

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK GENERAL PLAN



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

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## **Appendices**

Appendix EJ Environmental Justice Technical Report



# ACTIVITY LOG

Adoption Date: November 15, 2022

## Amendments Adopted by City Council



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

The Environmental Justice Element contains a comprehensive set of goals and policies aimed at increasing the role and influence of historically marginalized populations and reducing their exposure to environmental and health hazards. The Element begins with regulatory background, which includes a discussion of environmental justice principles and methodology for identifying environmental justice communities (called “disadvantaged communities”). Following the background, the Element summarizes baseline environmental conditions within Huntington Park’s environmental justice communities through the lens of pollution exposure, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity and health, food access, and public facilities. To establish an understanding of baseline conditions, a detailed technical assessment was performed. This technical assessment can be found in Appendix A of this document. The Element concludes by translating the findings of the environmental justice analysis into actionable goals, policies and programs. The goals, policies, and programs describe how the City of Huntington Park will incorporate environmental justice into decision making and support positive outcomes for affected residents.

## KEY DEFINITIONS

**Environmental Justice** – The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Gov. Code § 65040.12(e)).

**Disadvantaged Community** – An area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency Pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code OR a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation (Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)).

**Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)** – A component of diesel exhaust (DE) that includes soot particles made up primarily of carbon, ash, metallic abrasion particles, sulfates, and silicates.

**Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)** – An air pollutant particle mixture that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot, and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities.



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The environmental justice context in this Element was developed utilizing a range of community engagement activities, including an environmental justice community survey, a local stakeholder advisory board, and two community workshops. The information within this report was supplemented and reviewed through the various community engagement efforts to ensure that the analysis was consistent with community understanding and that details gathered through public input were incorporated.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Environmental Justice Community Survey was posted on the City's webpage starting on January 12, 2022. The survey was provided in both English and Spanish to ensure language isolation was accounted for. The survey remained active for over 5 months and was taken to all in-person public meetings to gather broad feedback.

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The first environmental justice community workshop was held in a hybrid virtual/in-person setting on January 26, 2022. During the workshop, the community was introduced to the concept of environmental justice and the process of developing the Environmental Justice Element. City Staff and consultants presented the community with a map of Disadvantaged Communities in the planning area and held a discussion session to identify collective priorities and solicit feedback to identify focus areas for the technical analysis.

The hybrid virtual meeting was hosted over the Zoom video platform and broadcasted on the City's official Facebook page, where the meeting was recorded and posted permanently to reach a broader audience. The meeting was also available to attend, in-person at a City-run facility, where the virtual presentation was broadcasted live, and Staff acted to facilitate comments and questions. To accommodate Spanish-speaking community members, live Spanish-translation was provided, and Spanish-language questions and comments were translated in real-time.

The second environmental justice community workshop was held in-person on March 23rd, 2022. City Staff and consultants presented the community with key findings from the environmental justice technical report to gather feedback regarding the on-



going analysis. Staff and consultants hosted a discussion session that outlined the key findings and solicited additional thoughts on community priorities and concerns given the technical context.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Environmental Justice Advisory Committee was established during the planning process to assist in providing focused input during the development of the Element. The Committee consisted of 15 carefully selected members that represented key stakeholders within the Huntington Park community. Members included representatives from the City, small business owners, various resident representatives, and representatives from a range of non-profit organizations within the community (TreePeople, Southeast Los Angeles Collaborative, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice). The Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet five times over the Element planning process, including a meeting to review the findings of the Environmental Justice Technical report and a meeting to provide feedback on the Draft Environmental Justice Element.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BACKGROUND**

Historically, negative environmental impacts have been shown to disproportionately affect marginalized populations, including racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic minorities. As a result, disproportionately affected populations can face a range of environmental impacts including increased exposure to air pollutants, unsafe drinking water, and contaminated facilities/structures, while also having relatively limited access to public resources. The environmental impacts that impact disproportionately marginalized populations (low-income communities, racial/ethnic minorities, etc.) are often compounding and result in a negative feedback loop that can perpetuate existing issues.

Environmental Justice is a concept focused on addressing the systemic determinants of the unequal environmental burden placed on disadvantaged communities, especially minority and low-income populations. Efforts towards environmental justice have aimed to improve the status of disadvantaged communities through effective planning and policy decisions. In California, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 1000) was established to address the role of environmental justice in local and regional planning practice.

Formally, California law defines “environmental justice” as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Government Code Section 65040.12, subd. (e)). Through Senate Bill 1000, jurisdictions are now required to identify environmental justice communities (called “disadvantaged communities”) within their planning area and incorporate environmental justice into their general plans.



The City of Huntington Park is committed to promoting environmental justice within its jurisdiction through the effective implementation of this Environmental Justice Element. The goals and policies in this plan are centered around six key focus areas. These focus areas represent the range of environmental factors that may influence a person's health status, they are referred to as the environmental determinants of health (California Government Code Section 65302) The environmental determinants of health include:

- Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
- Public Facilities
- Safe and Sanitary Homes
- Physical Activity and Public Health
- Food Access
- Civic and Community Engagement

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

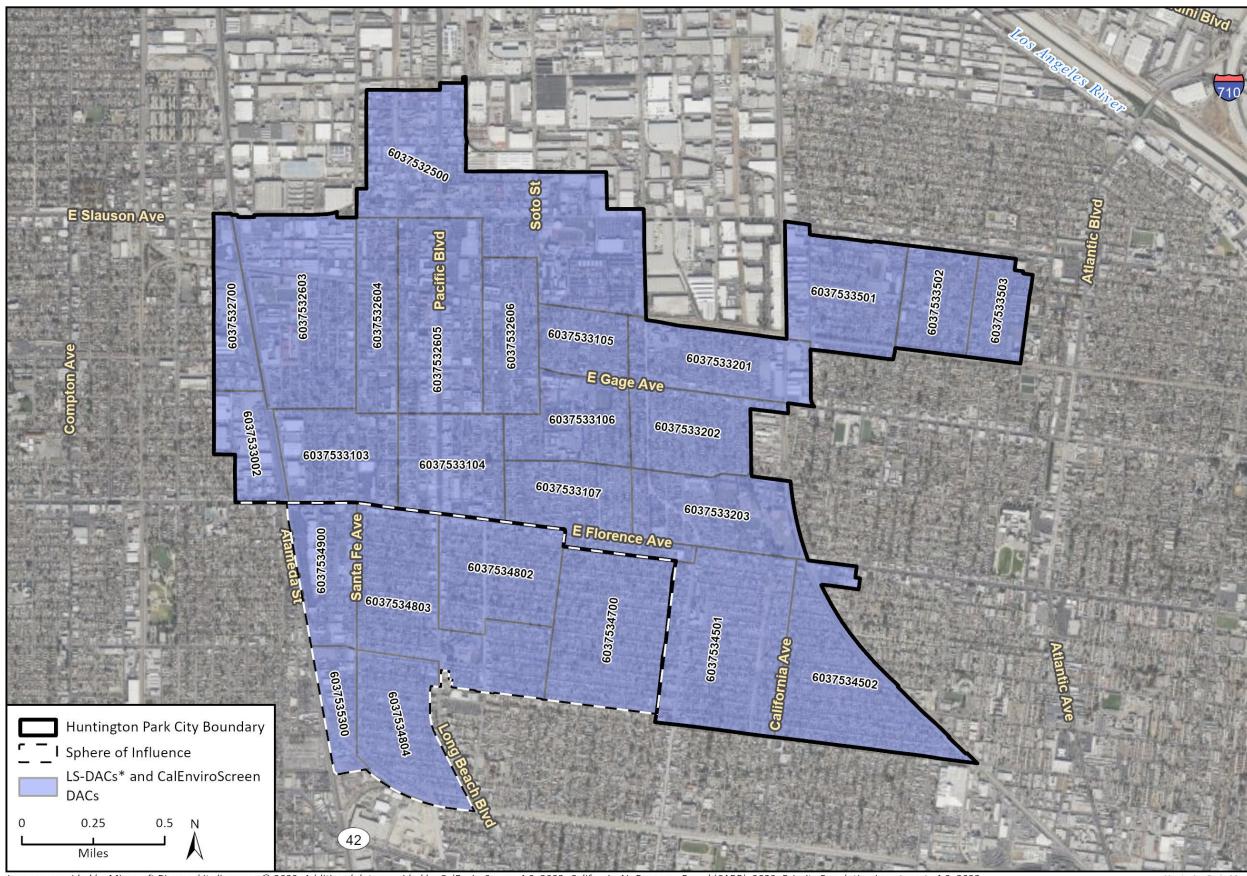
California legislation defines a "disadvantaged communities" as an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

