

Outreach & Engagement Summary

Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase

Introduction

The Department of City Planning launched the Environmental Justice Policy Program in August 2023 to comprehensively centralize and strengthen environmental justice policies in the City's General Plan. This multi-year initiative includes a robust community outreach and engagement component designed to acknowledge and address historical injustices and systemic inequities that have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities, including low-income communities of color. These communities, referred to as EJ Communities, have shouldered the weight of environmental burdens, often living next to noxious uses that heighten exposure to pollutants and increase health disparities, a result of the effects of discriminatory land use practices from Los Angeles' past. Climate change has exacerbated these injustices by disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities with additional environmental stressors.

This summary provides an overview of the outreach and engagement efforts carried out from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 as part of the Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase of the Environmental Justice Policy Program. It outlines the diverse approaches used to involve community members in shaping the General Plan and provides a snapshot of the feedback received.

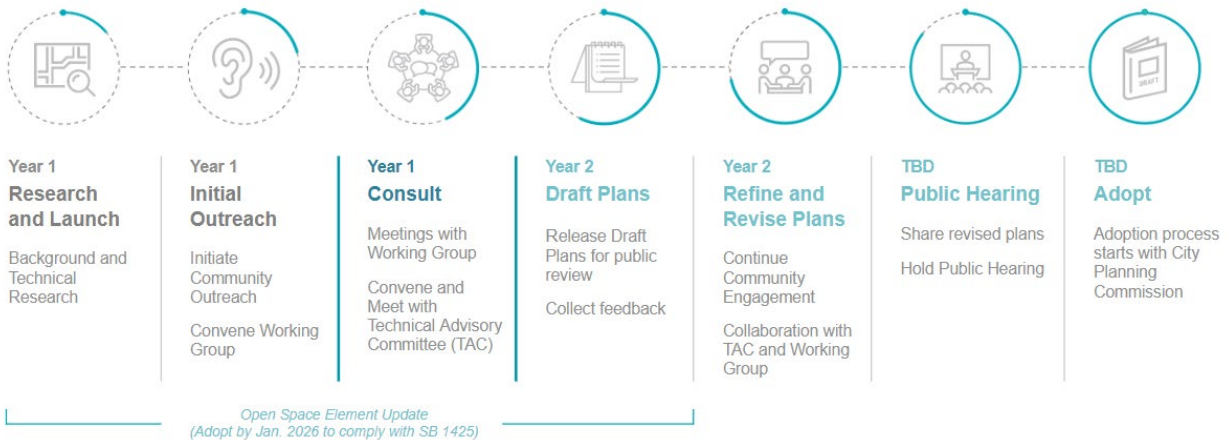
Background

The General Plan contains goals, policies, and programs that inform land use decisions, and ultimately shape and guide the physical development of the City. The General Plan is organized into chapters, called Elements, which address various land use topics. The Environmental Justice Policy Program will result in the creation of a new Environmental Justice Element by updating and combining the Health and Air Quality Elements. In addition, a targeted update to the Open Space Element addressing environmental justice and climate resilience topics will be brought forward on a parallel track.



Program Timeline

The Environmental Justice Policy Program is a multi-year effort with outreach and engagement opportunities in every phase of the process, as shown in the program timeline below.



Outreach and Engagement Strategy

A critical component of the Environmental Justice Policy work program is the meaningful involvement of EJ Communities. For the Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase, feedback was collected from a diverse range of stakeholders via a wide variety of formats, including community events, presentations, meetings, office hours, workshops, interviews, and a community survey.


The following goals helped guide the community outreach and engagement process:

- Raise awareness and gather community input
- Prioritize Environmental Justice Communities
- Engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including youth and historically underrepresented groups
- Collaborate with key community-based organizations (CBOs) to amplify and facilitate information sharing
- Ensure accessibility and inclusivity
- Employ multiple outreach and communication methods
- Build a foundation of community trust for future phases
- Incorporate feedback from other City initiatives

The sections below provide insight into the implementation of these goals in further detail.

Areas of Focus

EJ Communities were prioritized for the EJ Policy Program's Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase in order to begin the process of creating awareness, building community trust, and



gathering initial feedback about ongoing neighborhood concerns and policy needs to address them. These areas of focus 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 that 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 Los Angeles Health Atlas, developed as a supporting document of the Health Element, catalogs and maps environmental and socio-economic variables for the City of Los Angeles. The Community Health and Equity Index in Appendix A maps the relationship between social, economic, and environmental factors impacting communities in the City.

Based on these two sources, the communities of Boyle Heights, Northeast LA, South LA, Southeast LA, Wilmington, Watts, Harbor Gateway, Pacoima, Sun Valley and North Hollywood are some of the City's communities known to be most impacted by environmental injustices and are the areas of focus for the EJ Policy Program.

Communication and Materials

In an effort to ensure an inclusive and accessible outreach and engagement process, the EJ Policy Program developed a variety of materials that were hosted on a centralized project website. In-person interactions were prioritized supported by various communications methods, which consisted of various forms of activities that allowed for a range of feedback styles. Visually heavy materials facilitated conversations that resulted in responses in the form of written and verbal comments and ranked priorities on activity boards. EJ Communities are home to some of the City's largest concentrations of monolingual Spanish speakers; therefore, program materials were also developed in Spanish, including a fact sheet, fliers, community survey, activity boards and website (Appendix B: Program Materials). Additionally, a majority of the EJ Policy Program staff consisted of bilingual speakers which ensured that every activity was covered by Spanish-speaking staff. Ongoing social media posts, website updates, and emails were also translated. A bilingual social media toolkit was developed and shared with CBOs to expand awareness about the EJ Policy Program.

In partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, ads were run on DASH buses throughout the city to promote the EJ Policy Program and to solicit responses for a community survey.

Related Outreach Efforts

A parallel effort to the EJ Policy Program is a Climate Vulnerability Assessment, or CVA, which focuses on how climate change directly impacts people and communities. The CVA prioritizes the meaningful engagement of EJ Communities to examine the social and physical vulnerabilities of climate hazards. The primary outreach component of the CVA is a paid

partnership with six CBOs that are leading the community outreach and engagement process. Community input received for the CVA will inform policy development for the EJ Policy Program.

