

Los Angeles

Health and Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan

2025
Preliminary Draft

The purpose of this preliminary draft is to solicit feedback on the goals, objectives and policies listed in Chapter 3. Portions of other chapters have been included to provide additional context. However, please note that they will be further expanded upon in future drafts of this document for additional public review. Please visit the project website for additional updates and information on next steps.

To provide feedback on this preliminary draft, please visit
<https://planning.lacity.gov/plans-policies/environmental-justice>
or email planning.envjustice@lacity.org.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the City of Los Angeles is situated in the ancestral and unceded lands of the Gabrielino-Tongva Indian Tribe, also known as Yaavitam, the Kizh Nation Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians, the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, and the Chumash, among others. We acknowledge their elders, past, present, and future, for their cultural resilience. They are the original caretakers of this land, with Los Angeles being the home to the second largest community of Native Americans in the U.S. Native American tribes are sovereign nations, and our ongoing relationship with each tribe requires the utmost respect, mutual understanding, and sensitivity.

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Introduction

The vision articulated in the City's first ever Health and Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan is the legacy of the tireless efforts of community advocates who are at the frontlines of implementing environmental justice solutions in Los Angeles. The Health and Environmental Justice Element transforms this vision into policy guidance that elevates health and environmental justice as a priority in decision-making to shape the future growth and development of the City.

The City's pioneering Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles which was first adopted in 2015 and updated in 2021, was the former primary location for health and equity related policies in the General Plan. The Air Quality Element, first adopted in 1979 and last updated in 1992, addressed the relationship between air quality and land use, although in recent years efforts to incentivize transit oriented development and prioritize transportation decisions that reduce environmental impacts were advanced in other Elements of the General Plan such as the Mobility Element, Housing Element, and in Community Plans. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles and the Air Quality Element were reviewed and integrated into the new Health and Environmental Justice Element that centralizes and strengthens these topics, along with additional new ones, into a unified document.

This Element addresses six key topic areas: strong government leadership and community partnerships; meaningful community involvement; pollution prevention and remediation, including restoration and reinvestment in harmed neighborhoods; air quality; climate equity and resilience; and health and wellness. Together, these topics provide a framework to achieve environmental justice in Los Angeles.

Chapter 1: Background

Introduction

Healthy communities are places that provide for physical and social well-being, healthy lifestyles and neighborhoods that are free from environmental burdens. City efforts can help foster healthy, equitable communities by focusing on advancing environmental justice in the areas that need it most. The principle of environmental justice ensures equal and equitable protection from environmental and health hazards, while giving people fair and equal access to the planning and decision-making process. A commitment to environmental justice includes ensuring meaningful community participation in the planning process to promote equity and representation for underserved communities, including low-income residents, communities of color and indigenous communities.

The State of California defines environmental justice as the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” California Government Code Section 65040.12(e)

The Health and Environmental Justice Element identifies Environmental Justice Communities or “EJ Communities” as those communities facing the greatest cumulative environmental and socioeconomic burdens across the City. These communities may also be referred to as “disadvantaged communities” or “DACs” as defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Other terms may be used throughout this document to identify aspects of EJ Communities that a particular policy is highlighting, including historically marginalized communities, vulnerable communities, underserved communities, overburdened communities and underrepresented communities.

While issues related to air quality and other topic areas are of citywide concern, the EJ Communities of the City were the areas of focus during the development of this Element. Based on data on various health, economic, and social conditions, these areas are known to have higher pollution exposure, experience the greatest health impacts and are predominately low-income communities of color. Additionally, EJ Communities are home to some of the City’s largest concentrations of monolingual Spanish speakers, making it historically more challenging for community members to engage in government led planning processes.

EJ Communities were identified by examining two mapping resources: the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, known as CalEnviroScreen, and the Los Angeles Community Health and Equity Index. CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool created by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), which is part of the CalEPA. The tool identifies communities in California that are most affected by sources of pollution and where people are most vulnerable to the effects of pollution. According to CalEnviroScreen, over 50% of census tracts in the City of Los Angeles score in the top 25th percentile of all

communities in California. The 2021 Los Angeles Health Atlas, developed as a supporting document of the Health Element, catalogs and maps environmental and socioeconomic variables for the City of Los Angeles. Map 114 of the Los Angeles Health Atlas, also referred to as the Community Health and Equity Index, maps the relationship between social, economic, and environmental factors impacting communities in the City, including additional local data on pollution and demographics (Appendix 1).

General Plan Requirements

The General Plan is a comprehensive policy document that informs the future growth and development of a city. State law requires certain topics, or elements, be covered within a General Plan. These topics include land use, circulation (transportation, or mobility), housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and for some cities like Los Angeles, environmental justice and air quality. Cities may customize and contextualize their General Plan content and structure to address local needs and conditions, so long as all relevant statutory issues are addressed. In addition, General Plan goals, objectives, and policies must be internally consistent and do not supersede each other.

The inclusion of environmental justice policies in the General Plan supports the City's ability to advance environmental justice solutions, including for discretionary projects that require the city to make General Plan consistency findings. Further, the General Plan serves as a guiding framework to shape public policy, inform funding and services decisions, and support community-based initiatives.

Senate Bill 1000

California Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000; "The Planning for Healthy Communities Act") requires cities and counties to either adopt an Environmental Justice Element or integrate policies, objectives, and goals to address environmental justice throughout other elements of their General Plan. These must reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, spanning topics that include (but are not limited to) reducing pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality; promoting equitable access to public facilities, healthy food, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity; reducing barriers to inclusive engagement and participation in the public decision-making process; and prioritizing improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Following the passage of SB 1000, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) published recommendations for addressing environmental justice in the General Plan in a revised section of the General Plan Guidelines. Environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives must aim to reduce health risks to disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities. California law further elaborates that environmental justice includes (Government Code Section 65040.12[e][2]):

- (1) the availability of a healthy environment for all people;

- (2) the deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for communities disproportionately experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution;
- (3) governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process; and
- (4) at a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions

The topic of environmental justice is primarily addressed in this Health and Environmental Justice Element, although, cross-cutting issues are also addressed by the Framework Element, the Housing Element, the Open Space Element, the Service Systems Element, the Mobility Element, and the City's Community Plans, which collectively serve as the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

Previous Versions

Health Element

First adopted in 2015, the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles was the City's first Health, Wellness, and Equity Element of the General Plan (Health Element). It established a visionary framework for creating healthier, more equitable communities by linking land use to health through seven goals:

1. Los Angeles, a Leader in Health and Equity;
2. A City Built for Health;
3. Bountiful Parks and Open Spaces;
4. Food that Nourishes the Body, Soul, and Environment;
5. An Environment Where Life Thrives;
6. Lifelong Opportunities for Learning and Prosperity; and
7. Safe and Just Neighborhoods.

Each goal was supported by objectives, policies, and implementation programs to serve as a blueprint for building healthier neighborhoods. In 2021, the City's concurrent update of the Housing and Safety Elements prompted review of the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives contained in the General Plan for compliance with SB 1000. As a result, targeted updates were made to the Health Element to clarify compliance with State requirements, making the Health Element the primary location of the General Plan's environmental justice policies. Since the targeted update to the Health Element in 2021, community advocates and local organizations increasingly called for a more robust community engagement process to address emerging environmental concerns. This advocacy led to the development of a dedicated Health and Environmental Justice Element. The vision of the Health Element has

been integrated into the City's first Health and Environmental Justice Element to continue ensuring that health is a planning priority. Appendix 2 provides additional context on this process.

Air Quality Element

The Air Quality Element of the General Plan was last updated in 1992. Its primary focus was to meet federal and state requirements by aligning with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), developed to address ongoing air pollution challenges in the South Coast Air Basin. The 1992 Air Quality Element also focused on achieving compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act and California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. These state and federal plans marked the beginning of air quality regulation in the City of Los Angeles.

Significant progress has been made since the last update of the Air Quality Element. In the last few decades, numerous goals and policies of the 1992 Air Quality Element are now encompassed by federal, state and local laws that were established to regulate many of the emissions and particulates that contribute to poor air quality. Additionally, many of the growth and transportation-related goals and policies are fully addressed in other General Plan elements, such as the Housing Element and the Mobility Element. Despite progress, ongoing efforts are still needed to ensure clean air for all communities.

Air quality is now a component of the Health and Environmental Justice Element. This integration reflects the direct link between air quality, pollution exposure, climate change and human health. Furthermore, throughout community engagement efforts, air quality was continually raised as a key concern across EJ Communities. Community input, along with an analysis of literature, research, progress in legislation, and advancement in technology helped identify policy gaps, explore new topics, recognize emerging themes, find opportunities to modernize language, and consolidate policies.

Chapter 2: Existing Conditions

Health

Los Angeles is a city with vast health disparities and where a person lives influences their health destiny. Chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease are concentrated in the same neighborhoods as poverty, environmental hazards, unemployment and lower educational attainment. In addition, the percentage of adults who do not receive sufficient social and emotional support, factors that play a significant role in positive mental health outcomes, are much higher in the same neighborhoods.

