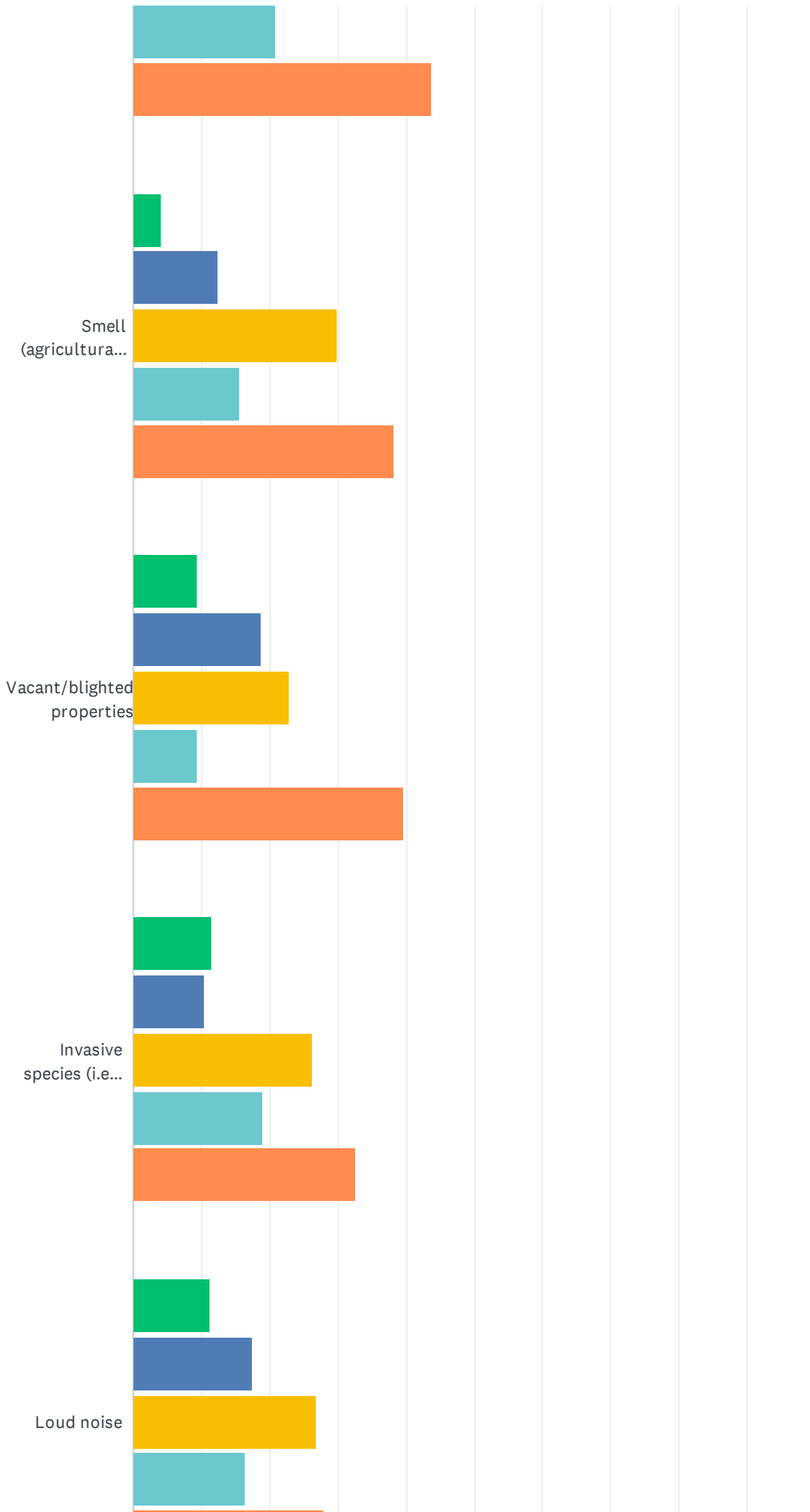
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Old/damaged pipes | 4.12% 4 | 6.19% 6 | 10.31% 10 | 13.40% 13 | 65.98% 64 | 97 | 4.31 |
| Contaminated water | 4.08% 4 | 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)

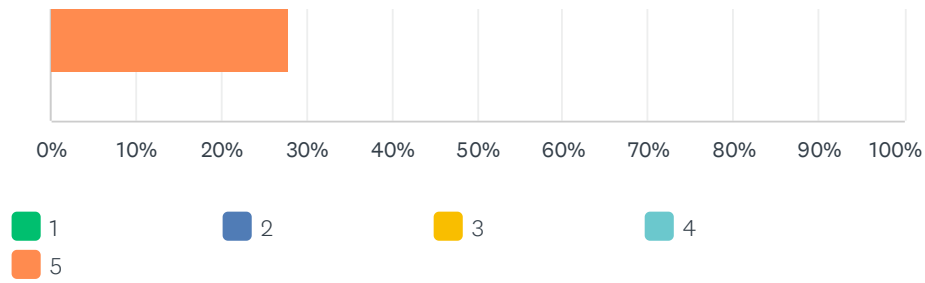
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



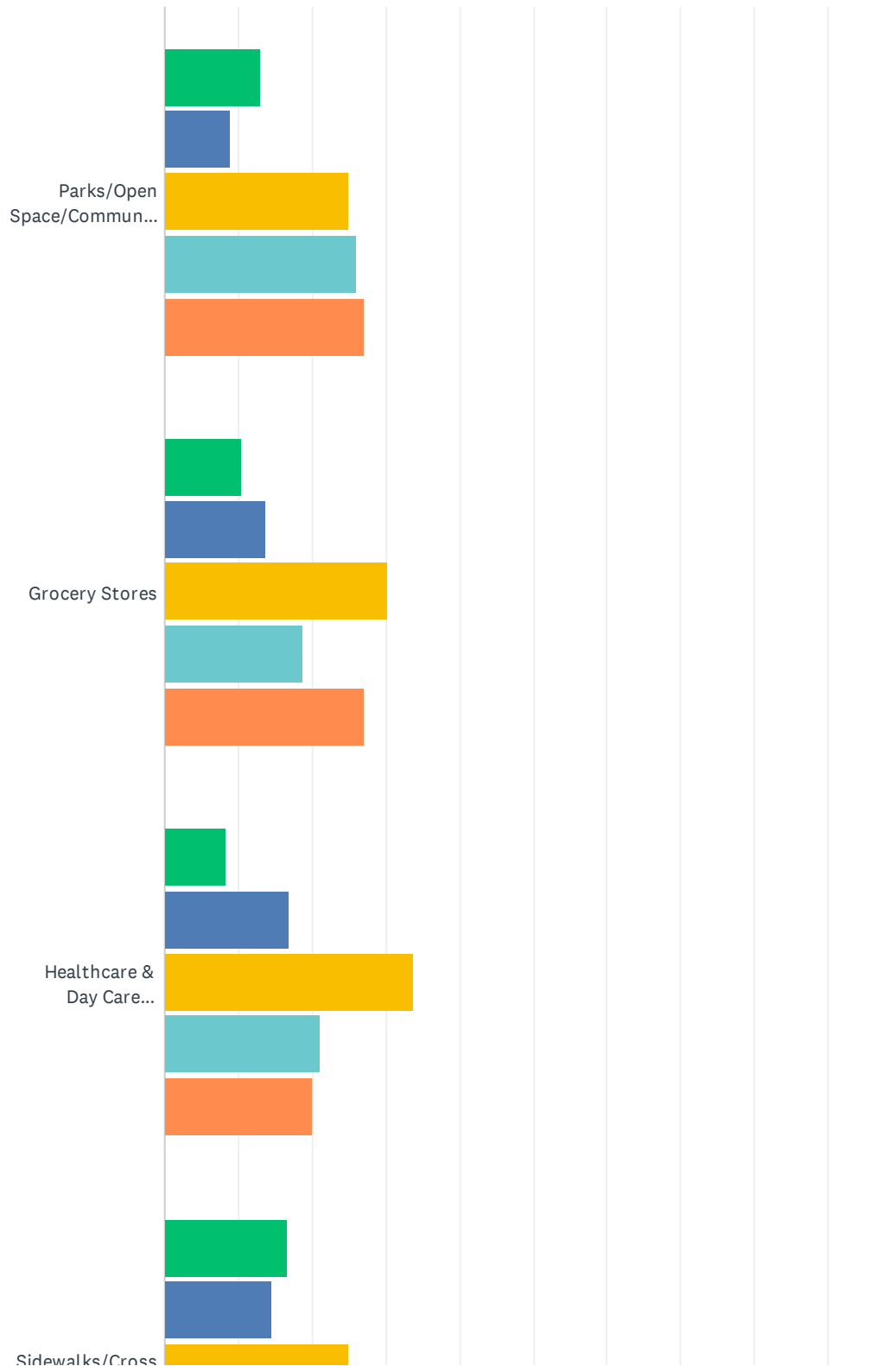
City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



