



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ELEMENT - PHASE I (2018)





Environmental Justice Element Phase I

Adopted May 8, 2018

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Board of Supervisors

Susan Peters, Chairperson

Patrick Kennedy, Vice Chairperson

Sue Frost

Don Nottoli

Phil Serna

County Administration

Nav Gill, County Executive

Office of Planning & Environmental Review

Leighann Moffitt, Planning Director

Todd Smith, Principal Planner, Long Range Planning Section

John Lundgren, Senior Planner

Tim Kohaya, Associate Planner – Project Manager Kate

Rose, Associate Planner

Emily Hyland, Associate Planner

Kristi Grabow, Associate Planner

Haley Shaver, Intern

Chris Baker, GIS Analyst II

Credits for Pictures on Cover and Title Page

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INTRODUCTION

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice (EJ) seeks to minimize and equalize effects of environmental hazards among the entire community regardless of income, ethnicity or race. The California Government Code (Section 65040.12) defines environmental justice as: "The fair treatment and meaningful participation of people of all races, culture and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

Issues of environmental justice often arise from geographic or procedural inequities. Geographic inequities occur when neighborhoods with high percentages of low-income residents, minority residents, and/or immigrant communities take more than their share of the worst environmental hazards and resulting health problems from exposure to these hazards. Procedural inequities occur when the same neighborhoods face obstacles to meaningfully participate in the decision-making process for projects that directly affect their neighborhoods (National City, 3-214). Many factors contribute to these geographic and procedural inequalities. These include a development pattern that concentrates undesirable or unhealthy land uses in certain areas, the placement of desirable public amenities outside of disadvantaged communities and limited or non-existing political influence among certain demographic groups (California Environmental Justice Alliance, 4).

The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) is to address public health risks and environmental justice concerns of those living in disadvantaged communities, many of which are the result of geographic or procedural inequities. The County has elected to emphasize the importance of environmental justice by preparing a separate Element rather than integrating environmental justice policies among existing General Plan elements. As provided by State Government Code 65302(h), the EJ Element has the same weight as the mandatory elements of the General Plan and is internally consistent with the other elements.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The EJ Element is closely related to several other General Plan elements, in particular the Land Use, Circulation and Air Quality Elements. Planning decisions related to types of land uses; location, density and intensity of land uses; transportation systems; and street design have a profound impact on both public health and environmental justice. Consequently, the Environmental Justice Element is inextricably connected to the aforementioned elements and other important elements of the General Plan and thus should be read and considered in the context of other General Plan elements. It should also be noted that there are topical areas (e.g., reduce pollution exposure, promote public facilities, and safe and sanitary homes) that are addressed in multiple elements. However, unlike other General Plan Elements, the EJ Element will cover these topical areas from the vantage point of public health and environmental justice communities.

TWO-PHASE PROCESS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

There are two phases to the development of the EJ Element. This current version of the EJ Element is the result of work that was done for Phase 1. During Phase 1, staff conducted baseline research, scoped existing policies and prepared the goals of the EJ Element and two sets of objectives, policies and implementation measures (see

Page 48). During Phase 2, staff will build upon the efforts of Phase 1 by conducting in-depth public outreach, conducting additional baseline research and, if necessary, developing new policies that augment or strengthen existing EJ-related policies. These new policies will be added to the final version of the EJ Element and/or other General Plan elements.

BACKGROUND

Requirements of State General Plan Law

State Government Code 65302(h) requires a city or county to “identify objectives and policies to reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities” within their jurisdiction. These objectives and policies must cover the following EJ topical areas:

- Reduce pollution exposure, including improving air quality
- Promote public facilities
- Food access
- Safe and sanitary homes
- Physical activity

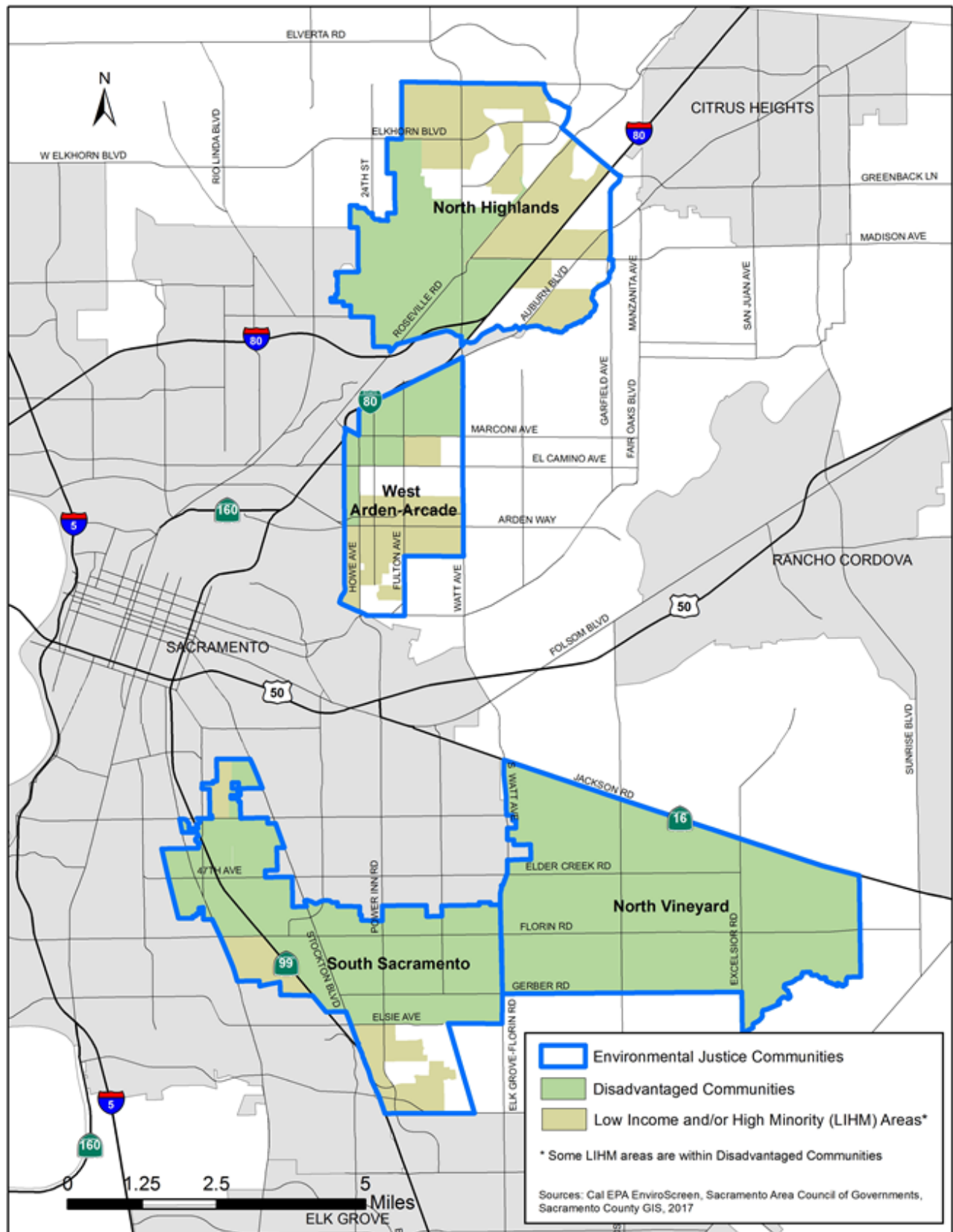
California State General Plan Law also requires the identification of objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities. Finally, State General Plan Law also requires identification of jurisdiction-wide objectives and policies that promote civil engagement in the decision-making process.

Identifying Environmental Justice Communities

The EJ Element’s geographic focus of analysis and policies will be Environmental Justice Communities (EJ Communities) - areas that are disadvantaged compared to other parts of the unincorporated County. Staff used two sources to determine the extent and boundaries of Environmental Justice Communities. One source is the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (more commonly known as CalEnviroScreen). According to State Government Code 65302(h), cities and counties can use this tool to identify disadvantaged communities within their boundaries. CalEnviroScreen takes into account socioeconomic characteristics and underlying health status of these communities (California Environmental Justice Alliance, 2017).

The other source staff used to identify Environmental Justice Communities is the Sacramento Area Council of Governments’ (SACOG) Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). State law requires SACOG to conduct an Environmental Justice and Title VI analysis as part of the MTP/SCS to determine whether the MTP/SCS equitably benefits low-income and minority communities (Sacramento Area Council of Governments, p. 181). SACOG refers to these areas as Low Income High Minority (LIHM) Areas.

Staff combined CalEPA’s disadvantaged communities with SACOG’s LIHM areas to delineate Environmental Justice Communities (see Figure 1). There are four EJ Communities: North Highlands, North Vineyard, South Sacramento and West Arden Arcade. The North Highlands EJ Community includes Foothill Farms and Old Foothill Farms.

Figure 1: Environmental Justice Communities

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The EJ Element is divided into sections that cover the required topical areas. State Law allows jurisdictions to add other topics as appropriate and in response, the EJ Element has a section on reducing crime through environmental design (CPTED). After the introduction and demographic sections, the EJ Element has the following topical sections:

- Prioritizing Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Environmental Justice Communities
- Reduce Pollution Exposure
- Promote Public Facilities
- Food Access
- Safe and Sanitary Homes
- Physical Activity
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Civil Engagement in the Decision-making Process

Each topical section has the following:

- An introduction
- A summary of baseline research and identification of any inequities between EJ Communities and Non-EJ areas that contribute to EJ Communities having unique or compounded health risks.
- A list of existing General Plan policies and implementation measures related to the topic.
- An analysis of whether existing General Plan policies and implementation measures address identified inequalities.

To fulfill State General Plan Law requirements, the EJ Element has a new General Plan objective and policy on prioritizing improvements and programs based on the needs of EJ Communities in the Prioritizing Improvements and Programs section. The EJ Element also has a new General Plan policy on maximizing public engagement opportunities in the Civil Engagement section.

Analysis Process

Most of the topical sections assesses baseline conditions in EJ Communities that are relevant to the section's topic and then compares those baseline conditions with those in Non-EJ areas in the unincorporated County. This comparison enables staff to determine whether EJ Communities have unique or compounded health risks. If unique or compounded health risks exist, staff will determine whether existing General Plan policies address those problems. If not, staff will develop new policies or modify existing policies that will be added to the EJ Element during the Phase 2 process.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT GOALS

All of the objectives, policies and implementation measures in the EJ Element will have the following goals:

GOALS:

Sacramento County's built environment provides an equitable degree of protection from environmental and health hazards.

All members of a community can meaningfully participate in any civic public decision-making process.

The first goal addresses geographic inequities that lead to unique or compounded health risks in EJ Communities. The second goal addresses procedural inequities that lead to lack of participation by residents of EJ Communities in the decision-making process. Both goals are directional statements that are applicable to not just EJ Communities but to the entire unincorporated County.

