



# AHSC, EJ & Public Health

SCAG Working Group Meeting,  
October 17, 2019  
Alejandro Huerta,  
SoCal AHSC Program Director



PRENTICE HALL  
**WORLD GEOGRAPHY**  
BUILDING A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

UNIT 1 PHYSICAL AND HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	Chapter 1. Exploring Geography Chapter 2. Climate and Vegetation Chapter 3. Population and Culture Chapter 4. Resources and Land Use
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LET'S TALK

# AGENDA

3

Who We Are

5

Why We Fight

8

AHSC 101

19

Next Steps



# WHO WE ARE



## OUR COMPASS

# VISION AND MISSION

**OUR VISION:** One day every person will have an affordable home in a vibrant community, filled with promise and the opportunity for a good life.

**OUR MISSION:** To create opportunity for low- and moderate-income people through affordable housing in diverse, thriving communities.

# ABOUT ENTERPRISE

## WHO WE ARE

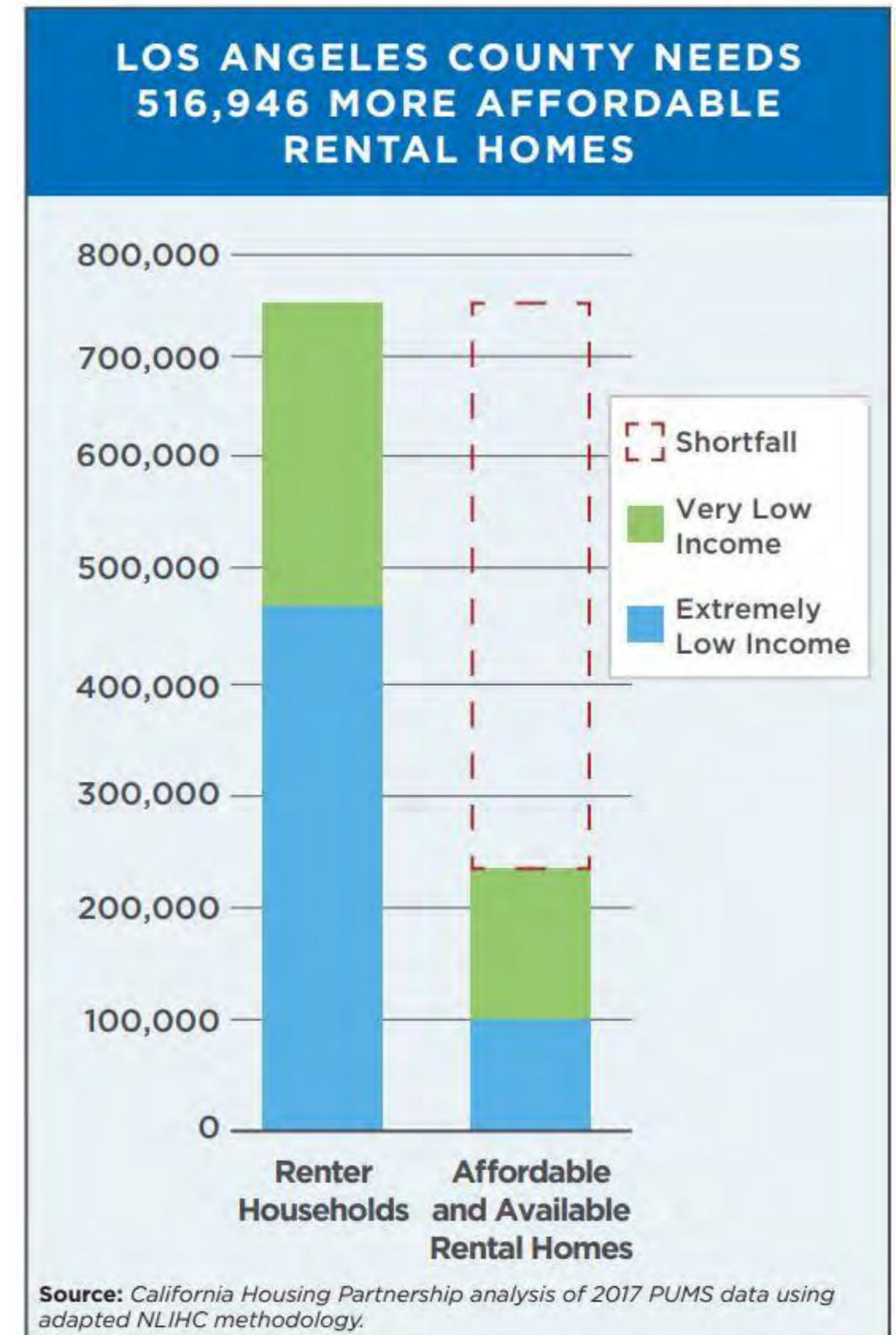
- Provide AHSC Grant Technical Assistance
- Supported the 5 awarded LA City applications - \$84.9 million, 709 new affordable units, 2.8 miles sidewalk improvements, 8.8 miles new bike facilities



# WHY WE FIGHT

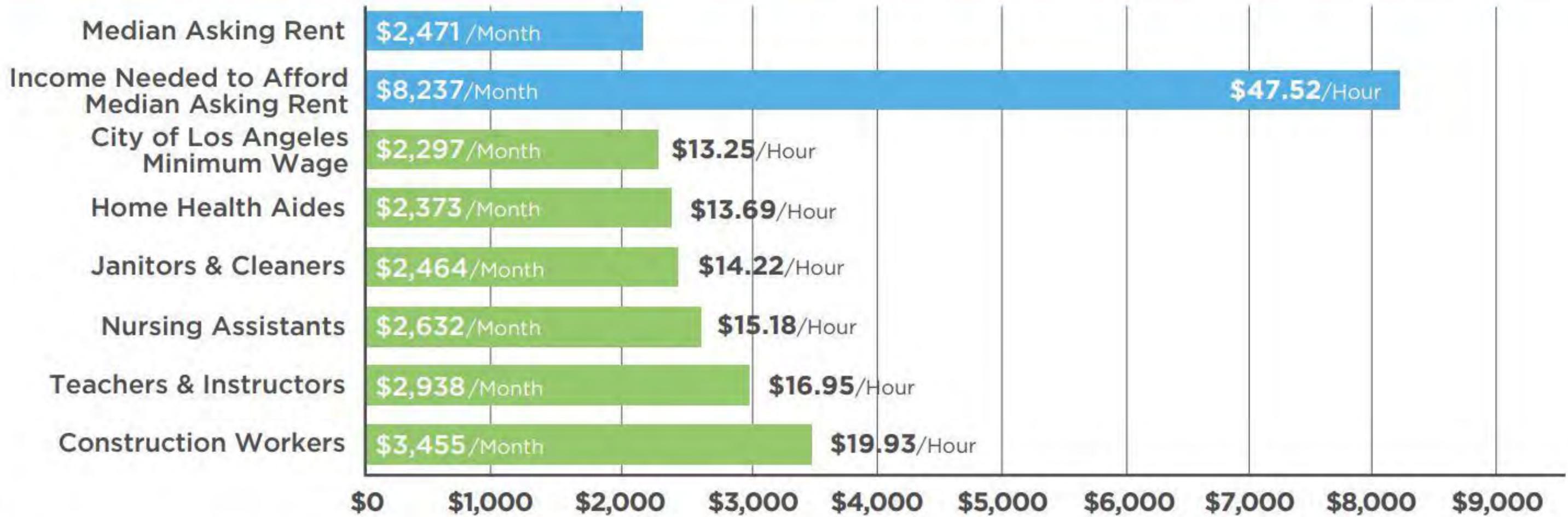
# AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTFALL

Los Angeles County needs almost 517,000 more affordable homes for the lowest income renters to meet current demand



# INCOME NEEDED TO RENT

**RENTERS NEED TO EARN 3.6 TIMES THE LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE TO AFFORD THE MEDIAN ASKING RENT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**



**Source:** Paul Waddell, Urban Analytics Lab, University of California, Berkeley, retrieved from analysis of online Craigslist listings in February 2019. Bureau of Labor Statistics Median Annual Wage Data for CA Occupations, 2018.

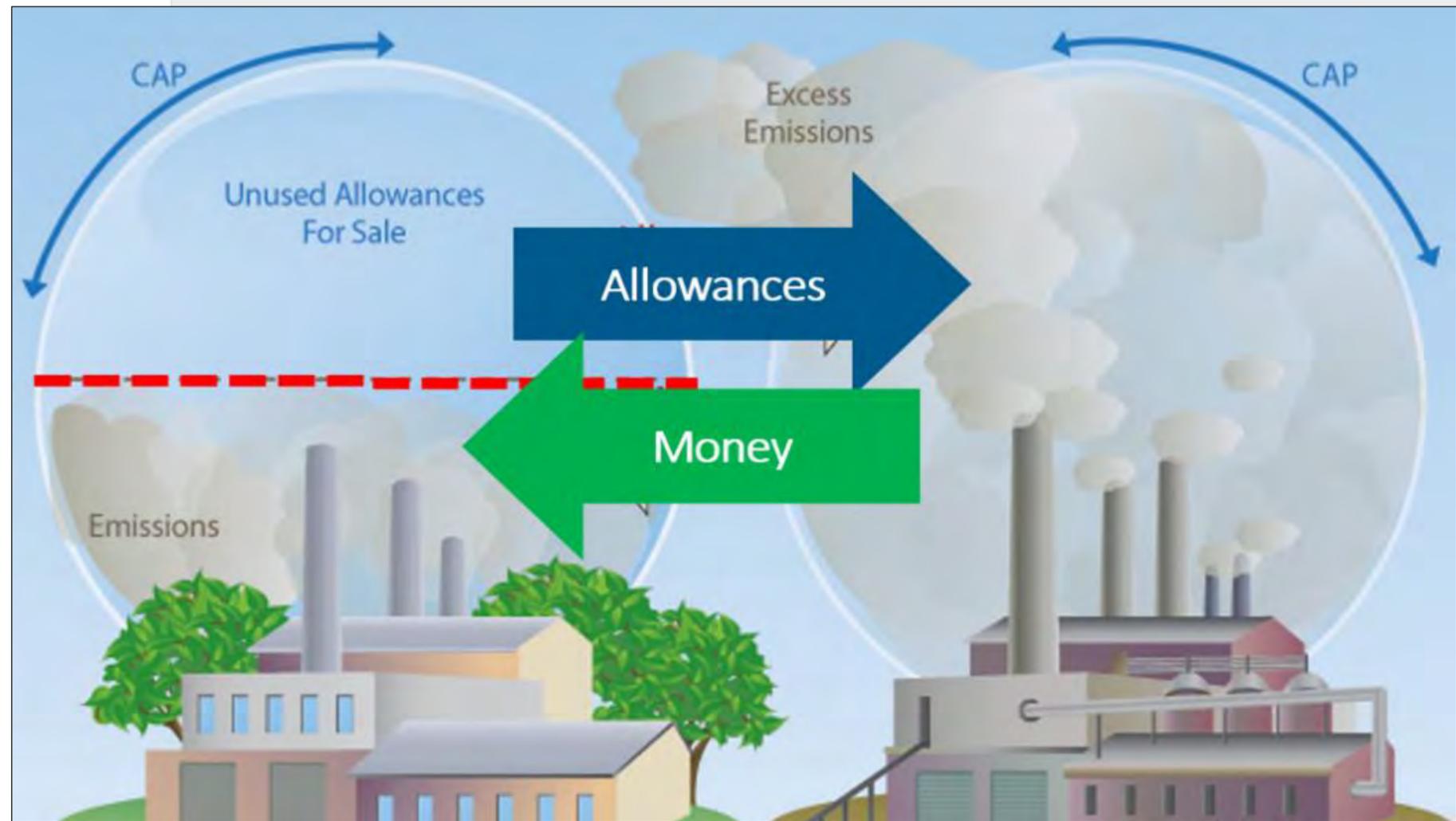
# AFFORDABLE HOUSING & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