Additionally, the EJ Policy Program acknowledges and builds on past and ongoing City initiatives and community-led efforts throughout the City to advance environmental justice. Input collected from past outreach and engagement activities across multiple initiatives was reviewed to identify environmental justice themes that will inform the development of policies in programs. Recent efforts led by City Planning that center environmental justice include the Boyle Heights, Wilmington-Harbor City and Harbor Gateway Community Plan updates, the development of the Landscape and Site Design Ordinance, and with the advocacy of the Stand LA Coalition, the recently adopted Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance. Additionally, other community-led efforts include three AB 617 Communities¹ within the City and their respective Community Emission Reduction Plans (CERPS) and Community Air Monitoring Plans (CAMPS). The EJ Policy Program will continue coordinating and incorporating environmental justice feedback from related efforts.

Summary of Activities

Community Events



Figure 1: CicLAMini, North Hollywood, September 17, 2023

Attending large community events within the areas of focus was a key strategy to meet and engage community members where they are and capture the voices of those most impacted by environmental injustices (Appendix C: Outreach and Engagement Events and Activities). These larger gatherings, organized by community groups, were an efficient and effective method to reach a large number of people, providing the opportunity to spread awareness about the EJ Policy Program, promote and conduct the community survey, distribute informational materials, and spark conversations about environmental justice and local needs.

¹ Assembly Bill 617 (2017) established the Community Air Protection Program focused on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. AB 617 communities are designated by California Air Resources Board (CARB), and they specify the plan(s) for the community as either an emissions reduction program, an air monitoring system, or both. Within the City of Los Angeles, this includes the South Los Angeles AB617 Community and portions of the East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce AB617 Community and the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach AB617 Community, who collaborate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

Activity and survey participants received small giveaways for providing feedback, including posters, stickers, pens, hand sanitizers, sunglasses, dog bowls, and seed packets.



Figure 2: CicLAmini, Wilmington, May 19, 2024

Staff also organized “pop-ups” at local hubs in order to reach community members in places they frequent, maximizing visibility and interaction and making it convenient for them to learn about and engage with the EJ Policy Program. Two pop-ups were arranged: a Wednesday morning at the Northgate Market in Southeast Los Angeles and a Sunday afternoon at the Boyle Heights Community Farmers Market. These locations were chosen due to their accessibility and popularity. At these pop-ups, community members asked questions, provided feedback, and participated in interactive activities, all while continuing their regular routines.


Office Hours

The Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase provided diverse opportunities for members of the public to share their experiences and environmental concerns. Office hours were dedicated times when the public could schedule one-on-one conversations with a representative from the EJ Policy Program to ask questions, provide feedback, and learn more about City Planning. Over 50 virtual office hour time slots were made available via video conference or over the phone. In addition, in-person office hours were made available at the Mark Twain Branch Library in South LA. In order to sustain ongoing contact and availability to the community, office hours were made available every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month for a duration of six months. Office hours were widely promoted at outreach events, through social media, via email blasts and, in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, on DASH bus ads.

Office hour participants represented various communities throughout the city, including Sun Valley, Pacoima, Los Feliz, Van Nuys, Westlake/MacArthur Park, Central/Downtown, South LA, Harbor Gateway, Wilmington, and San Pedro.

Environmental Justice Community Survey

The Environmental Justice Community Survey asked a range of open-ended and multiple-choice questions to understand community views on environmental justice (Appendix D: Environmental Justice Community Survey). Respondents shared what environmental justice means to them, identified local environmental issues, and listed concerns. They also shared



optional demographic information and their preferences on ways to engage in the city planning process.

The Community Survey was translated into Spanish and published on the program website. It was initially distributed via the Department's newsletter and social media accounts. Physical copies of the survey were made available at different libraries within areas of focus and were also available at various community events.

To broaden accessibility and maximize participation, additional efforts were made to distribute the survey through various other channels within the community. Newsletters disseminated by community partners and organizations included links to the survey and a social media toolkit was prepared to facilitate distribution. Lastly, the survey was also promoted via ads on DASH buses throughout the city.

369 survey responses were collected over the course of a seven-month period. The breadth and depth of the responses provided valuable insights. Feedback received via the survey was incorporated into the Summary of Feedback section below.

Community Based Organization (CBO) Partnerships

Environmental Justice Working Group

The Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG) was assembled at the outset of the EJ Policy Program to help guide the policy development process and the implementation of the outreach and engagement strategy. Representatives from over 20 CBOs that work on environmental justice issues across Los Angeles participated in four scheduled bi-monthly meetings from October 2023 to April 2024. EJWG participants contributed to in-depth discussions about the General Plan's goals, policies, and programs and elevated views from their respective communities for every discussion topic. Appendix E provides the participating CBOs and an overview of the topics discussed at each EJWG meeting. EJWG materials and summaries were publicly posted on the program website after every meeting. The EJWG will be reconvened for future phases of the EJ Policy Program.



Figure 3: CHIRLA Community Workshop, Westlake, April 24, 2024

Strategic Partnerships in Collaboration with Housing Policy

The relationship between environmental justice and housing was elevated by many community groups and members throughout the Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase of the EJ Policy Program. In an effort to recognize this connection, the EJ Policy Program and the Housing Incentive Program, a separate City Planning effort to address housing policy, partnered with community organizations to engage in deeper conversations about this topic. This coordination fulfilled mutual program goals to lessen the burden on community members by reducing the number of meetings about related topics and by compensating community-based organizations for their labor and experience in convening in-depth community conversations.

Ten CBOs were contacted, and three organizations responded to this partnership opportunity. One partnership was with Esperanza Community Housing and Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles (PSR-LA) to host a community workshop at Mercado La Paloma in South LA. The community workshop provided an overview of the EJ and housing work programs followed by breakout groups and designated stations to collect feedback through various interactive activities. Food, gift cards and small giveaways were provided to all participants. A partnership was also established with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to host a community workshop for the Westlake community. This community workshop consisted of two large breakout sessions where participants were posed specific questions to provide their feedback on both programs. Comment cards were also collected. Food and giveaway bags were distributed, and other prizes were provided through a raffle. The activities conducted at these workshops allowed for fruitful discussions and deepened relationships with the CBOs and their members.