Good health is often attributed to individual choices: eating fresh fruits and vegetables, avoiding unhealthy choices such as smoking, doing regular exercise, and getting proper medical care. The growing prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease and respiratory illnesses has raised awareness about the impact lifestyle choices have on health outcomes. But for many people, particularly for those with limited financial resources, a healthy lifestyle is not simply a matter of choice, but is fundamentally a matter of access and opportunity. There is growing recognition that health and wellness are influenced by a complex array of social, economic, lifestyle and environmental factors. Recognizing this, cities across the state and nation are proactively taking steps to tackle health inequities and poor health outcomes with innovative policies and services that increase access to health-promoting goods, services, and opportunities.

Public health and planning experts are increasingly focused on the importance of neighborhoods in addressing the nation's most chronic health conditions. Conventional planning practices that separate housing from other land uses are rooted in early 20th century efforts to address public health concerns over noxious industrial uses, and unsanitary and crowded housing conditions. These land use and zoning practices often resulted in sprawled, low-density communities that require a private vehicle for transportation.

Simultaneously, in some communities these separations between housing and industry were not created, not adequately maintained, or have proved insufficient over time. The resulting exposure to pollution is not distributed equally across the city, but disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color. Now, public health research is pointing to both of these scenarios as contributing factors to the health problems of the 21st century, emphasizing the importance of planners' consideration of health and social wellbeing and turning the focus to EJ Communities in particular.

The COVID-19 Pandemic exacerbated existing health inequities, which had devastating effects across Los Angeles and the world. Great efforts were undertaken at the state and local level to identify communities most in need of immediate and long-term pandemic and economic relief. Appendix 3 is a map adapted from the Los Angeles County COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Equity Index that scores risk, severity, and recovery needs throughout the City of Los

Angeles. When examined in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles Health Atlas data, it is evident that the equity-centered interventions needed to provide relief from the harms of the pandemic are comparable to the interventions required to improve health outcomes overall in Los Angeles.

Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles

The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles was initially developed to inform the first version of the Health Element in 2013 and it was updated concurrently with the 2021 update of the Health Element. It was initially made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and The California Endowment. The Health Atlas is a repository of health related data, visualized through 115 maps. The maps are organized into topics including demographic and social characteristics, economic conditions, education, health conditions, land use, transportation, food systems, crime, housing, and environmental health. These maps culminate into a Community Health and Equity Index which combines multiple variables to create a score to compare health conditions across the City. The Health Atlas continues to inform City efforts to advance equity.

Air Quality

The City of Los Angeles lies within the Los Angeles Basin, surrounded by mountains and bounded by the Pacific Ocean; its unique topography combined with its dense urban development, concentrated industrial activity, and heavy reliance on cars all contribute to significant air pollution. Air quality directly impacts health, quality of life, and the environment. While air quality has improved significantly due to increased emissions regulations over recent decades, many communities still experience unhealthy levels of air pollutants. Poor air quality has been linked to respiratory and cardiovascular health impacts and even premature deaths, while also damaging ecosystems and contributing to climate change. Air quality conditions continue to raise serious concerns in the City especially for the most overburdened neighborhoods.

In Los Angeles, EJ Communities experience significantly worse air quality compared to other areas due to existing socioeconomic challenges combined with their close proximity to pollution sources. EJ Communities have higher concentrations of land uses that generate emissions, including industrial and oil uses, truck routes, heavily trafficked corridors, freeways, warehouses, and railyards. These uses tend to produce and expose residents to several air pollutants, including particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ground-level ozone, and lead. The smallest particles in air pollutants generally pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs, and once inhaled, these particles can cause serious health effects. Numerous scientific studies have linked ozone and particle pollution to lung cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and early death, as well as increased hospitalizations for breathing problems. Oftentimes, sensitive uses such as homes, schools, daycare centers, nursing homes, and community centers, where sensitive and vulnerable populations may be concentrated, are in close proximity to sources of air pollution in EJ Communities. The

prevalence of incompatible land use patterns and a disproportionate concentration of harmful uses in EJ Communities, contribute to significant adverse conditions, negatively impacting health and overall quality of life.

Climate change hazards, particularly extreme heat, have worsened air quality conditions by accelerating photochemical reactions that produce ground-level ozone and trapping harmful pollutants during temperature inversions. Longer heat waves and hotter temperatures also lead to drier vegetation conditions, increasing the overall risk of wildfires that generate smoke, further deteriorating air quality in the region.

Climate Change

Global warming has significantly changed the Earth's climate, and future conditions will inevitably impact every aspect of daily life. Extreme weather events are happening more frequently, and climate hazards are becoming more intense and widespread across California and Los Angeles. Urban areas, such as Los Angeles, are more likely to experience extreme heat events because of the urban heat island effect.

Too often, those who are least equipped to handle the effects of catastrophic events end up suffering the most. Building a more climate resilient Los Angeles starts with addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations and neighborhoods. Ensuring the safety and well-being of all communities involves not just emergency preparedness but tackling the underlying stressors facing these vulnerable communities, such as financial instability, underlying healthcare issues, and a lack of affordable housing.

These climate changes continue to drive state, county, and local governments and community partners to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation in their planning efforts. The City of Los Angeles has advanced climate and resilience planning efforts through the work of several departments and agencies, including various programs and plans over the past several decades that focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing risks from disasters to people, property, the economy, and the environment. More recently, a Climate Vulnerability Assessment was completed to analyze climate hazards and risks and recommend mitigation measures that center the needs and voices of communities most historically disinvested and burdened by pollution exposure.

Chapter 3: Goals, Objectives, Policies

The Health and Environmental Justice Element goals, objectives, and policies reflect a broad and comprehensive range of statements to provide context and guide decision-making for actions that the City can take to acknowledge past harms, address existing conditions, and prevent future impacts in order to create healthier communities and achieve environmental justice.

Implementation of goals, objectives, and policies is addressed in Chapter 4 with a specific list of implementation programs that correspond to the content of this chapter.

What is a Goal, Objective, and Policy?

Goal: A goal is a broad statement that describes the future condition or “end state”. Goals are aspirational and outcome oriented.

Objective: An objective is a specific statement that guides goal attainment. Multiple objectives can be associated with each individual goal.

Policy: A policy guides a course of action that aligns with each goal and objectives.

Goal 1

A City that is a leader in health, equity, and environmental justice.

The role of local government is also more critical than ever in shaping a more equitable future. As the second largest city in the United States, Los Angeles directly impacts the lives of four million people living across approximately 500 square miles with influence that extends well beyond city boundaries.

Achieving environmental justice requires strong, bold leadership to repair past harms, confront current challenges, and to materialize a future where all communities can thrive. It requires a persistent, coordinated approach that leverages resources across all sectors and prioritizes harmed communities. This goal captures the commitment to deliver equity-driven, community-informed, and innovative solutions to continue protecting the environment and lifting communities.

Objective

- 1.1 Cultivate practices that advance solutions for environmental justice communities citywide.

Policies

- 1.1.1 **Leadership.** Position Los Angeles as a regional leader by coordinating across departments, agencies, sectors, and jurisdictions to integrate health, equity, sustainability, resiliency, and environmental justice into policies, programs, and procedures.
- 1.1.2 **Collaboration.** Develop intentional strategic partnerships between departmental agencies and with public, private, tribal, and nonprofit entities to improve health outcomes by leveraging capacity, resources, and programs around mutually beneficial initiatives that promote health, equity, sustainability, and environmental justice.
- 1.1.3 **Innovation.** Invest in and incorporate emerging best practices, research, and technology to ensure that Los Angeles remains at the forefront of delivering high quality services and programs that address health, equity, sustainability and environmental justice.
- 1.1.4 **Prioritize Environmental Justice Communities.** Allocate sustainable, timely and sufficient City resources to effectively prioritize policies, programs, and procedures that meet the needs of environmental justice communities.
- 1.1.5 **Healthy Communities.** Promote healthy communities by focusing on prevention, interventions, and by addressing the root causes of health disparities, inequities, and environmental injustice in Los Angeles.

- 1.1.6 **Plan for Health, Environmental Justice, and Air Quality.** Improve health and well-being by addressing air quality and incorporating a health and environmental justice perspective into land use, design, policy, and zoning decisions through the use of new and existing tools, practices, and programs.
- 1.1.7 **Advocate for Environmental Justice and Air Quality.** Advocate at the regional, state and federal levels for legislation and policies that advance environmental justice, reduce environmental disparities, and promote equitable access to resources and opportunities.
- 1.1.8 **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Implement cross-departmental tools and methods to regularly monitor and evaluate environmental justice initiatives to proactively address disparities in environmental and health outcomes.

Goal 2

A City that champions the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people.

A core principle of environmental justice is the meaningful involvement of communities in decisions that impact their health and environment while also ensuring that the burdens and benefits of decisions are distributed equitably.

Los Angeles offers a multitude of opportunities for communities to become involved in local decision-making through robust outreach and engagement initiatives. Furthermore, the City has taken great strides in both acknowledging and repairing the harms caused by past decisions that contributed to existing inequities. In particular, the planning profession played a role in creating and implementing discriminatory practices that left communities of color vulnerable and with limited access to opportunities. To continue redressing these harms, it is important to enshrine in the General Plan efforts that are charting a more equitable future.

Objective

- 2.1 Design and implement public outreach and engagement processes and practices that provide inclusive, timely and culturally appropriate opportunities for all persons to participate in land use decision-making, particularly historically marginalized and environmentally impacted groups and other vulnerable populations.