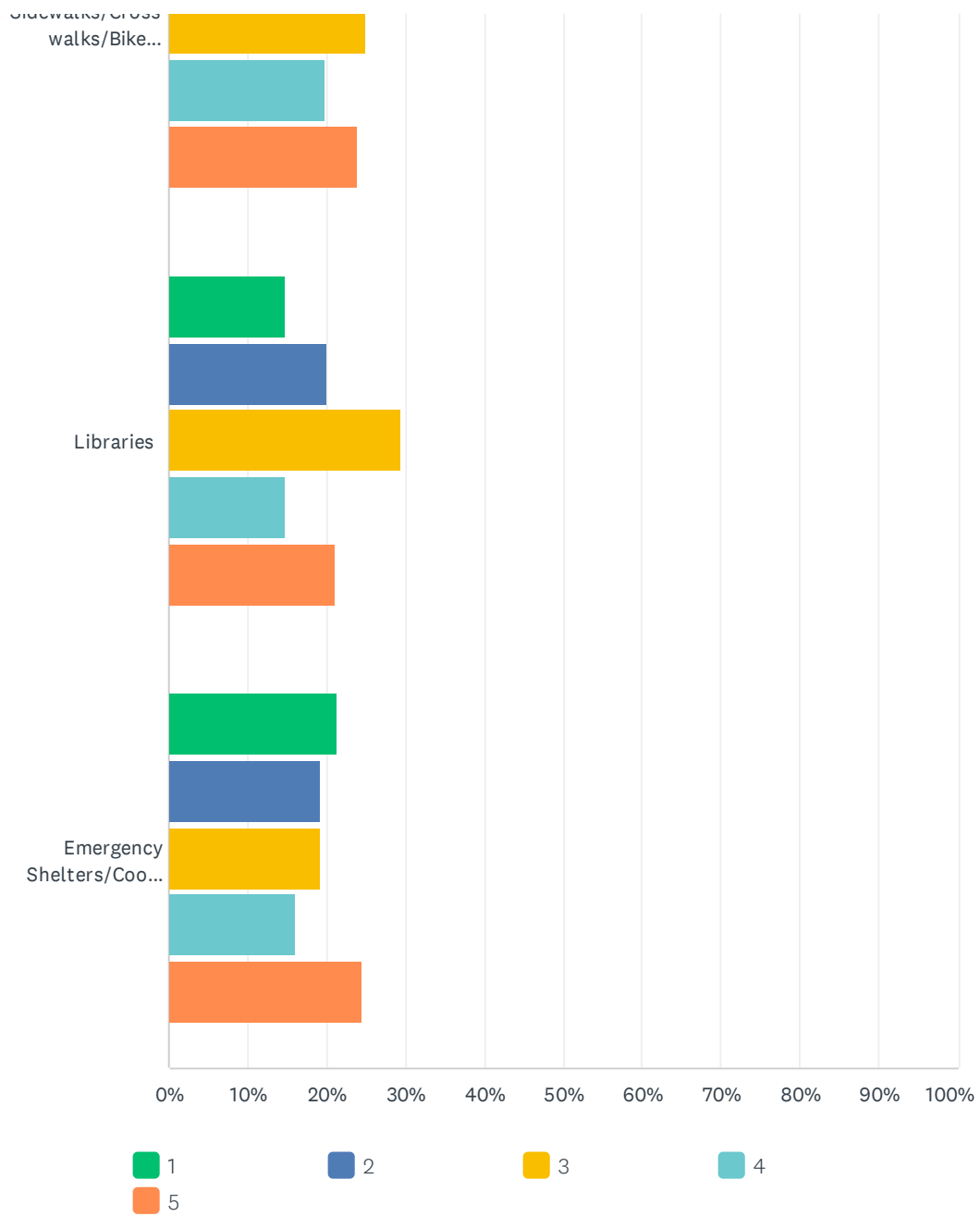
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Homelessness | 7.37% 7 | 6.32% 6 | 7.37% 7 | 15.79% 15 | 63.16% 60 | 95 | 4.21 |
| Crime | 6.19% 6 | 5.15% 5 | 10.31% 10 | 19.59% 19 | 58.76% 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?