CA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

# AHSC 101

Cap-and-trade grant program

- Creates infill affordable housing and active transportation improvements near transit
- Implements AB 32, SB 375
- Reduces VMTs through mode shift and increased public transit ridership
- Reduces GHGs



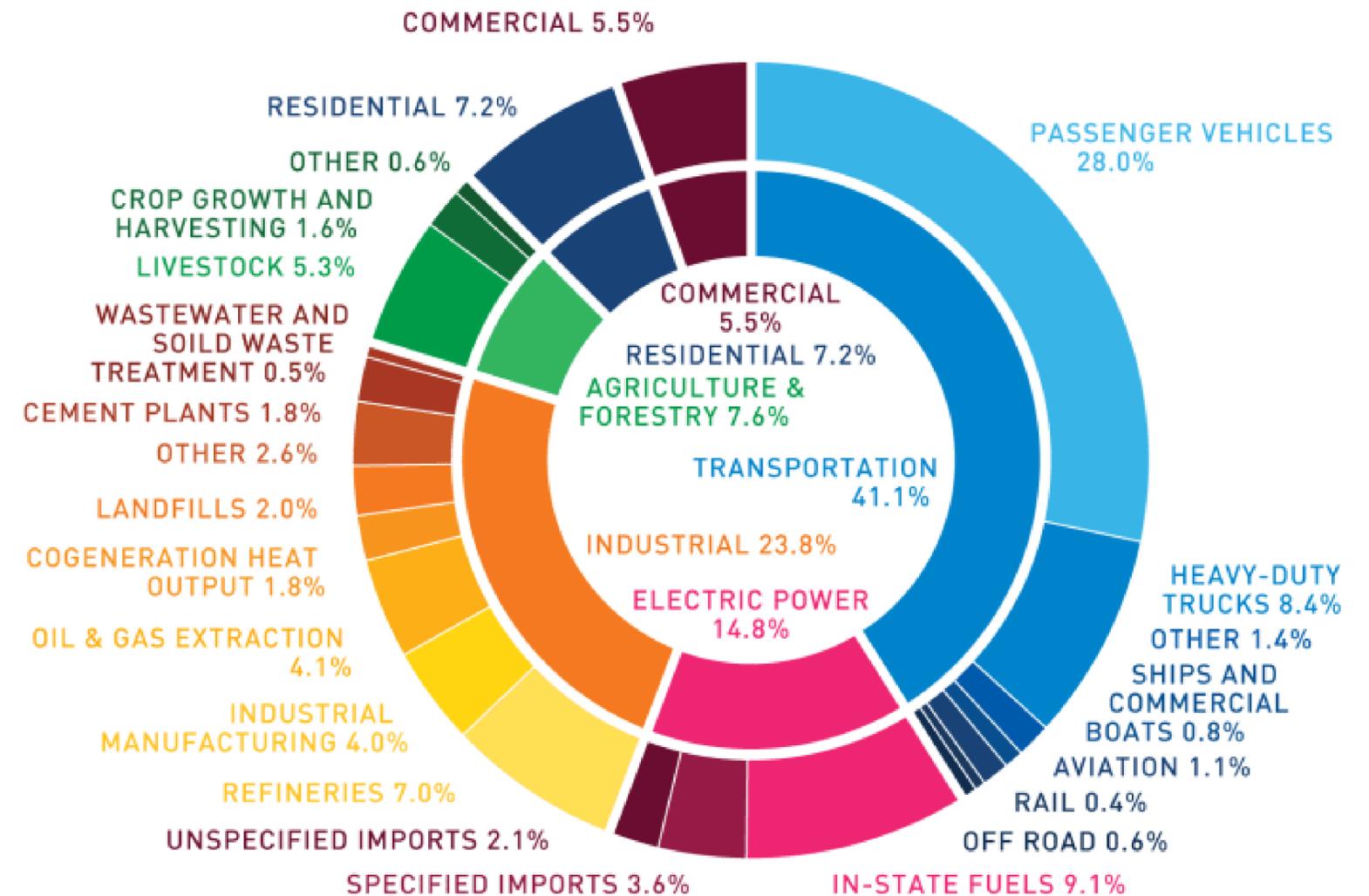
ORIGINS

# WHY AHSC

- Lack of affordable housing
- Climate change disproportionately impacts lower-income communities
- Lower income households rely on public transit

**Figure 2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source**

CALIFORNIA, 2017



NEXT 10 CALIFORNIA GREEN INNOVATION INDEX. Data Source: California Air Resources Board, California Greenhouse Gas Inventory – by Sector and Activity. NEXT 10 / SF · CA · USA

ADDRESSES DISPARITIES

# WHY AHSC

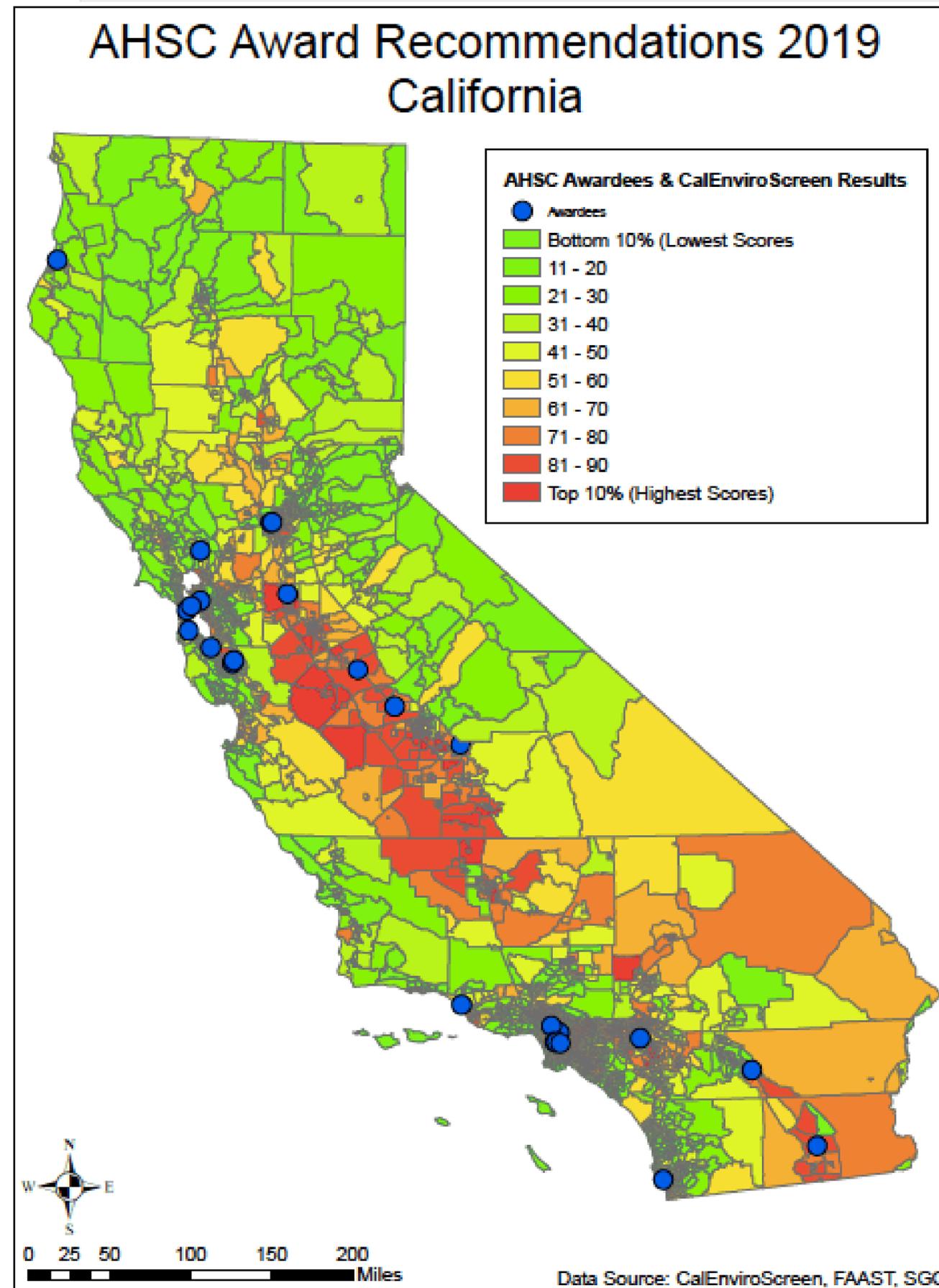
- Disparities in walking and biking infrastructure
- High rates of traffic injuries/deaths in low income communities
- Higher rates of obesity, chronic diseases
- Higher rates of air quality related illnesses



STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

# AHSC & EJ

- Lower income communities need to be beneficiaries of efforts to curb climate crisis
- Implements SB 535, AB 1550
- Maximizes benefits to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities
- 50% of AHSC funding for projects benefiting disadvantaged communities



HOW DOES IT DO THIS

# AHSC & EJ

- Requires community climate resiliency measures
- Funds electrification of buses
- Funds street trees/urban greening



CA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

# AHSC & Public Health

What's funded?