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SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

Sacramento County was incorporated in 1850 and is now home to over 1.5 million people across 994 square miles. The demographic analysis of the EJ Element focuses on population by age, race, ethnicity, languages spoken, English proficiency, income and education level.

Table 1: Population by EJ Community

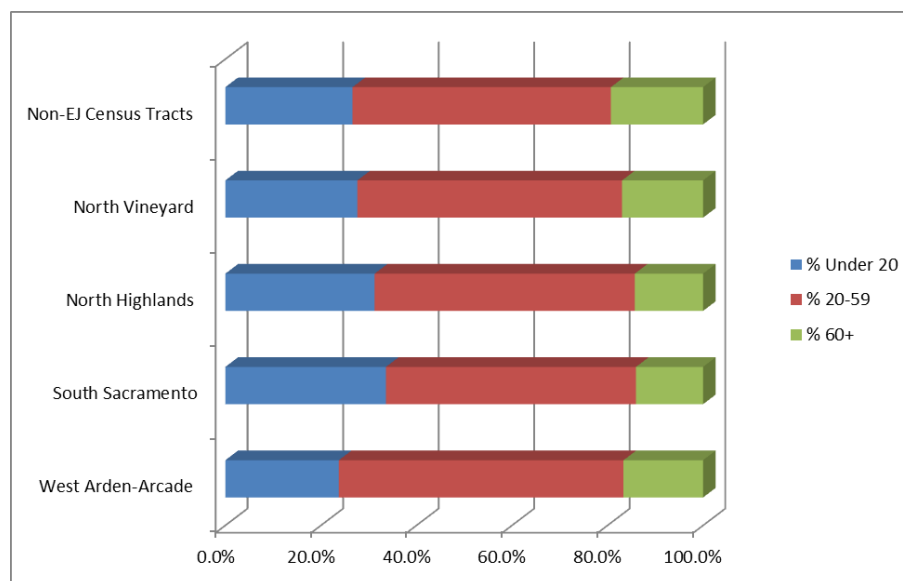
EJ Community	Total Population
West Arden-Arcade	16,063 persons
South Sacramento	67,362 persons
North Highlands	10,576 persons
North Vineyard	1,733 persons

Source: US 2010 Census

The most populated EJ Community is South Sacramento while the least populated is North Vineyard. This is the result of South Sacramento being mostly developed while North Vineyard being predominately rural agricultural. However, within 10 years, North Vineyard is estimated to be significantly different due to the amount of development targeted for this area.

Population by Age

According to the U.S. 2010 Census, age range population of EJ communities and Non-EJ areas are relatively consistent with each other (Figure 2). However, South Sacramento and North Highlands have a higher percentage of persons under age 20 while Non-EJ areas and West Arden Arcade have a higher percentage of persons over age 60.

Figure 2: Population by Age

Source: US 2010 Census

Population by Race and Ethnicity

The population of unincorporated Sacramento County has a higher percentage (48%) of White residents than the City of Sacramento (34%) or the State of California (38.8%). Persons of Hispanic-Latino origin are the second largest ethnic population group in the unincorporated County.

There is a much larger concentration of minority residents in EJ communities than Non-EJ areas and countywide (Table 2). However, the specific racial and ethnic breakdown differs between EJ communities.

- North Highlands has much larger Black and Hispanic-Latino populations than the Non-EJ area, but this community mirrors Non-EJ Unincorporated County in terms of having a higher percentage of White population.
- North Vineyard has a larger "Other" population than any other EJ community.
- South Sacramento's population is more than 70% non-white because of large Hispanic-Latino, Black and Asian populations.
- West Arden Arcade's population is less than 50% White, as this area is predominantly Hispanic-Latino, Black and Asian.

Table 2: Race and Ethnicity

Race	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Two or More Races	Other
Sacramento County	48%	10%	14%	22%	4%	2%
North Highlands	52%	11%	6%	24%	5%	2%
North Vineyard	49%	7%	2%	21%	4%	17%
South Sacramento	22%	15%	23%	34%	4%	2%
West Arden- Arcade	52%	11%	6%	24%	5%	2%

Source: US 2010 Census

Languages Spoken and English Proficiency

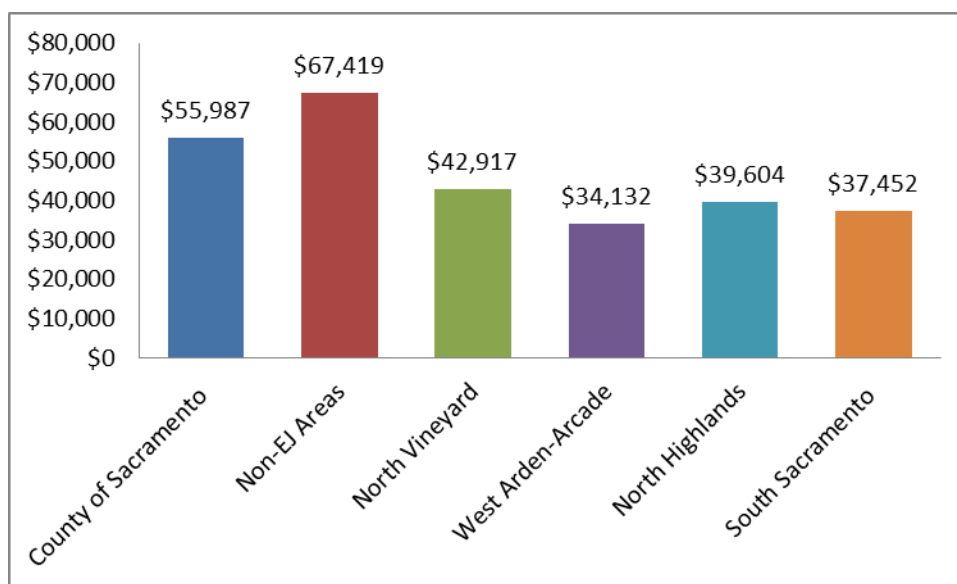
The top primary languages in Non-EJ Communities are English (78%), Spanish (6.8%) and Russian (2.7%). Of those who speak a language other than English at home, 60 percent report to the U.S. Census that they speak English well. The following is a breakdown by EJ Community.

- North Highlands: Most common primary languages – English (66.1%), Spanish (16.1%) and Russian (7.0%). Non-English speakers at home who are English proficient – 49.5%.
- West Arden-Arcade: Most common primary languages – English (66.7%), and Spanish (19.6%). Non-English speakers at home who are English proficient – 62%.
- South Sacramento: Most common primary languages - English (48.9%), Spanish (24.8%), Hmong (5.8%) and Chinese (4.1%). Non-English speakers at home who are English proficient – 44.2%.
- North Vineyard: Most common primary languages – English (56.1%), Spanish (18.74%), Vietnamese (6.37%). Non-English speakers at home who are English proficient – 45.4%.

South Sacramento is the only community area where a majority of the population does not speak English as their primary language. It also has the most diversity of primary languages.

Income Levels

According to the U.S. 2010 Census, the median household income for Sacramento County is \$55,987, which is higher than the median income of \$51,910 for the State of California (see Figure 3). Within the EJ areas, median household incomes vary from \$34,132 for West Arden-Arcade to \$42,917 for North Vineyard. Non-EJ areas have a median income of \$67,419.

Figure 3: Median Household Income by Area

Source: US 2010 Census

Highest Education Levels

The highest education level of residents within the EJ communities significantly varies from those in Non-EJ communities. As shown by Table 3 below, there is a much lower percentage of residents in EJ Communities that have bachelor or post-bachelor degrees than the percentage of residents in Non-EJ areas (with the exception of West Arden-Arcade). Conversely, there is a much higher percentage of residents in EJ Communities that have no high school diploma than the percentage of residents in Non-EJ areas.

Table 3: Highest Educational Level

	North Highlands	South Sacramento	North Vineyard	West Arden Arcade	Non-EJ
No high school diploma	16.4%	30.4%	20.7%	16%	7.9%
High school diploma or GED	30.4%	29.4%	26.7%	27%	21.2%
Some college	30.0%	23.0%	22.4%	26%	27.9%
Associate's degree	10.3%	6.9%	10.6%	9%	10.7%
Bachelor's degree	9.2%	8.1%	14.9%	18%	20.7%
Post-bachelor's degree	3.7%	2.3%	4.7%	5%	11.5%

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SECTION 2: PRORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

An integral component of the EJ Element is that it prioritizes projects and investments that directly benefit EJ Communities. EJ Communities have special needs that arise from past geographic and procedural inequities (see Introduction). This requires taking special actions that will improve existing conditions in EJ Communities. Many of these actions will not be applicable across an entire city or county, but will be applicable only to EJ Communities due to their special circumstances.

Baseline Conditions

The other topical sections identify existing conditions and inequities in EJ Communities, some of which may justify prioritizing certain improvements or programs to one or more EJ Communities.

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

Existing General Plan Policies LU-68 and LU-107 require the prioritization of projects or public funding of projects but the prioritization is not based on being located in a disadvantaged area. The objective, policy and implementation measure below was developed to meet environmental justice requirements in State General Plan law requirements.

Environmental Justice Objective, Policy and Implementation Measure

Objective

Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Environmental Justice Communities.

Policy

EJ-1. Improvement and program support for each EJ Community shall address the Community's unique or compounded needs

Implementation Measure

Within 12 months of the adoption of the Phase 1 Environmental Justice Element, the County will identify the unique or compounded needs of each EJ Community.

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SECTION 3: REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

Pollution exposure occurs when people come into contact with air, food, water, and soil contaminants. EJ Communities are often disproportionately burdened by pollution exposure. The following indicators were used to assess the pollution exposures EJ Communities as compared to the pollution exposures in the Non-EJ Area: groundwater threats, solid waste, hazardous waste, proximity to high volume roadways, job access by transit, and pesticide use.

Baseline Conditions

The discussion of Baseline Conditions below focuses on local instances of pollution that may result in unique or compounded health risks in EJ Communities. A more robust discussion of pollution and contamination on the regional level can be found in the Air Quality and the Hazardous Materials Elements of the General Plan.

Water Contamination

Hazardous chemicals are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Leaks from these containers and tanks can contaminate soil and pollute groundwater. Common pollutants of soil and groundwater include gasoline and diesel fuel from gas stations, as well as solvents from dry cleaners, heavy metals and pesticides. In some cases, contaminated groundwater may become drinking water.

According to data from CalEnviroScreen 3.0, the North Highlands EJ Community has the largest number of active impaired groundwater sites as compared to the other EJ Communities and the Non-EJ Area. This is due to the large number of military cleanup sites at the former McClellan Air Force Base, which is in the process of being cleaned by the U.S. Air Force as well as the McClellan Business Park LLC.

Soil Contamination

Solid waste facilities can release toxic gases into the air and chemicals from solid waste facilities can leach into the soil or groundwater. Residents near these sites may be exposed to airborne chemicals from the soil. Data from CalEnviroScreen 3.0 indicates that the North Vineyard EJ Community, a rural community which has been targeted for new growth, contains or is directly adjacent to a large number of solid waste facilities and hazardous waste generators.