Policies

- 2.1.1 **Community Notifications.** Centralize and streamline notification mechanisms, processes, and procedures to inform the public about changes in their environment that are accurate, understandable, pertinent, and timely.
- 2.1.2 **Value Lived Experience and Indigenous Knowledge.** Collect and consider data and information from environmental justice community members, Tribes, and Indigenous Peoples based on their lived experiences and direct interaction with the environment.
- 2.1.3 **Compensation.** Prioritize City partnerships that compensate community members for their time, valuable knowledge, and involvement for informing land use processes, particularly in communities with low public participation.
- 2.1.4 **Community Empowerment.** Provide technical or financial assistance, when available and appropriate, to partners, small businesses, and members of the public to build capacity to understand complex land use issues and enable meaningful involvement. Infuse environmental justice educational opportunities whenever feasible to create a broader understanding of the relationship between land use, health, and the environment.

- 2.1.5 **Community Partnerships.** Engage with community based organizations and other local groups who serve historically underrepresented communities to establish partnerships that will increase public awareness and engagement in the planning process through the co-development of culturally and socially relevant programming.
- 2.1.6 **Digital Equity.** Provide equitable access to digital tools, increase digital literacy, and prevent digital discrimination to promote civic engagement and public services.
- 2.1.7 **Language Access.** Provide multilingual interpretation, translation, and disability-related accommodation services to ensure timely and meaningful access to programs, services, information, and encourage civic participatory processes in alignment with citywide language justice planning priorities.
- 2.1.8 **Cultural Diversity.** Integrate arts, culture, traditions, customs and creative placemaking strategies that expand meaningful involvement opportunities and resources.
- 2.1.9 **Transparency.** Encourage, evaluate and incorporate public feedback into land use decisions, as extensively as possible, and by communicating to the public the decisions made and how public input affected those decisions. To advance transparency, consider public feedback mechanisms for environmental justice communities when state and local streamlining efforts limit public input on health and environmental concerns.
- 2.1.10 **Intergenerational Strategies.** Design and provide meaningful involvement opportunities for intergenerational groups, including youth and older adults, that align with citywide positive youth development and purposeful aging priorities.
- 2.1.11 **Persons with Disabilities.** Design outreach and engagement strategies to meaningfully involve persons with disabilities that align with citywide priorities for accessibility.
- 2.1.12 **Tribal Engagement.** Foster opportunities for deep engagement, relationship building and collaboration with local Indigenous Peoples/Tribal Organizations to ensure planning efforts are responsive and sensitive to the needs and aspirations of local Native American communities.
- 2.1.13 **Inclusive Outreach and Engagement.** Utilize innovative and creative approaches to design outreach and engagement strategies to meaningfully involve members of underrepresented groups, including with advocates and service providers for individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable groups.

Objective

- 2.2 Acknowledge and address the legacy of systemic discriminatory land use practices in Los Angeles, as it relates to the ongoing and lasting effects on the health and well-being of low-income communities and people of color including indigenous and native communities.

Policies

- 2.2.1 **Racial Justice.** Recognize racism as a public health crisis and continue to advocate for policies that improve health outcomes and quality of life in communities of color.
- 2.2.2 **Indigenous Leadership and Stewardship.** Support agreements to formalize cooperation and collaboration in the management and protection of natural and cultural resources that result in the stewardship and/or acquisition of land by the ancestral caretakers of the land.
- 2.2.3 **Reparations.** Develop measures to quantify the cost of environmental injustice to harmed communities and methods of compensation.
- 2.2.4 **Trauma Informed Planning.** Use trauma-informed approaches to guide planning and land use decision making processes to address the cumulative health impacts of prolonged systemic inequity and exclusion by focusing on holistic, systems-driven solutions.
- 2.2.5 **Healing the Built Environment.** Reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating physical and systemic barriers to connectivity and identify opportunities with the greatest benefits to health, social, environmental and economic outcomes for harmed communities.

Goal 3

A City with a healthy environment where life thrives.

Los Angeles' industrial legacy is rich and encompasses a wide range of industries. The City also continues to be a large manufacturing center and has one of the world's busiest shipping ports and airports. While the twentieth century heralded Los Angeles for its rapid economic growth, in particular for its oil, aviation, entertainment, garment, and aerospace industries, it was also a time when public policies and private sector actions promulgated the racial and socioeconomic disparities that continue to shape the Los Angeles of today.

Modern zoning strategies involved the organization of land into specific land uses such as residential, commercial, and industrial. Over time, this approach evolved from separating noxious uses away from sensitive uses, into a mechanism that systematically infused racist values, laying a foundation for a built environment where low-income communities of color became more likely to live within close proximity to incompatible and often harmful uses. This disproportionate exposure has led to environmental degradation and negative health outcomes for the City's most vulnerable neighborhoods. Also known as Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities, these neighborhoods continue to experience the effects of historical injustices and systemic inequities.

This goal elevates policy concepts that support the undoing of past harms. Beginning with the urgency to prevent further pollution exposure, it prioritizes overburdened neighborhoods and areas where sensitive or vulnerable areas with youth, older adults, and people with chronic health conditions are concentrated. Likewise, the goal also addresses remediation strategies to clean up contamination in a manner that benefits impacted communities.

While Los Angeles plans for the reduction and eventual transition away from extractive industries like the petroleum industry it must also plan for the restoration of economic opportunity, environmental health, and converting neglected spaces into assets that serve community needs. Reinvestment in communities that have been overburdened for generations must be prioritized.

Objective

- 3.1 Address and prevent disproportionate and cumulative environmental impacts in overburdened communities through comprehensive environmental assessments, and coordinated, community-centered strategies.

Policies

- 3.1.1 **Definitions.** Develop and utilize clear and consistent definitions for noxious

uses, sensitive uses, sensitive receptors and other related environmental justice language for the development of policies, programs, and procedures.

- 3.1.2 **Environmental and Health Assessments.** Collect or develop, centralize and maintain accurate neighborhood level data that identifies land use history and measures the disproportionate and cumulative impacts of exposure to environmental and public health risks, hazards and stressors.
- 3.1.3 **Environmental Justice Analysis and Findings.** Consider the totality of exposures to combinations of stressors from the built, natural, and social environment and their effects on health and quality of life outcomes including neighborhood specific conditions when developing policies, programs, and procedures or identifying findings for discretionary review purposes.
- 3.1.4 **Neighborhood Level Strategies.** Promote meaningful involvement of communities to develop neighborhood level policies, programs, and procedures to support healthy neighborhoods and address disproportionate pollution exposure, cumulative impacts, and unique or compounded risks in overburdened communities.
- 3.1.5 **Technology, Innovation and Funding.** Encourage new solutions and promote funding mechanisms for emerging technologies that have proven to significantly reduce pollution exposure and provide the greatest overall benefit to overburdened communities.
- 3.1.6 **Compliance and Enforcement.** Support rigorous, effective, and transparent monitoring, reporting, inspection, enforcement, and accountability measures to support the prevention and remediation of pollution exposure in overburdened communities.

Objective

- 3.2 Protect public and environmental health from exposure to hazardous or noxious activities that emit odors, noise, toxic, hazardous, or contaminant substances, materials, vapors, and other nuisances by requiring adherence to environmental protection measures, best management practices, and by using the best available methods and data to enhance permitting and operational requirements, particularly within environmental justice communities.

Policies

- 3.2.1 **Logistics Uses and Operations.** Ensure that new and existing logistics uses, such as the transportation and storage of goods, incorporate best practices by designating appropriate truck routes to/from facilities, adhering to limited hours of operation, locating site ingress/egress away from residential uses or other sensitive uses and receptors, and providing adequate on-site queuing and daytime/overnight parking to prevent parking or idling on public streets, among other strategies.

- 3.2.2 **Construction and Demolition Operations.** Pursue clean construction strategies to reduce emissions and pollution exposure from construction and demolition related activities, including the use of resource efficient and circular design, low carbon or carbon-neutral materials, zero emission equipment and the implementation of effective standards to manage hazardous materials, dust, debris, or other forms of air, water, and soil contamination.
- 3.2.3 **Waste Management Operations.** Strengthen health and safety measures through transparent and robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for activities related to waste management, including siting, transportation, recycling, storage, disposal, and treatment that may generate odors, noise, dust, litter, vermin, toxic, hazardous, or contaminant substances, materials, vapors, and other nuisances.
- 3.2.4 **Safe Waste Management Practices.** Increase educational programming and financial incentives, if appropriate to promote source reduction and reuse strategies, recycling and ensure the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste and materials (e.g. automobile parts, batteries, solvents, flammables, etc.) generated by households, property and business owners.
- 3.2.5 **Blight Removal and Prevention.** Prevent and reduce illegal dumping and blight producing activities, particularly those propelled by high impact commercial and industrial activities, and support the expansion of enforcement measures and other proactive restorative initiatives such as community beautification efforts to promote clean, healthy and safe conditions in environmental justice communities.

Objective

- 3.3 Prevent further negative public and environmental health impacts in environmental justice communities through effective land use strategies development standards, environmental protection measures, and pollution control measures.