Figure 4: *Esperanza Community Housing – Physicians for Social Responsibility LA (PSRLA) Community Workshop, South Los Angeles, April 17, 2024*

Voices from the Frontlines Project

In partnership with two graduate students from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Regional and Urban Planning Graduate Program, the “Voices from the Frontlines” project embarked on an exploration of environmental justice perspectives by interviewing 19 residents from communities heavily affected by environmental issues (Appendix F: Voices from the Frontlines). The project aimed to delve deeper into the lived experiences of community members from across the city to gather nuanced insights and feedback. These firsthand accounts shed light on the opportunities and challenges of addressing environmental justice issues and will serve to augment proposed policies and programs for the EJ Policy Program. Each participant received a gift card for \$150 made possible by the Graduate Research Grant from the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation.

Other Stakeholder Engagement/Coordination

Presentations were made to various organizations to engage a diverse range of community stakeholders. Neighborhood Councils, which consist of 99 individual groups throughout the City, serve in an advisory capacity to the City. Neighborhood Councils often coalesce either by region or by issue in an effort to provide opportunities for collaboration. The EJ Policy Program was agendized for a presentation at PlanCheckNC, a coalition of Neighborhood Councils that promote stakeholder participation in planning and land uses issues. In addition, a presentation and discussion were hosted by the South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC). Announcements and outreach materials including the community survey were provided to the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) and other Neighborhood Councils in the Harbor Gateway and Wilmington communities. Presentations were also



Figure 5: LAUSD Mental Health & Wellness Symposium, East LA College, April 20, 2024

community groups and organizations to raise awareness about the EJ Policy Program and share information about how their members can stay involved.

Collaboration with academic institutions aimed to engage youth. This included meeting with staff from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), which resulted in an opportunity to attend their annual Mental Health and Wellness Symposium to engage hundreds of students and their parents. Conversations with staff from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and a student group from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) also provided opportunities to promote the EJ Policy Program to local college students.

Summary of Feedback

This section provides a summary of the feedback collected during the Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase. It reflects a depth and breadth of concerns about environmental justice, in addition to a diverse range of other issues raised by the public. This feedback will be analyzed and used to inform policy and program development and also referred to other projects or city efforts when applicable. In direct response to public feedback related to information about city services or information about how to report environmental violations, Appendix G has been prepared as a resource for community members to contact relevant agencies.



The feedback has been categorized into the following themes:

- Meaningful Involvement
- Land Use & Pollution Exposure
- Community Awareness & Education
- Climate Equity & Sustainability
- Equity
- Green/Open Space & Trees
- Public Health & Food
- Housing
- Mobility & Transportation
- Public Safety
- Public Spaces & Streets
- Unhoused
- Other

Meaningful Involvement

- Access to data for all community members
- Acknowledgement, recognition and equal access to decision making processes for all in ratifying past and existing injustices especially those who have been historically excluded due to systemic racism or discrimination like people of color
- Allowing appropriate space for healing
- Community engagement in regulation and penalty development
- Community members are experts of their community and should be compensated for their time accordingly and support relationship building and partnerships
- Community members should have access to the decision-making process, equal protection from environmental hazards, and the opportunity to live in a safe and healthy environment
- Develop strategy to provide access to decision making process for unhoused community
- Engage community in design development of green spaces, remediation efforts, and climate resilience programs
- Ensure the inclusion and meaningful participation of tribal groups/nations in local planning and decision-making processes
- Equal access, fair treatment and meaningful involvement of EJ community members and their input regardless of background (i.e. age/race/income/etc.) in decision making processes for local planning and policy development that ultimately impacts their communities
- Improve how EJ communities are notified about projects
- Inclusive decision-making process that considers the relationship between built environment and health, especially around climate resilience
- Inclusive involvement in decisions about future growth
- Increase transparency and awareness by providing access to policy documents, materials and meetings in multiple languages
- Prioritizing EJ communities in distribution of resources and environmental protections
- Support community organizing efforts and community led projects especially with youth
- Support coordination between departments and community
- Support for policies that ensure involvement and protection of EJ communities
- Support for continuing hybrid/online meetings mode to increase participation

Land Use & Pollution Exposure

- Access to non-polluted spaces
- Access to clean air, water and soil

- Appropriate disposal of toxic waste like lead batteries, oil change, car parts, and heavy metals
- Concentration of polluting industries in predominantly Latino and low-income communities
- Concerns about abandoned buildings and brownfields and accumulation of trash
- Concern about sensitive uses proximity to oil wells, refineries and gas extraction
- Concerns about contaminated sites and their need for highest level remediation especially when trying to streamline housing in EJ communities
- Concerns for hybrid industrial uses allowing residential near industrial uses
- Concerns for the lack of definition for industrial use industries
- Conversions of polluting businesses to clean businesses including support for small businesses and phase out of noxious uses
- Decarbonize buildings and facilities starting in EJ communities
- Expand Clean Up Green Up
- Fair distribution of pollution burden, away from its current concentration in EJ communities and towards those who benefit from the systems causing the pollution
- Increase buffers to mitigate exposure and promote biodiversity from landscape
- Increase monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations and penalties for those polluting low income neighborhoods
- Increase protections for residents from big business industrial and noxious land uses
- Less use of toxic chemicals, fuel including fertilizers and pesticides
- Fewer gas stations, fast food restaurants in EJ communities
- Necessary amendments to zoning policies to redress past harms like redlining and proximity concerns, including incompatible zoning
- Need further research to get an accurate assessment on pollution exposure and locations of toxic uses, etc.
- Overconcentration of nuisance uses such as liquor stores, illegal dispensaries, smoke shops and vacant lots that contribute to crime and safety concerns
- Phase out of noxious uses and promote green jobs to replace displacement of jobs
- Pollution going to waterways, including ocean, rivers, and groundwater.
- Promote better land use policies that support mixed uses and transit proximity near housing and put people first
- Reduce exposure from airports including noise pollution
- Reduce exposure from freeways and traffic, reduce parking and increase transit options
- Reduce the use and exposure to gas powered tools
- Reduce exposure to pollution from industrial operations like manufacturing, trucks, trains, railways, the port, factories, fracking, warehouses, carriers, flaring, recycling centers, auto body shops, power plants, radiation, dry cleaners, and air vehicles.
- Reduce exposure to toxic soils
- Require the highest level of clean-up of contaminated land and reuse these sites for community serving uses
- Stop relying on extractive economies such as oil drilling and refining industries