CalEPA has designated disadvantaged communities across California within its CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool. The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool identifies disadvantaged census tracts in the state and ranks these tracts based on various pollution and population indicators. This tool was utilized as a baseline for identifying disadvantaged communities in Huntington Park. In addition to the CalEPA designated disadvantaged communities, a local analysis was performed to identify low-income areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards. Disadvantaged Communities in Huntington Park are those census tracts that meet the qualifications for one or both methodologies described above. For more information on the methodologies used to identify Disadvantaged Communities in Huntington Park, see Appendix A of this document.

All of the twenty-six census tracts in Huntington Park have been identified as Disadvantaged Communities. While some cities may be home to small pockets of disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately burdened by environmental and population impacts, Huntington Park has a particularly high level of pollution burdened and low-income residents across the entirety of its jurisdiction. The figure below depicts all Disadvantaged Communities in the City's planning area.



**Figure 1 Identified Disadvantaged Communities in the Huntington Park Planning Area**



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2022. Additional data provided by CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; California Air Resource Board (CARB), 2022; Priority Population Investments 4.0, 2022. Fig X LS-DACs and CalEnviroScreen DACs in Huntington Park

\* LS-DACs are areas of Low-Income communities (as determined by CalEPA) that are also within pollution burdened areas in the 75th percentile or higher (as determined by CalEnviroScreen).

The prevalence of Disadvantaged Communities across the city is largely attributed to the extent of air pollution across the jurisdiction, as well as the lower-income demographics that characterize much of the community. Huntington Park is burdened with Particulate Matter pollution (PM 2.5 and Diesel Particulate Matter) and Toxic Release pollution (from facilities) across its geography, which may contribute to poorer health outcomes across the various lower-income populations within its boundaries.

The environmental conditions and socio-economic makeup of Huntington Park have a strong connection to the city's rich history as a streetcar suburb for industrial workers in the early 1900s. The Los Angeles Gateway region, of which Huntington Park is an integral part of, was largely developed amid a boom in manufacturing that focused Los Angeles County's industrial production in areas southeast of Downtown Los Angeles. Huntington Park and surrounding cities became home to much of the County's industry sector, as well as a home to those working-class industry workers that serviced this economy. The pollution context in Huntington Park is largely shaped by this historic context.



The air pollutants that impact Huntington Park's community are regional issues that permeate the vast number of cities southeast of Downtown Los Angeles. The historic working-class populations in Huntington Park may be disproportionately burdened by these regional pollution issues due to the lack of resource access that is often associated with low-income populations. Because the environmental and population impacts on Disadvantaged Communities are often compounding, the City of Huntington Park is committed to addressing Environmental Justice with a comprehensive and holistic approach. A detailed summary of the environmental impacts across the city is included in Section B, below.



## 2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONTEXT IN HUNTINGTON PARK

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The following is a summary of the baseline conditions for environmental justice in Huntington Park. This summary is based on the findings of the Environmental Justice Technical Report, which can be found in *Appendix A* of this document.

### POLLUTION BURDEN

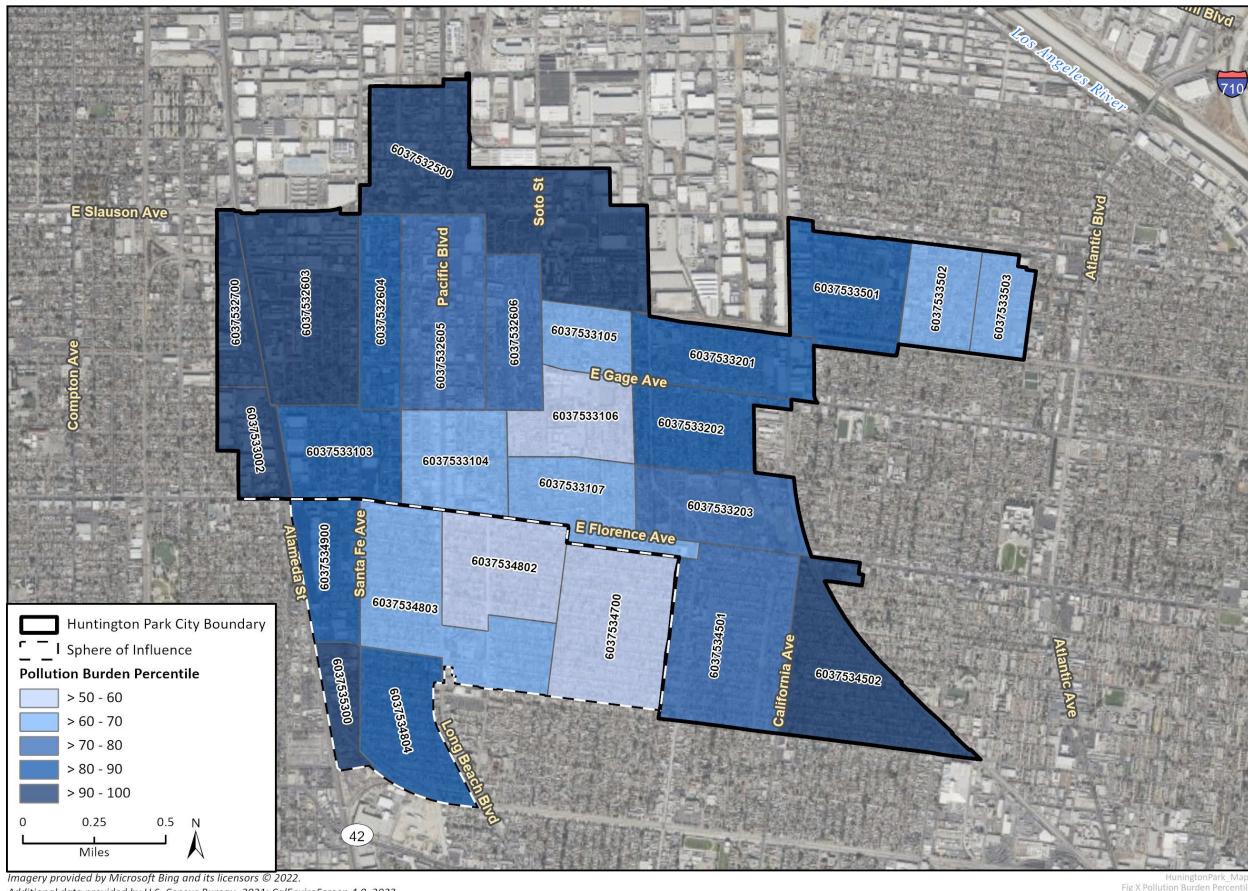
Pollution exposure can lead to various adverse health outcomes, including an increased risk of respiratory infections, heart disease, and other cardiovascular illnesses. Understanding the pollution context within a city is important to understanding a community's unique health and safety needs. All of the census tracts in Huntington Park are associated with elevated levels of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5), Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM), Toxic Releases, and Lead in Housing. Three of the four elevated pollutant-types prevalent cross Huntington Park are forms of air pollution. Air pollution is the primary type of pollution exposure within California.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsible for establishing air quality standards and assessing regional attainment of these standards. CARB has distinguished geographic areas of California by subregion, known as "air basins", to allow for regional assessment and enforcement. Huntington Park is located in the South Coast Air Basin, which includes all of Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County has a state designation of nonattainment for ozone and particulate matter (PM10 and PM), indicating that the County did not meet the state standards for those air pollutant types. As a jurisdiction within Los Angeles County, Huntington Park is impacted by the regional air pollution within the County.