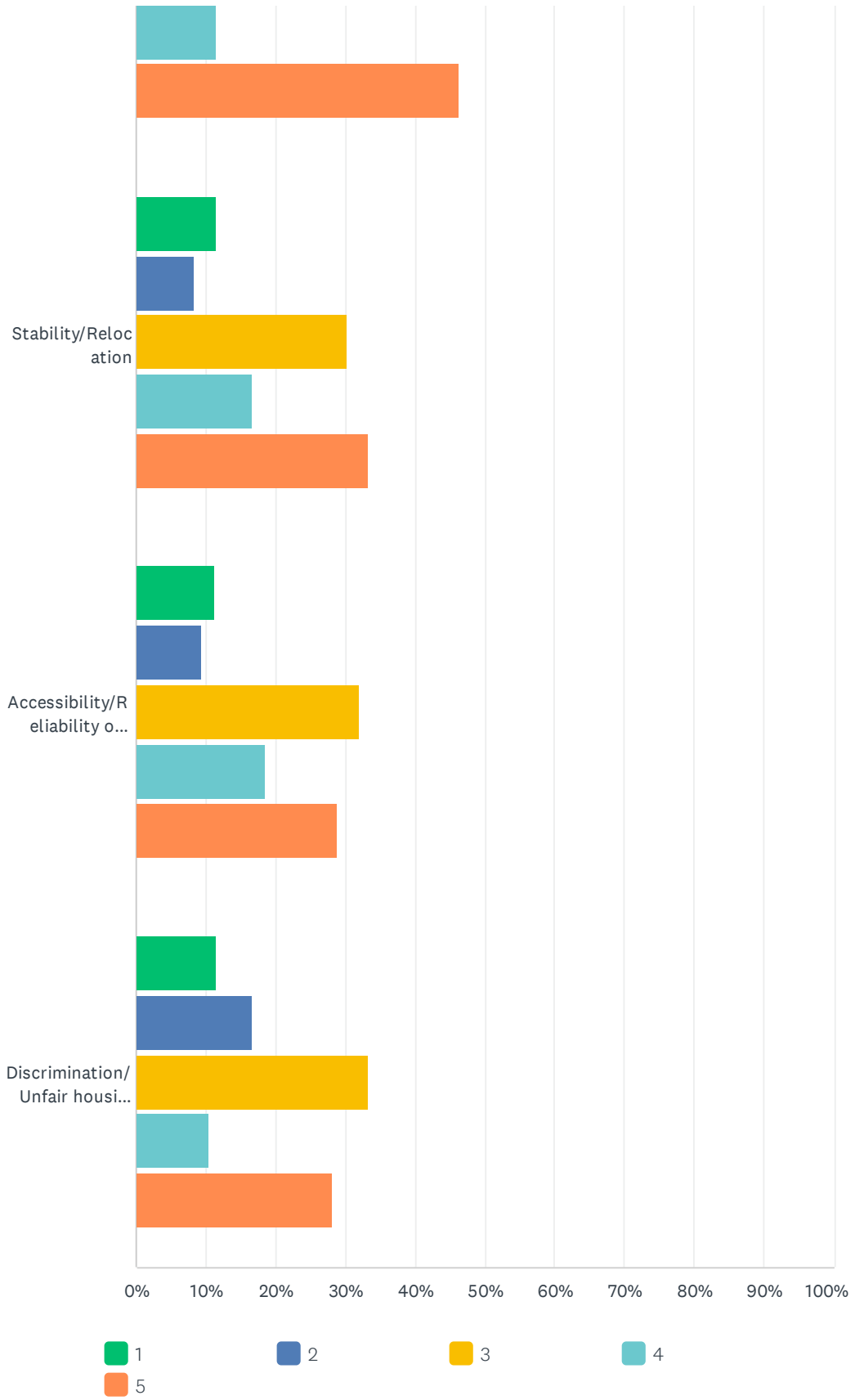
Answered: 66 Skipped: 35

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

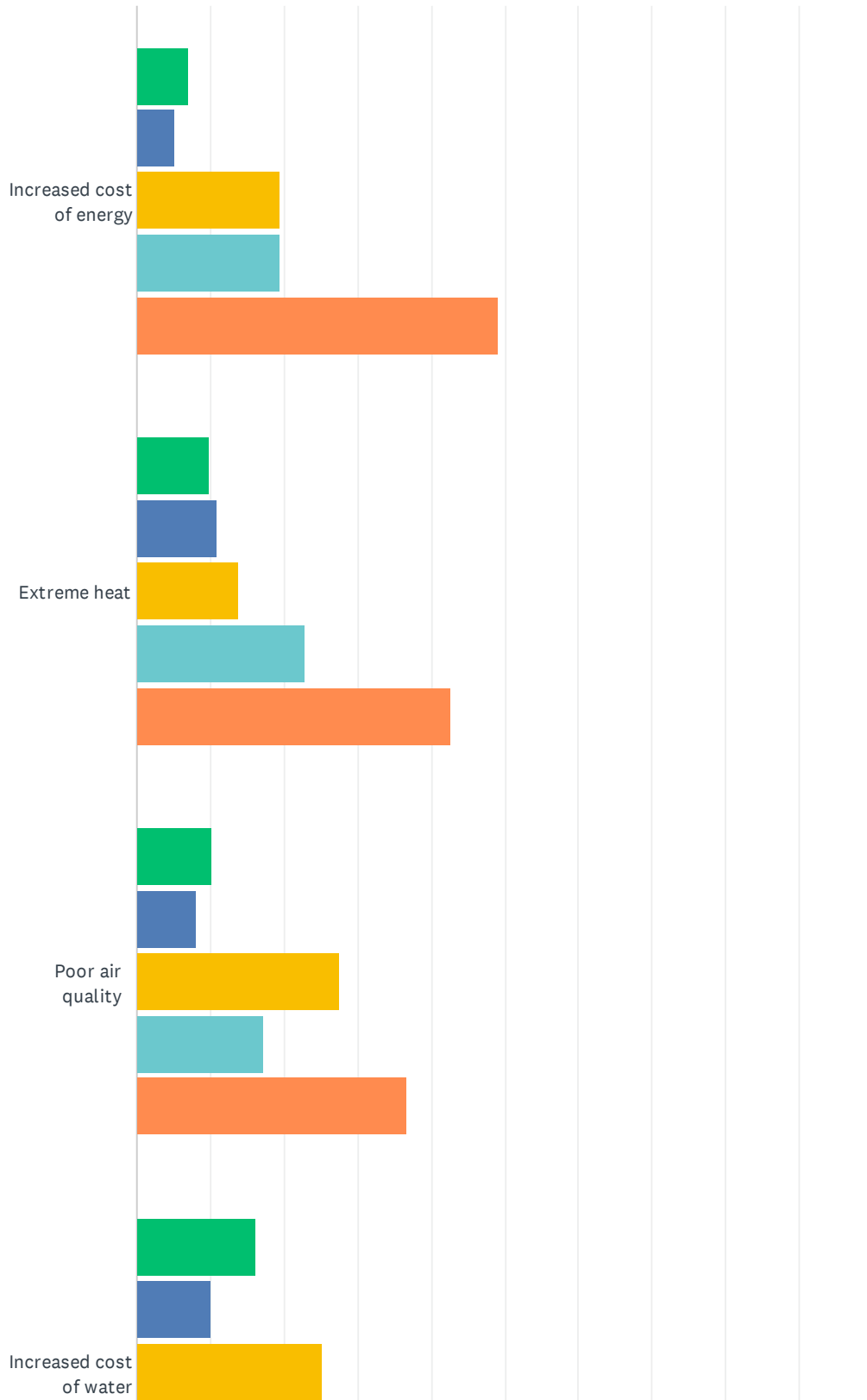


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

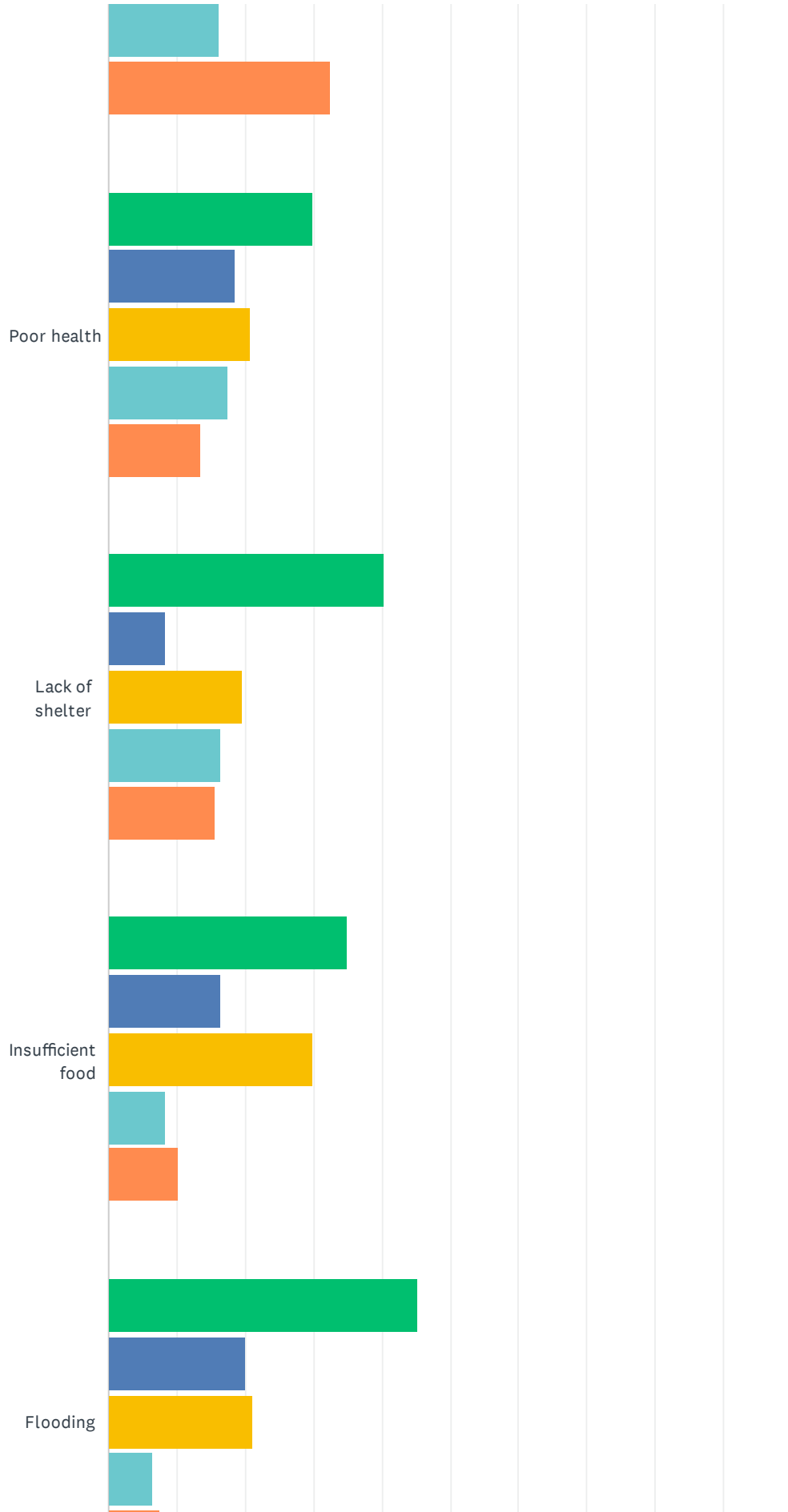
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Parking Availability | 8.25% 8 | 8.25% 8 | 18.56% 18 | 12.37% 12 | 52.58% 51 | 97 | 3.93 |