- New bikeways, amenities
- New walkways
- Requires community air pollution exposure mitigation strategies



HOW DOES IT DO THIS

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP WITH CBO TO  
IDENTIFY NEEDS



TRANSIT  
PARTNERSHIP WITH TRANSIT  
AGENCY TO INCREASE  
RIDERSHIP



HOUSING  
HIGH DENSITY, MIXED-  
USE



ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION  
BIKEWAYS AND  
WALKWAYS IN  
COLLABORATION WITH  
PUBLIC PARTNER



# WEINGART TOWER

- 275 units
- On-site supportive services
- Non-profit office space, ground floor retail
- Protected bikeways and bicycle safety education
- Community room for climate resiliency training in partnership with LA County DPH





# NEXT STEPS

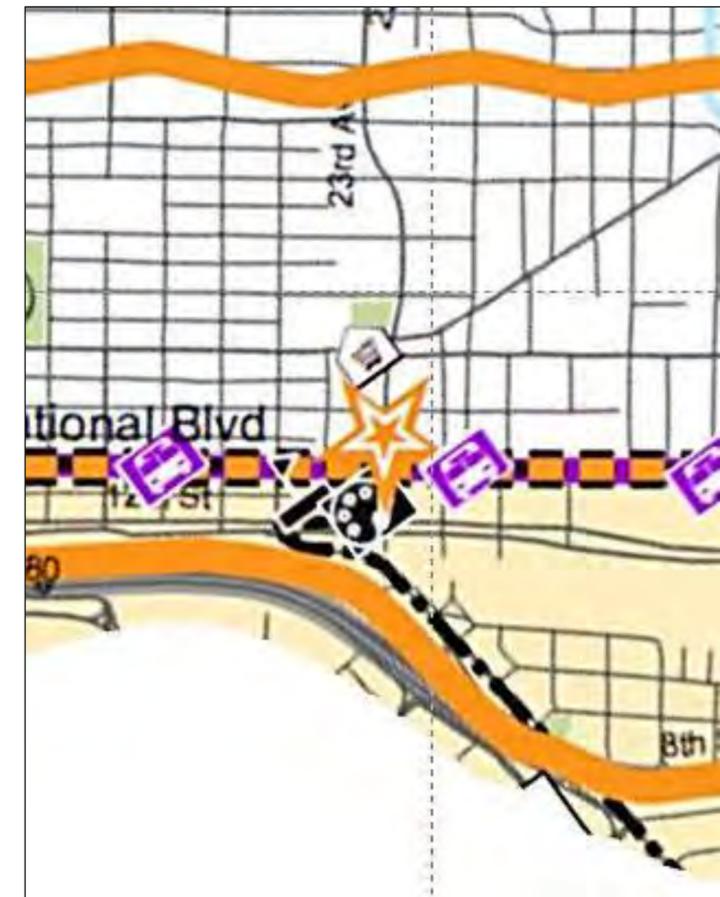
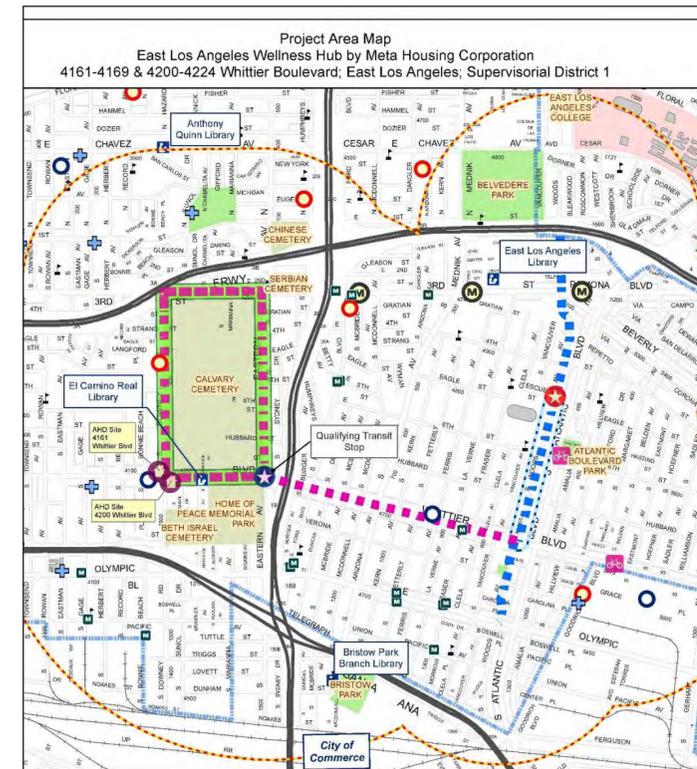
DEVELOP A WINNING PROCESS

# START EARLY

Assemble teams – housing, public health, DPW, BOE, planning, nonprofits

Engage local developers and let them know about AHSC

Get technical assistance



ROUND 5

# AHSC TIMELINE



NOFA NOV 1, 2019



FEBRUARY 2020  
DEADLINE



JUNE 2020 AWARDS

# IMPACT IN LA COUNTY

**\$258 million**

total awarded  
funding

**27**

affordable  
housing projects

**2,588**

affordable and  
supportive units

**\$80.4 million**

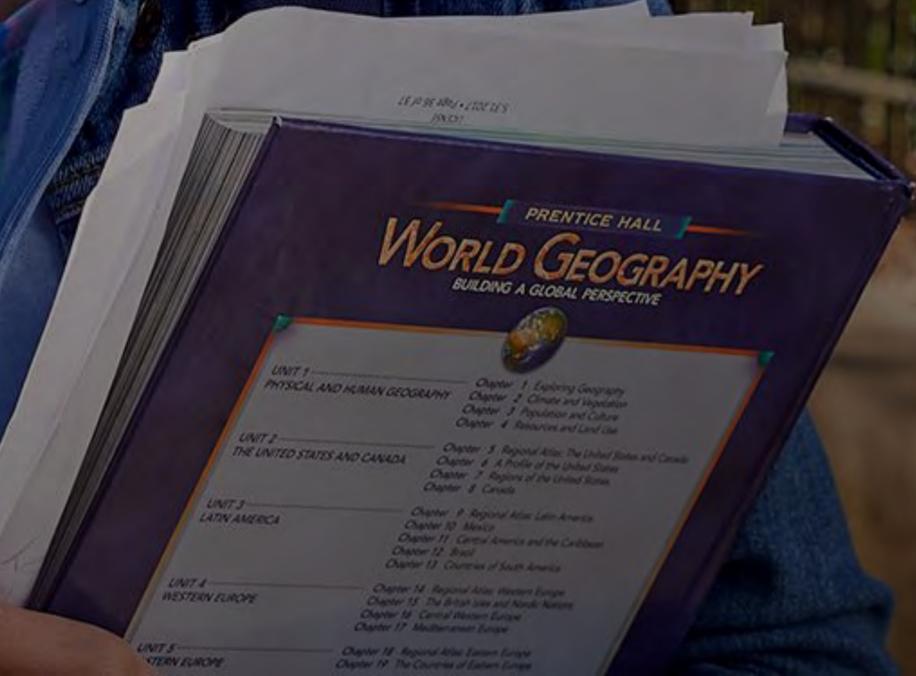
invested in sustainable  
transportation



 Enterprise®

QUESTIONS?

[ahuerta@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:ahuerta@enterprisecommunity.org)



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Center for  
Health  
Disparities  
Research  
HDR@UCR

Juliet McMullin, PhD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology  
Co-Director Center for Health Disparities Research  
HDR@UCR



# Center for Health Disparities Research

- The Center for Health Disparities Research at UCR (HDR@UCR) is a new center funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/ National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
- Funded by a U54 - Research Centers at Minority Institutions (RCMI) award, ~\$16M over 5 years (largest grant to UCR to date), one of 11 funded RCMI
- This center also now joins other RCMI institutions in the RCMI Translational Research Network

# Center for Health Disparities Research

## Our Mission:

Create a rich interdisciplinary, diverse, and collaborative environment for health disparities research, infusing community-engaged research methods into the academic culture, and equipping investigators and community with tools and training to improve their extramural funding success. The Center aims to move UCR toward national leadership in health disparities research, education, and training, and to inform the national dialogue on health disparities.

# Center for Health Disparities Research

Center leadership is drawn from many UCR schools and colleges:

- David Lo MD PhD, Director, contact PI, Distinguished Professor, Sr. Associate Dean Research, SOM
- Juliet McMullin PhD, Co-Director, Co-PI, Professor and Chair, Anthropology, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS)
- Bruce Link PhD, Co-PI, Distinguished Professor, School of Public Policy (SPP)
- Gerald Maguire MD, Co-PI, Health Sciences Clinical Professor, Chair, Psychiatry, SOM

# Center for Health Disparities Research

Center components:

- Administrative Core
- Community Engagement and Dissemination Core
- Investigator Development Core
- Research Infrastructure Core
- Recruitment Core
- Research Project 1: Childhood asthma and environmental exposures
- Research Project 2: Childhood obesity in low-income families

# Community Engagement and Dissemination Core

Shifting the focus from research “on” to  
research “with”

- Provides primary engagement point of contact with community organizations and other stakeholders, with Health Assessment & Research for Communities (HARC) – “Boundary Spanner”
- Community Engagement Studio
- With the Research Infrastructure Core, delivers training to students and investigators in Health Disparities Research and Community Engagement

# Community Engagement and Dissemination Core

The power of community is essential, but not sufficient  
by itself, for changing health equity

# Community Engagement Studios



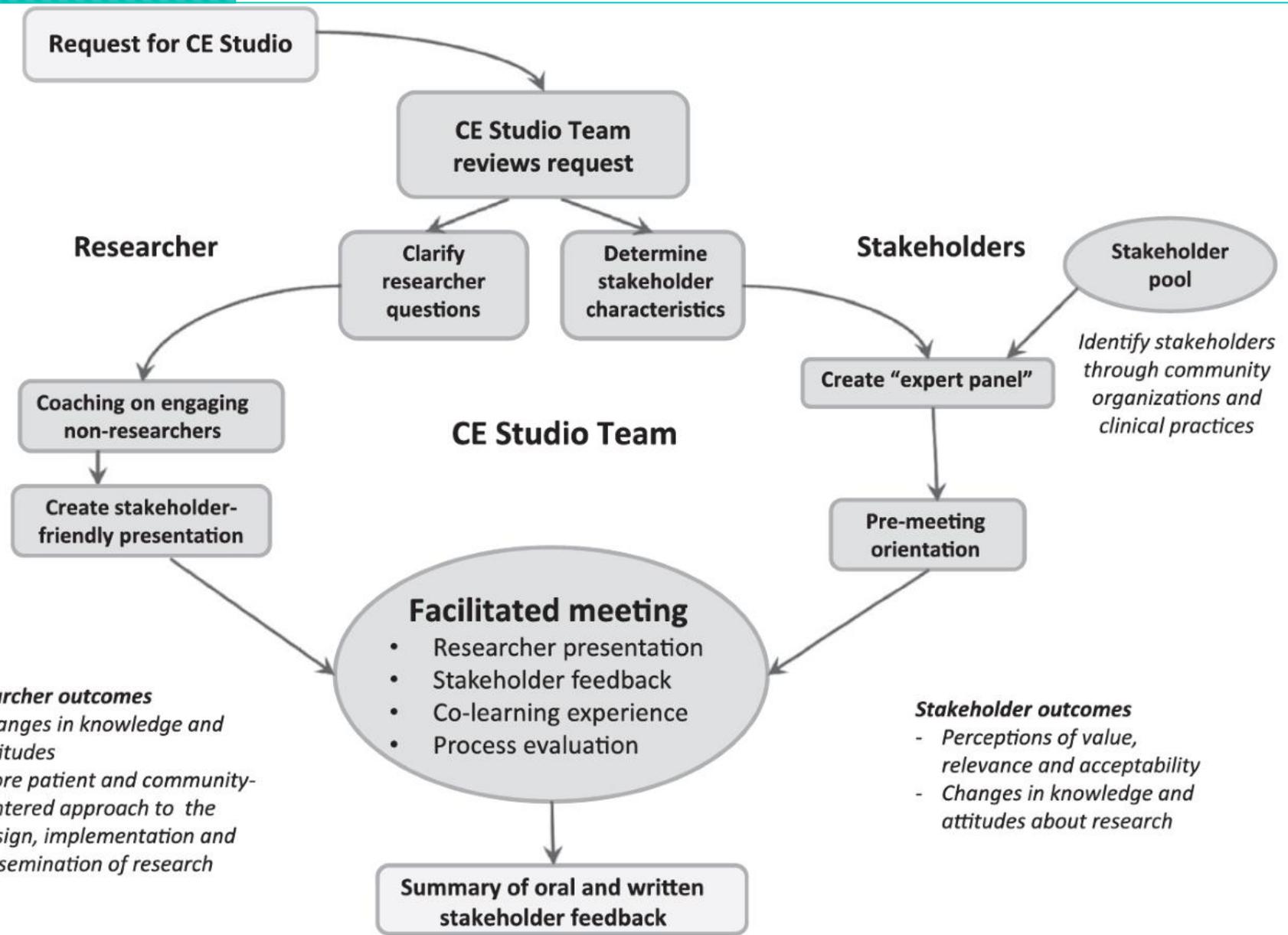
Process for inclusion of  
community in the research  
process