Pollution exposure may disproportionately impact some geographic areas more than others. Pollution Burdened areas are those areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects or environmental degradation. The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool utilizes a Pollution Burden metric to understand pollution exposure across California relative to other California census tracts. The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool indicates that a majority of census tracts in the planning area have elevated Pollution Burden scores. Elevated Pollution Burden scores indicate that Huntington Park census tracts have significant exposure to environmental pollution relative to the State average. The location of sensitive receptors adjacent to industrial land uses and along major inter-city highways can contribute to elevated levels of pollution. In Huntington Park, higher pollution burden scores were concentrated along the peripheries of the planning area. The presence of industrial land uses and inter-city highways along the city's peripheries may be a key factor in the elevated pollution burden scores for communities within these areas.



## Figure 2 Pollution Burden in Huntington Park (CalEnviroScreen 4.0)



## PUBLIC FACILITIES

According to the CalEPA, access to public facilities is an environmental determinant of health outcomes. Under State law “public facilities” include, but are not limited to, public improvements, services, and community amenities (Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A)). These facilities include cultural centers, streets and roads, government buildings, schools, public transit, and public open space. Low-income and minority communities have historically had fewer public investments in their neighborhood and less access to critical public resources (OEHHA 2017). To promote environmental justice in Huntington Park, it is necessary to understand the context of public facility accessibility across the planning area.

## PARKS, SCHOOLS, AND CULTURAL CENTERS

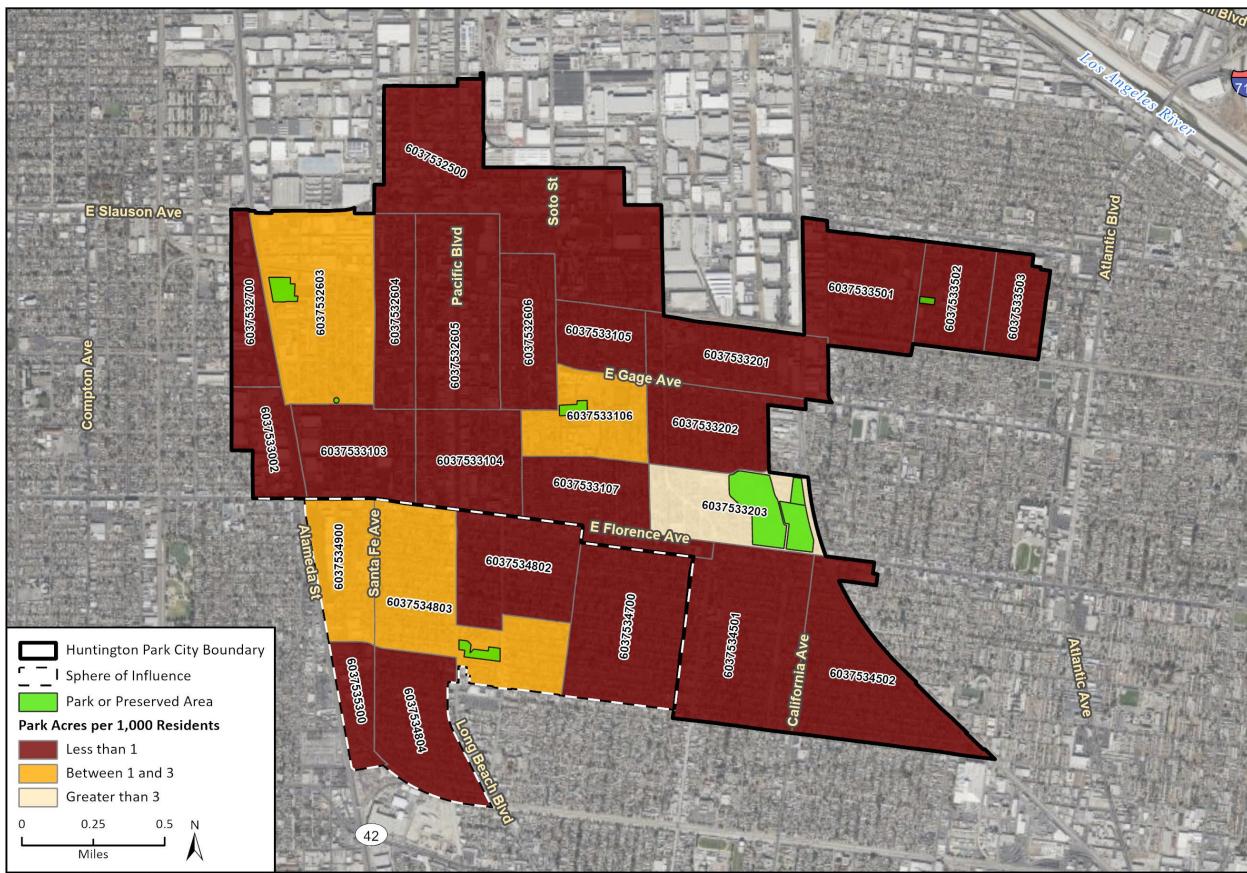
The availability of greenspace (parks, fields, open space) in proximity to housing can create opportunity for physical activity and social interaction (WHO 2016). Both physical activity and social interaction have been linked to improved health outcomes. Similarly, public schools and cultural centers provide opportunities for recreation and community engagement that are necessary to supplement the mental and physical health of residents.