Community Awareness & Education

- Additional community coordination and collaboration with agencies like AQMD
- Education about the rights of a community member including tenant rights
- Education about solar and renewable energy for tenants and homeowners in EJ communities
- Education about zoning and how planning works

- Education and trainings for green jobs and green economy
- Education related to clean energy and sustainability
- Education on the benefits of water conservation, composting, recycling, proper waste/trash disposal, minimizing carbon footprint, and how to reduce the use of plastics
- Educational programs and resources for the community about reducing environmental impacts
- Encourage libraries and community centers to serve as central sources for information and coordination
- Hold each other accountable as responsible members of our community especially for those doing illegal dumping and driving recklessly
- Install 'no idling' signs that require parked drivers to turn off their vehicles
- Raise awareness about air quality impacts and how those can be mitigated for example by driving less and less reliance on vehicles
- Raise awareness and provide opportunities for trainings or workshops about environmental impacts in EJ communities and how to report them
- Resources for community members to monitor and support enforcement including reporting violations

Climate Equity & Sustainability

- Advocate for biodiversity and ecological health
- Concerns about climate change and how it will impact marginalized, low-income communities
- Concerns about air pollution, smog, and smoke from fires
- Ensuring our children and future generations have a healthy, livable planet
- Equitable protections, resources and mitigations for climate change, prioritizing the most impacted communities
- Extreme heat waves are increasing and heat exposure causes health impacts
- Concerns about flooding occurring in specific neighborhoods (including in alleys, freeways and areas in South LA, and the Valley, etc.)
- Heavy rainfall causes flooding, especially when storm drains are clogged by trash
- Improve/increase solar energy and green, sustainable programs, including EV charging
- Inadequate stormwater systems and maintenance
- Increasing public facilities and services for natural disasters such as heat waves and flooding (e.g., cooling centers, libraries, community centers)
- Issues from flooding include mudslides and road damage
- More trees/increased tree canopy are needed to reduce heat impacts
- Need environmental regulations and measures that address climate change such as zero emission businesses and vehicles
- Need insulation and affordable weatherization programs and air conditioning, especially in older stock housing
- New development done with climate change in mind, such as building decarbonization
- Reduction of gas-powered vehicles, leaf blowers
- Topography and different elevations affect climate impacts
- Wildfires have impacted communities (e.g., Saddle Ridge) and also impact air quality from smoke



Equity

- Employment opportunities, in particular for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, referred to as BIPOC communities
- Equal access to a healthy and safe environment including decent housing, clean air and water
- Equal access to government and attention from government
- Equal access to green jobs and trainings in EJ communities
- Equal access to public facilities and services
- Equal attention for all communities suffering from environmental impacts, especially when prioritizing remediation efforts
- Equal learning opportunities and information sharing
- Equal opportunity, equal access, and fair treatment
- Equally distributed community investment
- Increase internet access
- Need for more policies that promote equity in the built environment
- Racial justice and the remediation of past injustices

Green/Open Space & Trees

- Concerns about access to nature, open space, and clean air for all especially disabled persons
- Concerns about open space equity and the loss of biodiversity
- Concerns about the balance between open space and development of housing
- Concerns about the competing balance between development and green space
- Concerns about the lack of daily upkeep and maintenance of trees and parks
- Concerns about the illegal removal of protected trees
- Concerns about the lack of native landscaping and the damage from palm trees
- Concerns about the lack of open space, parks, and trees
- Concerns about tree canopy and tree die-off without replacement
- Need ecological and biodiversity solutions
- Need to green LAUSD campuses that are all asphalt
- Recognition of indigenous leadership and land stewardship
- Support for cultural easements that provide access to open spaces for tribal and cultural practices
- The city should incorporate green landscape buffers to mitigate pollution exposure and contamination
- Would like to see natural parks that are in balance with the land

Public Health & Food

- Access to safe active transportation infrastructure including green spaces as it contributes to health
- Additional monitoring of air quality impacts
- Additional access to affordable healthy food in EJ communities
- Concerns about mental illness impacts from drug abuse and sex trafficking
- Concerns about senior, special needs, unhoused, and other vulnerable populations
- Concerns about working conditions as they can impact health
- Enforcement of public health laws especially from noxious land uses and vehicles
- Equal access to cleaner energy and other utilities to help keep us healthy

- Equal access to healthcare, resources and safety regardless of income or race
- Equal access to social services
- Resources to mitigate air quality impacts including indoor air quality
- Respiratory concerns from air quality impacts and the need to raise awareness
- Support of community building initiatives that promote health
- Support public health programs and policies

Housing

- Access to housing
- Concerns over rent control regulation not being expanded to satisfy affordable housing demand
- Concerns raised about the reduction and/or elimination of parking requirements for new housing projects in South LA furthering impacts from lack of parking for existing residents
- Environmental justice should include tenant protections and a streamlined process to resolve complaints
- Environmental justice should include addressing rising housing costs to reduce displacement of existing residents
- Prevent green gentrification and support for greening projects and large infrastructure projects that don't displace current residents
- Neglectful landlords creating unsafe living conditions for tenants
- New housing development does not provide enough on-site open space for residents
- Support for equitable development that prevents displacement and gentrification
- Support for creating additional open space requirements/amenities for housing development projects (i.e. playgrounds or other recreational areas for children)
- The cost of living and access to affordable housing keeps increasing
- Zoning regulations should incentivize the development of homes

Mobility & Transportation

- Additional enforcement for speeding and illegal car meets especially in residential areas (cut through traffic) including loud smoggy cars, trucks, illegal parking and loud vehicles with the goal to reduce pedestrian deaths and impacts in residential neighborhoods
- Balanced approach to expansion of transit including gentrification concerns and congestion or parking concerns
- Concerns about Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Incentive Program development lack of parking and traffic impacts
- Concerns about pedestrian safety from vehicular traffic and walkability
- Concerns about unsafe design of streets and lack of sidewalks
- Decrease need of vehicles, especially single occupancy vehicles, to reduce traffic congestion and emissions from brake dust, and spent rubber, and overall air quality concerns
- Fare free transit
- Get rid of parking minimums especially in areas well served by transit
- Increase maintenance of roads, alleys and traffic safety infrastructure like traffic lights, traffic calming, and signals to decrease congestion
- Increase tolls and reduce freeway expansion and reduce street widenings
- Lack of clean energy transportation options and EV infrastructure
- Lack of parking especially near transit