Co-learning opportunities  
for researchers and  
community



Sets the stage for  
dissemination and  
implementation projects

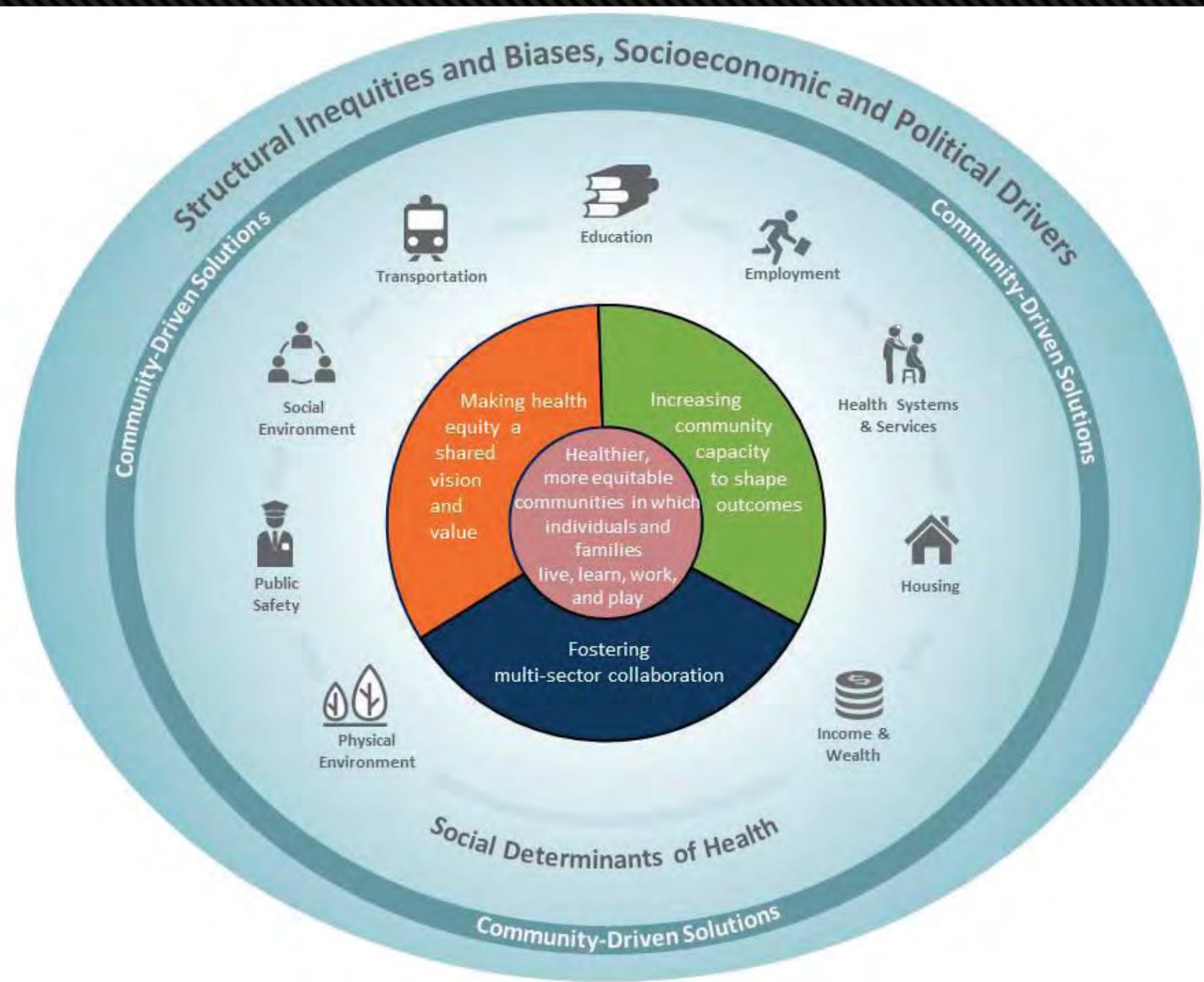


**Figure 1** The process for requesting and implementing a Community Engagement Studio (CE Studio). A CE Studio, developed by the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community-Engaged Research Core in 2009, is a structured process facilitating project-specific input from community and patient stakeholders to enhance research design, implementation, and dissemination.

Image from – Joosten et al, Acad Med. 2015;90:1646–1650.

# Dissemination and Implementation

- research on how evidence-based practices, interventions, and policies are effectively translated to and used in real-world settings like hospitals, schools, and communities.



Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity. 2017, National Academies of Science

# Multi-level engagement

- Engaging Farm Working Communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley
  - Healthy eating and food insecurity
- Navigating Pacific Hearts
  - Capacity building
- Gathering of Good Minds
  - Social biases in delivery of health care

## Next Steps in Multi-level Engagement Project 1: Childhood asthma and environmental exposures

Health disparities in eastern Coachella Valley, particularly for asthma and cardiopulmonary disease within the Latino community, are significantly affected by chronic environmental exposures to aerosols including biological materials, inorganic particulates, and pollutants.

- Build shared knowledge around asthma and environmental exposure (disseminate research findings and photovoice)
- Planning groups - that include families, pediatricians, environmental health advocates, local policy makers, and community leaders
  - identify key issues and policy interventions
  - develop implementation research plan

# Next Steps

- Developing the capacity of UCR researchers to conduct Health Disparities and Community Engaged Research
- Developing multi-level partnerships

Thank you

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# Southern California Edison - Climate Adaptation Policy Inventory

SCAG Joint Environmental Justice and Public Health  
Working Group Meeting  
10-17-19



# Project Overview

1. **Literature review** of statewide climate adaptation policies in municipal planning
2. **Matrix** on Status of Municipal Climate Preparedness in SCE's service territory
3. **Assessment of climate vulnerability software tools**
4. **Map analysis** to identify climate vulnerable communities (CVCs)
5. **Interviews** with representatives from priority CVCs
6. **Recommendations for opportunities** in research, policy, and resources to help CVCs with climate planning

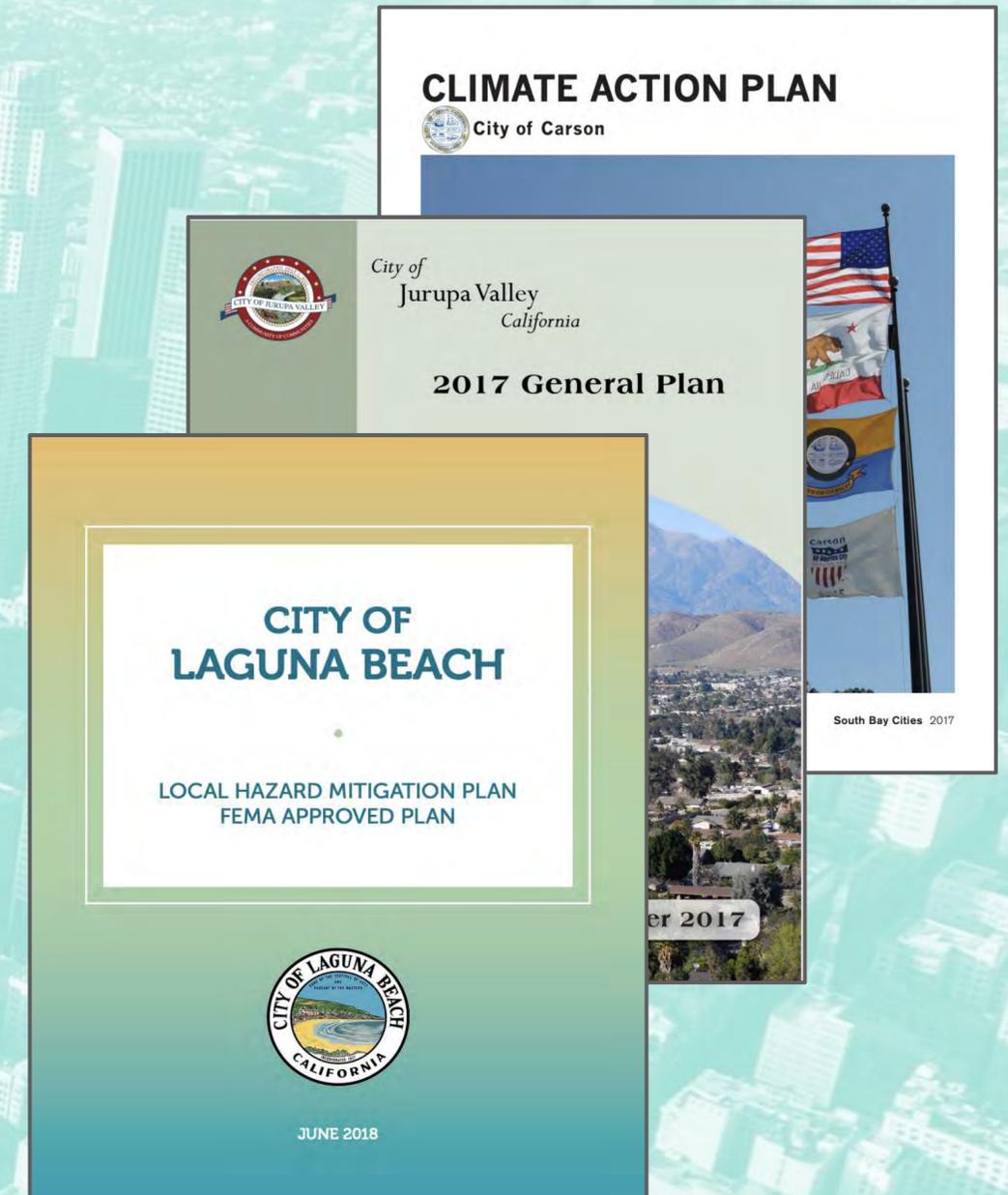
# Literature Review

## **Framing and defining climate adaptation policies in municipal planning**

- **Climate Adaptation Plan**
- **Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)**
- **Sustainability Plan**
- **Resilience Plan**
- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)**
- **General Plan (in compliance with SB379, SB1035, and SB1000)**
- **Emergency Management/Operations Plan**