The City of Huntington Park is home to 11 public schools, including two high schools, two middle schools, and seven elementary schools. All public schools within the city are operated under the Los Angeles Unified School District. These schools are dispersed evenly across the 3.003 square miles of land that encompass the jurisdiction, allowing for access within a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile distance for a majority of residents. Despite the proximal location of schools in the city, inadequate street infrastructure (bikeways, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks) can contribute to an access issue for many residents.

Because Huntington Park is a heavily urbanized city, there is limited available land left undeveloped within the planning area. Due to this development context, there are existing barriers to the creation of parks and open space to serve the population. The City of Huntington Park provides residents with approximately 31 acres of total park space. However, 13 percent of residents live further than a half mile away from a park and approximately 96 percent of residents live in areas with less than three acres of parks or open space per 1,000 residents. For these reasons, all but two census tracts in Huntington Park are considered "critically underserved" according to the California Statewide Park Program.

**Figure 3 Park Access in Huntington Park**



## TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Transportation helps to connect people with basic needs such as grocery stores, access to work, parks, and other essential locations. Accessible and varied modes of transportation help to increase resource accessibility by ensuring residents without automobile access can maintain mobility (WHO 2016). A critical form of accessible transportation is public transit.

Huntington Park is served by two different public transit providers: the City of Huntington Park and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). LA Metro operates the regional bus lines that pass through the city across 11 bus lines and an extensive network of bus stops. The City operates two local bus lines and a dial-a-ride service for Huntington Park residents through the HP Express local transit bus. There are 43 existing HP Express bus stops across the city, with bus stop locations in all city census tracts.

## FOOD ACCESS

Access to healthy food is a key determinant of positive health outcomes and quality of life. Historically, low-income communities have been disproportionately impacted by lack of food access. This inability to access nutritious food has been associated with, among several factors, lack of transportation resources, and a lack of local affordable and nutritious food sources (USDA 2019). Food access can be measured by food insecurity and the presence of food deserts.

## FOOD INSECURITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It is a measure of a population's ability to afford nutritious and health-sustaining food. The most recent data on food insecurity in Huntington Park is from the year 2015. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported a food insecurity rate in Huntington Park of approximately 25 percent for the year 2015 (LADPH 2018). This City statistic is more than double the County and Statewide statistic for the same measure and indicates that food insecurity among the population of Huntington Park is a significant issue. This issue is prevalent within the Huntington Park community due largely to the prevalence of low-income populations within the city. Low-income communities often face a reduced ability to afford adequate food supply due to limited financial resources.

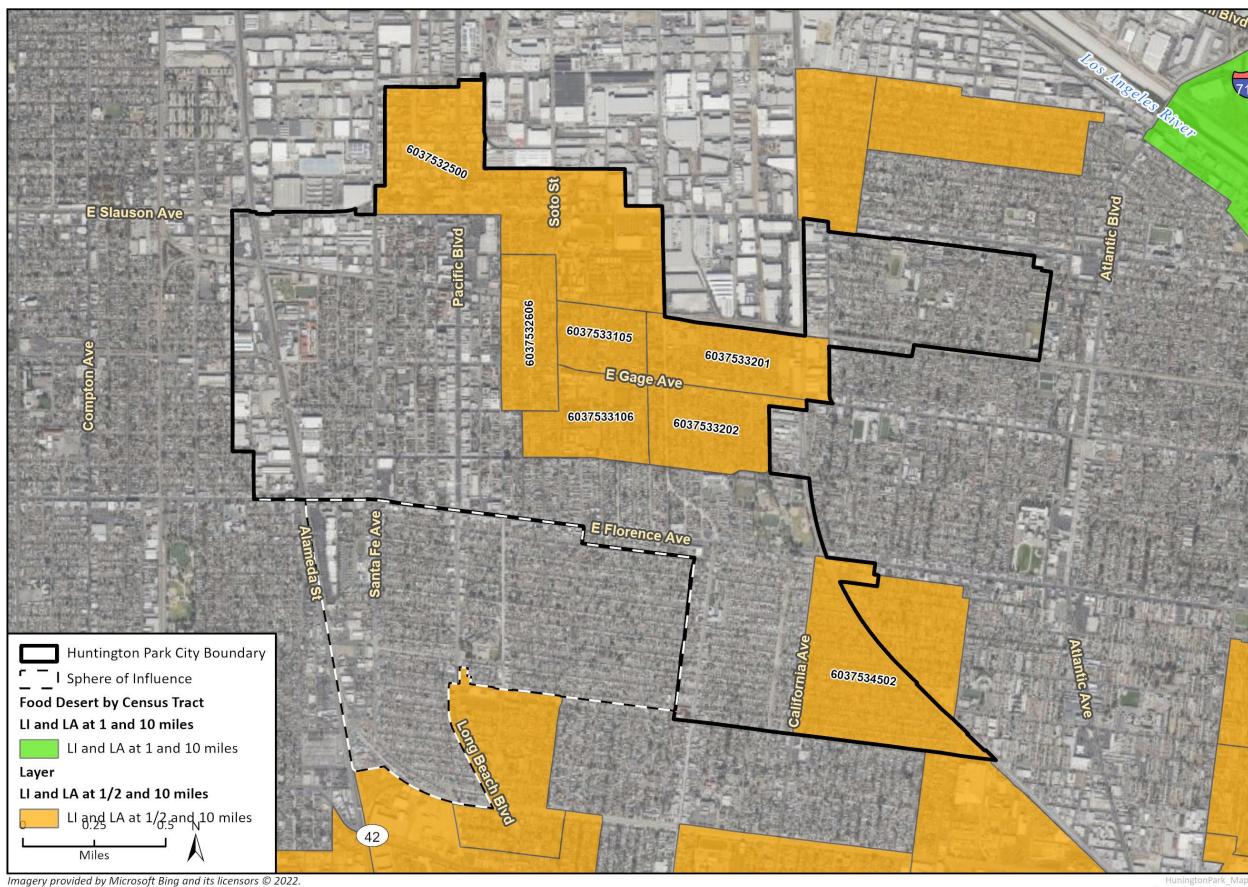
## FOOD DESERTS

Limited access to supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other sources of healthy and affordable food may make it harder for some residents to eat a healthy diet. Food deserts are areas in which it is difficult to access affordable or good-quality fresh food. The USDA maintains a Food Access Research Atlas that identifies food deserts by census tract within the United States. The USDA defines the food desert



classification as low-income census tracts with a substantial number or share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods (USDA 2011). There are no identified food deserts within the Huntington Park planning area. However, there are several communities that are classified as Low-income and Low-access (to healthy food) at an impaired access distance of more than 0.5 miles from the nearest supermarket or grocery store. These communities are primarily located in the central portion of Huntington Park.

**Figure 4 Food Deserts in Huntington Park**



## EXISTING PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE

The high rate of food insecurity coupled with the lack of food deserts in the Huntington Park planning area indicate that food access issues in the city are largely a result of income-related resource restrictions. Public benefit programs such as food banks, food pantries, and free community gardens can serve to address food access concerns as a result of income-related food insecurity. The only existing food bank in Huntington Park is operated by the Southeast Church Services Center. The City operates a senior citizen drive-up food pantry to address food access for residents ages 60 and up. There are currently no free community gardens within the city. Expanding free and affordable food services in Huntington Park can serve to address existing food access issues.



## SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

Poor housing conditions such as poor ventilation and substandard building materials and quality can result in detrimental health environments, including environments with mold exposure, exposure to asbestos, and exposure to extreme climate variations (WHO 2016). In addition, landlord neglect and overcrowding in housing can exacerbate poor housing conditions and result in impacted health outcomes. Substandard housing conditions, housing cost burden, overcrowding, and affordability are discussed in detail in the General Plan Housing Element. Housing Element policies and programs address substandard housing conditions, the preservation of the existing housing stock, and the development of new housing.

## AGE OF HOUSING STOCK

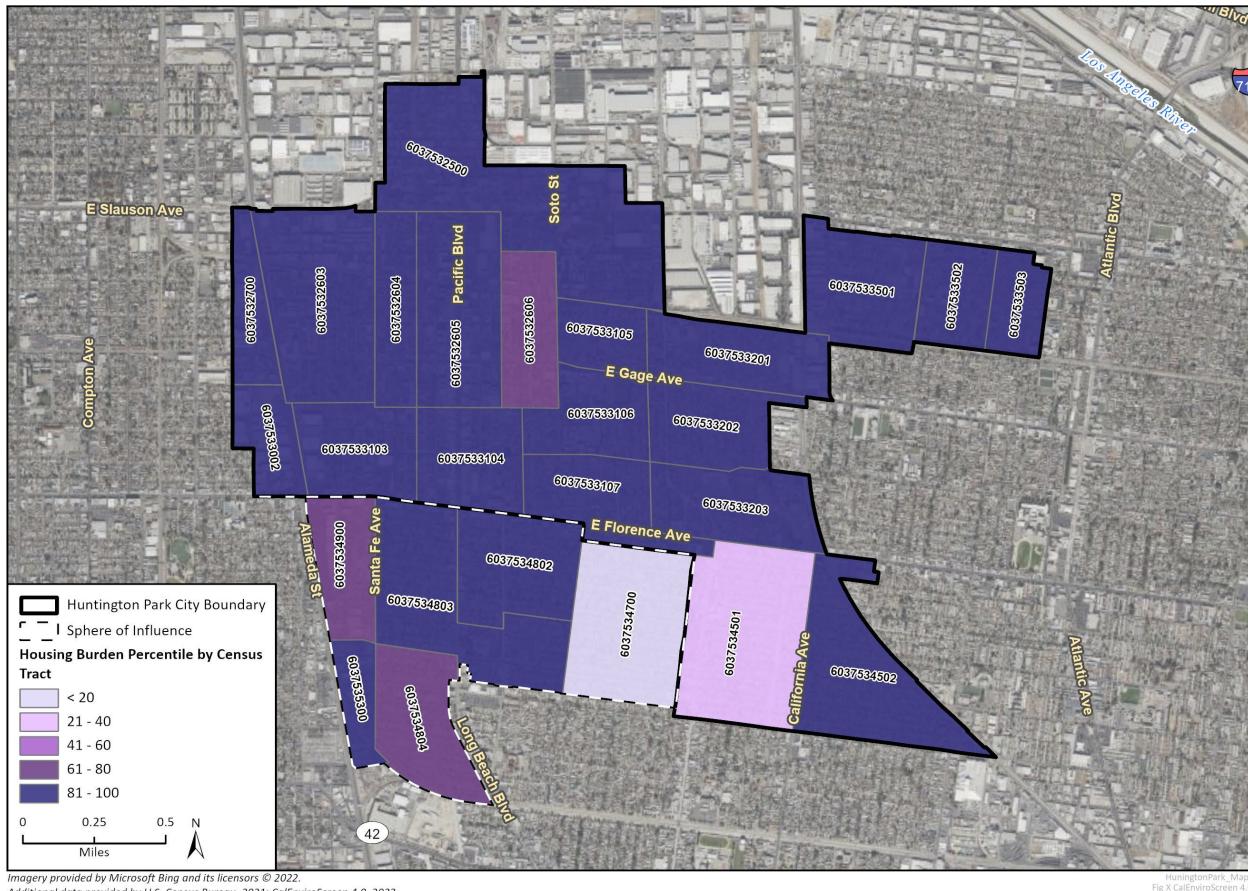
The age of housing stock can contribute to unsafe living conditions for populations that reside within this housing. Like any other tangible asset, housing is subject to gradual physical or technological deterioration over time. In addition, older homes were often built using harmful home construction materials, some of which are now associated with increased risk of disease. According to 2020 ACS 5-year estimates, approximately 44 percent of Huntington Park's housing stock was built before the year 1950. The aging housing stock in the city may require maintenance, upgrades and retrofitting to improve the safety of living conditions within.

## HOUSING COST BURDEN

Low-income communities with limited opportunity to remove themselves from unsafe conditions may be forced to bear the health burden associated with an unsafe home. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty, which can lead to adverse health effects. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), households spending a minimum of 30 percent of their total gross income on housing costs are considered cost burdened, whereas households spending over 50 percent on housing costs are considered severely cost burdened. According to the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool, a majority of census tracts within the Huntington Park planning area scored above the 75th percentile for housing burden relative to all other California census tracts.



## Figure 5 Housing Cost Burden in Huntington Park (CalEnviroScreen 4.0)



## OVERCROWDING

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines an overcrowded unit as one occupied by 1.01 persons or more per room (excluding bathrooms and kitchens) (HUD 2007). According to the 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 34 percent of all occupied housing units in Huntington Park were considered overcrowded. This measure is significantly higher than the same measure for Los Angeles County (11 percent) and higher than the average for cities adjacent to Huntington Park. In Huntington Park, Overcrowding is more prevalent among renter-occupied units in the city, which make up 73 percent of all occupied housing units.

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH

Physical activity is an important contributor of health outcomes. The environmental context within a community can serve to promote or discourage levels of physical activity for residents. Communities with adequate access to open space, nutritious food, and multimodal transportation are more hospitable to physical activity and are therefore more likely to have better health outcomes. Recreation facilities and health programs available through the city can contribute to increased physical activity and improved health outcomes.



## PHYSICAL FITNESS

According to statistics from the Los Angeles County Health Survey and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the percentage of adults (18 years and older) who met recommended guidelines for physical activity in Huntington Park (28 percent) was significantly lower than Los Angeles County (48 percent). The Huntington Park Department of Parks and Recreation provides programs and facilities to support physical fitness in the community that can be expanded to bolster physical activity beyond existing levels.