Air Quality

People who live, work or go to school near high volume roads have an increased incidence and severity of health problems such as asthma, cardiovascular disease, impaired lung development in children, childhood leukemia, and premature death (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2014). Interstate 80 intersects both the North Highlands and West Arden Arcade EJ Communities and State Highway 99 intersects the South Sacramento EJ Community. The West Arden Arcade EJ Community is also bordered to the east by Watt Avenue, one of the highest traffic volume thoroughfares in the County.

Using the travel model that the Sacramento Area Council of Government (SACOG) used within the 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), it is anticipated that the number of jobs that the average person



Common pollutants of soil and groundwater include gasoline and diesel fuel from gas stations, as well as solvents from dry cleaners, heavy metals and pesticides.

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Pollutants associated with a high volume of traffic include particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, benzene, and carbon monoxide.

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within each EJ Community could travel to within a 45 minute transit ride will increase between 2012 through 2036. The MTP/SCS anticipates an expanded transit network by the year 2036 for all EJ Communities. Improved transit (as well as improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure) will serve to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles which will, in turn, reduce pollutants associated with a high volume of traffic such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, benzene, and carbon monoxide.

Pesticides applied to agricultural land uses can drift into neighboring communities and cause illness and, in some cases, longer term health conditions such as birth defects or cancer. Data from CalEnviroScreen 3.0 suggests that the North Vineyard and South Sacramento EJ Communities have the highest risk of exposure to pesticides from adjacent agricultural land uses as compared to the other EJ Communities and the Non-EJ Area.

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

Table 4 below includes policies and implementation measures such Agricultural Resources Element Policy AR-3 and corresponding implementation measures intended to protect farmland from urban encroachment and require buffers between agricultural land uses and incompatible land uses in order to prevent undue exposure. Table 4 also includes policies which restrict sources of pollution adjacent to sensitive receptors or which seek to reduce the pollution exposure of sensitive receptors, such as Air Quality Element Policy AQ-3, Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.6, Public Facilities Element Policy PF-32, and several Air Quality Element implementation measures.

Furthermore, the General Plan already contains several policies which support infill development and development of bike and pedestrian infrastructure as a means to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Table 4 includes policies such as Air Quality Element Policy AQ-1, Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.2, Land Use Element Policy LU-3, and Land Use Element Policy LU-68, to name a few.

Due to the large number of existing policies in the General Plan which address pollution exposure and air quality improvement, a focus on improving these policies to make them stronger and more implementable for EJ Communities may be more appropriate than the creation of numerous new policies.

Table 4: Applicable General Policies and Implementation Measures

Air Quality Element Policy AQ-1

New development shall be designed to promote pedestrian/bicycle access and circulation to encourage community residents to use alternative modes of transportation to conserve air quality and minimize direct and indirect emission of air contaminants.

Air Quality Element Policy AQ-3

Buffers and/or other appropriate mitigation shall be established on a project-by-project basis and incorporated during review to provide for protection of sensitive receptors from sources of air pollution or odor. The California Air Resources Board's "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective", and the AQMD's approved Protocol (Protocol for Evaluating the Location of Sensitive Land uses Adjacent to Major Roadways) shall be utilized when establishing these buffers.

Air Quality Element Implementation Measure

Consider environmental justice issues as they relate to potential health impacts associated with air pollution and ensure that all land use decisions are made in an equitable fashion to protect residents, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location from the health effects of air pollution.

Air Quality Element Implementation Measure

Identify the air quality impacts of development proposals to avoid significant adverse impacts, require appropriate mitigation measures or offset fees and submit development proposals to SMAQMD for review and comment prior to consideration by appropriate decision making bodies.

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.2

Advance a built environment that promotes and supports improved air quality and multiple transportation modes.

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.6

The County will endeavor to protect homes from major sources of outdoor air pollution and will mitigate for impacts by improving indoor air quality in residences, planting trees that help to filter particulates and other measures.

Agricultural Resources Element Policy AG-3

The County shall permit agricultural uses on buffers, provided such uses are conducted in a manner compatible with urban uses. Buffers shall be used to separate farming practices incompatible with adjacent urban uses. Any homeowners' association or similar entity within the development shall assist in determining compatible use. Buffers shall not adversely conflict with agricultural uses on adjoining property.

Agricultural Resources Element Implementation Measure

Develop and implement guidelines for design of buffers to be established between areas in a Permanent Agricultural Zone proposed for conversion from agricultural to urban use and adjacent farmlands. Develop and implement procedures for evaluating site specific buffer proposals and making recommendations to the County Planning Commission. Title to buffer areas may be transferred to the County or other appropriate entity, but shall be credited to the proposed development as open space. Buffer design criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Buffers shall generally consist of a physical separation 300-500 feet wide including roadways;
- Narrower buffers may be approved depending on the natural features of the buffer, applicable specific plan policies, and on the relative intensities of the proposed urban use and the adjacent agricultural use; and
- Buffers shall be provided by the proposed development and be fenced along its urban side and posted against trespass.

Public Facilities Element Policy PF-32

Elementary schools shall not be located along arterials and thoroughfares. Junior high and high schools should be located near roadways with adequate capacity and should provide adequate parking to facilitate the transport of students.

Land Use Element Policy LU-3

It is the intent of the County to focus investment of public resources on revitalization efforts within existing communities, especially within commercial corridors, while also allowing planning and development to occur within strategic new growth areas.

Land Use Element Policy LU-68

Give the highest priority for public funding to projects that facilitate infill, reuse, redevelopment and rehabilitation, mixed-use development, and that will result in per person vehicle miles traveled lower than the County average, and the lowest priority for projects that do not comply with public facilities Master Plan phasing sequences.

SECTION 4: PROMOTE PUBLIC FACILITIES

An adequate supply of public facilities is a critical component to the current and future prosperity of a community. Under State Government Code 65302(h), “public facilities” acts as an umbrella term that includes “public improvements, public services, and community amenities”. This covers a wide spectrum of publicly provided uses and services including infrastructure, school facilities, parks, and transportation and emergency services. These amenities and services act to improve the health, safety, and wellness of a community by either enhancing the public sphere or providing services that are available to every resident.

Insufficient public facilities can have significant impacts to the health and quality-of-life of the community. For example, communities that lack basic infrastructure such as sidewalks and street lights present safety hazards for people using public spaces, particularly individuals that depend on alternate modes of transportation (i.e., walking, riding a bike, waiting for a bus, etc.). In addition, communities that lack facilities such as open space, community centers and parks may not have the same quality of life as others that reside in communities with those facilities.

In many cases, the mere existence of certain public facilities is not enough to ensure that they are sufficient. Public facilities must keep pace with community needs and maintenance requirements in order to continue providing an acceptable level of service to the community.

Historically, EJ Communities across the nation have struggled with insufficient access to public facilities and substandard amenities more than other communities. In order to assess the availability of public facilities in the County’s EJ Communities, this section contains a preliminary assessment of existing facilities and policies in the General Plan.

Baseline Conditions Summary

Existing Facilities and Community Amenities

Many public services are provided by special districts that are not directly accountable to the County of Sacramento. Therefore, it is important to focus this element on the aspects of public facilities that the County does control. For example, the County can guide the siting of new public facilities in new growth areas. The operation and maintenance of existing facilities, however, is usually under the purview of the relevant special district or County agency responsible for those types of facilities.

Staff conducted a preliminary assessment of existing public facilities in EJ communities. This focused on facilities that act as community amenities or sites of emergency service providers. Staff mapped these facilities as well as residential areas in each EJ community (Figures 4 through 6).

In Sacramento County, there are 14 school districts serving approximately 244,394 students. Each school district is independently governed and operated. These school districts are responsible for the operation of 413 public schools ranging from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary education. Seven of these school districts serve the County’s EJ Communities.

Libraries are also a critical public service and are a signature of a healthy community that helps to define the quality of life for the businesses, families and individuals that live in the community. In Sacramento County, the 28 library facilities are managed by

the Sacramento Public Library Authority, a joint powers authority consisting of representatives from the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. Five of these library facilities are located in EJ communities. There are 28 public libraries that provide free access to reading material, homework zones (tutoring services offered), adult learning (adult literacy assistance and GED services), makerspace (creating music, virtual and real-world designs, etc.) and other items for check out from crafting machines to yard equipment.

Park facilities are essential for creating and maintaining healthy and vibrant communities. Parks provide values and quality of life to the residents and visitors of the Sacramento County region through access to both organized and informal recreational activities and services. Park facilities are governed either directly by a County agency or by special districts. Special districts can operate either dependently or independently of the Board of Supervisors. Dependent special districts are often run by advisory boards staffed with members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Independent special districts, on the other hand, are run by a legislative body elected by registered voters within that district's jurisdiction. Parks and recreation facilities in EJ communities are included on the Community Facilities Maps in Figures 4 through 6.

Sacramento County recognizes the need to encourage and promote bicycle use as a viable, attractive, non-polluting form of transportation that improves physical fitness and community well-being. There are three distinct types of bikeways: off-street bike paths (Class 1), on-street bike lanes (Class 2) and on-street bike routes (Class 3). In the maps below, Class 1 and Class 2 bike paths are identified throughout the various EJ Communities. Class 1 bike lanes are paved pathways that are completely separated from streets. Generally, Class 1 Bike Paths are located along the American River or the abandoned Sacramento Northern Railroad line (i.e., American River Parkway, Sacramento Northern Trail, Mather Field, and Folsom South Canal, etc.). There are not many Class 1 bike lanes throughout the EJ and Non-EJ communities. This may be a result of the development primarily being older and developed at a time that this specific class of bike trails was not used. Class 2 bike lanes are a striped lane for one-way bike travel on a street. This is the most commonly found bike path as it is relatively easy to construct and implement.

Emergency facilities such as sheriff and fire stations are also shown in the Community Amenities Maps. Sheriff's stations act as local hubs for the County's Sheriff's Department in the community. While the Sheriff's Department provides specialized law enforcement services to the whole County, it acts as a local police force in the unincorporated areas. Fire stations are under the control of whatever fire district is responsible for that area. Fire districts provide emergency medical rescue and fire protection services in their jurisdiction. Like park districts, fire districts can either function as independent or dependent districts. All fire districts in the County, other than the Natomas Fire District, operate as independent districts.