- Look for ways to mitigate impacts from airports and air traffic
- More pedestrian-oriented design
- Need for additional buffers in EJ communities from freeway heavy areas like, Chinatown, Boyle Heights, and Sun Valley
- Need for additional mixed uses to get all necessary needs within 15 minutes regardless of where you live in the city

Public Safety

- Concerns about lack of enforcement of laws, increased crime, and public safety
- Opportunity and access to resources should be factors when evaluating environmental justice
- Concerns about over policing
- Concerns about the public use of drugs and paraphernalia in the streets
- Lack of police presence and slow response times
- Public safety should have an alternative approach other than law enforcement officers
- Police funding is not being used effectively
- More safety resources and programs available for EJ communities

Public Spaces & Streets

- Additional cleaning resources from the city
- Additional enforcement for littering and illegal dumping happening in EJ communities
- Clean public spaces and facilities including public restrooms
- Cleaner streets and alleys for all, including more trash cans
- Cleaning up after pets
- Concerns about street safety
- Concerns about the amount of trash accumulating in EJ communities
- Concerns about the burning of trash
- Concerns about trash going into sewage clogging it up and going to ocean
- Concerns about unhoused individuals encampments and mobile home encampments accumulate trash, odor, and unsafe items
- Clean safe spaces contribute to healthier mental health
- Excessive noise pollution in LA streets
- Lack of response to service requests and resources to contact in EJ communities including pick-up of heavy items and remediation efforts of toxic materials, street cleaning
- Need for accessible recycling services and education in EJ communities for example to reduce the use of plastics and signs that let people know to pick up after themselves
- Need for additional investment in EJ communities
- Support for community clean-up efforts in EJ communities

Unhoused

- Better prioritization and distribution of funds
- Concerns about additional risk of becoming unhoused
- Concerns about criminalization of the unhoused

- Concerns about poor living conditions, waste management, and other public health concerns in encampments
- Concerns about the amount of unhoused people
- Concerns about the unhoused being disproportionately impacted and their need for resources, including access to clean air and water
- Homelessness, mental health and crime are major challenges in many neighborhoods, raising concerns about safety and the community's use of public spaces
- Lack of access to sanitation facilities
- Lack of unhoused advocates and representation in decision making process
- Mental health concerns about the unhoused

Other

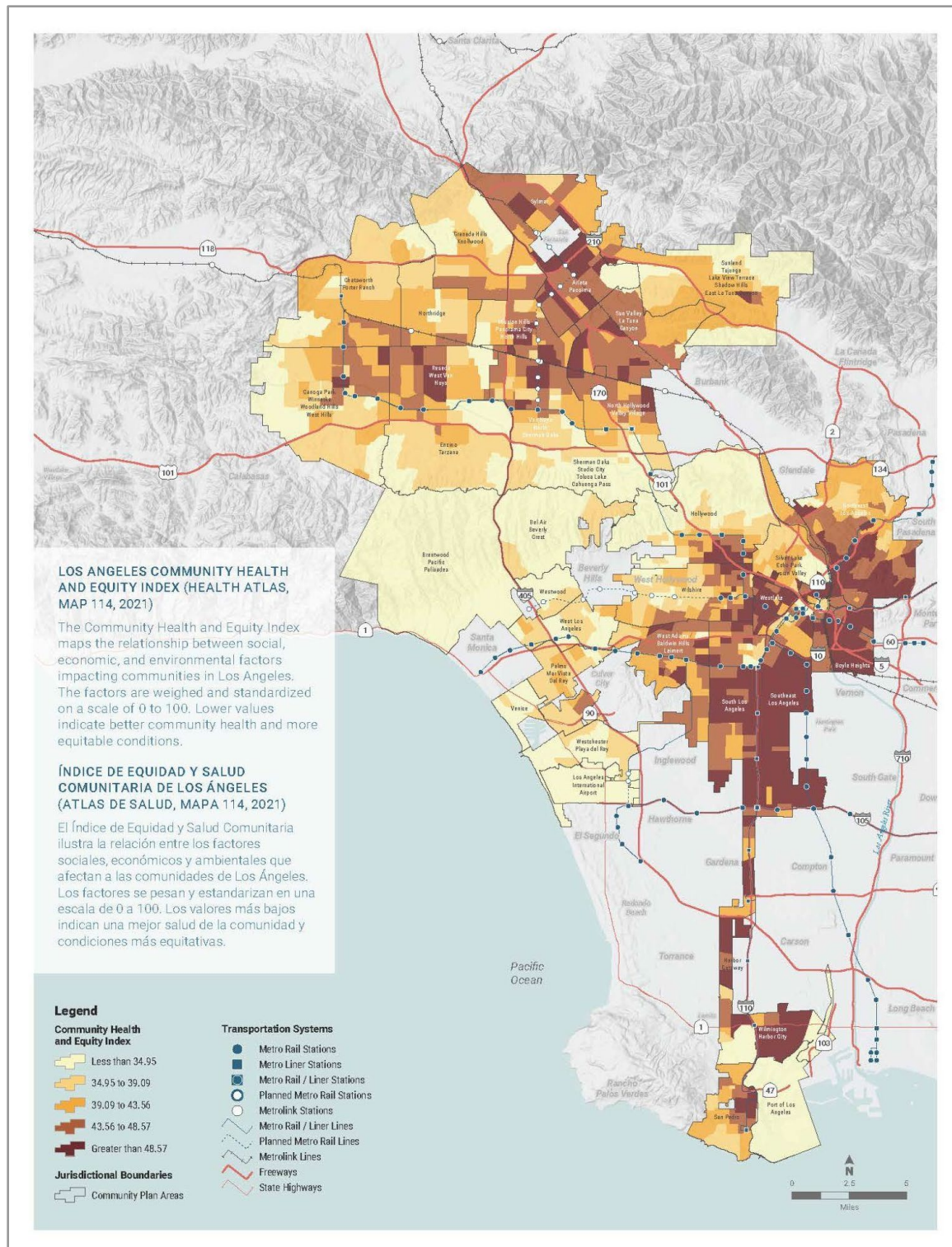
- Economic inequality
- Improve city collaboration
- Protect animals
- Reduction in utility costs
- Stop the use of fireworks and drones, they are bad for pets
- Structural/systematic deficiencies in municipal and regulatory entities
- The beach provides access to cleaner air