# Matrix

- The [matrix](#) gives an overview of each municipality under SCE territory and their **current status** on climate preparedness planning
- **Relevant municipal contacts and web links to plans**
- Ability to **filter by status** of climate planning efforts
- **Climate strategies** from LHMP and General Plans



Credits: City of Laguna Beach, City of Jurupa Valley, City of Carson

# Matrix - City of Bellflower Example

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
County	Municipality	Name, title, affiliation, contact information of key staff	Municipality has a standalone climate, sustainability, and/or resilience plan?	Plan that includes climate action (mitigation)?	Plan that includes climate adaptation?	What departments and stakeholders were involved in creating this plan?	Municipality has Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)?	When was LHMP last updated?	Does LHMP account for climate change?	If updated for climate, list climate impacts relevant	Link to summary of climate strategies
Los Angeles	Bellflower	Elizabeth Corpuz, Director of Planning and Building Services ecorpuz@bellflower.org Tel: (562) 804-1424	Yes	Yes	No	City of Bellflower Raimi + Associates, Inc Fehr + Peers	No				
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U			
Updated General Plan per SB 379 & SB1035?	SB379 compliance -- by reference to LHMP or within safety element?	If unique, list climate impacts	Link to summary of climate strategies	Does this municipality have DACs (Disadvantaged Communities) (using CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score / top 25% census tracts)	SB1000 Part 1 Compliance: General Plan incorporates environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives?	SB 1000 Part 2 Compliance: General Plan explicitly identifies DACs and has policies that improves and prioritizes the needs of DACs?	Does municipality have Emergency Operations/ Management Plan?	URL's to relevant documents			
Yes	Yes (within Safety Element)	Heat-related Drought Flooding Nonpoint source pollution	<a href="#">See All</a>	Yes	No	No	No	General Plan (1995) - <a href="https://www.bellflower.org/depts/planning/division/zoning_information.asp">https://www.bellflower.org/depts/planning/division/zoning_information.asp</a>  Safety Element (2017) - <a href="https://www.bellflower.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=28096">https://www.bellflower.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=28096</a>  Climate Action Plan (2010) - <a href="https://www.bellflower.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24054">https://www.bellflower.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24054</a>			

# Map Analysis Methodology

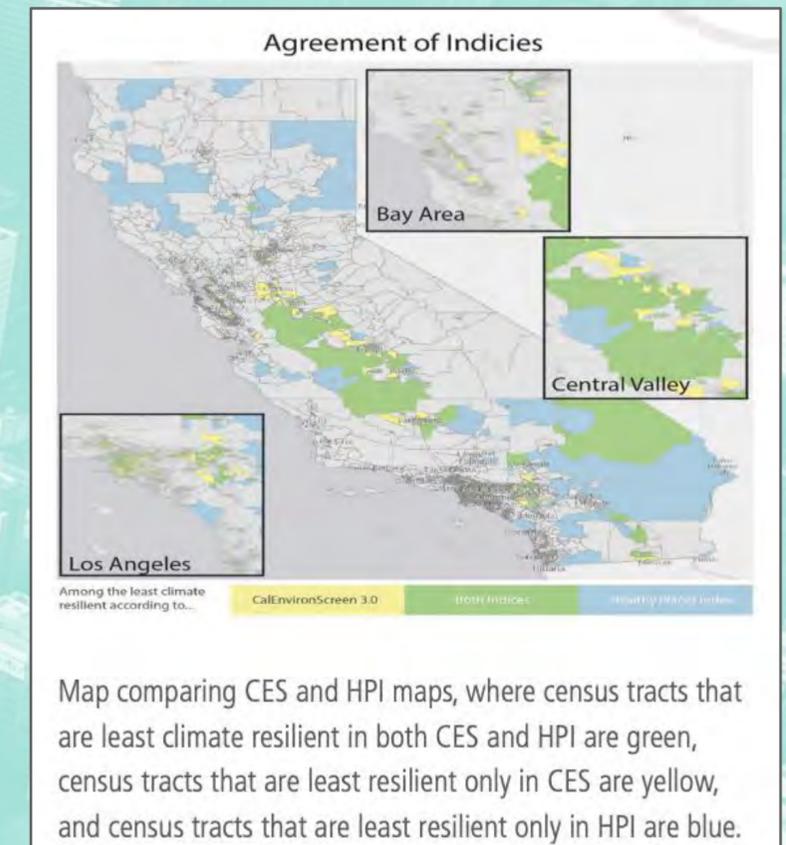
## **We evaluated the following 7 tools:**

1. Cal-Adapt
2. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (CES3.0)
3. CalFire Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps / CPUC Fire Threat Maps
4. California Healthy Places Index (HPI)
  - a. Incorporates Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators from California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE)
5. California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT)
6. The National Weather Service Heat Index
7. USC's Environmental Justice Screening Method (EJSM)

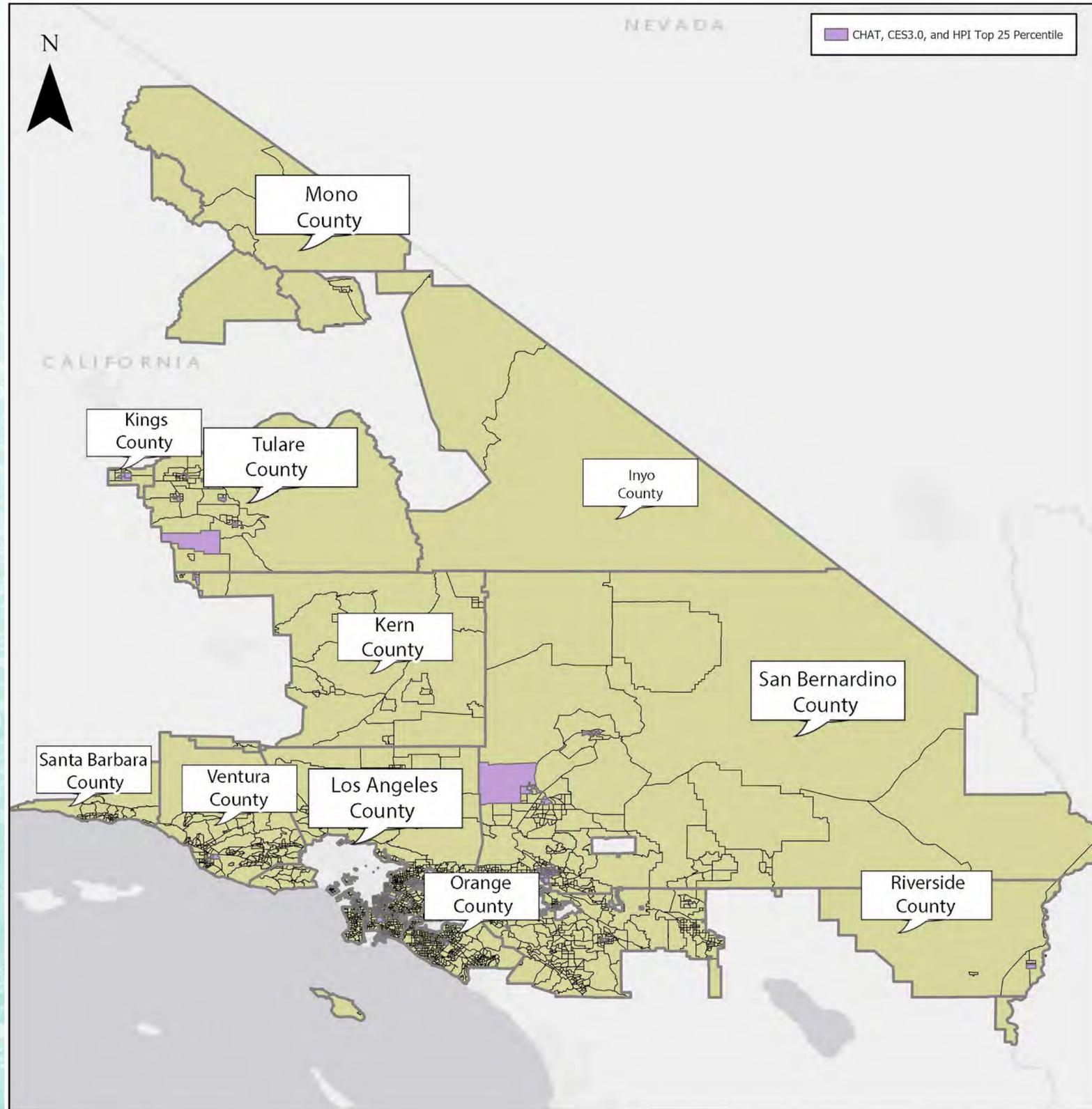
# Map Analysis Methodology

- **Focused in on heat and air quality. Why?**
  - Research identified these were risks needing more attention
  - Heat has the most sensitivity and adaptive capacity indicators (24) identified by research *(according to APEN Mapping Resilience Report)*
  - Heat and air quality are interconnected
  - Heat and air quality data sets are more publicly available
- **Tools used for map analysis (25 percentile cutoff):**
  - CalEnviroScreen 3.0
  - Healthy Places Index
  - California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT)

## Fourth Climate Change Assessment



# Climate Vulnerable Communities (CVCs) Map



Identified **63** municipalities to have **CVCs**  
(**466** census tracts)

**CVC definition:** least climate resilient tracts due to their **sensitivity** (*physiological and socio-economic factors*) and **adaptive capacity** to heat and air quality

# CVC List and Map Example

## SCE Climate Adaptation Policy Inventory by Climate Resolve

DRAFT 10-4-19

63 Municipalities scoring in the top 25th percentile of CHAT, CES 3.0, and HPI with number of census tract(s) and total population