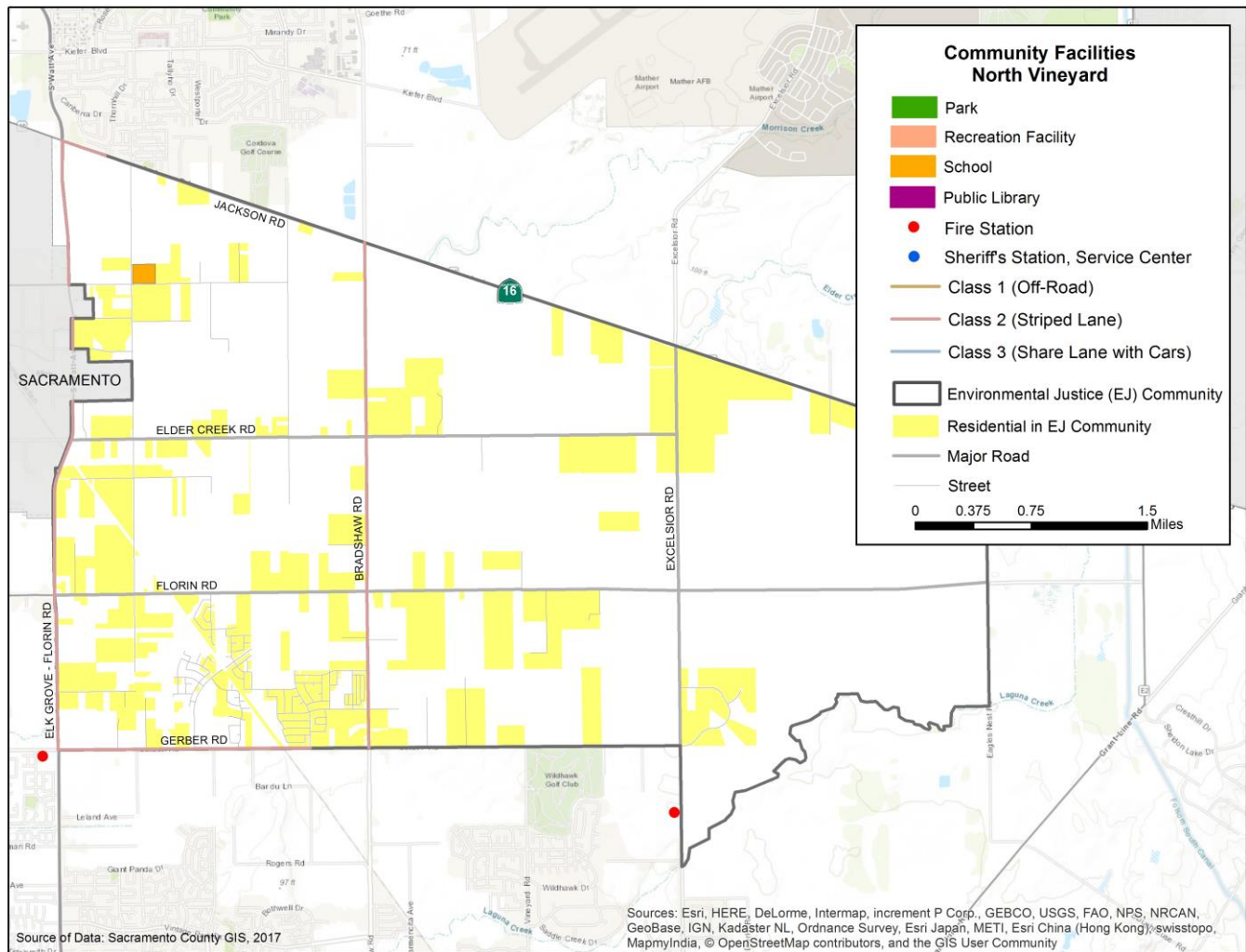
Figure 4: Community Facilities in North Vineyard

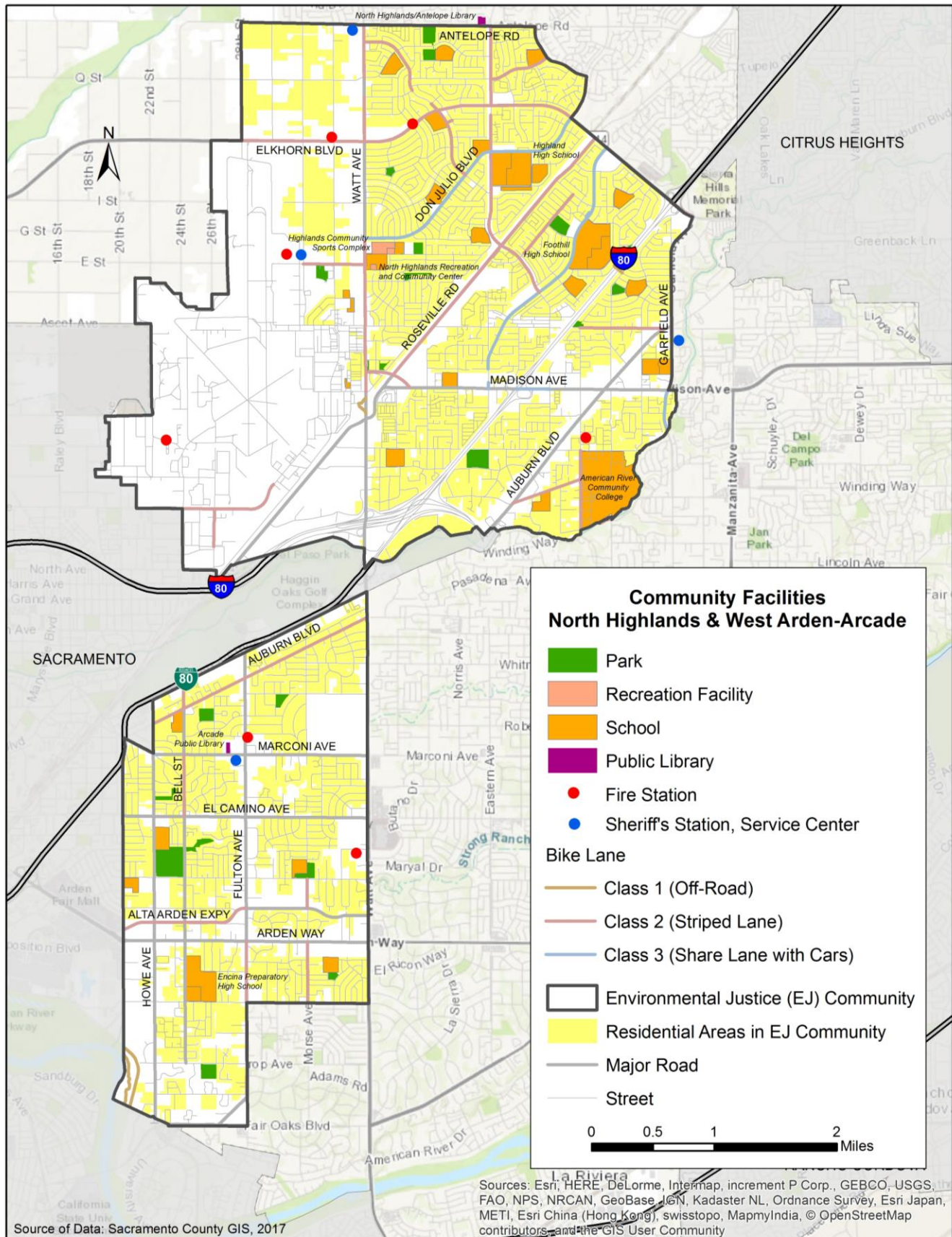
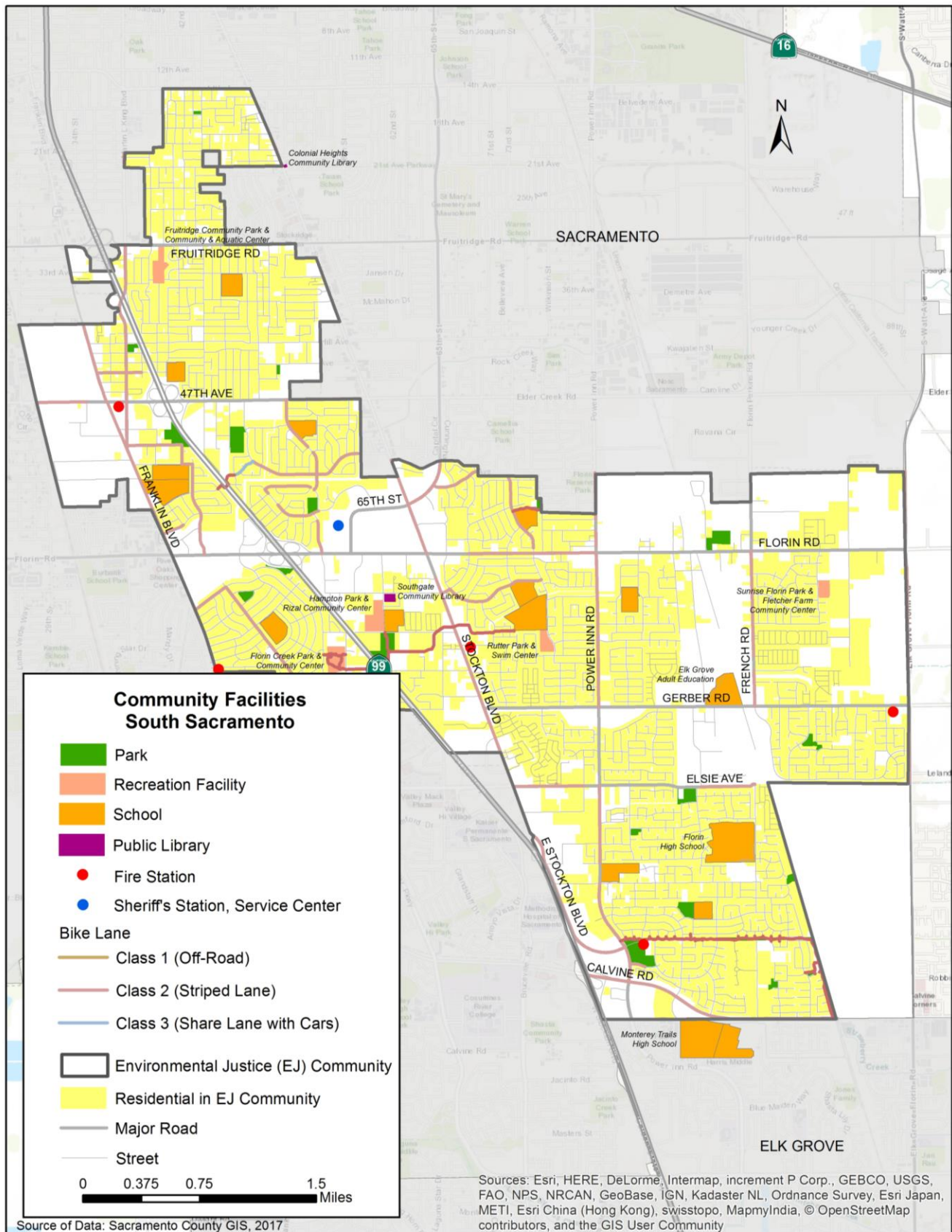
Figure 5: Community Facilities in North Highlands and West Arden-Arcade

Figure 6: Community Facilities in South Sacramento



Source of Data: Sacramento County GIS, 2017

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

The General Plan currently contains multiple policies that address public facilities. These policies exist in the Public Facilities, Land Use, Housing, and Circulation Elements (Table 5).