Policies

- 3.3.1 **Land Use Prohibitions.** Prohibit or phase out heavy commercial or industrial uses, or potentially noxious uses or activities, that may cause potentially adverse impacts or significant health risks due to their close proximity to sensitive receptors or uses.
- 3.3.2 **Land Use Restrictions.** Strengthen restrictions for the expansion or operation of heavy commercial and industrial uses, or other potentially noxious uses or activities, in close proximity to sensitive receptors or uses.
- 3.3.3 **Overconcentration of Land Uses.** Prevent or reduce the overconcentration of heavy commercial and industrial uses, or other potentially noxious uses or activities, in close proximity to sensitive receptors or uses.

- 3.3.4 **Land Use Conflicts.** Reduce or limit conflicts between heavy commercial, industrial uses and other potentially noxious uses or activities, and sensitive receptors and uses by requiring compliance with environmental protection measures that focus on preventing adverse impacts or significant health and safety risks.
- 3.3.5 **Transitional Land Use and Zoning.** Facilitate the gradual reduction of conflicts between heavy commercial and industrial uses and sensitive receptors and uses with tailored land use and zoning strategies when immediate resolution is not feasible.
- 3.3.6 **Urban Design and Health.** Advance urban design approaches that proactively safeguard sensitive receptors and uses, including the implementation of standards such as screening, enclosures, separations and measures that protect public and environmental health.
- 3.3.7 **Air, Soil, and Water Pollution.** Protect, improve, and contribute to the attainment of healthy air, soil, and water and prevent further contamination through adequate land use measures that reduce or prohibit the development and operation of facilities that handle hazardous materials that may produce air emissions, come into contact with soil or bodies of water and cause potentially adverse impacts or significant health and safety risks.
- 3.3.8 **Relocation.** Support the relocation of residential households within heavy commercial and industrial districts to more appropriate locations, particularly for those who have experienced adverse impacts or significant health impacts, and the relocation of heavy commercial and industrial uses away from residential households or other sensitive uses.

Objective

- 3.4 Remediate sites contaminated with hazardous substances and other toxins that affect public and environmental health to foster thriving, healthy neighborhoods, prioritizing areas with an overconcentration of underused, abandoned, or vacant sites (brownfields).

Policies

- 3.4.1 **Engaged Communities.** Implement meaningful involvement strategies throughout the duration of the remediation process that cultivate public understanding about potential health and environmental conditions, impacts, and decisions, prioritizing communities living in close proximity to affected sites.
- 3.4.2 **Coordination and Technical Assistance.** Support the coordination between public, private, community based, nonprofit organizations and agencies and when feasible, provide technical assistance to identify, apply for, secure, and leverage funds for brownfield and other site remediation activities that prioritize communities living in close proximity to affected sites and sites in close proximity to sensitive uses and sensitive receptors.

- 3.4.3 **Data and Inventories.** Develop and maintain centralized data to identify brownfields, land currently or previously designated as an industrial use, land that is contaminated, underused, abandoned, or vacant, and land with ongoing remediation projects, and encourage ground truthing methodologies that incorporate local knowledge and expertise.
- 3.4.4 **Landbanking.** Support landbanking strategies that facilitate the acquisition, management, and repurposing of previously contaminated underused, abandoned, or vacant sites, or transforming them into transitory productive uses (such as brightfields) that are aligned with local community priorities, support land use compatibility and enhance public and environmental health.
- 3.4.5 **Nature Based Solutions.** Promote clean up and remediation techniques that rely on low impact and cost effective natural and biological processes, such as phytoremediation or mycoremediation, that break down toxins and other hazardous materials in air, water, and soil.
- 3.4.6 **Water Remediation.** Support expanding and strengthening remediation efforts to remove hazardous substances from impaired bodies of water, focusing on restoring water quality and contributing to the long-term sustainability of local water resources.
- 3.4.7 **Environmental Health.** Advocate to clean up and remediate ecosystems, prevent further contamination, and ensure that communities impacted by environmental damage benefit from remediation efforts.
- 3.4.8 **Standard of Remediation.** Adhere to the highest standard of remediation for all sites, regardless of the subsequent use proposed, particularly sites in close proximity to sensitive uses or sensitive receptors, and promote thorough testing on sites that have been remediated to ensure adjacent and future uses are safe and healthy.
- 3.4.9 **Prioritized Revitalization.** Accelerate the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites with active community-led efforts, focusing on transforming sites into open space, parks, community gardens, and other health-promoting neighborhood-serving uses.

Objective

- 3.5 Reduce or eliminate the petroleum industry footprint with the greatest regard for public health, safety, the environment and in partnership with communities most directly impacted.

Policies

- 3.5.1 **New Oil Use Prohibitions.** Prohibit new and expanded oil and gas facilities and extraction technologies within and adjacent to residential areas and areas in close proximity to other sensitive receptors.

- 3.5.2 **Existing Oil Use Phase-Out.** Support the expedited preparation of plans, programs, and policies for the abandonment, proper plugging and remediation of all oil-related sites, prioritizing sites in residential areas and areas in close proximity to other sensitive receptors.
- 3.5.3 **Community Involvement and Priorities.** Support meaningful involvement strategies that incorporate local and tribal engagement to support petroleum use prohibitions, phase-out, and remediation programs, including efforts to identify the appropriate reuse of properly abandoned and remediated oil well sites as neighborhood-serving uses.
- 3.5.4 **Health and Safety.** Prioritize the health and safety of communities exposed to the impacts of petroleum related uses and operations by supporting efforts to expeditiously mitigate existing exposure to the highest standard of remediation and strengthen monitoring and enforcement standards. Efforts to protect health and safety may also include any discretionary or enforcement tools to abate any nuisance concerns, including the revocation of any land use approval.
- 3.5.5 **Public Notifications and Urgent Action.** Identify and implement feasible mechanisms, including any new requirements, in coordination with relevant agencies to provide timely notifications for the public regarding major repairs, improvements or other activities at petroleum related use sites and take urgent action to address significant exposure incidents including leaks and emissions events.
- 3.5.6 **Agency Coordination.** Establish more efficient collaboration, or strengthen existing partnerships, to ensure that petroleum-related facilities are operated with full compliance. Agency coordination is encouraged when also decommissioning these sites. Seek to maintain the transparency of inter-agency cooperation with impacted neighborhoods through proactive information sharing and accessible communication channels.
- 3.5.7 **Idle and Inactive Wells.** Identify priority well sites for abandonment and site remediation, in particular low-producing or idle/inactive wells and those in residential areas and areas in close proximity to other sensitive receptors, in collaboration with local oil operators and relevant agencies.
- 3.5.8 **Enhanced Review Standards.** Where credible health and safety issues have been identified, seek the highest level of discretionary review for changes at existing oil and gas extraction sites, surface production facilities, refineries and related activities. Prior to the issuance of a discretionary decision to approve changes to oil and gas extraction activities, engage in reasonable efforts to identify comprehensive abatement, fire prevention protocols and other emergency response plans.
- 3.5.9 **Design and Compatibility.** Ensure that existing oil well sites within residential areas and areas in close proximity to other sensitive receptors provide appropriate screening, fencing, landscaping, well-maintained equipment and all other necessary safeguards that protect public health and safety to increase compatibility and alleviate environmental and visual impacts until such time as they are phased out.

- 3.5.10 **Safe and Responsible Operations.** Support the requirement of expanded health and safety plans and the periodic review and reassessment of conditions and improvements to operations at existing oil-related sites and all existing uses that employ extraction technology, including fracking, acidizing, drilling or other technologies that involve potentially hazardous materials to include leak detection technology, installation of enclosures or other technologies that trap fugitive emissions and restricting hours of operation to reduce noise impacts, particularly within residential areas and areas in close proximity to other sensitive receptors.
- 3.5.11 **Orphan and Unplugged Wells.** Support robust programs that address orphan and unplugged wells, including those that complement soil and groundwater remediation and restoration policies, including the enhancement of plugging rules, increased assurances of private funding to plug wells, thorough contamination assessments, and reforms to well management and transfer rules.
- 3.5.12 **Community Informed Just Transition.** Ensure a just transition for workers and communities impacted by the phase out and new prohibitions of oil drilling and extraction activities by adhering to locally developed and community informed just transition strategies. Significant efforts are encouraged towards job training for the plugging and abandonment of oil wells, including decommissioning and property cleanup work programs.

Objective

- 3.6 Restore and reinvest in under-resourced communities by redressing historical disinvestment and promoting inclusive economic opportunities to build a more equitable and resilient future.

Policies

- 3.6.1 **Economic Resilience.** Reduce the debilitating impact that poverty has on individual, and community health and well-being by promoting cross-cutting efforts and partnerships to increase access to high resource areas that have been shown by research to be associated with positive economic, educational, and health outcomes, by facilitating the development of affordable housing opportunities, and by supporting social mobility and resilience, including opportunities that stem from prevention, remediation, and restoration initiatives to advance environmental justice.
- 3.6.2 **Economic Diversification.** Promote land use approaches that support diverse industries that integrate sustainable energy sources and prioritize human and environmental health to advance economic diversification that is beneficial to environmental justice communities.
- 3.6.3 **Anti-Displacement.** Evaluate and reduce or mitigate the impacts of displacement on individuals, families, and communities by pursuing localized

strategies to create opportunities for existing residents to benefit from local revitalization efforts and new transformative investments including employment and economic opportunities, expansion and preservation of existing affordable housing opportunities, and the preservation of cultural and social resources.