### Kern

1. Delano (3) (Total: 18,573)
2. McFarland (1) (Total: 4,051)

### Kings

3. Hanford (4) (Total: 23,952)

### Los Angeles

4. Baldwin Park (5) (Total: 24,337)
5. Bell (4) (Total: 20,272)
6. Bellflower (9) (Total: 37,677)
7. Compton (29) (Total: 96,455)
8. Downey (1) (Total: 3,926)
9. El Monte (17) (Total: 73,719)
10. Gardena (4) (Total: 11,415)
11. Hawaiian Gardens (1) (Total: 5,818)
12. Hawthorne (12) (Total: 59,558)
13. Huntington Park (21) (Total: 69,791)
14. Inglewood (20) (Total: 91,957)
15. La Puente (4) (Total: 20,185)
16. Lakewood (1) (Total: 6,526)
17. Lawndale (1) (Total: 7,527)
18. Long Beach (43) (Total: 204,369)
19. Unincorporated Los Angeles (114) (Total: 428,311)
20. Lynwood (6) (Total: 38,174)
21. Maywood (7) (Total: 27,395)
22. Montebello (5) (Total: 23,745)
23. Monterey Park (1) (Total: 3,683)
24. Norwalk (2) (Total: 12,726)
25. Paramount (6) (Total: 29,712)
26. Pico Rivera (4) (Total: 17,763)
27. Pomona (9) (Total: 43,388)
28. Rosemead (1) (Total: 2,803)
29. San Fernando (1) (Total: 3,756)
30. Santa Fe Springs (2) (Total: 5,423)
31. South El Monte (5) (Total: 20,116)
32. South Gate (11) (Total: 43,554)
33. Torrance (2) (Total: 13,285)
34. Whittier (5) (Total: 17,787)

### Orange

35. Buena Park (3) (Total: 21,761)
36. Costa Mesa (1) (Total: 5,672)
37. Garden Grove (1) (Total: 3,973)
38. Huntington Beach (1) (Total: 8,090)
39. Placentia (1) (Total: 7,329)
40. Santa Ana (10) (Total: 67,3)
41. Stanton (1) (Total: 5,658)
42. Westminster (1) (Total: 5,111)

### Riverside

43. Blythe (1) (Total: 3,341)
44. Corona (1) (Total: 3,288)
45. Hemet (2) (Total: 10,008)
46. Moreno Valley (5) (Total: 17,520)
47. Riverside (1) (3,626)

### San Bernardino

48. Adelanto (2) (Total: 14,984)
49. Barstow (4) (Total: 17,210)
50. Fontana (7) (Total: 33,706)
51. Montclair (1) (Total: 8,795)
52. Ontario (8) (Total: 36,636)
53. Rialto (7) (Total: 34,796)
54. San Bernardino (29) (Total: 158,252)
55. Upland (1) (Total: 3,905)
56. Victorville (3) (Total: 15,847)

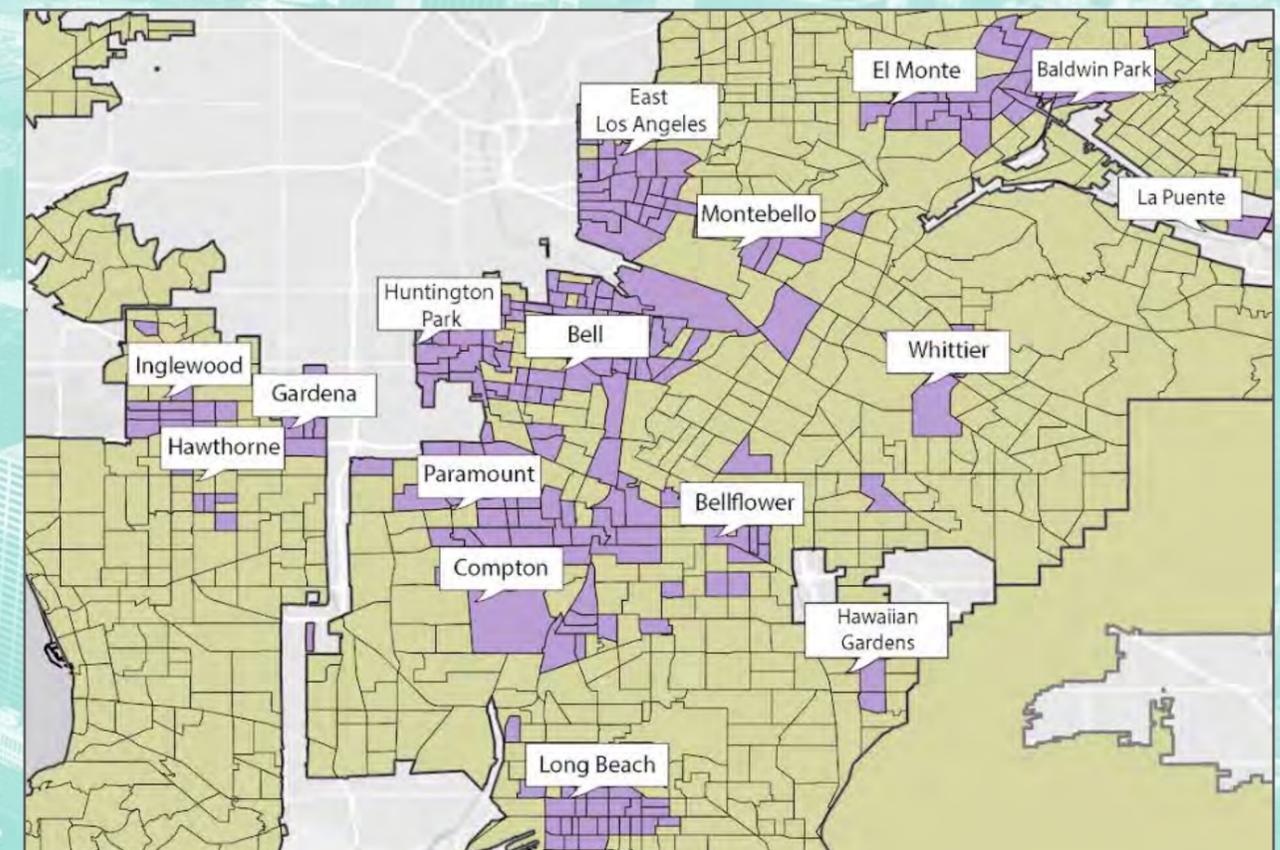
### Tulare

57. Farmersville (1) (Total: 5,587)
58. Lindsay (1) (Total: 3,395)
59. Pixley (1) (Total: 6,529)
60. Porterville (1) (Total: 9,670)
61. Tulare (4) (Total: 15,663)
62. Visalia (3) (Total: 14,437)

### Ventura

63. Oxnard (3) (Total: 14,947)

## Los Angeles County CVCs



# Relevant Indicators

## Heat

- Urban Heat Island (CHAT)
- Percent Impervious Surfaces (CHAT)
- Tree Canopy (CHAT and HPI)
- Outdoor Workers (CHAT)

## Air Quality

- Ozone (CES3.0, CHAT, and HPI)
- PM2.5 (CES3.0, CHAT, and HPI)
- Diesel Particulate Matter (CES3.0 and HPI)
- Traffic Density (CES3.0)
- Toxic Releases from Facilities (CES3.0)

# Relevant Indicators

## **Socioeconomic**

- Employment (CES3.0, CHAT, and HPI)
- Median Income (HPI)
- Housing Burdened Low Income Households (CES3.0 and HPI)
- Insured Adults (HPI)
- Educational Attainment (CES3.0, CHAT, and HPI)
- Automobile Access (CHAT and HPI)
- Transit Access (CHAT)
- Cognitive Disability (CHAT)
- Linguistic Isolation (CES 3.0 and CHAT)
- Ambulatory Disability (CHAT)

# Issues and Recommendations

**Issue #1:** State policymakers and key stakeholders are unaware of the current status of municipal-level planning for the impacts of climate change.

**Recommendation:** Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), industry, and/or philanthropy can fund the creation and management of a statewide database to track municipal-level climate policy planning.

**Issue #2:** The state lacks official criteria and tools to identify Climate Vulnerable Communities (CVCs).

**Recommendation:** The state, with industry and/or philanthropy, can fund the comprehensive expansion of an existing climate planning software tool to identify CVCs in California (funded via Fifth Climate Change Assessment).

# Issues and Recommendations

**Issue #3:** The state lacks criteria for assessing strengths and weaknesses of climate planning efforts.

**Recommendation:** OPR can produce a report that identifies the strengths/weaknesses and costs/benefits of current municipal compliance with SB 379 and SB 1000 in jurisdictions with CVCs, and recommend best planning practices in the Adaptation Clearinghouse ([resilientCA.org](http://resilientCA.org)).

**Issue #4:** CVCs lack resources for climate preparedness planning.

**Recommendation:** Where appropriate, Strategic Growth Council (SGC), municipal planning organizations (MPOs), industry, and/or philanthropy can fund technical assistance providers (regional Councils of Governments or other organizations) to assist CVCs with grant writing, grant matching funds, and/or planning assistance.

# Q&A

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# Environmental Justice

Fabian Wesson  
Assistant Deputy Executive  
Officer/Public Advisor

Legislative, Public Affairs & Media

October 17, 2019





# Our *Mission* Statement

To clean the air and protect the health of all residents in the South Coast Air District through practical and innovative strategies.



South Coast  
AQMD

# What is South Coast AQMD?



*We are the regional government agency tasked with achieving federal clean air standards in order to protect public health in Southern California.*

**Includes 4 Counties – over 10,000 square miles**

**Home to nearly 17 million people (over 40% of the State's population) and over 12 million vehicles.**

## South Coast AQMD's Roles

- Control stationary and area sources within the South Coast Basin
- Research new technology and develop new ideas to help clean the air we all breathe
- Spread awareness of the dangers associated with poor air quality



**Clean Air Ranger Education Program at Honey Hollow Elementary School on 4/25/19.**



**South Coast  
AQMD**

## Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

-EPA

Equitable environmental policymaking and enforcement to protect the health of all residents, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air pollution

-SOUTH COAST AQMD



Since 2015  
South Coast AQMD have hosted:

- 12 Community Workshops
- 8 EJ Leader Awards
- 13 EJCP Advisory Council Meetings
- 15 EJAG Meetings
- 7 Young Leaders Advisory Council Meetings
- 3 College Student Bus Tours
- 2 Inter-Agency Summits
- 3 Inter-Agency Task Force Meetings
- 5 EJ Conferences
- 3 CARE presentations





5th  
ANNUAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE  
CONFERENCE



# AB 617 Year 1 Communities

3

Community  
Steering  
Committees  
(CSCs)

28

CSC Meetings

60+

Individual  
Meetings



San  
Bernardino,  
Muscoy  
(SBM)



Wilmington,  
Carson,  
West Long  
Beach  
(WCWLB)



Boyle Heights,  
East Los  
Angeles,  
West  
Commerce  
(BHELAWC)

3

Community  
Bus Tours

3

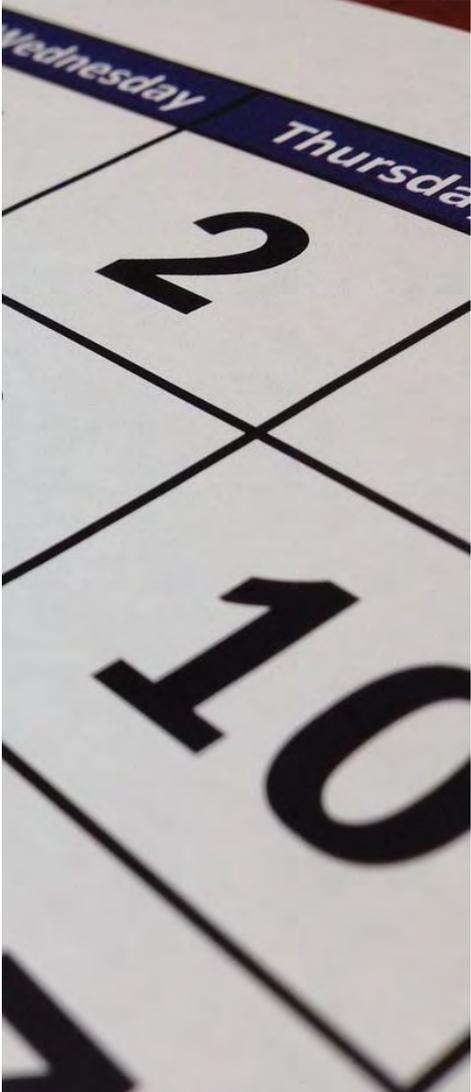
Technical Advisory  
Group meetings

6

Community  
Workshops

Extensive Community Engagement

# Timeline for Year 2 AB 617 Communities



- February - June 2019 – Outreach Meetings
- June 2019 – Deadline for communities to submit nominations
- September 2019 – Governing Board selected Year 2 community recommendations
- October 2019 – Staff submits Year 2 recommendations report to California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff
- December 2019 – CARB considers Year 2 communities
- 2020 – Year 2 Community Steering Committees form & begin to meet

# Incentive Programs



## Residential Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program

Help clean the air by replacing your old gasoline lawn mower with a battery electric model and receiving a rebate based on the purchase price of your new mower.