Next Steps

This Initial Outreach and Engagement Phase of the EJ Policy Program resulted in the collection of thousands of comments based on the lived experience and expertise of community members most impacted by environmental justice issues in Los Angeles. The EJ Policy Program team appreciates the time, effort, and opportunity to learn from and collaborate with Angelenos across the city. Moving forward, feedback will be incorporated into draft policy and program documents which will be released for further review and further public comment at a later phase. Community participation will continue to strengthen and center equity and environmental justice priorities for the City's General Plan.







The [program website](#) will stay updated with upcoming events, program materials and other information. Interested parties are encouraged to [subscribe for updates](#). Comments or questions can be sent to planning.envjustice@lacity.org.

Appendix A - Community Health and Equity Index



Los Angeles Community Health and Equity Index (Health Atlas, Map 114, 2021) The Community Health and Equity Index maps the relationship between social, economic, and environmental factors impacting communities in Los Angeles. The factors are weighed and standardized on a scale of 0 to 100. Lower values indicate better community health and more equitable conditions.

Appendix B - Program Materials

Description of Resource	
 <p>The fact sheet provides information about the EJ Policy Program including a Summary, Background, and Frequently Asked Questions. It includes a QR code linking to the program information.</p>	<p>The Program Fact Sheet provides information about the EJ Policy Program including a Summary, Background and Frequently Asked Questions.</p> <p>English Spanish</p>
 <p>The flyer promotes the EJ Policy Program and includes information about the program's goals and how to get involved. It features a QR code and a link to the program information.</p>	<p>A bilingual flyer was developed as a handout to promote the EJ Policy Program at events and was also widely distributed online. The flyer was modified to promote outreach and engagement activities as needed.</p>
 <p>The image shows a QR code and a link to the program information.</p>	<p>In coordination with the LA Department of Transportation, ads were placed on all DASH buses across the City to promote the EJ Policy Program, office hours, and the Community Survey.</p>
 <p>The ad includes a QR code and a link to the program information.</p>	<p>DASH ads to promote the EJ Policy Program, office hours, and the Community Survey were also provided in Spanish.</p>
 <p>The image shows a QR code and a link to the program information.</p>	<p>The Department of City Planning promoted the EJ Policy Program on various social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.</p>
 <p>The report provides information about the Health Element's existing programs and how they will help identify policy gaps and inform the development of new policies and programs as part of the EJ Policy Program.</p>	<p>The Health Element Progress Report (July 2023) was made available on the EJ Website. The report is an evaluation of the Health Element's existing programs that will help identify policy gaps and inform the development of new policies and programs as part of the EJ Policy Program. Additional background materials and resources were also posted on the website.</p>

Appendix C - Outreach and Engagement Events & Activities

Community Events, Office Hours and Community Workshops	
CicLAMini - North Hollywood Sunday, September 7, 2023	Mariachi Plaza Farmers' Market - Boyle Heights Sunday, December 10, 2023
Move Your Way - Pacoima Saturday, September 23, 2023	Health Commission Monday, December 11, 2023
Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Sunday, October 8, 2023	Office Hours - Mark Twain Branch Library - South LA Wednesday & Thursday, December 13-14, 2023
PlanCheck Neighborhood Council Alliance Saturday, October 14, 2023	Office Hours (Virtual) Sunday, December 16, 2023
South Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Alliance Thursday, October 19, 2023	Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) Wednesday, December 20, 2023
Taste of Soul Family Festival - South LA Saturday, October 21, 2023	Ongoing Office Hours (Virtual) 1st & 3rd Wednesday, January through June 2024
P-22 Day - Griffith Park Sunday, October 22, 2023	EmpowerLA Youth Conference Saturday, January 27, 2024
Día De Los Muertos Resource Fair, Mujeres de la Tierra - Northeast LA Tuesday, October 24, 2023	Esperanza Community Housing/Physicians for Social Responsibility LA, Community Workshop - South LA Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Office Hours (Virtual) Tuesday & Wednesday, October 24-26, 2023	2024 LAUSD Mental Health & Wellness Symposium Saturday, April 20, 2024
Northgate Market - South LA Thursday, November 16, 2023	CHIRLA Community Workshop - Westlake Wednesday, April 24, 2024
CicLAvia - South LA Sunday, December 3, 2023	CicLAMini - Wilmington Sunday, May 19, 2024

Appendix D - Environmental Justice Community Survey

Survey Questions ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

1. Defining Environmental Justice

In your own words, what does environmental justice mean to you?

2. Environmental Justice in Your Community

What environmental issues and injustices exist in your community?

3. Environmental Justice Priorities

Which of the following environmental justice issues are most important to you? (Please check all that apply.)

- Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
- Public Facilities
- Food Access
- Safe and Sanitary Homes
- Physical Activities
- Community Engagement
- Improvements and Programs to Address the Needs of Impacted Communities
- Open Space
- Climate Equity
- Other

4. Climate Equity

What factors do you think contribute to the climate change impacts you experience in your community?

5. Outreach and Engagement

How would you like to get involved and engage in this process? (Please check all that apply.)