The Public Facilities Element includes in-depth discussion, specific goals and policies for each type of facility under the purview of the County. While this element does cover siting criteria and planning considerations, policies are focused more on financing and operation. The Circulation, Housing, and Land Use Element have a more broad focus tailored to the respective element, rather than a focus on discrete types of public facilities.

State Government Code 65302(h) requires jurisdictions to prioritize improvements to public facilities in Environmental Justice communities. The General Plan also contains policies relating to public facilities that address siting and funding priorities for public facilities. Examples include:

Land Use Element Policy LU-68

Give the highest priority for public funding to projects that facilitate infill, reuse, redevelopment and rehabilitation, mixed-use development, and that will result in per person vehicle miles traveled lower than the County average, and the lowest priority for projects that do not comply with public facilities Master Plan phasing sequences.

Housing Element Policy HE 3.3.1

Provide improved public infrastructure and services, including water, sewer, curbs, gutter, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting where these services will improve the physical quality of blighted or declining neighborhoods or facilitate appropriate infill.

While these policies do not specifically require that the County prioritize public facilities improvements in Environmental Justice communities, these policies will be strengthened in combination with the new policy on prioritization in EJ Communities.

Table 5: Applicable General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures**Housing Element Policy HE 3.3.1**

Provide improved public infrastructure and services, including water, sewer, curbs, gutter, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting where these services will improve the physical quality of blighted or declining neighborhoods or facilitate appropriate infill.

Housing Element Implementation Program HE 3.3.2

Maintain local/private sector involvement in preserving and revitalizing older neighborhoods through local lending institutions and the Community Reinvestment Act.

Housing Element Implementation Program G2

The County will continue to provide and promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian trails, lanes and sidewalks, through: master planning walk-ability principles and connectivity in project planning, capital projects and strategic partnerships. Within existing communities, efforts shall be made to reduce driveways, promote cross access agreements, shared parking and identify new pedestrian access/easements that reduce block length, provide sidewalks and bike lanes where absent, promote connectivity and advance smart growth streets where appropriate. New residential and residential mixed use infill development should help promote walk-ability, physical activity and create bicycle and pedestrian connectivity through:

- Creating and providing open space connections for multiple residential projects utilizing storm water quality, utility easements and other opportunities to integrate trails within urban development.
- Invest in transit-oriented and non-motorized residential and residential mixed use development projects that promote urban density, economic vitality, street connectivity and attractive public transportation choices.
- Trail system linkages to roads and park-and-ride facilities, sidewalk projects that create more walkable residential communities and safe bicycle lanes.
- Allow neighborhood retail, service and public facilities within walking distance of residential areas, where residents will be able to walk to meet their daily needs, whenever appropriate.
- Consider services that reduce the need for residents to drive to meet their daily needs. Such services might include: grocery and fresh food access within walking distance, mobile or virtual health clinics, retail near residential,
- Supporting shorter block lengths.

Land Use Element Policy LU-107

When siting new civic buildings and County offices, preference shall be given to locations in existing communities in need of revitalization.

Land Use Element Policy LU-68

Give the highest priority for public funding to projects that facilitate infill, reuse, redevelopment and rehabilitation, mixed-use development, and that will result in per person vehicle miles traveled lower than the County average, and the lowest priority for projects that do not comply with public facilities Master Plan phasing sequences.

Circulation Element CI 32

Develop a comprehensive, safe, convenient and accessible bicycle and pedestrian system that serves and connects the County's employment, commercial, recreational, educational, social services, housing and other transportation modes.

Circulation Element CI 33

Adopt, implement and periodically update the Sacramento County Bicycle Master Plan for unincorporated Sacramento County that sets forth the goals, policies, guidelines, programs and improvements necessary to accomplish the goals of this section

Circulation Element CI 38

Design and construct pedestrian facilities to ensure that such facilities are accessible to all users.

Public Facilities Element PF-21

Property buffering the County landfill shall remain in agricultural, recreational or other open space uses and extend at least 2000 feet in all directions, measured from the landfill's permitted boundary, unless the Department of Waste Management and Recycling determines that the use is compatible with landfill operations and the Board of Supervisors makes the finding that the uses are compatible with the existing or future operations of the landfill.

Public Facilities Element PF-22

New transfer station facilities shall be located in industrially zoned areas at distances from residential areas consistent with standards contained in the Noise Element.

Public Facilities Element PF-29

Schools shall be planned as a focal point of neighborhood activity and interrelated with neighborhood retail uses, churches, neighborhood and community parks, greenways, and off-street paths whenever possible.

Public Facilities Element PF-30

New elementary schools in the urban areas should be planned whenever possible so that almost all residences will be within walking distance of the school (one mile or less) and all residences are within two miles of a school.

Public Facilities Element PF-31

Schools shall be planned adjacent to neighborhood parks whenever possible and designed to promote joint use of appropriate facilities. The interface between the school and park shall be planned with an open design and offer unobstructed views to promote safety.

SECTION 5: FOOD ACCESS

Food plays a critical role in the health, economy and culture of a sustainable community. Therefore, it is essential that all stakeholders have access to food that is healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate. Environmental Justice Communities may face constraints related to accessibility to nutritional food; this lack of accessibility has a direct impact on personal health and well-being. Food access is not only linked to the physical accessibility of affordable and culturally appropriate food but to food security, defined as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods as well as the ability to acquire foods in socially acceptable ways (without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies) (Life Sciences Research Office 1990). This section analyzes the accessibility of grocery stores, the accessibility of fast food, and the rate of food insecurity in EJ Communities as compared to the Non-EJ Area of the County.

Baseline Conditions

According to grocery store data from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), there are a higher percentage of residential units within the North Highlands, West Arden Arcade, and South Sacramento EJ Communities that are within half a mile of grocery stores than within Non-EJ areas. This trend is especially notable in the South Sacramento EJ Community where there are a large number of small ethnic markets.

While there are many grocery stores within the EJ Communities, there are also many fast food restaurants. In fact, according to SACOG data on fast food restaurants in the County, a disproportionately high percentage of units and schools within North Highlands and West Arden Arcade EJ Communities are within a quarter of a mile of fast food restaurants as compared to the units within the Non-EJ areas.

Feeding America conducts an annual study to estimate the number of food insecure people and the percentage of the population that experienced food insecurity at some point during a given year. According to their estimates, both the food insecurity rates and the food insecurity population are significantly higher in the census tracts of the West Arden Arcade, North Highlands, and South Sacramento EJ communities than the census tracts associated with Non-EJ areas. Of the County-wide food-insecure population, Feeding America found that the majority of households which were considered food insecure were actually above the Federal poverty level used for nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) and would not be eligible for assistance. Households which earn too much to qualify for Federal nutrition assistance programs but are still food insecure must choose between competing priorities such as housing, utilities and medical expenses.

The North Vineyard EJ Community serves as the contradiction to the baseline data conditions above. As a rural community which has been targeted for new growth, this community lacks both grocery stores and fast food restaurants and is estimated to have a food insecurity rate that is similar to that of Non-EJ areas.



Access to healthy, fresh food is necessary for a sustainable community.

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Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

Table 6 below includes existing policies and implementation programs within the Housing Element of the General Plan which are intended to increase neighborhood accessibility to locally-grown, fresh food. Implementation of these policies and programs has resulted in a Zoning Code which is permissive of farmers markets, urban agriculture, produce stands, and community gardens.

Table 6: Applicable General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.3

Advance a built environment that promotes and supports access to locally-grown fresh food, parks, schools, shopping, jobs, health care and community services.

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.7

The County will encourage the provision of safe, convenient opportunities to purchase local fresh fruits and vegetables by ensuring that sources of healthy foods are accessible to neighborhoods. In urbanized communities access should be within a half-mile of transit priority areas.

Housing Element Implementation Program G4

The Planning and Environmental Review Division through the updated Zoning Code will allow community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily projects.

Housing Element Implementation Program G3

The County through the Planning and Environmental Review Division will increase opportunities for locating providers of fresh produce (grocery stores, farmers markets, produce stands) near existing neighborhoods, particularly low income neighborhoods, and also in new master plan areas. For example, the Department of Community Development is proposing to increase the number of land use zones that allow grocery stores.

SECTION 6: SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

Insufficiently maintained housing often leads to health effects from unsafe and unsanitary conditions such as pest infestation, mold, water intrusion, physical damage and exposure to toxins such as asbestos and lead.

Overcrowded housing is another issue that impacts the safety and cleanliness of homes. According to the World Health Organization, unsanitary conditions arising from overcrowding in homes can contribute to the spread of disease (California Environmental Justice Alliance, 2017). Unfortunately, overcrowding is an underreported issue; however, the U.S. Census Bureau does have data to determine whether overcrowding is occurring in a neighborhood. Overcrowding is often measured by determining the persons-per-room in a dwelling unit with houses with more than one person per room considered overcrowded.

Baseline Conditions

Inadequate Maintenance

Age of housing stock and owner income are major factors in the need for housing maintenance. Therefore, staff developed two criteria for identifying areas (census tracts) within EJ Communities that potentially have a large number of inadequately or improperly maintained homes. The first criterion is having at least 80 percent of homes built before 1980. The second criterion is having at least 60 percent of households with annual incomes less than double the Federal poverty level.

Three EJ Communities (North Highlands, West Arden-Arcade and South Sacramento) have large areas with older homes and lower-income residents. The only other areas in the unincorporated County with older homes and lower income residents are semi-rural areas west of North Highlands and in the Sacramento Delta (Sacramento County, 2010).

Housing Overcrowding

There are a higher percentage of overcrowded homes in EJ Communities than in Non-EJ areas. For all residences, the percentage of homes that are overcrowded in EJ communities is 7 percent while in Non-EJ areas the percentage is 3 percent. For renter-occupied residences, the percentage of homes that are overcrowded in EJ communities is 10 percent compared to 6 percent on in Non-EJ areas.

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

Home Maintenance Programs

Existing Housing Element policies HE 3.1.1 and HE 3.1.2 encourage the rehabilitation of substandard homes occupied by lower income households (see Table 7). In addition, Housing Element implementation program C2 requires the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) to provide financial assistance for emergency repairs and disabled retrofits for low income or senior residents. SHRA administers or financially assists two programs that help low income homeowners. The Emergency Repair Program/Accessibility Modifications (ERP-A) program administered by SHRA provides home repair assistance to very low income homeowners within the unincorporated County. SHRA also provides financial assistance to Rebuilding Together to operate the Safe at Home Program. This program provides free minor modifications and repairs to low income homeowners



Peeling paint on old houses could expose children to lead poisoning.



There are existing home repair programs for low income residents for needed home repairs.

for projects that will improve accessibility and safety within the home. Currently there are no SHRA- related programs that help landlords rehabilitate properties for their tenants.