## NOTABLE HEALTH DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Cardiovascular Disease**

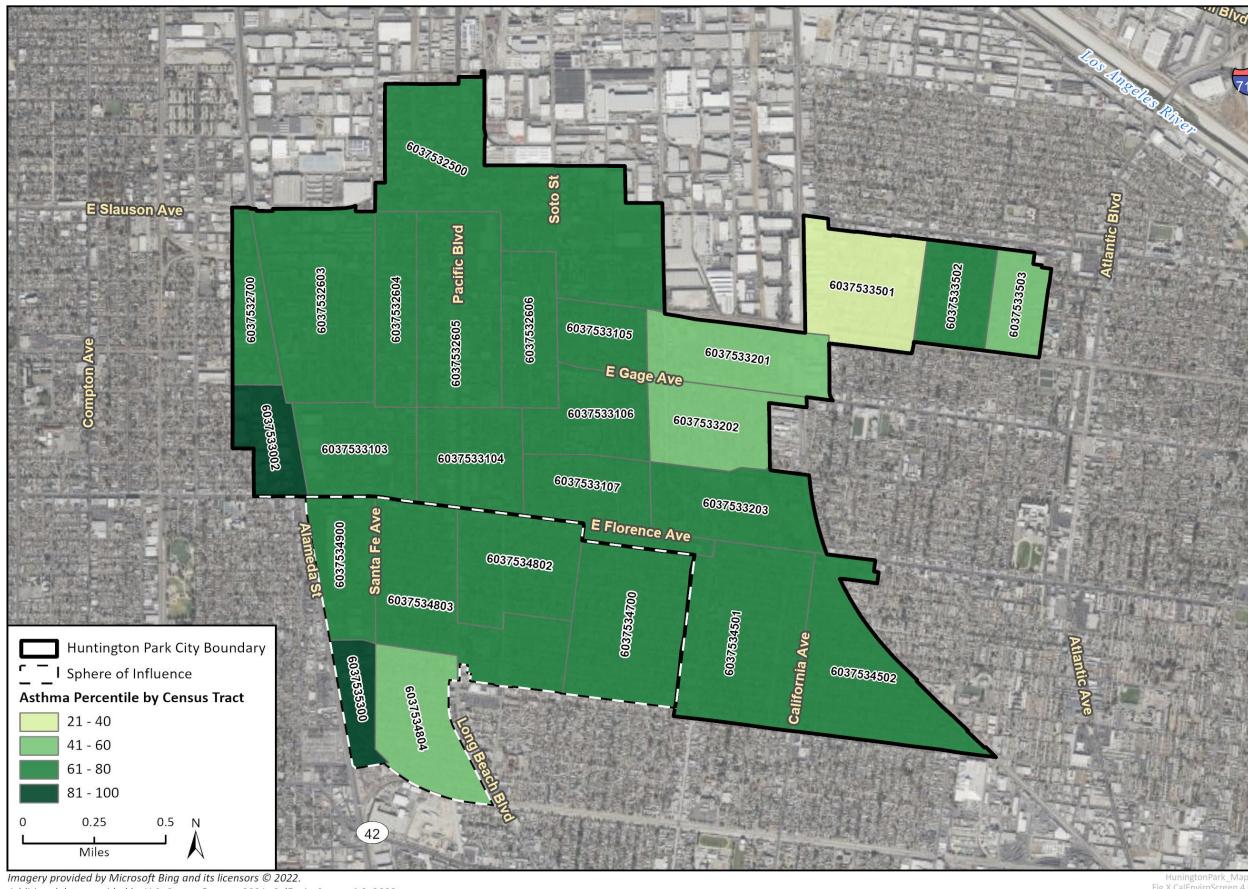
According to the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool, the rate of cardiovascular disease (measured by the number of heart attacks per 10,000 people) does not vary significantly across census tracts in Huntington Park. A vast majority of census tracts within Huntington Park have a significantly high percentile score for cardiovascular disease (75th percentile +). This indicates that the identified heart attack ratio across census tracts in Huntington Park is consistently higher than 75 percent of census tracts in California.

- **Asthma**

The rate of asthma emergency room visits in the Huntington Park planning area varies significantly by census tract. According to the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool, a majority of census tracts in the planning area have an asthma percentile rate within the 60th to 70th percentile relative to all California census tracts. Census tracts located in the northeastern portion of the city have a notably lower percentile score for asthma compared to the broader city. Census tracts in Huntington Park's southwestern planning area scored the highest of all census tracts in the city, with three census tracts scoring above the 75th percentile.



## Figure 6 Asthma Emergency Room Visit Rate (CalEnviroScreen 4.0)



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Equitable planning for a community involves a comprehensive approach to community engagement that enables all residents to participate in the local decision-making process. State legislation affirms that public agencies should develop future community engagement programs in a manner that strategically involves disadvantaged communities and other protected classes. By involving and engaging disadvantaged communities in decision-making processes, policymakers can effectively meet the needs of all residents within their jurisdiction.

Disadvantaged communities often have culturally or demographically specific needs that must be considered within local outreach strategy to ensure community success. These needs include, but are not limited to, language requirements, location requirements, and timing requirements. Public agencies are encouraged by the State of California to accommodate the needs of all subgroups within their local community as a strategy for creating an equitable and environmentally just document. According to the U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates for 2020, approximately 46 percent of the Huntington Park population is foreign-born, of which 98 percent were born in Latin America. The Latin American Foreign-Born community characterizes a distinct



demographic context for the city, that must be taken into consideration when developing outreach strategies for community engagement.

One major barrier to civic engagement in Huntington Park is linguistic isolation. Linguistically isolated households are those where no person over the age of 14 speaks English proficiently. According to the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool, all census tracts in Huntington Park have significantly high scores (75th percentile and above) of linguistic isolation.

Across the city, the primary language spoken besides English is Spanish. Numerous census tracts within the planning area also have significant portions of the population who speak Chinese and Tagalog. Integrating the local language context into community engagement strategies may support equitable and comprehensive planning processes within Huntington Park.



# 3 GOALS AND POLICIES

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The following goals and policies were created to promote environmental justice in the city of Huntington Park by addressing the unique needs of disadvantaged communities in the planning area. The policies outlined below serve to apply a refined environmental justice lens to supplement the existing General Plan elements, which contain more focused policies relevant to individual topic areas (Housing Element, Safety Element, Land Use Element, Circulation Element).

## POLLUTION AND AIR QUALITY

### **Goal 1: Protect the Huntington Park community from the harmful effects of pollution exposure.**

**Policy 1.1:** Reduce Particulate Matter (Diesel PM and PM 2.5) pollution for sensitive land uses by establishing roadway-adjacent pollution mitigation strategies (green walls, vegetative barriers, etc.) in locations where a major local roadway interfaces with a sensitive land use by the year 2024.

Program 1.1.1: Establish vegetative barriers or green wall barriers in the following locations to protect sensitive land uses from pollution impacts by the year 2024: Salt Lake Avenue, Florence Avenue, Randolph Street, Gage Avenue, Miles Avenue.

**Policy 1.2:** Reduce the impacts of particulate matter and toxic release air pollution on sensitive receptors in the city by establishing an Air Filtration Support program that provides funding and support for low-income and disabled residents to install indoor air filtration improvements.

Program 1.2.1: By the end of 2025, the Community Development Department shall establish an Air Filtration Grant as part of the future Safe-at-Home Grant Program, to provide low-income residents with access to in-home HEPA air filters at little-to-no-cost.

**Policy 1.3:** Protect residents from air pollution impacts by raising awareness and providing information to residents about the health consequences of poor air quality and potential strategies for personal adaptation.

Program 1.3.1: Publish daily air quality updates using the Air Quality Index on the City's webpage and highlight days when air quality is notably critical.

Program 1.3.2: By Fall 2023, establish a page on the City's webpage dedicated to the air quality context in Huntington Park, including local resources for adaptation.



**Policy 1.4:** Increase urban greening across the city, prioritizing plans for areas where major roadways are located adjacent to sensitive land uses (parks, residential, schools).