- 3.6.4 **Community Benefits.** Identify enduring community benefits derived from transformative investments and those associated with large scale development and major events to accelerate economic growth, social prosperity, and positive health outcomes in an inclusive and equitable manner and by prioritizing historically underserved communities facing environmental burdens.
- 3.6.5 **Just Transition.** Mitigate potential disproportionate burdens for businesses, workers and communities impacted by new land use prohibitions and land use restrictions that are enacted to protect the general welfare by supporting comprehensive equitable just transition strategies that provide for short-term and long-term economic relief including preparation, training, educational and vocational pipeline programs, and other systemic inclusion efforts.
- 3.6.6 **Small and Local Business Transition Incentives.** Strengthen access and opportunities for small and local businesses by encouraging and incentivizing their transition to sustainable operations that reduce environmental harm, benefit public health, and support employment, market access, and asset-building in historically underserved communities.
- 3.6.7 **Amortization Strategies.** In alignment with new land use prohibitions and land use restrictions that are enacted to protect the general welfare, develop amortization strategies that assess business operation impacts in conjunction with neighborhood impacts, including compatibility, public threats, nonconformance, and adaptability factors.
- 3.6.8 **Occupational Health and Safety Equity.** Promote safe and healthy work environments by supporting educational programming that focuses on measures to protect vulnerable workers in potentially hazardous work environments and by supporting actions such as new permit systems and fee structures that increase City alignment with State and Federal workplace regulations.
- 3.6.9 **Green Industries.** Encourage green, sustainable industries that support a resilient economic base, prioritize equitable access to high-skill, high-wage jobs, and benefit historically marginalized communities facing environmental burdens.
- 3.6.10 **Green Jobs and Local Hire.** Harness local knowledge and expertise and support a range of educational, training, and employment opportunities to promote labor participation in the green economy to bolster the economic advancement of workers from historically marginalized communities facing environmental burdens.
- 3.6.11 **Energy Justice.** Prioritize an equitable energy transition through social and economic participation in the energy system and remediate the social, economic, and health burdens on those historically harmed by the energy system.

Goal 4

A City where everyone breathes clean, healthy air.

Since the mid-20th century, the greater Los Angeles region has been leading the way in air pollution science, technological advancements, and innovative air quality regulation. Regional plans set air quality standards to protect public health and meet law requirements that regulate air emissions. These efforts have led to substantial improvements in air quality within the South Coast Air Basin that encompasses Los Angeles and the surrounding counties of the region, all during a period of significant increases in population, economic activity, and vehicle miles traveled.

The City of Los Angeles continues to advance strategies and practices that address air quality issues and also implements air quality action plans led by key departments. Despite significant improvements over recent decades, the City continues to face significant air pollution issues especially in its EJ Communities, where incompatible land uses and multiple sources of emissions are prevalent. Additionally, climate hazards, such as extreme heat, exacerbate air quality conditions by trapping pollutants in stagnant air and creating a combined health risk due to the combined exposure to heat and poor air quality, especially for those with respiratory illnesses or other health conditions.

This goal targets major air pollution sources, including mobile sources such as heavy-duty vehicles and stationary sources, such as industrial facilities. These policies elevate community priorities and focus on accelerating progress towards cleaner air to protect public health and the environment.

Objective

- 4.1 Reduce air pollution from all sources to minimize adverse impacts and eliminate significant health risks, particularly within environmental justice communities.

Policies

- 4.1.1 **Smart Growth.** Pursue smart growth strategies that foster infill and transit oriented development that supports a local balance of jobs and housing, and a mix of compatible uses while continuing to invest in sustainable multimodal mobility networks in underserved communities.
- 4.1.2 **Advocacy for Clean Air.** Prioritize clean air by providing guidance and education on actions businesses and individuals can take to decrease air pollution and encourage public participation in city-led initiatives and advocacy efforts at the regional, state, and federal levels.
- 4.1.3 **Place Based Strategies.** Develop community-led, localized strategies and plans that reduce pollution exposure and minimize emissions from local sources in the most pollution-burdened communities, and support the research, community engagement, and monitoring of local air quality conditions needed to inform those strategies.

- 4.1.4 **Connectivity and Accessibility.** Ensure that new and existing development is connected to public transit, electric vehicle infrastructure, and active transportation networks and amenities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and associated health and environmental impacts.
- 4.1.5 **Healthy Air.** Improve ambient air quality by reducing the level of air pollutants that may result in adverse health effects such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease, premature mortality, cancer, reproductive effects, neurological effects, and other health outcomes.
- 4.1.6 **Air Contaminants.** Reduce air pollution from transportation, heavy industrial, commercial uses, and other sources by improving emission and odor controls, waste and construction site management, dust suppression, and community monitoring.
- 4.1.7 **Improve Regulation.** In collaboration with regional air quality agencies, support public participation in the development of air quality regulations, modifying penalties for air pollution violations, and establishing air quality standards.
- 4.1.8 **Air Quality Monitoring.** Increase air quality monitoring of mobile and stationary sources in coordination with community members, adjacent municipalities (when applicable), and relevant agencies to identify data gaps, track conditions, raise awareness, and inform pollution reduction efforts that aim to achieve the highest standards of air quality in pollution- burdened communities.
- 4.1.9 **Greenhouse Gas Inventory.** Maintain a greenhouse gas inventory that quantifies the amount of greenhouse gasses released from municipal operations and community activity to measure and track progress over time, identify areas for further emission reduction, and make informed decisions to accelerate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4.1.10 **Respiratory Health Awareness.** Develop resources and community awareness programs that inform the public about the connection between health and air quality including information about common sources of air pollution and their potential impacts on human health.
- 4.1.11 **Freeway Impacts.** Protect the public from the adverse effects of vehicle-generated pollution and noise from freeways through design alternatives and sustainable elements, such as building orientation, landscaped buffers, and proper air filtration equipment.
- 4.1.12 **Freight Rail Operations.** Support planning and development of zero-emission infrastructure for freight operations, continued compliance with air quality standards, and adoption of cleaner technologies and lower-emitting equipment to lessen the disproportionate and cumulative impact on adjacent communities.
- 4.1.13 **Zero Emissions.** Accelerate the transition to a zero-emissions future with strategies to reduce pollution from aircraft, ships, trucks, trains, harbor craft, and cargo-handling equipment.
- 4.1.14 **Port of Los Angeles.** Support the continued implementation of the Port of Los Angeles' Clean Air Action Plan and related initiatives that aim to reduce air pollution and health impacts from all Port and related operations, and encourage plan updates

that are timely and responsive to local air quality conditions/trends and technological advancements.

- 4.1.15 **Airports and Los Angeles World Airports.** Support continued implementation of the Los Angeles World Airports' (LAWA) Sustainability Action Plan and related initiatives that focus on water quality improvements, reduction of noise impacts, and green infrastructure and sustainability programs that reduce GHG emissions at airports.
- 4.1.16 **Indoor Air Quality.** Address indoor air quality conditions by pursuing design interventions and other strategies (including natural ventilation, air filtration, sustainable design elements, and the transitioning to clean technology) that minimize pollution from sources such as fuel combustion, gas stoves, and heating systems.
- 4.1.17 **Natural Disaster Pollution and Exposure.** Coordinate across agencies and local groups to develop programs that assess, reduce, limit, and monitor exposure to air pollutants following natural disasters, as well as facilitate access to data, increase transparency, and help improve emergency notifications to protect residents and workers.

Objective

- 4.2 Reduce pollution from mobile sources and area sources of air pollution to minimize adverse impacts and eliminate significant health risks, particularly within environmental justice communities.

Policies

- 4.2.1 **Travel Demand Management.** In alignment with the Mobility Plan, incentivize and promote strategies that reduce vehicle miles traveled, single-occupancy vehicle trips, and general dependence on private vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; strategies include telecommuting, subsidized transit passes, parking management, transportation demand management (TDM) plans, special event coordination, and flexible work hours, etc.
- 4.2.2 **Multimodal Infrastructure.** In alignment with the Mobility Plan, encourage the use of transit and active modes (such as walking and biking) by developing complete streets with multimodal infrastructure, in order to reduce private vehicle emissions and promote health, while prioritizing the safety, convenience, and comfort of the most vulnerable users.
- 4.2.3 **Goods Movement.** Reduce or eliminate emissions from goods movement uses, including from on-road sources (such as heavy-duty vehicles) and non-road sources (including heavy equipment and cargo handling equipment), by shifting to innovative technologies that are fuel-efficient and low-carbon, and improving regulations through enhanced interagency collaboration.
- 4.2.4 **Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure.** Increase EV ownership and affordability by connecting pollution-burdened and low-income communities with available incentives, low- interest loans, programs, and other resources for the purchase/lease of EVs and

at-home EV chargers, and increase charging infrastructure access by supporting public and workplace EV chargers.

- 4.2.5 **Truck Routes.** Support truck routes regulations that facilitate the safe movement of goods to and from industrial and commercial uses, alleviate conflicts with other vehicles, minimize noise and air pollution impacts on sensitive uses and sensitive receptors, and minimize the intrusion of trucks into residential neighborhoods.
- 4.2.6 **No-Idling Zones.** Expand no-idling zones, the installation of no idling signs, and resources for dedicated enforcement in communities exposed to impacts from idling vehicles including heavy-duty vehicles and other commercial vehicles that contribute to poor air quality.