Housing Element policy 3.2.2 encourages the efficient advertising of home rehabilitation programs and Housing Element implementation program C3 directs the Office of Planning and Environmental Review (PER) in coordination with SHRA, to publicize the ERP-A Program in or near areas that were identified in a 2010 housing conditions survey.

Housing Overcrowding

There is an existing Housing Element Policy (HE 4.1.11) that requires the County to support the development of housing to meet the needs of large households.

Table 7: Applicable General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures

Housing Element Policy HE 3.1.1

Utilize federal, state, local and private funding programs offering low interest loans or grants, and private equity for the rehabilitation of rental properties for lower income households.

Housing Element Policy HE 3.1.2

Encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of substandard homes in need of rehabilitation owned and occupied by lower income households, especially those left vacant due to foreclosure.

Housing Element Policy HE 3.2.2

Promote efficient public outreach programs to enhance the rehabilitation of substandard housing.

Housing Element Policy HE 4.1.11

Support the development of housing to meet the needs of large households.

Housing Element Implementation Program C1

The County, through the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) will fund and administer multifamily housing loan programs for the rehabilitation of substandard housing and the acquisition and rehabilitation of substandard property for occupancy by lower income households. SHRA will pursue offering financing for the acquisition and rehabilitation of multifamily properties, including financially troubled multifamily properties in foreclosure to prevent further property and neighborhood deterioration.

Housing Element Implementation Program C2

The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) will provide financial assistance for emergency repairs and disabled retrofitting for homes occupied by seniors and lower income residents designed to achieve neighborhood improvement objectives.

Housing Element Implementation Program C3

The Department of Community Development (now the Office of Planning and Environmental Review) will continue to work with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) to publicize the Home Assistance and Repair Program for Seniors (HARPS) and the Emergency Repair Program (ERP-A) which assist seniors and low-income households with necessary repairs and accessibility modifications. Community Development will promote these programs in or near areas that were identified by the most recent Exterior Housing Conditions Survey as having higher percentages of distressed housing.

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SECTION 7: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity is a large contributor to the physical and mental health of Sacramento County residents. People who are physically active tend to live longer and have lower risk for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). People partake in physical activity for many different reasons. Some are physically active for recreational purposes, such as taking the dog for a walk after dinner, going for a run, or playing basketball in the neighborhood park. While others are physically active for transportation purposes, such as commuting by bike to work or walking to a local restaurant or store. Physical activity is promoted by the built environment through having places that encourage walking, biking and other forms of exercise, such as parks, open space, trails, urban green spaces and active transportation networks. For example, if a community has a series of safe bike trails, community members are more likely to bike within that community.

State Government Code Section 65302(h) requires promotion of physical activity in disadvantaged communities to be a covered topic within this General Plan element. EJ Communities can be impacted by years of poor land use planning, neglect, fewer public investments, and lack of long term planning, which can lead to fewer opportunities for formal and informal recreation (California Environmental Justice Alliance, 2017). Furthermore, most EJ Communities within Sacramento County were developed decades ago and thus may have infrastructure such as sidewalks and bike lanes that do not meet current development standards or may have areas where certain types of infrastructure do not exist (Sacramento County, 2007). Therefore, these communities rely on large development projects or programs to update existing infrastructure or install missing infrastructure. In order to assess the availability of facilities that promote physical activity in the County's EJ communities, this section contains a preliminary assessment of baseline conditions and existing policies in the General Plan.

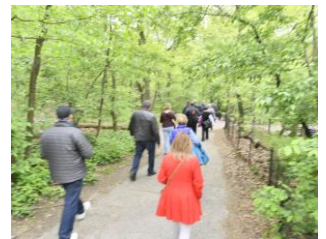
Baseline Conditions

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

The County of Sacramento has many sidewalks, walkways, trails, bike paths, and bike lanes. These features of the built environment allow people to walk and bike safely within the County and are an essential component that allows community members to use walking or biking as their chosen mode of transportation.

Sacramento County does not have a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks, street crossings, lighting, shade trees, or benches. Therefore, assessing the baseline for pedestrian facilities within EJ Communities is difficult. The Phase 2 process will analyze available data to determine more information on the baseline for walkability within EJ Communities.

Unincorporated Sacramento County has 47.42 miles of Class 1 and 174.63 miles of Class 2 bike lanes within the Urban Services Boundary (Sacramento Area Council of Governments, 2017). Class 1 bike trails are routes that are completely off road, while Class 2 bike lanes are within the same right-of-way of cars but have a specified striped bike lane. There are also Class 3 bike lanes, which are bike paths located within the same right-of-way of cars and have no specified lane. Because these lanes are not designated through striping they are not included in this analysis. SACOG has a database of all known bike paths and lanes within Sacramento County; the table



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017) reports that adults with more education and whose family income is above the poverty level are more likely to engage in more aerobic activity than adults with less education or whose family income is at or near the poverty level Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017).



Neighborhoods with active design treatments, such as sidewalks and shade trees, generate about 120 percent more pedestrian and bicycle trips than automobile oriented neighborhoods (Sacramento County, 2007).

Photo by Greg Griffin, AICP (CC BY-NC 4.0). Copyright 2016 American Planning Association.

and maps below show the existing mileage and location of documented bike lanes within each EJ Community.

Table 8: Bike Lane Mileage

	Class 1 Bike Lanes (Miles)	Class 2 Bike Lanes (Miles)
North Highlands	0.273	22.62
West Arden Arcade	0.987	6.9
South Sacramento	4.66	25.03
North Vineyard	0	8.58

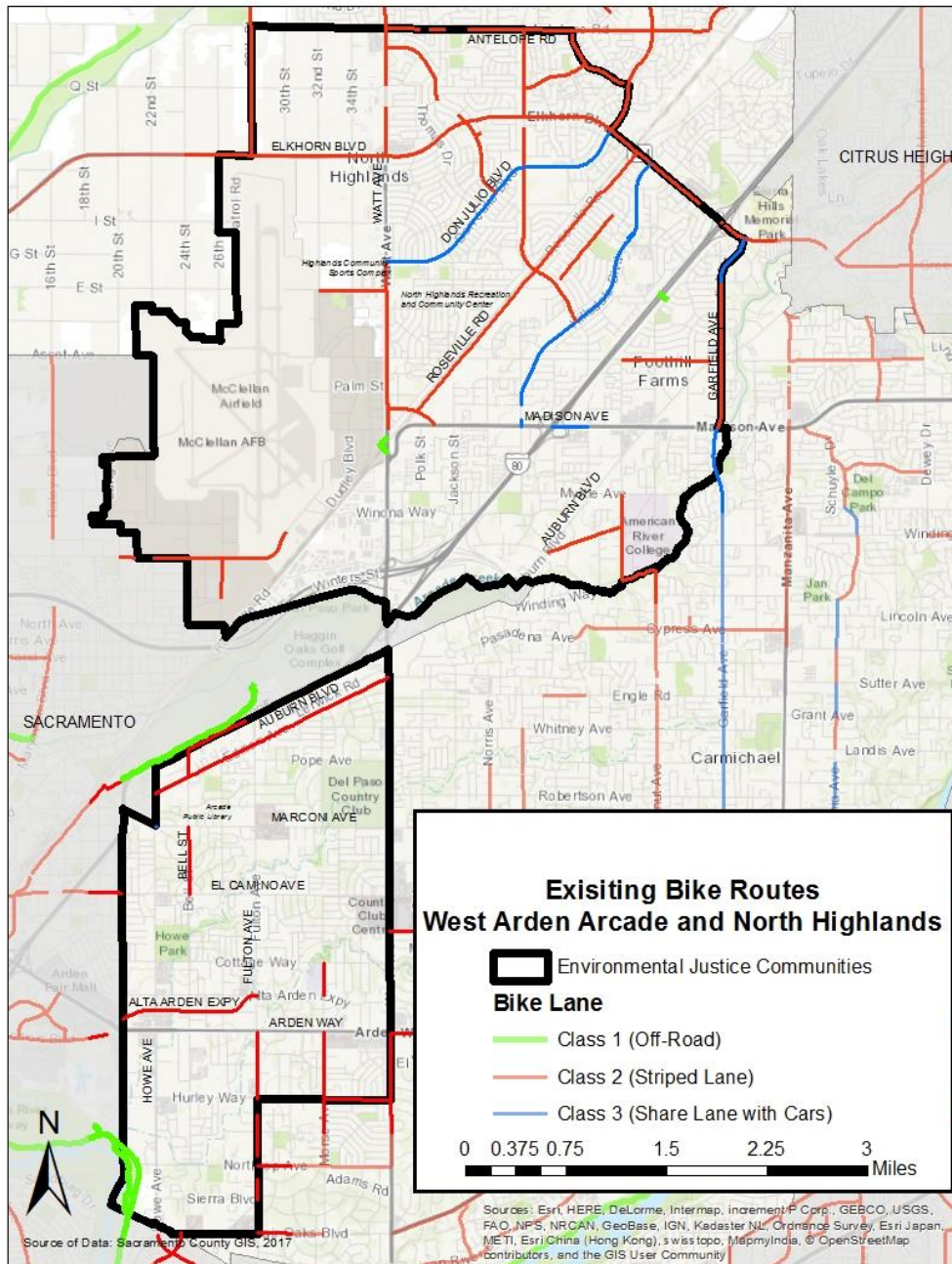
Figure 7: Bike Lanes within West Arden Arcade and North Highlands