Program 1.4.1: By 2024, develop an urban greening task force consisting of City staff from the Community Development Department and Public Works Department to lead the development of an urban greening plan for the City of Huntington Park, including the identification and prioritization of greening projects and potential funding sources such as the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening grant.

Program 1.4.2: Partner with local environmental advocacy organizations by 2024 to develop a focused tree-planting initiative in Huntington Park, with the goal of increasing the tree canopy across the city using appropriate species.

**Policy 1.5:** Replace City vehicles with zero or low-emissions vehicles, when feasible, for non-commercial and public safety uses in order to work toward a low-emissions City target by 2030.

Program 1.5.1: Develop a low-emissions fleet vehicle plan by the year 2026, with a goal of reducing City vehicle emissions and identifying funding resources, including State-sponsored funding and other grant initiatives to support this effort.

**Policy 1.6:** Advocate for all local public schools to be retrofitted with MERV-13 filtration to protect students from local air pollution risk by the year 2024.

Program 1.6.1: Regularly coordinate with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to ensure that all Huntington Park school classrooms have been retrofitted with MERV-13 air filtration, per LAUSD's 2022 COVID-19 Containment, Response, and Control Plan.

**Policy 1.7:** Ensure that all local solid waste facilities are operating consistent with CalRecycle and California Environmental Protection Agency regulations to protect residents from hazardous waste pollution associated with local sites.

**Policy 1.8:** Coordinate with local solid waste and hazardous waste operators to develop site-specific upgrades that reduce pollution exposure beyond the minimum regulatory standards.

Program 1.8.1: Coordinate with all solid waste and hazardous waste operators that are non-compliant, in-violation, or undergoing existing mitigation, to facilitate a resolution to existing issues and establish interim strategies for insulating the community from impacts.

Program 1.8.2: Starting in 2023, the Community Development Department shall develop a report identifying solid waste and hazardous waste operations that are non-compliant, in-violation, or undergoing existing mitigation. This report shall be published on the City's webpage for public consumption in English and Spanish.



**Policy 1.9:** Protect the communities in the northern and western peripheries of the city from hazardous waste and solid waste facility impacts by developing a targeted task force focused on limiting industrial pollution exposure.

Program 1.9.1: By 2025, develop the Industrial Pollution Task Force focused on developing strategies and updates to the Huntington Park Municipal Code to limit hazardous waste and solid waste pollution exposure. The Task Force shall consist of members of City staff from the Community Development Department and external agencies responsible for regional pollution remediation, including the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**Policy 1.10:** Reduce air pollution exposure as a result of commercial vehicles and truck routes across the city by designating Truck Prohibited Streets and enforcing truck idling requirements.

Program 1.10.1: The Community Development Department shall perform a detailed analysis of truck routes in the planning area to identify routes abutting residential land uses that can be effectively rerouted. By 2025, develop a Truck Route Ordinance to designate Truck Prohibited Streets and include fines and penalties to enforce restrictions.

Program 1.10.2: Implement California's five-minute truck idling maximum law, which prohibits truck idling for more than five minutes and requires warehouses and distribution facilities to provide adequate on-site truck parking.

Program 1.10.3: By 2025, erect signage in locations in which truck idling commonly occurs, that clearly indicates the prohibition of truck idling beyond five minutes.

**Policy 1.11:** Reduce cumulative air pollution exposure across the city by implementing the policies and programs outlined within the Southeast Los Angeles Community Emissions Reduction Plan adopted on 12/4/2020.

**Policy 1.12:** Locate sensitive uses (i.e., residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, athletic facilities, churches, long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes) away from significant pollution sources to the maximum extent feasible.

**Policy 1.13:** Facilitate the remediation of all Brownfield sites within Huntington Park.

Program 1.13.1: By 2035, pursue and use grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Redevelopment Program to establish an incentive program, managed by the Community Development Department, to assist property owners to assess and remediate Brownfield sites.

**Policy 1.14:** Support the development of healthy and community-centered land uses within Huntington Park by prohibiting the redevelopment of Brownfield sites into industrial or otherwise polluting uses.



**Policy 1.15:** Develop a working group with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, relevant community organizations, and interested residents, with the goal of expediting the on-going Exide battery-recycling facility cleanup and supporting outreach to residents regarding the ongoing cleanup.

**Policy 1.16:** Ensure that City's water quality is safe for community consumption, meeting or exceeding federal drinking water standards.

**Policy 1.17:** Pursue funding through EPA Renovate Right Program to train local residential contractors for certification as lead renovators to promote safe work practices and prevent lead contamination.

Program 1.20.1: Explore the feasibility of requiring contractor training and/or certification for safe work practices to conduct residential renovations for pre-1980s structures that may contain lead paint.

**Policy 1.18:** Encourage the use of ecologically based landscape design principles to support improved air quality by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>, producing oxygen, and providing shade that reduces energy required for cooling.

Program 1.21.1: As part of the development review process, provide a handout that outlines ecologically based landscape design principles, including the incorporation of parklets, landscaped medians, and landscaping within development.

**Policy 1.19:** Partner with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to identify baseline conditions for lead contamination in Huntington Park, monitor indicators of lead contamination, and measure outcomes of programs to improve lead exposure.

**Policy 1.20:** Educate property owners on the benefits of lead-based paint abatement, home repair, and remodeling using design and materials consistent with the historic character of the residence.

**Policy 1.21:** Develop and maintain public programs to increase access to at-home pollution exposure remediation for residents of Huntington Park, including lead-based paint inspections and household air purification devices.

- Reference Environmental Justice Program 4.10.1 and 4.10.2

## PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY

**Goal 2: Foster a community where residents have ample access to necessary public facilities and programs.**

**Policy 2.1:** Prioritize the safety and quality of public parks by utilizing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques in the development and improvement of local parks and open space.



Program 2.1.1: The Parks and Recreation Department and Planning Division shall update the City's park development standards to include CPTED strategies.

**Policy 2.2:** Increase the availability of public green space in the western portion of the City by developing joint-use agreements with local LAUSD schools that expand access to recreation facilities to the Huntington Park community.

Program 2.2.1: Starting in 2023, the Department of Parks and Recreation shall coordinate with LAUSD to advocate for joint-use agreements with local schools, with a focus on increasing park access in the Western portion of the City.

**Policy 2.3:** Improve accessibility to local public facilities and resources by expanding the HP Express to provide access to a wider variety of public facilities and exploring opportunities to subsidize ridership for residents of Huntington Park.

Program 2.3.1: By 2025, perform a feasibility analysis to examine the opportunity to increase subsidized ridership programs for special groups not already accounted for, including students and veterans.

Program 2.3.2: Pursue funding to broaden existing subsidized ridership programs for the HP Express through the Federal Transportation Administration's (FTA) Areas of Persistent Poverty Program.

Program 2.3.3: Pursue funding through the FTA's Flexible Funding Programs - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and the FTA's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants Program to expand the HP Express route to include a wider variety of public facilities.

**Policy 2.4:** Ensure that all local bus stops are equipped with adequate seating, lighting, canopies, and signage to protect the safety and accessibility of local public transportation.

Program 2.4.1: By 2026, the Community Development Department shall perform an inventory of local public transit infrastructure to identify bus stops in-need of improvement and develop a work program to update the bus stops.