| Cost/Affordability | 9.38% 9 | 9.38% 9 | 14.58% 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)

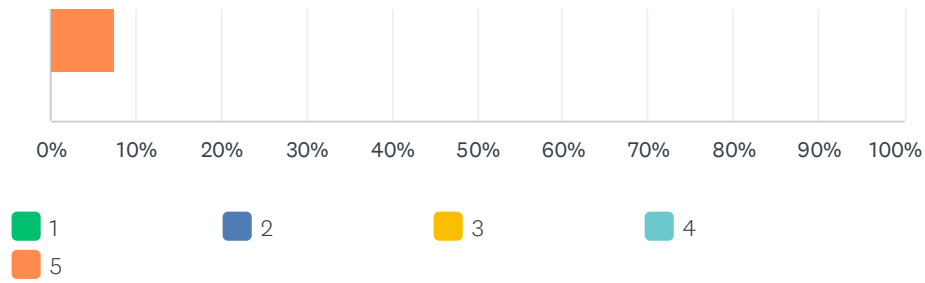
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



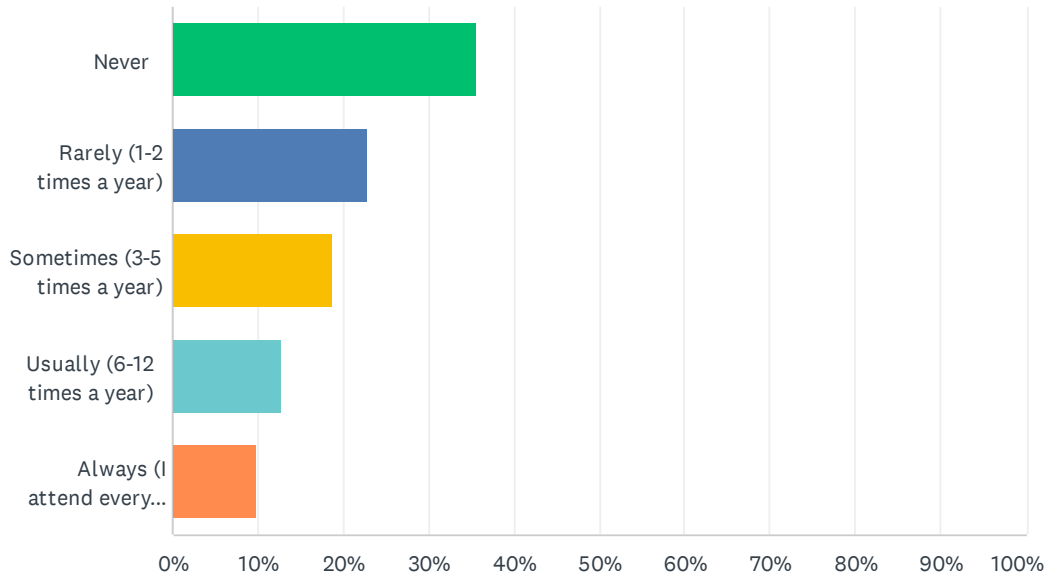
City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey



| | 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?

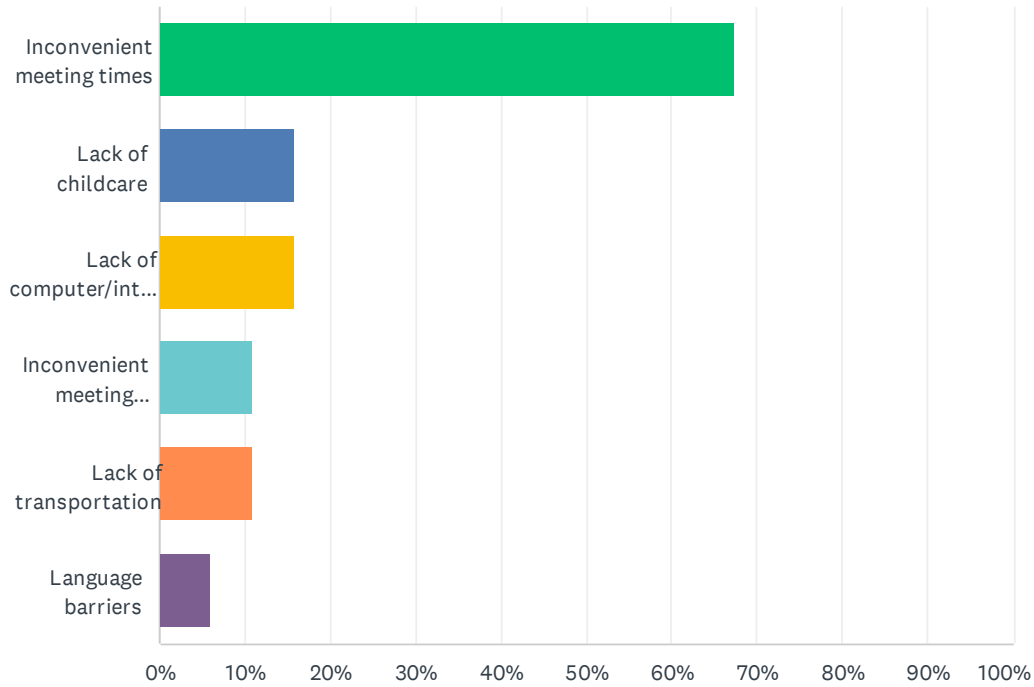
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