Objective

- 4.3 Reduce pollution from stationary sources of air pollution to minimize adverse impacts and eliminate significant health risks, particularly within environmental justice communities.

Policies

- 4.3.1 **Impactful Operations.** Create strategies that reduce air pollution posed by heavy industrial operations that produce emissions, odors, vapors, dust, waste, and other disruptive impacts on local residents and surrounding communities.
- 4.3.2 **Light Industrial/Heavy Commercial Impacts.** Support the development of strategies to prevent an overconcentration of light-industrial and/or heavy-commercial uses to avoid cumulative impacts on adjacent communities that are disproportionately affected.
- 4.3.3 **Oil and Gas Operations.** Ensure that all oil and gas operations, including extraction, refining, and processing, adhere to stringent monitoring and emissions standards for pollutants, including but not limited to, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), lead (Pb), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), and greenhouse gases (GHGs).

Goal 5

A City that is prepared, responsive, and resilient to the effects of climate change and protects the most vulnerable, exposed, sensitive, and underresourced communities.

Global temperatures are rising. Extreme weather events are happening more frequently and climate hazard risks and impacts are becoming more widespread and intense. Unique topography and historical development patterns leave much of the City vulnerable and this vulnerability is compounded by existing health and environmental disparities, further exacerbating the effects of climate change.

While everyone is affected by climate change, not everyone is affected equally. The likelihood and extent that a person, place, or thing will be harmed is called vulnerability. Harm is dependent on exposure and sensitivity factors. Exposure is the physical contact or intersection with a hazard while sensitivity refers to the capacity to return to daily life or function when conditions change. Sensitivity measures both physical and social impacts. These measures together provide insight into the adaptive capacity of communities to recover from climate hazard impacts. In Los Angeles, climate hazards predominantly include: extreme heat, extreme precipitation, flooding, drought, wildfire, and sea level rise. These hazards can lead to related public health impacts.

Building on the results of the City's first Climate Vulnerability Assessment, mitigation strategies, resources and community solutions to address the climate impacts were identified. This goal enshrines these solutions informed by the lived experiences of vulnerable communities and supports climate action and adaptation planning that centers equity. By taking bold steps such as committing to carbon neutrality, Los Angeles is working to secure a resilient future.

Objective

- 5.1 Increase the City's resilience to climate hazard-related risks by implementing cross departmental comprehensive climate hazard mitigation and adaptation strategies, best practices, plans and programs that prioritize those with existing public health burdens, limited access to resources, and the highest risk of severe impacts.

Policies

- 5.1.1 **Plan for Climate Equity.** Incorporate climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience best practices, plans, and programs into land use, design, policy, and zoning decisions, including but not limited to, plans for climate action and adaptation and air quality plans that center equity and contain neighborhood level strategies.

- 5.1.2 **Climate Change Data, Research, and Monitoring.** Collaborate with tribal, public, private, academic, community-based, nonprofit programs and other local organizations to maintain a comprehensive centralized database on climate hazards, climate impacts, and factors that influence adaptive capacity, including the public health outcomes of vulnerable, exposed, and sensitive populations, and ensure data is accessible, translated and communicated effectively.
- 5.1.3 **Climate-Focused Outreach and Engagement.** In coordination with tribal, public, private, academic, community-based, nonprofit programs and other local organizations, promote and expand multi-lingual educational programming that informs vulnerable, exposed, and sensitive populations about risks and health impacts associated with climate hazards, including the effects of poor air quality days, and proactively engage community members to co-design climate change mitigation and resiliency plans, and programs and share available resources.
- 5.1.4 **Resilient Design.** Support climate adapted design interventions that enhance opportunities to derive multiple public health and environmental benefits, including the integration of nature-based solutions and sustainable/ecological architecture that reduce climate hazard risks.
- 5.1.5 **Resilient Infrastructure.** Perform and expand the regular maintenance and inspection of infrastructure systems and take proactive, preventative measures to reduce and/or prevent exacerbated impacts of climate hazards with the most advanced technology available, prioritizing investments in areas where vulnerable, exposed, or sensitive populations reside.
- 5.1.6 **Resilient Public Facilities.** Establish or expand the maintenance and operation of safe and accessible public facilities or installations and integrated delivery of services with the most advanced technology available that support the needs of vulnerable, exposed, and sensitive populations impacted by climate hazards and climate emergencies, particularly in underresourced areas.
- 5.1.7 **Emergency Assistance.** Prepare for and respond to climate emergencies and prioritize emergency assistance and disaster recovery assistance for communities with vulnerable, exposed, and sensitive populations with the least adaptive capacity or least access to resources to recover from the effects of climate hazards or climate-related disasters.
- 5.1.8 **Equitable Recovery.** Promote preparation, response, and recovery efforts that are safe, resilient, and equitable to address major climate-related disasters, including relief and rebuilding resources that address social resiliency, economic displacement, and environmental cleanup.
- 5.1.9 **Climate Hazards.** Address the City's unique climate hazards and the cascading effects of more intense and frequent extreme weather events, by developing plans, programs, and strategies that confront the climate crisis with urgency and prioritize vulnerable, exposed, or sensitive populations and those with the least adaptive capacity.

- 5.1.10 **Public Health Impacts.** Comprehensively address the cumulative, compounding, or secondary impacts of climate change on public health by reducing exposure, deploying preventative multi-lingual educational programs and resources, and prioritizing communities with the least adaptive capacity.

Objective

- 5.2 Achieve carbon neutrality by promoting plans, programs, and strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and result in improved air quality especially for vulnerable, exposed, and sensitive populations and others susceptible to respiratory diseases.

Policies

- 5.2.1 **Climate Adaptive Development.** Foster new and existing development to incorporate climate resilient materials, adaptive technologies, green infrastructure and building design elements that increase resiliency, conserve resources, and protect the health of the public and the environment, prioritizing the most overburdened communities in a cost effective manner
- 5.2.2 **Climate Resilient City Operations.** Continue the City's commitment to climate equity, sustainability, and resilience by prioritizing investment towards technological innovation and sustainable operations such as renewable energy, electrification, and decarbonization that result in increased efficiency and optimized grid capacity, safeguarding the health and well-being of communities and the environment in a cost effective manner.
- 5.2.3 **Climate Action.** Shift investment from climate action solutions that have not demonstrated the ability to significantly reduce the impact of climate hazards, including solutions that continue to use extractive resources that contribute to climate change, and prioritize investment in climate action solutions that provide the greatest overall benefits to the environment and public health.

Goal 6

A City that is a place of refuge and prosperity with high quality facilities, services, and lifelong opportunities that nurture personal and community growth and center health and wellness.

Factors in the built environment have a significant impact on an individual's health. In Los Angeles, where a person lives often determines their health destiny. Geographic location is such an important indicator of health that a significant gap spanning more than a decade exists between the life expectancy of a person born and raised in Watts compared to that of a person born and raised in Brentwood. The effects of historic economic, environmental and social disinvestment within the City's Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities, which are primarily composed of low-income communities of color, continues to negatively affect health outcomes. Residents in these communities travel far greater distances than those in higher resourced areas to access essential goods and services. This disparity becomes even more pronounced during public health emergencies, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, where the lack of protective factors increased vulnerability and delayed the ability for communities to recover.

When people live in supportive environments that promote healthy lifestyles, they require less medical care, experience fewer chronic conditions, and enjoy improved long-term public health outcomes. For instance, people who live within walking distance of a park are more likely to engage in physical activity, experience improved mental health, and enjoy environmental benefits tied to green space. Further, a strong educational foundation gives people the opportunity to find good jobs, which in turn influences decisions that ultimately shape health and well-being. Strengthening opportunities for learning at all stages of life can also enhance personal fulfillment, social inclusion, and civic engagement. This leads to safer neighborhoods, where trust and dignity are the foundation for public safety.

Planning for health is a prevention strategy which is one of the most affordable and effective ways to improve health outcomes and advance health equity. This goal guides the continued development of health-supportive infrastructure. This includes well-designed community spaces, innovative food retail strategies, expansion of health providing facilities, increased access to parks and open spaces, and other essential goods and services that foster growth and prosperity. The City should strive to continue working collaboratively with partners who have the expertise and capacity to lead community-driven solutions and meet the needs of current and future residents.

Objective

- 6.1 Foster healthy living conditions by creating an equitable built environment that expands access to essential high quality public goods.