- Attend in-person public meetings
- Attend virtual public meetings
- Respond to online surveys
- Meet with City Staff
- Involve my organization (organize events, meetings, activities)
- Talk to my friends, family, and/or neighbors about environmental justice in LA
- Stay informed via Department of City Planning social media and/or website
- Stay informed via Department of City Planning emails and newsletters
- Join the interested parties list
- Other

Appendix D - Environmental Justice Community Survey

Survey Responses (Demographics)

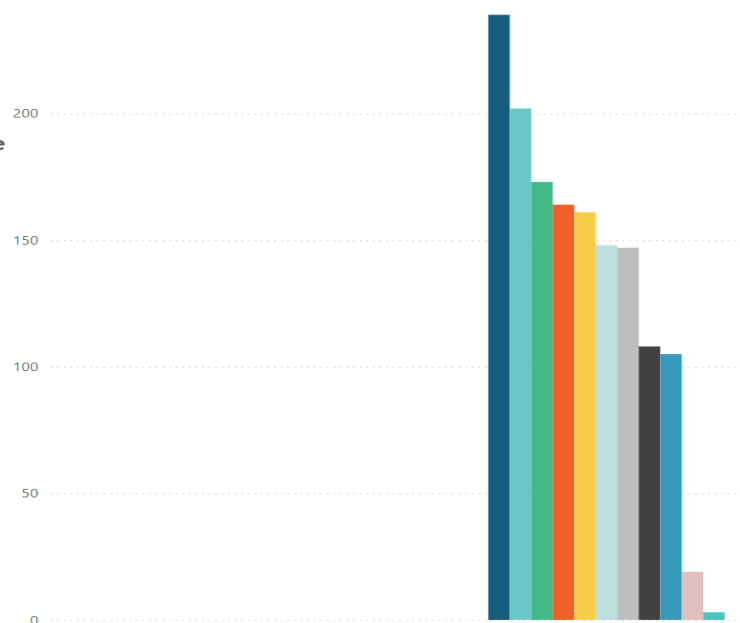
Relationship to Los Angeles



Preferred Participation Methods

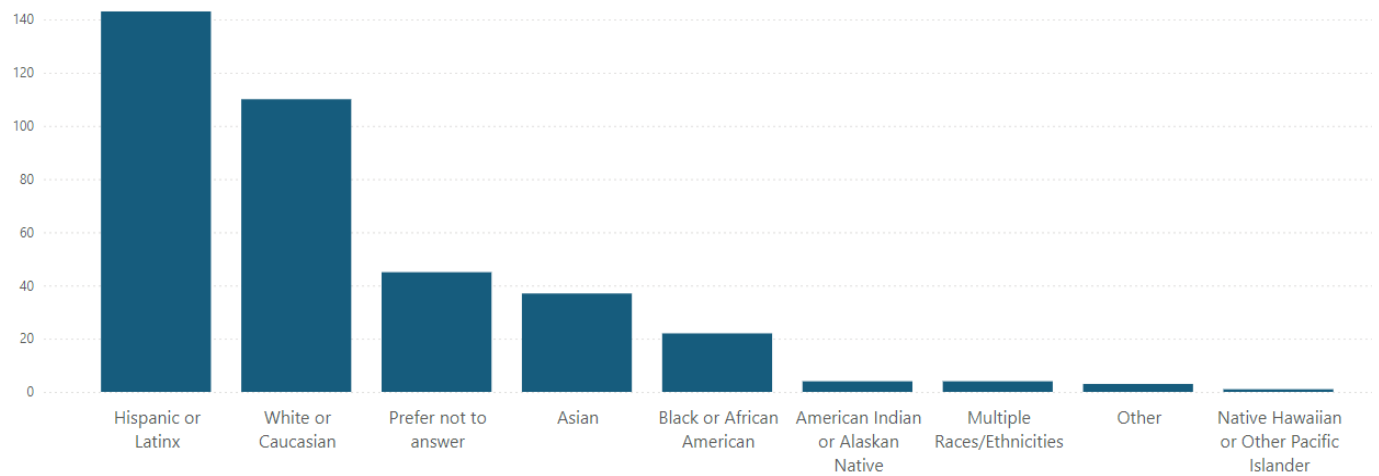
***Respondents can select more than one**

- Respond to online surveys
- Attend virtual public meetings
- Talk to family, friends, neighbors
- Emails or newsletters
- Website or social media
- Attend in-person meetings
- Meet with City Staff
- Join the interested parties list
- Involve my organization
- No response
- Other