| 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 |
| TOTAL | | 101 |

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

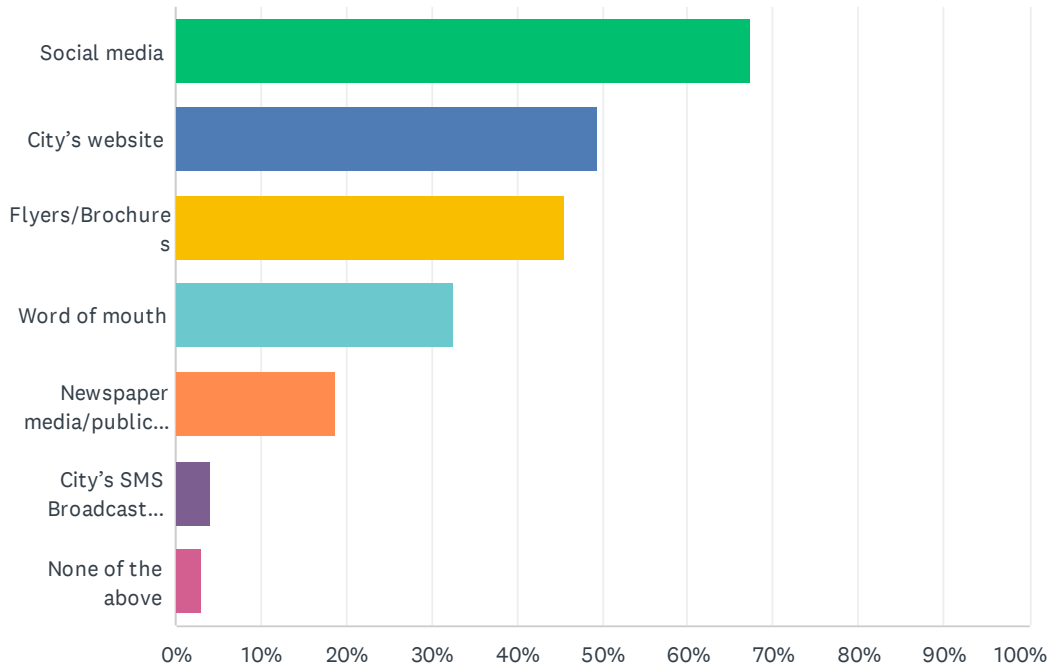
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Inconvenient meeting times | 67.33% | 68 |
| Lack of childcare | 15.84% | 16 |
| Lack of computer/internet access | 15.84% | 16 |
| Inconvenient meeting locations | 10.89% | 11 |
| Lack of transportation | 10.89% | 11 |
| Language barriers | 5.94% | 6 |
| Total Respondents: 101 | | |

Q14 How do you obtain information from the City? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Social media | 67.33% | 68 |
| City's website | 49.50% | 50 |
| Flyers/Brochures | 45.54% | 46 |
| Word of mouth | 32.67% | 33 |
| Newspaper media/publications | 18.81% | 19 |
| City's SMS Broadcast Service | 3.96% | 4 |
| None of the above | 2.97% | 3 |
| Total Respondents: 101 | | |

Q15 Do you feel like your interests and concerns are being heard? (on a scale of 1 star-5 stars, 1 being not heard and 5 being heard)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

2.8★

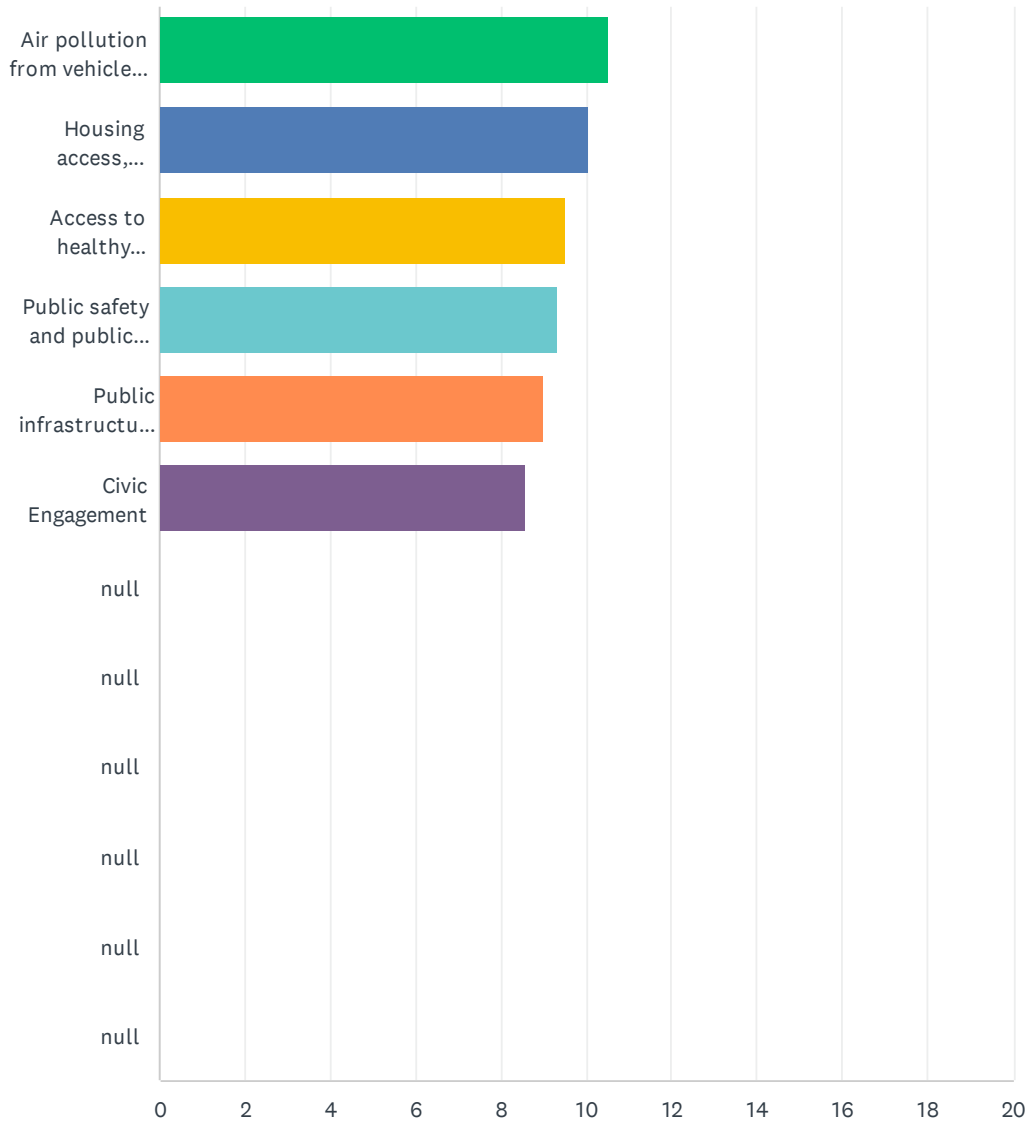
average rating



| | NOT HEARD | MINIMALLY HEARD | NEUTRAL | HEARD | WELL HEARD | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------|------------------|
| ☆ | 11.88% 12 | 19.80% 20 | 48.51% 49 | 14.85% 15 | 4.95% 5 | 101 | 2.81 |