Policies

- 6.1.1 **Safe and Connected Communities.** Promote high quality public spaces and amenities that foster positive social interactions, relationship building, and community resilience by encouraging innovative urban design approaches that enhance mental and physical health benefits and that promote safe passages and community hubs in neighborhoods.
- 6.1.2 **Design for Quality.** Promote human-centered high quality design and amenities in every neighborhood that elevate design for dignity principles that recognize the relationship between the built environment and health and well-being to create accessible, safe, attractive, and comfortable places.
- 6.1.3 **Access for Individuals with Disabilities.** Strive to eliminate barriers for individuals with permanent and temporary disabilities to access healthcare facilities and other facilities, services, and resources.
- 6.1.4 **Purposeful Aging.** Mobilize and support a life-long process of active aging by creating a positive, socially inclusive, and supportive environment with barrier-free buildings and streets, enhanced mobility and independence of people with disabilities, safe neighborhoods, equitable opportunities for volunteer and paid work, and other considerations that support older adults.
- 6.1.5 **Schools as Centers for Health and Well-Being.** Support strategies that make schools centers of health and well-being by creating economic, environmental, social, and physical conditions in and around local schools that are safe, abundant in healthy goods and services, and offer opportunities for physical activity and recreation.
- 6.1.6 **Healthcare Facilities and Services.** Encourage the equitable distribution of healthcare facilities and services, including federally qualified health centers, hospitals, pharmacies, urgent care, and mental health services, to ensure access to preventive care and medical treatment.
- 6.1.7 **Basic Amenities.** Promote increased access to basic amenities to support active living and access to health-promoting resources, including public restrooms and free drinking water in public spaces.
- 6.1.8 **Foundation for Health.** Lay the foundation for healthy communities and healthy living by promoting infrastructure improvements and solutions that integrate gray and green technologies with social and ecological practices grounded in environmental justice to create safe, attractive, and comfortable facilities to meet community needs.
- 6.1.9 **Healthy Buildings.** Encourage the rehabilitation of older building stock, including housing in alignment with the Housing Element, to remove toxic building materials and eliminate other unhealthy conditions, reduce exposure to climate hazards, and enhance design features to increase healthy living and working conditions.

- 6.1.10 **Public Health Emergencies.** Promote the expansion of infrastructure, facilities, services, and systems to prevent or prepare for public health emergencies including ensuring equitable access to healthcare (including vaccines), personal protective equipment, information, and other tools and technology that safeguards public health, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable communities with rapid, equitable and enhanced coordinated action.

Objective

- 6.2 Preserve and expand open space opportunities, including recreational, ecological, and natural resources, to promote public and environmental health.

Policies

- 6.2.1 **Parks and Programs.** In alignment with the Open Space Element, strive for the equitable distribution and access to safe, high quality parks, open space facilities, and recreational programs that support local partnerships and provide diverse physical activity opportunities across all ages and levels of abilities.
- 6.2.2 **Waterways and Waterbodies.** In alignment with the Open Space Element, support the implementation of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and pursue additional waterway and waterbody restoration efforts and contribute to an interconnected open space system and amenities.
- 6.2.3 **Multi-Benefit Open Space.** Support policies, programs, and procedures that encourage open space opportunities that deliver the greatest overall benefits to public and environmental health, bolster climate resilience, and leverage existing efforts and investments that prioritize underserved communities.
- 6.2.4 **No Net Loss of Open Space.** Consider equitable compensatory mitigation strategies to avoid, minimize, or compensate for the loss of open space land, including through the restoration, creation, enhancement, or preservation of open space, as a means to achieve no net loss of open space.
- 6.2.5 **Open Space Incentives.** Incentivize, encourage and facilitate opportunities for new development to provide open space that is accessible to residents of the site, and as feasible publicly accessible, while allowing for design flexibility and innovation to expand open space in the City.

Objective

- 6.3 Advance food security with an accessible, resilient, and sustainable food system that nourishes communities.

Policies

- 6.3.1 **Local Food Systems Connections and Industry.** Promote the development of a local food system and industry that will increase access to affordable and fresh food in underserved communities, create jobs and economic opportunities, and reduce distribution costs and pollution associated with transporting foods over long distances.
- 6.3.2 **Equitable Access to Healthy Food Outlets.** Pursue funding, public, private, and nonprofit partnerships, and develop financial, land use and similar incentives and programs to encourage the equitable availability of healthy, fresh, and affordable food outlets, such as farmer markets, full service grocery stores, and quality sit-down restaurants within close proximity of all residences.
- 6.3.3 **Food Innovations.** Proactively encourage and promote innovative food microenterprises, such as street (sidewalk) vending and other similar models, that create economic development opportunities for entrepreneurs, and improve access to affordable, fresh, healthy food in the most underserved neighborhoods.
- 6.3.4 **Food Security and Assistance.** Foster community-led innovative agricultural initiatives and programs that create family-supporting, career-ladder jobs, eliminate hunger, promote food security, and support access to food assistance for all ages.
- 6.3.5 **Food Empowerment.** Foster and promote local initiatives and partnerships that empower, educate, and train communities to grow and eat healthy food.
- 6.3.6 **Urban Agriculture.** Encourage and preserve land for urban agriculture to ensure a long-term supply of locally produced healthy food by increasing urban agriculture opportunity sites for community gardens, parkway gardens, urban farms, rooftop gardens and other similar uses, particularly in underserved areas.
- 6.3.7 **Food Rescue and Recovery.** Ensure a sustainable food system that is climate resilient by encouraging the conservation of resources throughout the food cycle including through mechanisms that encourage food generators and consumers to rescue and recover edible food for consumption and reduce organic waste.

Objective

- 6.4 Cultivate a system of prosperity with inclusive opportunities that enhance quality of life for individuals of all ages.

Policies

- 6.4.1 **Early Childhood Education.** Support early childhood education programs that equip all children with the tools, resources, and foundation needed to succeed.
- 6.4.2 **Youth Development.** Promote positive youth development strategies such as leadership and employment programs to improve educational and professional outcomes that support personal and community success.
- 6.4.3 **Educational Opportunities.** Support initiatives and partnerships that enhance access to services and resources, empowering all community members, including justice involved individuals and other at-risk groups, to prepare for educational opportunities and long-term success that fortifies healthy community participation or reintegration.
- 6.4.4 **Workforce Opportunities.** Develop and implement workforce training and placement programs that increase economic opportunities through education, job training, apprenticeships, and other labor and vocational partnerships, and community empowerment strategies for individuals who have barriers to employment, including by leveraging major infrastructure and similar catalytic investments.
- 6.4.5 **Wealth-Building Opportunities.** Expand wealth generation opportunities, including homeownership opportunities in alignment with the Housing Element, and protect communities from practices that undermine intergenerational wealth accumulation, especially for underserved communities.
- 6.4.6 **Arts, Culture, and Services that Enhance Well-Being.** Support programming that integrates arts, culture, traditions, and customs that enhance mental health, social connectedness and overall well-being.
- 6.4.7 **Public Libraries.** Continue a public library system that provides cultural, health, social, and lifelong learning services that open the doors for empowerment, resilience, and opportunity for all.
- 6.4.8 **Community Care and Safety.** Support efforts that improve public safety outcomes through community-based strategies that promote trust and partnership and impact the social and economic conditions that drive community harm, including non-punitive approaches such as civilian first responders, violence interruption, re-entry services, anti-recidivism and diversion programs, and capacity-building programs for service providers that address community safety.

Chapter 4: Implementation Programs

What is an Implementation Program?

An implementation program is a coordinated series of actions that are intended to advance the General Plan's goals, objectives, and policies. Decisions to implement specific programs are discretionary and governed by program cost, available funding, staffing, feasibility and similar considerations. Because the City's priorities and perspectives continually evolve, new techniques and superior methods to achieve the General Plan's aspirations may be identified. Therefore, programs the City may pursue can change, retaining the discretion to make adjustments and modifications in its approach without formally amending the General Plan. Ultimately, the aspirations of the Health and Environmental Justice Element will be implemented in a manner that best serves the public health, safety and general welfare and over time, as circumstances change, multiple ways may be identified to achieve desired outcomes.