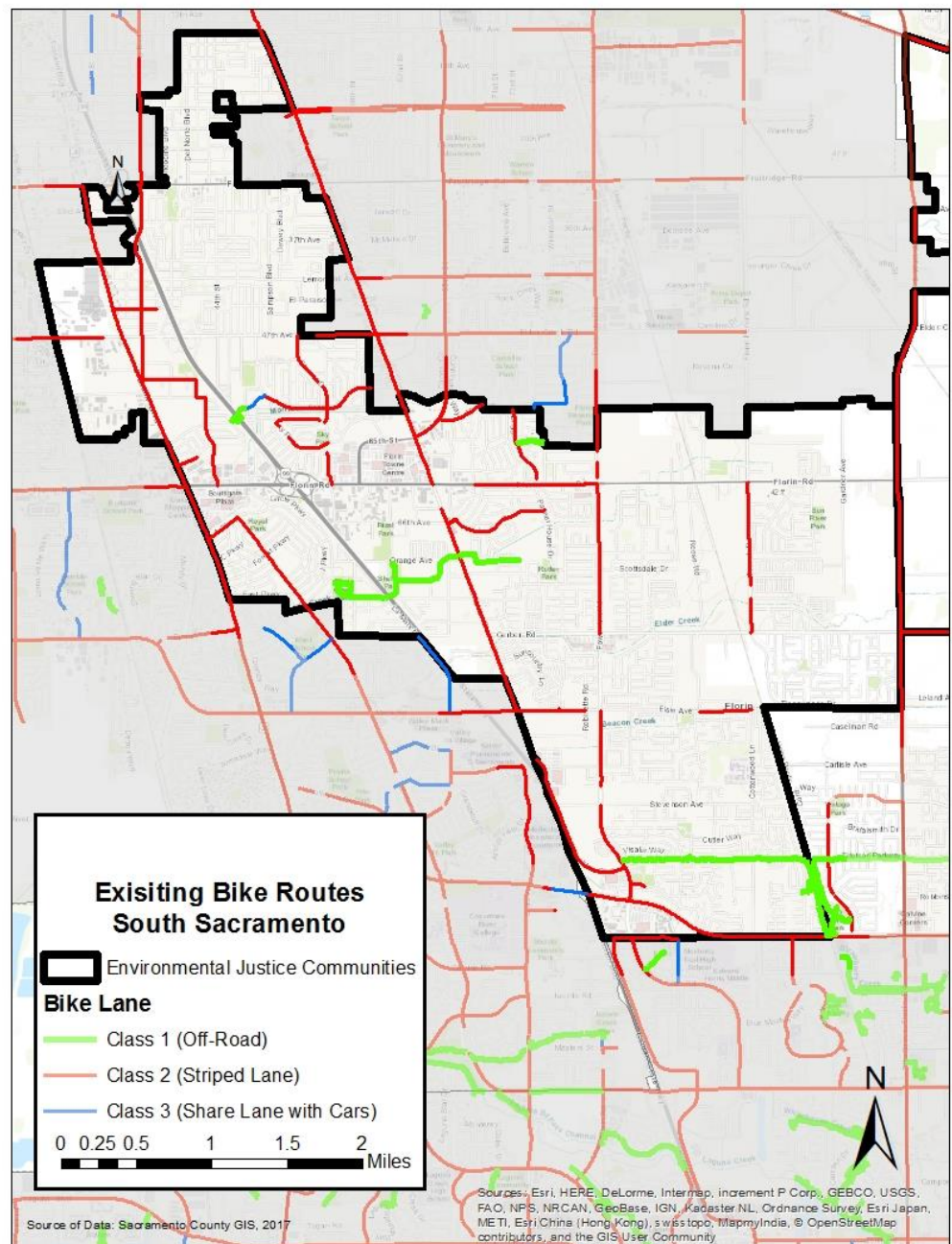
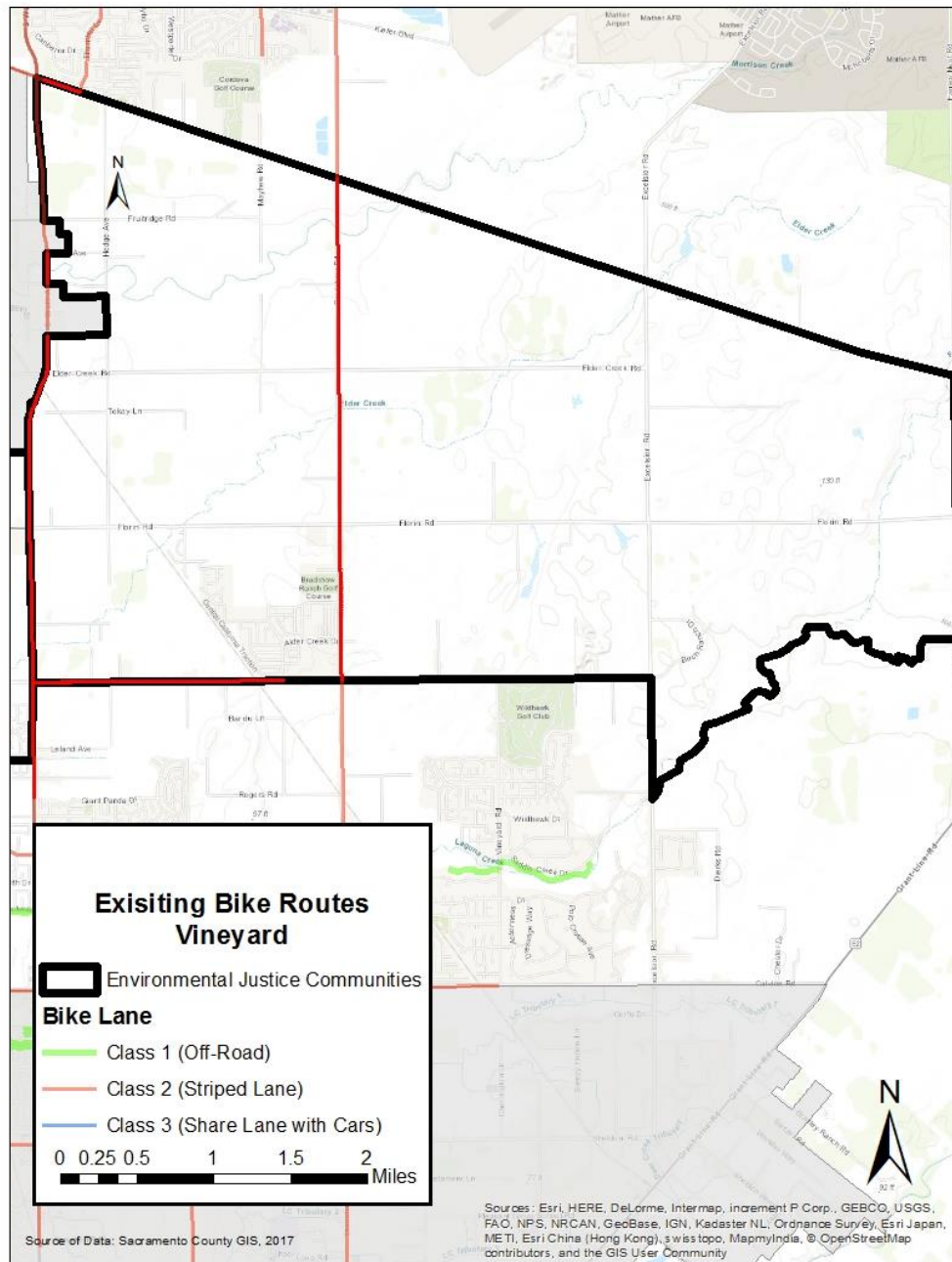
Figure 8: Bike Lanes within South Sacramento

Figure 9: Bike Lanes within Vineyard



Facilities Conducive to Physical Activity

The County of Sacramento has many parks, open space, and recreation facilities available to the residents and visitors. Having access to these facilities is important to promote physical activity. The Sacramento County General Plan states:

People rely on Sacramento's parks and recreational facilities for the pursuit of health and fitness, self-education, connection with nature and positive social activities. From toddlers through teens, adults, and senior citizens, people of all ages enjoy the trails, natural and cultural resources, sports fields and courts, nature centers, playgrounds, swimming pools and community centers that the region provides. Parks define the quality of neighborhoods and communities and provide the setting for active and passive recreation which benefits the residents of the immediate neighborhood, the larger community, and the broader region. (Sacramento County, 2011)

This discussion overlaps with another required topic of State Government Code Section 65302(h), the promotion of public facilities. Therefore, refer to Section 4 for the baseline setting of the existing recreational facilities within each EJ Community.

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

State Government Code 65302(h) requires jurisdictions to identify objectives and policies to promote physical activity to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in EJ communities. The General Plan currently contains several policy and implementation programs that aim to promote physical activity within the County of Sacramento. These policies are listed in Table 9 below and exist in the Housing, Land Use, and Public Facilities Elements of the General Plan.

Most of the existing policies tend to be quite broad or more applicable to proposed developments and new communities. Therefore, implementing policies that aim to promote physical activity will have an impact on EJ Communities that have high potential for new growth (Vineyard) or high potential for development of infill sites (South Sacramento). However, North Highlands and West Arden-Arcade are more mature areas that have been built out under a different planning paradigm and have limited potential for new development. This poses some limitations to the physical space available for creating new public facilities aimed toward increasing public recreation and activity, such as bike lanes.

As an effort to reinforce the goals of the General Plan, the County included an appendix on Active Design in the Countywide Design Guidelines. The purpose of this section is to incorporate active design strategies into the built environment to promote physical activity and improve the health of Sacramento communities. Development projects going through the design review process are reviewed to ensure consistency with the principles of active design. This review is likely to be most effective in new developments that may not have the space constraints described above. (Sacramento County, 2015).

The General Plan does include policies that focus on existing communities though, which include:

- 1) Land Use Element Policy LU-39, which supports the County's Pedestrian Master Plan and ADA Transitional Plan, which are focused on increasing walkability within the County of Sacramento. These plans have identified

areas within the County that are high priority locations and in need of projects to increase pedestrian facilities.

- 2) Land Use Element Policy LU-40, which encourages traffic calming measures in areas where pedestrian travel is desirable but made unsafe by high volume or excessive speed of automobile traffic.

Although the existing policies that relate to the promotion of physical activity apply to Sacramento County as a whole, the County can use these policies to promote physical activity within EJ Communities. However, a thorough review of the efficacy of these existing policies will occur as part of the Phase 2 development of the Environmental Justice Element. This second phase will allow the County to strengthen existing policies and create new policies, if necessary, to ensure that promotion of physical activity within EJ communities is a priority of the County.

Table 9: Applicable General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.1

Advance a built environment that promotes and supports physical activity.

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.4

The County will continue to support walking, bicycling and transit use, reducing auto dependency in order improve the health of its citizens and improve the region's air quality.

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.5

The County will continue to support walking and bicycling by requiring complete streets (bike lanes, and sidewalks separated from the roadway with tree planted landscaping) in transit priority areas and in new communities and developments wherever practicable.

Land Use Element Policy LU-26

When planning for new development in new communities, the features below shall be incorporated for their public health benefits and ability to encourage more active lifestyles, unless environmental constraints make this infeasible. In existing communities, the features below shall be considered, as appropriate and feasible:

- Where appropriate, compact, mixed use development and a balance of land uses including schools, parks, jobs, retail and grocery stores, so that everyday needs are within walking distance of homes.
- Grid or modified-grid pattern streets, integrated pathways and public transportation that connect multiple destinations and provide for alternatives to the automobile.
- Wide sidewalks, shorter blocks, well-marked crosswalks, on-street parking, shaded streets and traffic-calming measures to encourage pedestrian activity.
- Walkable commercial areas with features that may include doors and windows fronting on the street, street furniture, pedestrian-scale lighting, and served by transit when feasible.
- Open space, including important habitat, wildlife corridors, and agricultural areas incorporated as community separators and appropriately accessible via non-vehicular pathways.

Land Use Element Policy LU-27

Provide safe, interesting and convenient environments for pedestrians and bicyclists, including inviting and adequately-lit streetscapes, networks of trails, paths and parks and open spaces located near residences, to encourage regular exercise and reduce vehicular emissions.

Land Use Element Policy LU-38

Community Plans, Specific Plans, and development projects shall be designed to promote pedestrian movement through direct, safe, and pleasant routes that connect destinations inside and outside the plan or project area.

Land Use Element Policy LU-39

Support implementation of the ADA Transitional Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan to create a network of safe, accessible and appealing pedestrian facilities and environments.