Q16 What Environmental Justice areas are you concerned with: (rank the following)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

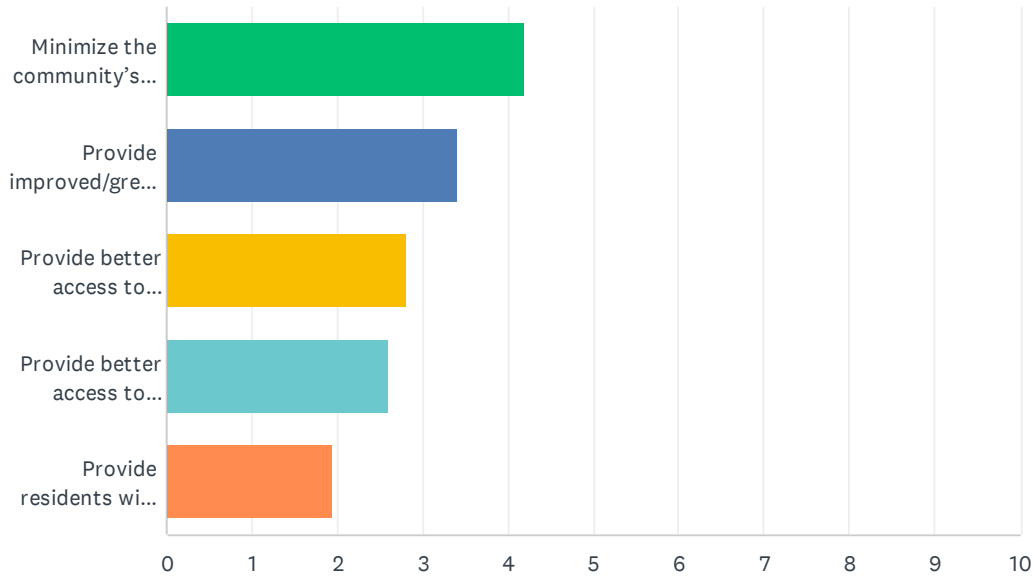


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

| | 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)

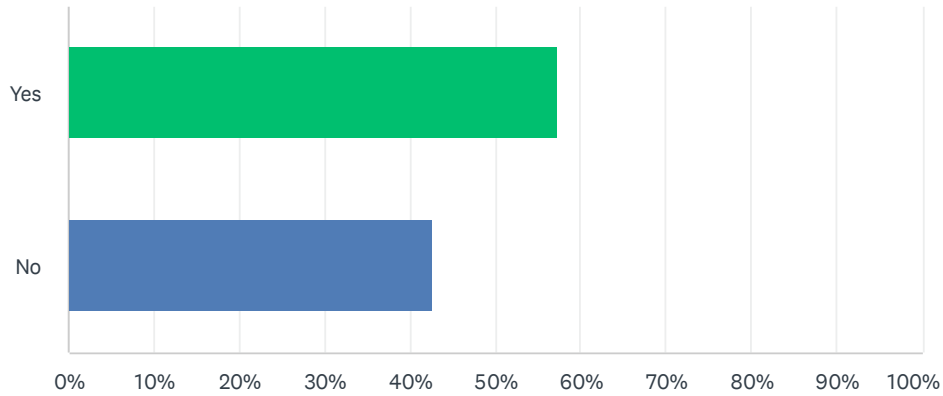
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



| | 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?

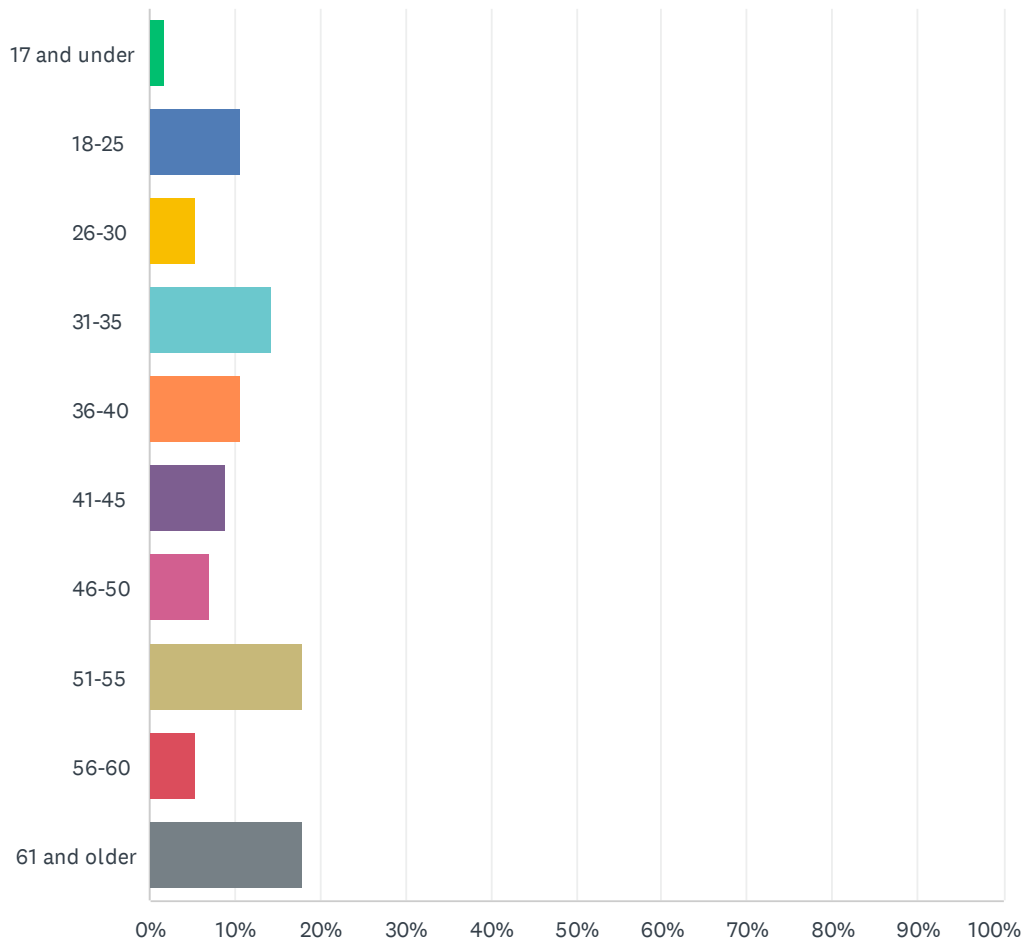
Answered: 101 Skipped: 0



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

Q19 What is your age group?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 45