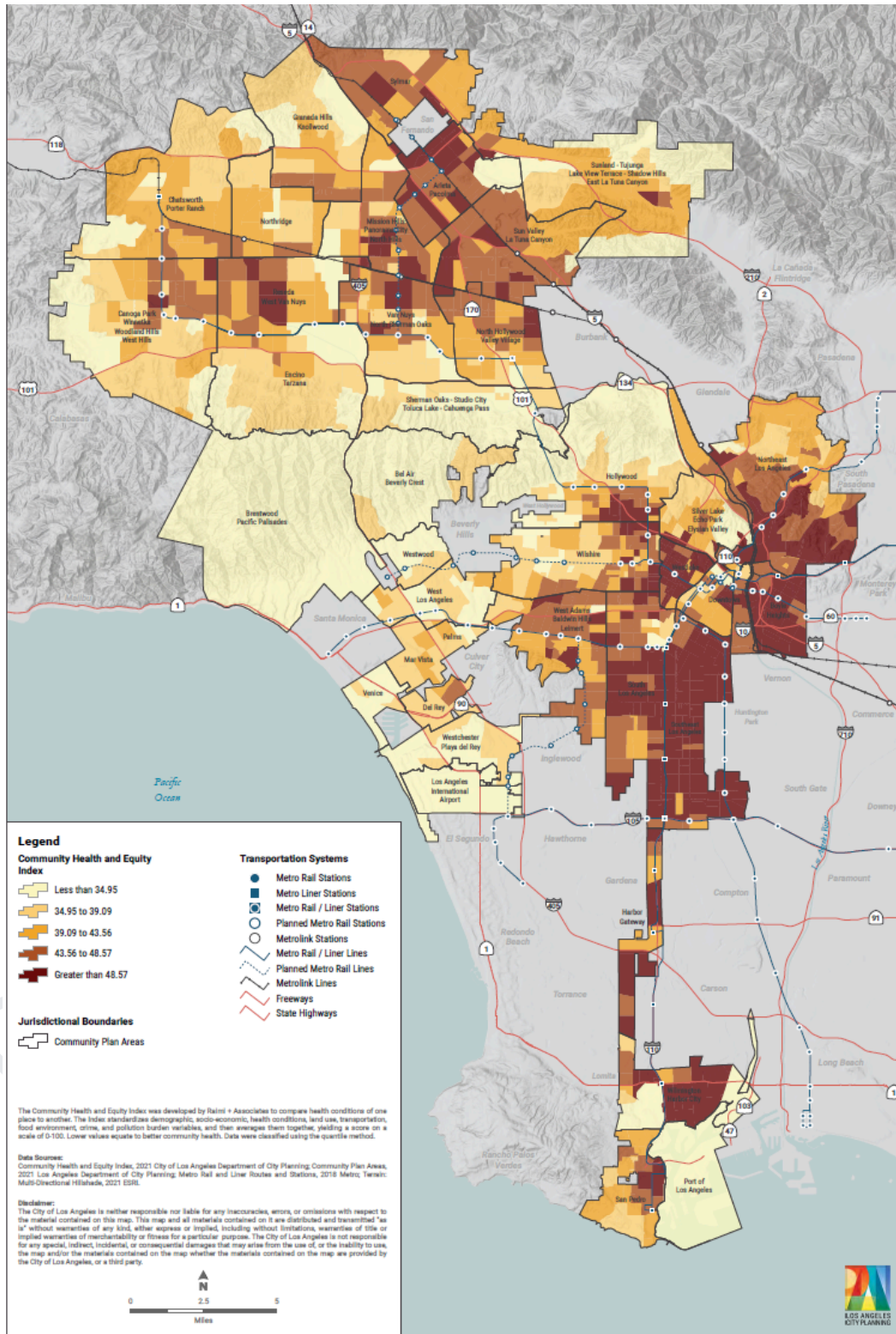
The following list of implementation programs include a brief description of the program, corresponding policies supporting the program, and the timeframe proposed for the program to launch. Programs in some cases may be synthesized and generalized from among many actions in order to holistically and comprehensively address a particular issue. Generally, short term goals describe programs recommended to launch within 0-5 years, medium term goals are 5-10 years, and long term goals are 10-15 years and beyond. In addition, some programs are described as ongoing, meaning that they may already be operational, but are captured in the list to reflect a community priority for its continued operation.

Some programs are assigned to the Department of City Planning, however, the large majority of programs are intended to be carried out over time by multiple departments and agencies. Therefore, each program is assigned a particular department to lead its implementation, but it is possible that additional agencies and departments may also be involved.

Implementation Programs

[Placeholder for implementation programs table]

Appendix 1: Los Angeles Community and Health Equity Index



Appendix 2: Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles (2021) Objectives

Recognizing the importance of the aspirational and measurable objectives set forth in the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, this Appendix hereby memorializes them and should continue to be aspirational measures of City goals.

Background

The structure of each element within the General Plan consists of a grouping of components that are guided by a common vision. These components traditionally consist of goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs, however each element might vary in structure.

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles (Health Element) which was first adopted in 2015 and amended in 2021, contains goals, objectives, and policies that were considered through a community-driven effort. Each goal is followed by a set of objectives that are defined as aspirational measures of goal attainment and precede a set of corresponding policies. The Health and Environmental Justice Element took a different approach that modernized the structure. This new format separated measurable targets from policy statements to improve alignment with other General Plan elements that have been recently updated. As such, the new structure consists of goals, objectives, and policies that carry over the policy intent of the former structure with careful consideration. The former objectives preserved in this Appendix can continue to serve as aspirational benchmarks for future City actions and initiatives, allowing for the new Health and Environmental Justice to move forward as the primary policy document where health, wellness, and prosperity continue to be prioritized.

Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles Objectives

- Increase the life expectancy citywide by 5% and reduce the disparity between the City's highest life expectancy Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) and lowest life expectancy PUMA by at least 50%. (Health Atlas Map 37)
- Reduce the coronary heart disease (CHD) mortality rate citywide by 20% and reduce the disparity between City Council Districts with the highest and lowest CHD mortality rates by at least 50%. (Health Atlas Map 38)
- Reduce the diabetes mortality rate citywide by 20% and reduce the disparity between the City Council Districts with the highest and lowest diabetes mortality rates by at least 50%. (Health Atlas Map 41)
- Reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity citywide by 20% and reduce the disparity between Community Plan Areas with the highest and lowest prevalence by 50%.
- Increase the number of health professionals in the 12 Community Plan Areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. (Health Atlas Map 51)

- Decrease the average annual rate of motor vehicle collisions with pedestrians per 10,000 residents so that no Community Plan Area has a rate higher than 7 collisions per 10,000 residents (average annual rate citywide in 2001-2010). (Health Atlas Map 80)
- Decrease the average annual rate of motor vehicle collisions with bicyclists per 10,000 residents so that no Community Plan Area has a rate higher than 3 per 10,000 residents (average annual rate citywide in 2001-2010). (Health Atlas Map 81)
- Increase the number of free or low-cost daycare centers, head start programs, and preschools in the City of Los Angeles in the Community Plan Areas with the lowest educational attainment rates.
- Increase the number of underutilized spaces (easements, parkways, vacant lots and spaces, vacated railways, and similar) that are repurposed for health-promoting activities in low-income communities.
- Increase the number of medical services (federally qualified health clinics, acute general hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, acute psychiatric hospitals, intermediate care facilities, and the like) in the Community Plan Areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. (Health Atlas Map 52)
- Increase the number of neighborhood and community parks so that every Community Plan Area strives for 3 acres of neighborhood and community park space per 1000 residents (excluding regional parks and open spaces). (Health Atlas Map 62)
- Increase access to parks so that 75% of all residents are within a ¼ mile walk of a park or open space facility. (Health Atlas Map 63)
- Increase the number of schools (public, private, and charter) that have shared use agreements for community use outside of normal school hours by 25%.
- Increase the miles of the Los Angeles River that are revitalized for natural open space and physical activity, particularly in low-income areas.
- Increase the number of parks that feature or incorporate universally-accessible features.
- Improve the percentage of citywide population meeting physical fitness standards per week so that 50% percent of the population meets physical activity guidelines.
- Increase access to and the availability of healthy food retail options in low-income and underserved areas of the city, placing an emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables so that all Community Plan Area has an average Modified Retail Food Environment Index Score greater than 11 (2011 citywide average). (Health Atlas Map 85)
- Increase the number of grocery stores in low-income and underserved areas so that every Community Plan Area has at least 0.6 grocery stores for every 10,000 residents (2011 citywide average). (Health Atlas Map 86)
- Increase the number of Angelenos who live within one-mile of farmers markets.
- Increase the number of community gardens so that every Community Plan Area has at least one community garden (one acre) per 2,500 households. (Health Atlas Map 86)
- Increase the number of healthy food retailers that accept CalFresh EBT by 50% in low-income Community Plan Areas with the highest percentage of households participating in SNAP. (Health Atlas Map 91)
- Increase the number of Farmers Markets that participate in Market Match in the City.
- Increase the CalFresh EBT enrollment of eligible recipients. (Health Atlas Map 91)

- Decrease the respiratory disease mortality rate citywide by 20% and reduce the disparity between the City Council Districts with the highest and lowest respiratory disease mortality rates by at least 50%. (Health Atlas Map 42)
- Decrease the rate of asthma-related emergency department (ED) visits among children citywide by 20% and reduce the disparity between the Community Plan Areas with the highest and lowest rates of ED by at least 50%. (Health Atlas Map 43)
- Reduce the disparity in communities that are impacted by a high Pollution Exposure Score (exposure to six exposures indicators, including ozone, and PM2.5 concentrations, diesel, PM concentrations, pesticide use, toxic releases from facilities, and traffic density) so that every zip code has a score less than 1.7 (2013 citywide average). (Health Atlas Map 111)
- Reduce the disparity in Environmental Effects (adverse environmental conditions caused by pollutants including clean-up sites, impaired water bodies, groundwater threats, and solid waste sites and facilities and hazardous waste facilities) so that every zip code has an Environmental Effects Score less than 3.4 (2013 citywide average). (Health Atlas Map 112)
- Reduce ground surface temperature over time measured using satellite imagery.
- Increase the number of low-income children and families who access early childhood education programs.
- Increase educational programming (early education and school-aged) in the Community Plan Areas with over 30% of the population who did not graduate from high school and living in poverty. (Health Atlas Map 30)
- Increase the percentage of the population aged 25 and over that graduates from high school so that no Community Plan Area has more than 26% of the population without a high school diploma (2010 citywide average). (Health Atlas Map 26)
- Increase the number of older adults who receive job training.
- Increase the number of businesses that receive services and training from the City's business resource programs.
- Increase the number of residents with barriers to employment that gain work experience through participation in the City's workforce training programs.
- Reduce violent crime in the City with an emphasis on reducing crime rates in the most impacted communities so that no census tract has a violent crime rate greater than 5.8 (current citywide average). (Health Atlas Map 94)
- Increase the number of Safe Passage programs that are implemented in the City's low-income neighborhoods.
- Increase the number of non-violent vulnerable offenders (homeless, youth, individuals with mental health issues, etc.) who are diverted from incarceration and rerouted into support services.
- Increase the number of at-risk youth who participate in the Gang Reduction and Youth Development and similar comprehensive gang intervention and prevention programs.

Appendix 3: COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Equity Index