Land Use Element Policy LU-40

Employ appropriate traffic calming measures in areas where pedestrian travel is desirable but made unsafe by a high volume or excessive speed of automobile traffic. Preference shall be given to measures that slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety while creating the least amount of conflict with emergency responders.

Land Use Element Policy LU-41

Encourage placement of active uses, such as retailers, restaurants, and various services, on the ground floor of buildings in areas where the greatest levels of pedestrian activity are sought.

Land Use Element Policy LU-42

Master planning efforts for new growth areas shall provide for separated sidewalks along all arterials and thoroughfares to make walking a safer and more attractive transportation option.

Public Facilities Element Policy PF-120

The County will work cooperatively with the local recreation and park districts to help assure that the provision of additional parks and recreation facilities keeps pace with urban growth within the County.

Public Facilities Element Policy PF-121

The County supports the adoption and implementation of Parks and Recreation Master Plans by local recreation and park districts to establish goals and policies for community-oriented parks and recreation facilities that are consistent with the goals and policies of this General Plan.

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct meetings, workshops or public hearings in order to solicit input from interested individuals and organizations on opportunities and recommendations for integrating public health concerns into local land use and transportation planning. (PLANNING, MSA - DOT, DHHS)

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Coordinate with Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Sacramento County DOT and other public health agencies and organizations during master planning efforts to identify and integrate design elements into land use plans that encourage physical activity. (PLANNING, MSA - DOT, DHHS)

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Modify the Zoning Code and development standards to promote pedestrian access by providing for breaks in sound walls, walkways through parking lots, lighting and amenities, and pedestrian routes between projects and different land uses. (PLANNING, MSA - COUNTY ENGINEERING)

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Evaluate and condition development projects in order to provide pedestrian routes and amenities. (PLANNING, DERA)

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Develop Community and Specific Plans that provide a network of pedestrian routes that connect different destinations within the plan area. (PLANNING)

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Develop infrastructure financing fees that account for the full width of roadway improvements in order to ensure that pedestrian routes are connected. (PLANNING)

Land Use Element Implementation Measure

Implement strategies identified in the ADA Transitional Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan in both existing communities and new growth areas to improve pedestrian mobility. (PLANNING)

Public Facilities Element Implementation Measure

Update the calculation factors for determining required land dedication proportional to population of new residential developments based on the latest available U.S. Census information. When supported by updated park inventories and Census demographic statistics, encourage park districts to petition the County for review and adjustment of the land dedication factors when warranted per SCC Section 22.40.045. Existing park acreage service standards as documented by petitioning districts may include local park opportunities associated with school district and regional park facilities. (PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW)

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SECTION 8: CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) uses the built environment to reduce both the incidence and fear of crime. This is achieved through the proper design, maintenance and use of the buildings and the spaces between buildings. The following are the major principles of CPTED:

- **Natural Surveillance:** Maximizes people's ability to be aware of their environment while doing their normal activity.
- **Territoriality:** Clearly delineates between the public, private and semi-public realms in the built environment. This delineation makes it easier for people to use an area in a way that is consistent with its purpose.
- **Access Control:** Prevents access to those who will commit illegal acts, especially access to an area where it would be easy to conceal an illegal act.
- **Management and Maintenance:** Without proper maintenance of landscaping, lighting and other features, even the best CPTED design elements will ultimately fail (City of Portland, 2015).

CPTED encourages the realization of other Environmental Justice goals. For example, the benefits of promoting physical activity will be more easily realized if CPTED principles are used to reduce neighborhood crime and the fear of crime. Neighborhood residents would more readily use neighborhood trails and parks for their physical activity if they perceive that their neighborhood is safe.

Baseline Conditions

Areas with a high density of robberies ("robbery hot spots") in the unincorporated County are predominately located in EJ Communities. According to Lexis Nexis' Community Crime Map which identifies high crime areas or "hot spots" based on density of incidents, four of the five robbery hot spots in the unincorporated County are located in EJ Communities. West Arden-Arcade and South Sacramento each has one robbery hot spot, while North Highlands has two hot spots.

A robbery is a crime of opportunity that often occurs in an area where it is easy to conceal the illegal act due to physical barriers, inadequate lighting or lack of observers. Because most robberies occur in certain environments, robbery incidents can be reduced through CPTED design elements (City of Houston Police Department, 2017).

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

According to Housing Element policy HE 7.1.8 (see Table 10) the County will utilize CPTED principles in residential and commercial projects. Housing Element implementation program (G7) requires the County to incorporate CPTED principles into the County's Design Review Guidelines. Implementing CPTED principles on new developments will improve their safety for residents and workers and will have a positive impact on EJ Communities that have high potential for new growth (North Vineyard) or high potential for development in infill sites (South Sacramento). However, in areas that are built out and have limited potential for new development



Adequate outdoor walkway lighting is an important feature in maximizing people's ability to be aware of their environment after daylight hours.



Many robberies occur as people walk to or from their cars in parking lots.

(North Highlands and West Arden-Arcade), implementing CPTED principles during the Design Review Process will have limited impact.

Table 10: Applicable General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures

Housing Element Policy HE 7.1.8

The County will advance residential subdivision and commercial building design that supports crime prevention by utilizing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles.

Housing Element Implementation Program G6

When the opportunity arises, the Planning and Environmental Review Division will ensure that some of its staff members take classes in reducing crime through environmental design.

Housing Element Implementation Program G7

The County will incorporate reducing crime through environmental design (CPTED) measures in the County's Design Review Guidelines to discourage crime, and encourage compatible uses.

SECTION 9: PROMOTE CIVIL ENGAGEMENT

Civil engagement is an important goal across all local planning and decision-making processes. It can help foster a strong sense of place within a neighborhood and can deepen the investment of stakeholders in working toward neighborhood improvements. Environmental Justice issues will be more effectively identified and resolved if accessible and culturally appropriate opportunities to engage in local decision-making are created for low-income, minority, and linguistically isolated stakeholders. Effective civil engagement not only provides the County with an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the community, but provides for sound investment in better decision making by ensuring decisions are informed by community needs and aspirations.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) provides the State General Plan Guidelines (GPG) for the preparation and content of general plans for all cities and counties in California. To ensure equitable civil engagement, the following factors need to be considered:

- **Literacy Level:** Outreach material and events need to accommodate the various literacy levels and educational attainment within the community and be able to provide informative background information when discussing complex concepts.
- **Socioeconomic Status:** Communities with lower socioeconomic status are disproportionately burdened with barriers that limit their opportunity to participate. Those barriers could be addressed by evaluating the time and place of outreach, accessibility to public transportation, availability of childcare and availability of food.
- **Language:** All forms of communication should be done in the major languages spoken within that particular community. Documents should be translated in their entirety to be readily available and interpreters available at meetings.
- **Age:** The times of day, location of event with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access and various outreach platforms (i.e., online, social media, etc.) of events should keep in consideration the various ages of the population that could attend meetings.
- **Local History:** Over time, certain portions of the community may have participated in outreach efforts that saw no change and, therefore, avoid future participation. It is important to still reach out to those groups in order to get an accurate reflection of the entire community.
- **Cultural Norms:** There may be some community members not familiar with the democratic form of government and the ability to share opinions, so partnering with local non-profits or other community groups that are skilled in this area would be beneficial.

Baseline Conditions

Population by Race and Ethnicity

While the County of Sacramento is a kaleidoscope of ethnic and cultural diversity with approximately 1.5 million people, there is a much larger concentration of minority

residents within the Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities. For example, in South Sacramento more than 70% of the community population belongs to an ethnic or racial minority.

Languages Spoken and English Proficiency

Similar to the information regarding race and ethnicity above, languages and English proficiency differ throughout the EJ communities. For example, the most common primary languages in North Highlands include English, Spanish, Russian, Other Slavic languages and Tagalog. In North Vineyard, the languages include, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese. South Sacramento is the only community area where a majority of the population does not speak English as their primary language. It also has the most diversity of primary languages.

Population by Age

According to the U.S. 2010 Census data, the age of the population throughout EJ communities and Non-EJ areas are relatively consistent. However, other age demographic findings give the County a better understanding of how to present and communicate with particular areas. For example, in the South Sacramento and North Highlands EJ Communities there are higher percentages of persons under the age of 20 while conversely in Non-EJ areas, there are a much higher percentage of persons over the age of 60.

Based on the findings within the Demographic Section of this Element, there may be a justification for the need to tailor civil engagement efforts to specific demands of each community rather than applying a standard strategy.

Existing General Plan Policies and Implementation Programs

Table 11 contains existing policies and implementation measures in Sacramento County's General Plan that address public engagement. As part of incorporating environmental justice principles into their general plans, State Government Code 65302(h) requires jurisdictions to "identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process".

Table 11: Applicable General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures**Land Use Element Implementation Measure B**

Coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct meetings, workshops or public hearings in order to solicit input from interested individuals and organizations on opportunities and recommendations for integrating public health concerns into local land use and transportation planning.

Land Use Element Policy LU-97

Work closely with and support community groups to address local nuisances and blight.

Public Facilities Element Policy PF-41

Library facilities planners shall meet with neighborhood and community groups to determine specialized community service needs and to incorporate them, to the extent possible.

Housing Element Implementation Program A11.

The County will provide opportunities for neighbors and community members to provide input on infill development projects. When required, an infill project will be sent to the relevant Community Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) with discussion with surrounding community. All land owners with property within 500 feet of the project are notified. Also, for certain major infill projects, the County will engage the community through a public outreach process. In gaining community acceptance of residential infill projects, the community needs to be informed and involved in the process. This involves:

- Educating the community on the goals and benefits of infill as well as the associated benefits of smart growth and sustainable communities.
- Listening and responding to their concerns.
- Ensuring high quality and safe design.
- Promoting and advancing healthy and viable communities

Need for New General Plan Policy on Public Engagement

While the existing policies and implementation measures listed in Table 11 encourage the County to conduct public outreach, they do not directly address improving existing outreach processes or promoting and expanding engagement in the public process. Thus a new General Plan policy has been developed that address these issues. Public engagement should be done based on the needs of individual communities in order to ensure that any efforts to improve civil engagement are effective. A needs-based approach will require the County to adapt existing public process procedures and communications.

State Government Code 65302(h) requires city and counties to identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process. It was determined that there was a need for a more encompassing policy on public engagement. It will ensure that County staff will seek to improve the public engagement process through the use of demographic analysis, maximizing public engagement opportunities and adapting to new forms of communication. This also ensures that Phase 2 of the EJ Element will be completed within 12 months.

Environmental Justice Objective, Policy and Implementation Measure

Objective

Improve the County's existing public engagement practices through the use of demographic analysis.

Policy EJ-2. Maximize public engagement opportunities and continually adapt to new forms of communication.

Implementation Measure

Within 12 months of the adoption of the Phase 1 Environmental Justice Element, the County will conduct additional outreach and adopt the Phase 2 Environmental Justice Element.

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