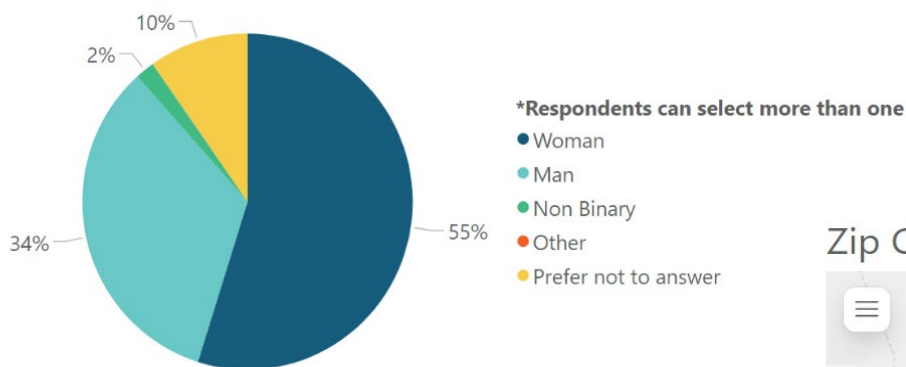


Appendix D - Environmental Justice Community Survey

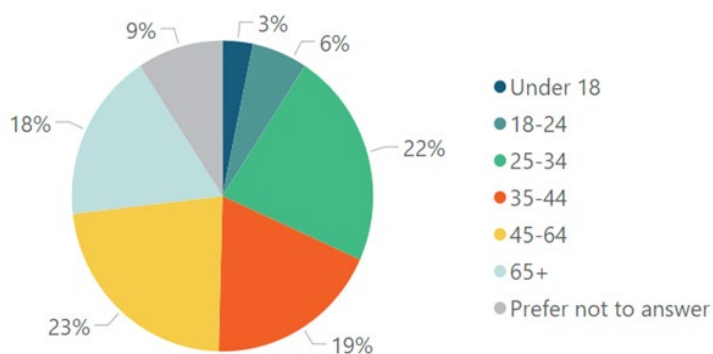
Race/Ethnicity



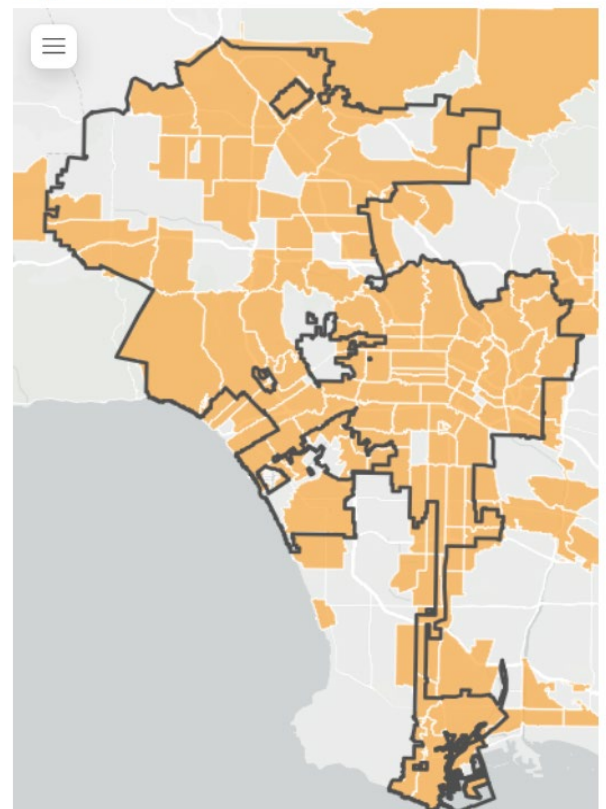
Gender



Age



Zip Code



Appendix E - Environmental Justice Working Group

Working Group Participants

EJWG Participating Organizations	
<u>Alliance for a Better Community</u>	<u>Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust</u>
<u>Asian Pacific Environmental Network</u>	<u>Pacoima Beautiful</u>
<u>Black Women for Wellness</u>	<u>Physicians for Social Responsibility</u>
<u>Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles</u>	<u>Rising Communities</u>
<u>Coalition for Clean Air</u>	<u>Sierra Club - Los Angeles</u>
<u>Communities for a Better Environment</u>	<u>Strategic Actions for a Just Economy</u>
<u>Community Coalition</u>	<u>T.R.U.S.T South LA</u>
<u>Esperanza Community Housing Corporation</u>	<u>Tree People</u>
<u>First 5 LA</u>	<u>Trust for Public Land</u>
<u>Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative</u>	<u>Watts Labor Community Action Committee/ Greater Watts Development Corporation</u>

Working Group Meetings

EJWG Meetings		
Date	Meeting Topic	Materials
10/18/23	<u>Vision, Policy Concepts and Meaningful Involvement</u> Introduction to the Environmental Justice Policy Program, background information on the General Plan, overview of outreach and engagement strategy	Link
12/6/23	<u>Goals and Policies</u> Review of existing goals and policies within the Health, Air Quality and Open Space Elements	Link
2/7/24	<u>Implementation Programs</u> Review of existing implementation programs within the Health, Air Quality and Open Space Elements	Link
4/10/24	<u>Refinements</u> Topical discussions on policy and program concepts for the Health, Air Quality and Open Space Elements	Link

Appendix F - Voices from the Frontlines

Voices from the Frontlines Project Interview Summary		
Region	Participants	Notes
South LA	8	Interviewees included organizers from environmental justice organizations as well as several residents and students throughout South and Southeast Los Angeles.
East LA	2	Interviewees included climate justice and youth organizers from Boyle Heights.
Central LA	2	Interviewees included residents of Westlake and Koreatown.
North Valley	3	Interviewees included residents of Pacoima and Sun Valley.
Harbor	4	Interviewees included community leaders, organizers, and residents of Wilmington, including a mother and daughter who organize together.

Appendix G - Environmental Agencies and City Departments

Issue	Agency	Contact
Odors, Dust, Air Pollution	South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)	1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664) cut_smog@aqmd.gov www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/Complaints
Idling Vehicles (Trucks, Cars, etc.)	California Air Resources Board (CARB)	1-800-END-SMOG (1-800-363-7664) helpline@arb.ca.gov https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/complaints-idling-vehicles
Mold, Rodents, Food Borne Illness, Other Public Health Issues	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	1-888-700-9995 https://ehservices.publichealth.lacounty.gov/servlet/quest?service=0&formId=4
Lead Paint	Lead Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	1-800-LA-4-LEAD (1-800-524-5323) http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/lead.htm
Any other Environmental Concerns, including Air, Water, Toxic Substances, Pesticides, and Solid Waste	California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)	https://calepa.my.salesforce-sites.com/complaints/Complaint
Mosquitos	Local Vector Control District	www.socalmosquito.org

Appendix G - Environmental Agencies and City Departments

Issue	Agency	Contact
Noise	Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)	Non-Emergencies: 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) Emergencies: Call 911 www.lapdonline.org
Code Violations/Enforcement	Department of Building and Safety (LADBS)	https://www.ladbs.org/services/core-services/code-enforcement
	For code violations regarding properties with two or more dwelling units (duplexes and apartment buildings): Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)	1-866-557-7368 https://housingapp.lacity.org/ReportViolation/Pages/ReportViolation
Civil Rights Violations/Discrimination (Private Sector)	Civil and Human Rights Department	https://cityoflaprod.service-now.com/DE
Other City Services and Information Includes: Illegal Dumping Pickup, Graffiti Removal, Other Code Violations in the Public Right of Way	MyLA311	311 or 213-473-3231 https://lacity.gov/myla311

Appendix G - Environmental Agencies and City Departments

Additional City of Los Angeles Departments		
Development Services	Los Angeles Department of City Planning	<p>Metro: 213-482-7077</p> <p>Valley: 818-374-5050</p> <p>West LA: 310-231-2901</p> <p>https://planning.lacity.gov/project-review/planning-services</p>
Neighborhood Councils	Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)	<p>213-978-1551</p> <p>EmpowerLA@lacity.org</p> <p>www.empowerla.org</p>
Services for renters, low-income households, persons living with disabilities and other access and functional needs, including elderly residents, homeless individuals and families, homebuyers and homeowners	Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)	<p>1-866-557-7368</p> <p>https://housingapp.lacity.org/ReportViolation/Pages/ReportViolation</p>
All other City Departments		https://lacity.gov/directory
Zoning and Property Information		https://zimas.lacity.org/
Neighborhood Information		https://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.gov/
Office of the Mayor		<p>213-978-0721</p> <p>www.lamayor.org</p>