[www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower](http://www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower)

## Replace Your Ride

Qualified applicants could receive up to \$9,500 to replace their existing vehicle with a newer, cleaner model or other clean modes of transportation.

[www.replaceyourride.com](http://www.replaceyourride.com)

## On-Road Heavy-Duty Voucher Incentive Program

Help for fleets with 10 or fewer vehicles to replace high-polluting vehicles with lower-emission ones, or to install retrofit devices.

[www.aqmd.gov/VIP](http://www.aqmd.gov/VIP)

## Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment

Exchange older, polluting gasoline- or diesel—powered commercial lawn and garden equipment for new zero emission, battery electric commercial grade equipment.

<https://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/community/lawn-and-garden-equipment>

## Carl Moyer Program

Grants from the Carl Moyer Program for helping replace older heavy-duty diesels with cleaner technologies. The program includes on-road and off-road projects.

[www.aqmd.gov/moyer](http://www.aqmd.gov/moyer)

## Lower Emission School Bus Program

Incentives to public school districts to purchase new clean buses in order to retire their highest-polluting buses.

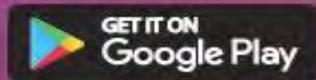
## CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program

This program provides an incentive to residents within the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction who purchase and install a compliant furnace that meets the South Coast AQMD Rule 1111 Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emission limit.

## Residential EV Charging Incentive Pilot Program

The program will provide an incentive to buy-down the cost of residential chargers. The programs on a first come, first served basis and will provide up to \$250 for the cost of hardware for Level 2 residential chargers.

[www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/community](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/community)



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A ONE-STOP APP FOR

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# Connect with Us



Fabian Wesson  
[fwesson@aqmd.gov](mailto:fwesson@aqmd.gov)

@SouthCoastAQMD



1-800-CUT-SMOG

# A Case Study of an Environmental Justice Victory in South Gate, CA: The Defeat of Sunlaw

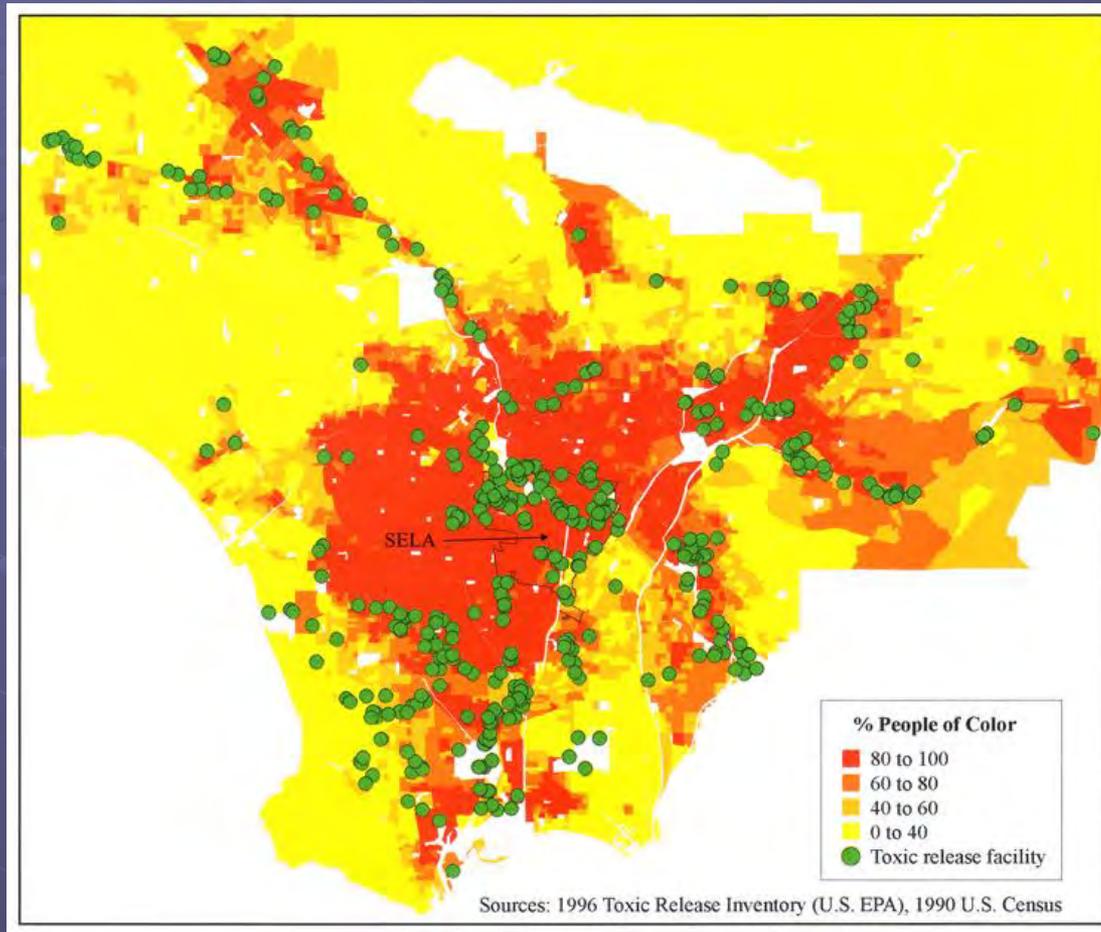


Alvaro Huerta, Ph.D. (UC Berkeley)  
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning and Ethnic & Women's Studies Dept.  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

# What is Environmental Racism?

# Minority Communities & Toxic Release Inventory Map



Sources: Communities for a Better Environment (CBE); U.S. EPA ; US Census

# Context: Neo-Liberal Politics

On September 23, 1996, the State of California made a major public policy shift by deregulating energy, leading to an energy crisis in the early 2000s.

# Major Utilities

(Controlled prices before deregulation)

- Southern California Edison
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- San Diego Gas & Electric

# Consequences (Unintended?) (2000 + 2001)



# A Few Facts About South Gate...

- City Incorporated: January 20, 1923 (Whites-only Covenants)
- Location: 12 miles Southeast of downtown Los Angeles  
and 6 miles from the Port of Long Beach
- Southeast Los Angeles Cities: Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy,  
Maywood, Huntington Park, Vernon, Commerce and South Gate.
- Area: 7.5 square miles

Sources: City of South Gate; Los Angeles Almanac; U.S. Census 2000; *Los Angeles Times*; Data Quick

# A Few Facts About South Gate (cont.)

- Population (2000 Census): 96,375
- Demographic Racial/Ethnic Composition:
  - ✓ Latino (92%); White (6%); Black (1%); Asian (1%); Other (2%)
- Medium Household Income: \$35,695 (L.A. County is \$42,189)
- Home Sale Prices (February 2005): \$345,000

Sources: City of South Gate; Los Angeles Almanac; U.S. Census 2000; *Los Angeles Times*; Data Quick



# A Few Facts: Nueva Azalea Power Plant

- Applicant: Sunlaw Energy Corporation
- Application for Certification Submitted: March 8, 2000
- Scale: 550-Megawatt Power Plant (Size of Dodger Stadium)
- Type: Natural Gas Powered
- Property: 13.5 Acres (Industrial area)
- Capital Cost: \$256 million

Sources: City of South Gate; California Energy Commission; *Z Magazine*; *LA Weekly*

# More Facts on the Nueva Azalea Power Plant

- Jobs: 400 Temporary Construction Jobs (Unionized)
- Projected Tax Revenue: \$3 - \$7 Million (Unsubstantiated)
- Emissions: Over 150 Tons of Pollution Emitted Annually (PM10)
- Sensitive Receptors: Residential areas, Schools, Hospitals, Day-Care Centers, Parks, etc..

Sources: City of South Gate; California Energy Commission; *Z Magazine*; *LA Weekly*

# Map of Proposed Nueva Azalea Power Plant

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION Nueva Azalea Power Project - Regional Setting



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION, ENERGY FACILITIES SITING & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION, DECEMBER 2000  
SOURCE: California Energy Commission Statewide Transmission Line & Power Plant maps/2000 & USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangles

DECEMBER 2000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient. Overlaid on this is a 3D grid of light blue spheres, arranged in a perspective that recedes into the distance. The spheres are connected by thin, light blue lines, creating a mesh-like structure. The text is centered in the middle of the grid.

# The Launch of an EJ Campaign

***Urgent:***

Please Participate in a Public Workshop  
Regarding the Nueva Azalea  
Power Plant Project  
in  
South Gate

When: Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Where: City of South Gate Girls Clubhouse  
4940 Southern Ave., South Gate

*For more information, please call Alvaro Huerta: (323) 826.9771, ext. 104*

**Free!**

**Would You Want Your Children to Play Near a Power Plant?**

**Appetizers!**

**Please Join**

# **Communities for a Better Environment**

for a

## **Community Educational Meeting**

- ***Dialogue on how to fight against pollution to protect our health.***
- ***Includes a youth theatre performance.***

*Children welcome.*

**Where:** South Gate High School (Auditorium)  
3351 Firestone Blvd.  
South Gate, CA 90280

**Date:** December 13, 2000 (*Wednesday*)

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



For more information, please call Alvaro Huerta at: (323) 826-9771 x104

**NO** Power Plant **A**  
on Measure

Would you want your children  
playing near a power plant?

nueva azalea



power plant

¿Dejaría a sus hijos jugar cerca  
de una planta eléctrica?