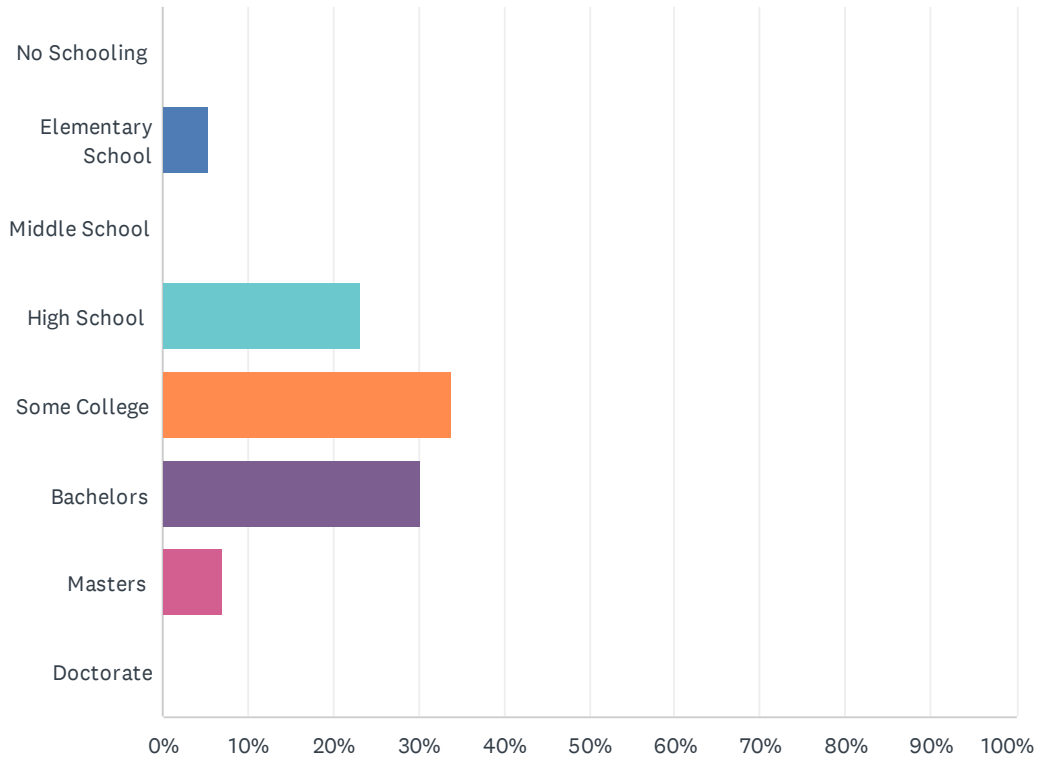


City of Bell Gardens Environmental Justice Element Survey

| 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?

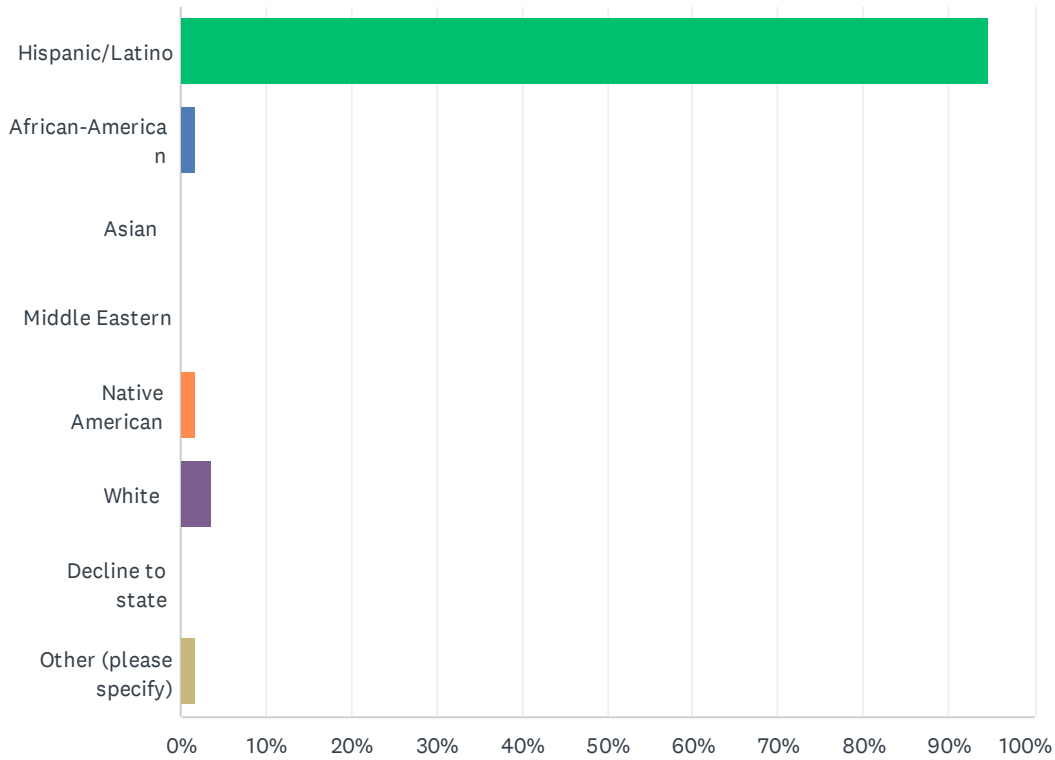
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



| 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 |
| TOTAL | | 56 |

Q21 Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

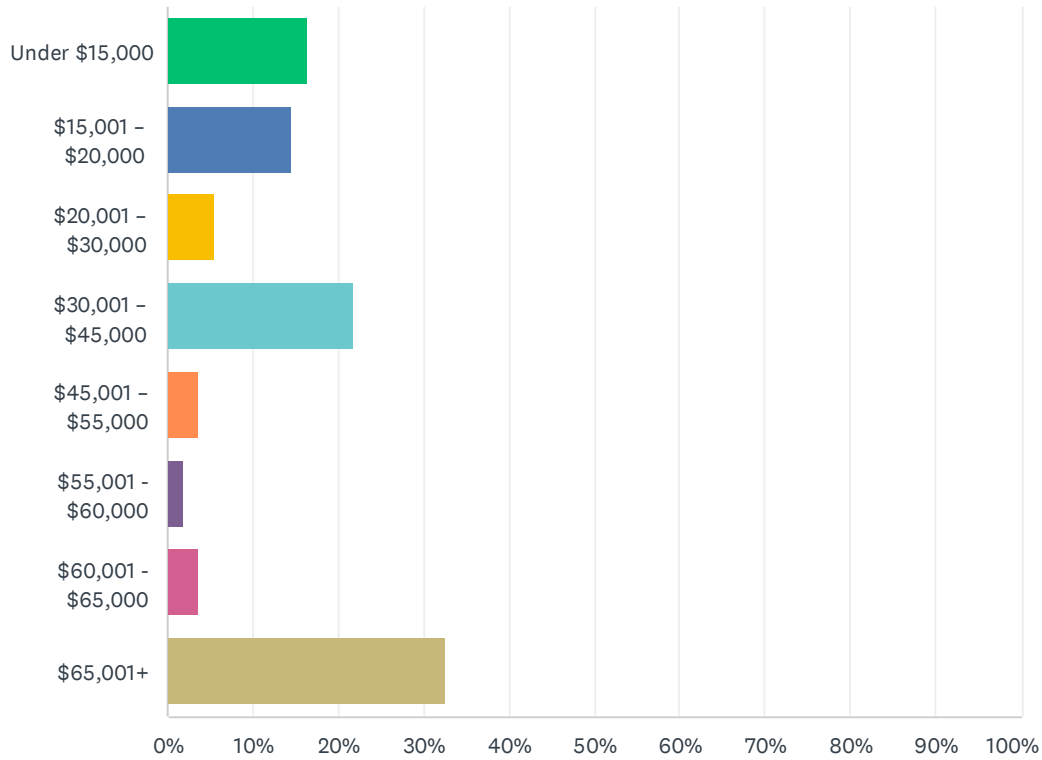
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------|-----------|----|
| Hispanic/Latino | 94.64% | 53 |
| African-American | 1.79% | 1 |
| Asian | 0.00% | 0 |
| Middle Eastern | 0.00% | 0 |
| Native American | 1.79% | 1 |
| White | 3.57% | 2 |
| Decline to state | 0.00% | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 1.79% | 1 |
| Total Respondents: 56 | | |

Q22 What is your yearly household/family income?