**NO** a la Planta Eléctrica **A**  
a la Medida

**VOTE EL 6 DE MARZO**  
**VOTE MARCH 6**

**NO** a la Medida **A**  
on Measure

**OVER 150 TONS OF POLLUTION EACH YEAR**  
will be emitted from the power plant.

**ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, & PREMATURE DEATH**  
are linked to pollution generated by gas-fired power plants.

**SOUTH GATE IS ALREADY OVERLY POLLUTED**  
with freeways, toxic factories, railroads and air traffic.

**MAS DE 150 TONELADAS DE CONTAMINACIÓN AL AÑO**  
serán emitidos por la planta eléctrica.

**EL ASMA, LA BRONQUITIS Y LA MUERTE PREMATURA**  
son relacionadas con la contaminación de plantas eléctricas de gas natural.

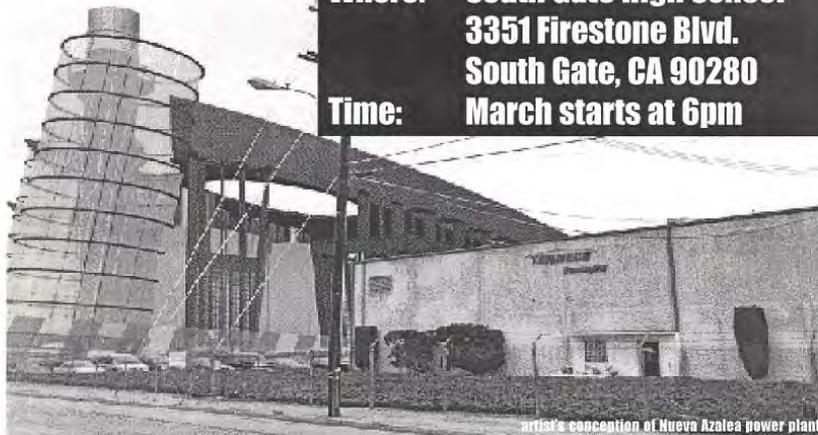
**SOUTH GATE YA ESTA SOBRE CONTAMINADA**  
por fábricas tóxicas, autopistas muy transitadas, ferrocarriles y tráfico de aviones.



# March Against Pollution!

**Please Join  
Communities for a Better Environment  
for a  
March from South Gate High School to  
South Gate City Hall to urge the City to  
oppose the Nueva Azalea power plant**

**When: Tuesday January 23, 2001**  
**Where: South Gate High School  
3351 Firestone Blvd.  
South Gate, CA 90280**  
**Time: March starts at 6pm**



artist's conception of Nueva Azalea power plant

**Would you want your children to play near a power plant?**

For more information, contact Angelo Logan 323-826-9771 x107 at Communities for a Better Environment



Source: Jesus Torres, CBE Organizer (01/23/01)



Source: Jesus Torres, CBE Organizer (01/23/01)

# Festival against the POWER PLANT

aztec dancers

solar power displays

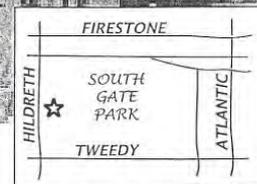
LIVE MUSIC

Laztlan Underground  
La Resistencia  
¿unaware?  
and more!



**south gate park**

**saturday 1pm - 5pm**  
**march 3, 2001**



for more info, contact:  
No on A Committee  
P.O. Box 1395  
South Gate, CA 90280  
or  
Communities for a  
Better Environment  
323-826-9771 x107

# Would you want your Children Playing next to a Power Plant?



**IF NOT, please join Communities for a Better Environment in a discussion with the Bell City Council regarding the proposed 550-megawatt power plant that will emit over 150 tons of pollution in our community each year.**

**When? Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Time? 7:00 pm**

**Where? Bell City Hall  
6330 Pine Ave (at Gage)  
Bell, CA 90201**

For more information, contact Alvaro Huerta at 323-826-9771 x104  
Communities for a Better Environment

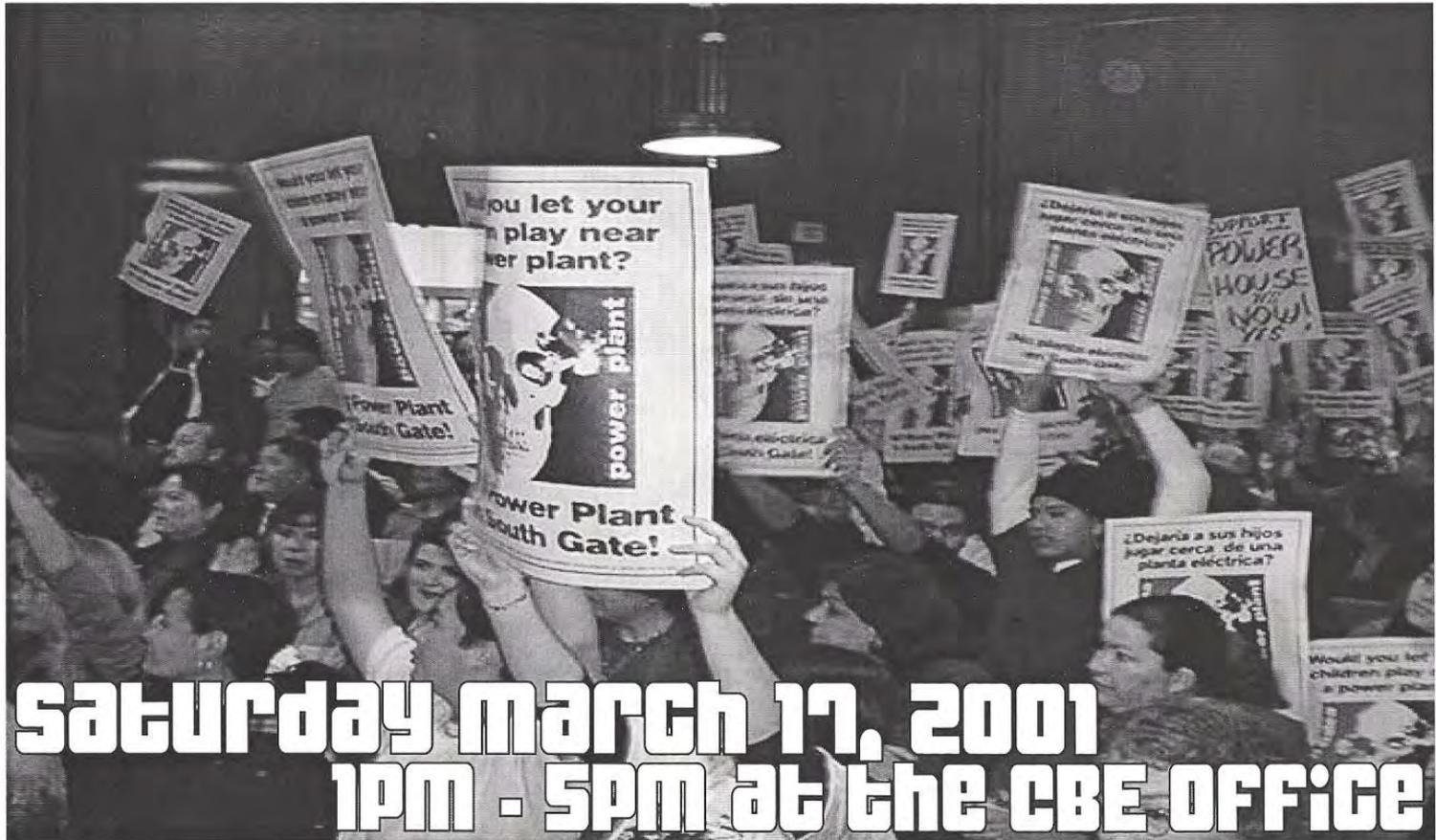
# D-Day: March 6, 2001

South Gate residents vote against power plant project by a 2 - to - 1 margin

# Campaign Expenditures (estimated)

- Pro-Power Plant Campaign: \$650,000
- Anti-Power Plant Campaign : \$6,000

# COME CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY AGAINST THE POWER PLANT!



**Saturday March 17, 2001  
1PM - 5PM at the CBE OFFICE**

## **This is a Victory for Environmental Justice!**

For more information, contact Alvaro Huerta at CBE 323-826-9771 x104 CBE is located at 5610 Pacific Blvd. #203, Huntington Park

Sponsored by Communities for a Better Environment and the No on Measure A Committee

**Attention: SOUTH GATE RESIDENTS**

# The **POWER PLANT** PROJECT is **BACK!**



*artist's conception of Nueva Azalea power plant*

**Remember when South Gate voted down  
Sunlaw's Nueva Azalea power plant?**

**Now, another owner is proposing to build  
the very same power plant in South Gate.**

**EXPRESS YOUR  
CONCERNS TO  
YOUR CITY COUNCIL!**



**When: Tuesday, October 9, 2001**  
**Where: South Gate City Hall**  
**8650 California Ave.**  
**South Gate, CA 90280**  
**Time: 6:30pm**

**For more information, contact Alvaro Huerta 323-826-9771 x104 at Communities for a Better Environment**

**ATTENTION SOUTH GATE RESIDENTS**

# **WARNING!**

## **THE POWER PLANT PROJECT IS BACK!**



Remember when South Gate voted down Sunlaw's Nueva Azalea power plant?  
Now, another owner is proposing to build the very same power plant in South Gate.

### **EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS TO THE CITY COUNCIL!**

**When: Monday, October 22, 2001**

**Where: South Gate City Hall  
8650 California Ave.  
South Gate, CA 90280**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ALVARO HUERTA 323-826-9771 X104 AT COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT**



STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814  
website:www.energy.ca.gov

Gray Davis, Governor



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Energy Resources  
Conservation and Development Commission

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF	)	
EM-ONE POWER STATION'S	)	Docket No. 00-AFC-3
NUEVA AZALEA POWER PLANT PROJECT	)	DATA ADEQUATE
BY SUNLAW ENERGY CORPORATION	)	AUGUST 9, 2000

**ORDER TERMINATING PROCEEDINGS**

**Background**

On November 6, 2001, Applicant filed a notice withdrawing the application for certification in the above-captioned proceeding.

**Discussion**

Applicant's notice of withdrawal complies with Section 1709.8(a) of the Energy Commission's regulations. Section 1709.8(b) provides that the presiding member shall issue a written order terminating proceedings upon receipt of a properly executed withdrawal notice.

**Order**

Review of the application for certification in this matter is immediately terminated. The proceeding is hereby closed. No further filings in this matter shall be accepted by the Energy Commission's Docket Unit.

Dated November 9, 2001, at Sacramento, California.

# EJ Formula on Civic Engagement

EJ Frame + Educate + Agitate + Organize = Victory

# Policy Recommendations

- State should regulate energy, water, etc.
- Additional sources of pollution shouldn't be allowed in contaminated communities of color
- When located polluting facilities, elected officials, planners and private sector should consider issues of race and class



# Short Video

The image features a dark blue background with a 3D grid of light blue spheres. The spheres are arranged in a perspective view, receding into the distance. The word "Fin" is written in a white, sans-serif font in the center of the grid.

Fin