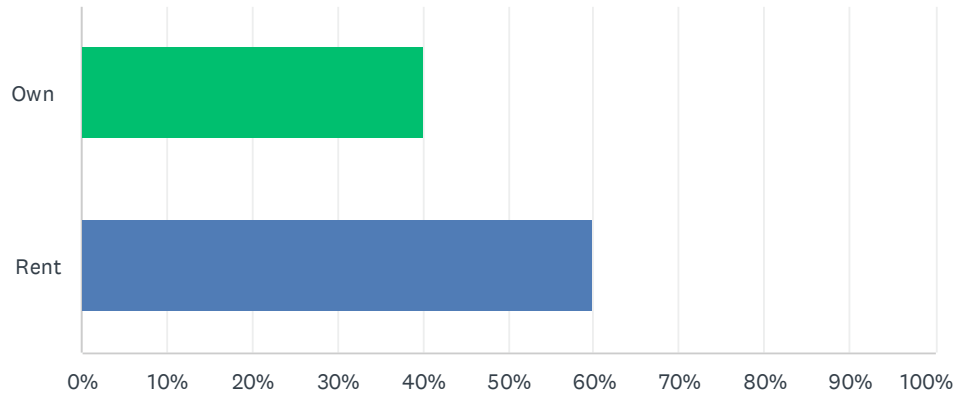
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Under \$15,000 | 16.36% 9 |
| \$15,001 - \$20,000 | 14.55% 8 |
| \$20,001 - \$30,000 | 5.45% 3 |
| \$30,001 - \$45,000 | 21.82% 12 |
| \$45,001 - \$55,000 | 3.64% 2 |
| \$55,001 - \$60,000 | 1.82% 1 |
| \$60,001 - \$65,000 | 3.64% 2 |
| \$65,001+ | 32.73% 18 |
| TOTAL | 55 |

Q23 Do you own or rent your home?

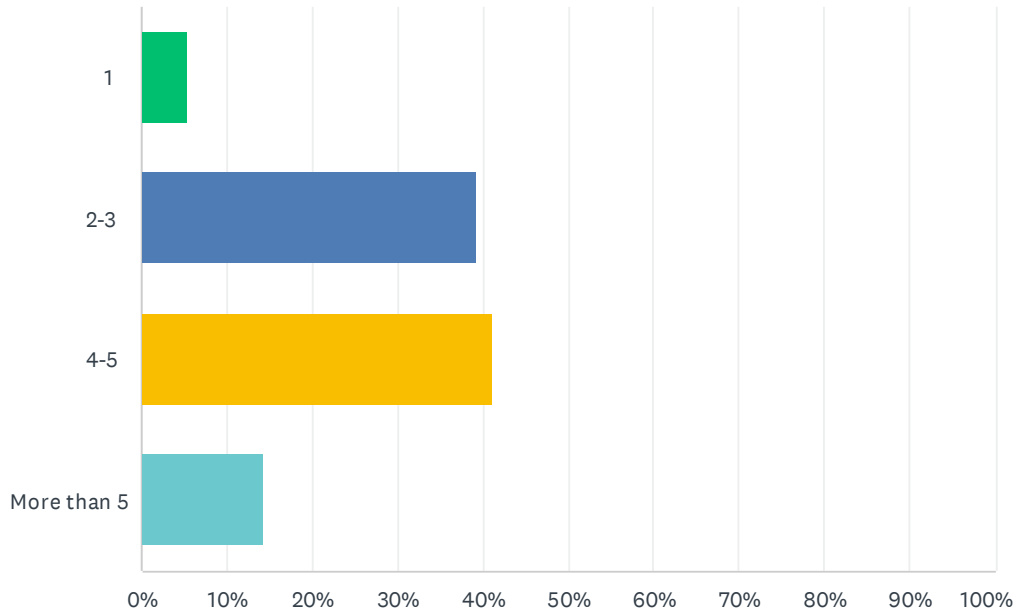
Answered: 55 Skipped: 46



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

Q24 How many people live in your home?

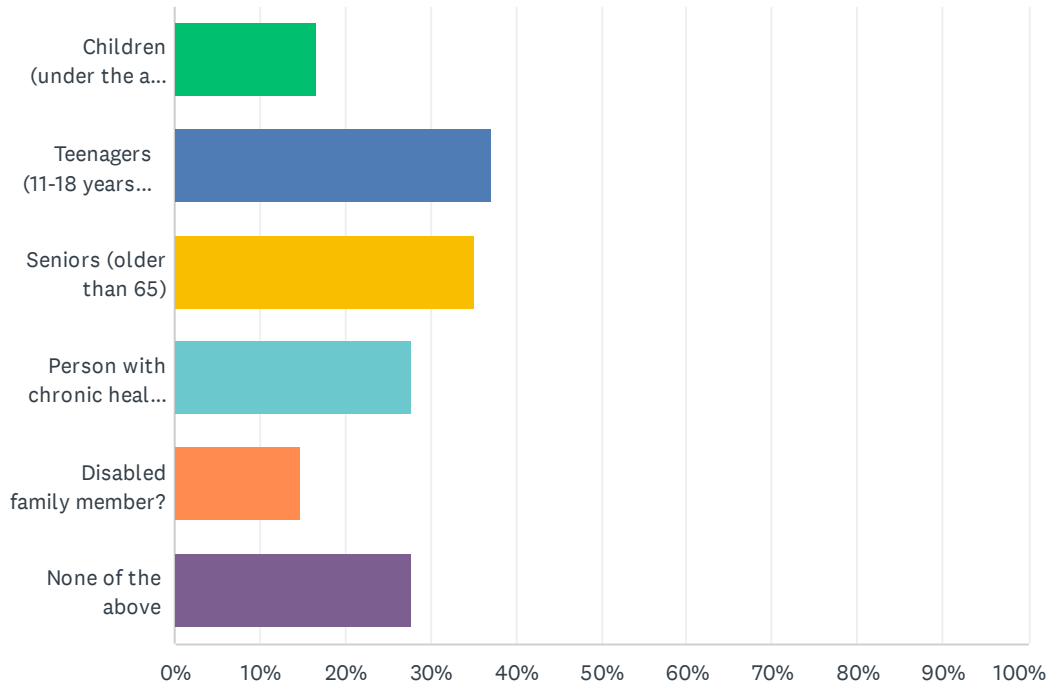
Answered: 56 Skipped: 45



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 5.36% | 3 |
| 2-3 | 39.29% | 22 |
| 4-5 | 41.07% | 23 |
| More than 5 | 14.29% | 8 |
| TOTAL | | 56 |

Q25 Does your household/family include any of the following:

Answered: 54 Skipped: 47



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--|-----------|----|
| Children (under the age of 10) | 16.67% | 9 |
| Teenagers (11-18 years old) | 37.04% | 20 |
| Seniors (older than 65) | 35.19% | 19 |
| Person with chronic health concerns (asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.) | 27.78% | 15 |
| Disabled family member? | 14.81% | 8 |
| None of the above | 27.78% | 15 |
| Total Respondents: 54 | | |

Q26 Are there any additional topics or comments that you would like to add?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 76

Q27 Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding updates regarding the environmental justice plan? Please provide a name, cell phone number, or e-mail address.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 77

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------|-----------|----|
| Name | 95.83% | 23 |
| Cell phone number | 66.67% | 16 |
| E-mail | 66.67% | 16 |

STAKEHOLDERS**Business**

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