**Policy 2.5:** Bolster access to public facilities and improve active transportation by expanding bicycle infrastructure across the city.

Program 2.5.1: By 2030, develop an updated Bicycle and Transportation Master Plan that is focused on expanding safe, local bike routes and increasing regional connectivity

**Policy 2.6:** Annually assess the capacity and efficiency of City-run public utilities to ensure that water and sewer services are readily available to residents across Huntington Park.

Program 2.6.1: Facilitate all updates and amendments to the water system as outlined within the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.



Program 2.6.2: Beginning 2023, perform an annual assessment of the capacity and efficiency of City-run public utilities to ensure that the current capacity is in-line with community need.

**Policy 2.7:** Advocate for expanded operating hours and additional services provided by the Huntington Park Library to increase the provision of free internet services, educational resources, and safe quiet zones for residents.

Program 2.7.1: Coordinate with Los Angeles County to advocate for the extension of the Huntington Park Library operating hours from 10 am to 8 pm PST Monday through Sunday.

Program 2.7.2: Coordinate with Los Angeles County to advocate for MERV-13 air filtration and high-quality air conditioning infrastructure at local public libraries to protect the public from the impacts of high heat and poor air quality days.

**Policy 2.10:** Develop design and development standards to ensure equitable access to green space for all residents.

**Policy 2.11:** Promote the development of active transportation infrastructure throughout the City.

Program 2.11.1: By 2027, the Community Development Department shall conduct outreach and a feasibility analysis for a comprehensive citywide bicycle and pedestrian plan. Use regional resources such as the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Strategic Transportation Plan and other Gateway Cities regional coordinating and funding efforts. Planning efforts may include, but are not limited to, updating the General Plan Circulation Element or adopting a bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Present results of feasibility analysis at a public study session.

**Policy 2.12:** Create additional public gathering spaces by identifying underutilized rights-of-ways within the planning area to be converted into parklets.

## FOOD ACCESS

**Goal 3: Ensure that all residents of Huntington Park have adequate access to healthy and affordable food options.**

**Policy 3.1:** Disseminate information to residents of Huntington Park about available state and federal food access services, including the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Program 3.1.1: Dedicate a page on the City's webpage to food assistance services and resources available to the public.

**Policy 3.2:** Promote access to locally grown produce. Reduce barriers to establishing urban agriculture.



Program 3.2.1: Through the Department of Parks and Recreation, the City shall develop a community garden within each major neighborhood of the city by the year 2030.

Program 3.2.2: Through the Department of Parks and Recreation, the City shall partner with a local non-profit organization to open a secondary farmer's market in the Western portion of the City at Raul R. Perez Memorial Park by the year 2025.

Program 3.2.3: Encourage businesses at City farmer's markets to accept WIC and SNAP benefits as payment sources by offering incentives through the City's Business Assistance Program.

**Policy 3.3:** Partner with local food banks and related non-profit organizations to develop a City-sponsored food pantry program by the year 2025.

**Policy 3.4:** Collaborate with local public schools to develop "Edible School Yard" programs that support access to healthy produce and provide nutritional education by the year 2025.

Program 3.4.1: The Community Development Department shall coordinate with LAUSD and local schools directly to discuss the feasibility of establishing an "Edible School Yards" program by the year 2025.

**Policy 3.5:** Broaden local programs related to nutrition and healthy food access through the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Program 3.5.1: The Department of Parks and Recreation shall explore the feasibility of developing a Food Forest Program at local parks that offers a natural and publicly accessible regenerative food production source.

**Policy 3.6:** Improve access to healthy food in Huntington Park by supporting the development of retail venues that offer local, fresh produce.

## SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

**Goal 4: Protect the community of Huntington Park from the negative impacts of inadequate and/or adverse living conditions.**

**Policy 4.1:** Protect renters from adverse living conditions by disseminating information and resources regarding tenants' rights and home safety.

**Policy 4.2:** Increase the development of affordable housing across the city by adopting zoning and incentives that promote the construction of affordable developments, consistent with the City's Housing Element.

Program 4.2.1: Amend the zoning code and implement all programs as outlined in the Huntington Park Housing Element in a timely manner.



**Policy 4.3:** Connect residents with housing opportunities by developing an online portal that provides tenants with information on local housing resources and available rental properties within their neighborhood and price range.

Program 4.3.1: By the end of 2023, the Community Development Department shall create an online housing resource portal that publishes information on local housing resources, including available rental properties.

**Policy 4.4:** Ensure Code Enforcement programs do not cause harm to vulnerable residents, especially undocumented residents, by ensuring that the Fair Housing Foundation follows up on all violations.

**Policy 4.5:** Protect vulnerable renters that experience poor living conditions, including overcrowding, by requiring that Code Enforcement provide tenants with affordable housing resources through the Los Angeles County Housing Resource Center.

**Policy 4.6:** Promote opportunities for homeownership to low- and moderate-income households through homebuyer assistance programs or inclusionary housing requirements that apply to ownership projects.

Program 4.6.1: By 2024, the City's Community Development Department will reinstate a First-Time Homebuyers Program using HOME funds and other grant funding. The City shall promote this program by:

- Establishing parameters for the First-Time Homebuyer Program,
- Preparing multi-lingual informational documents,
- Advertise program by posting informational documents on the city website, providing the documents in general public information areas throughout City Hall, and periodic advertising in the city newsletter.

Program 4.6.2: The City's Community Development Department will operate a Mortgage Assistance program for lower-income homebuyers using CalHome funds. The City shall promote this program by:

- Preparing multi-lingual informational documents,
- Advertising the program by posting informational documents on the city website, providing the documents in public information areas throughout City Hall, and periodic advertising in the city newsletter; and
- Conducting workshops with community-based organizations.

Program 4.6.3: Los Angeles County offers a Homebuyer Assistance Program and Mortgage Credit Certificates. Beginning in 2023, the City of Huntington Park Community Development Department shall provide referral information to prospective buyers at the public counter and on the City website.



**Policy 4.7:** Facilitate the development of missing-middle housing (accessory dwelling units, duplexes, triplexes, and small-lot subdivisions consistent with state law) to provide affordable housing opportunities in existing neighborhoods.

**Policy 4.8:** Provide for housing for people with special needs, including people with disabilities, large households, and seniors, through the use of zoning incentives, dedication of funding, and flexible and/or objective design standards.

**Policy 4.9:** Maintain affordability controls on government-assisted housing units in the City, through dedication of funds and partnerships with nonprofit housing providers to acquire and preserve units in projects with expiring affordability controls.

**Policy 4.10:** Promote safe housing by developing programs that subsidize the rehabilitation of residential structures that are substandard or in disrepair, provide rehabilitation funding for room additions to alleviate overcrowding, and complete other necessary home improvements.

Program 4.10.1: By the end of 2025, the Community Development Department shall establish a Safe-At-Home grant program that provides funding to lower-income residents for home maintenance and upgrades necessary to reduce impacts from pollution exposure, including but not limited to, lead-based paint mitigation, asbestos mitigation, and air pollution.

Program 4.10.2: The City will continue to operate the rehabilitation programs listed below. To continue program operation, the City will allocate CDBG and HOME funding to the Minor Home Repair Program and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, and will seek additional funding to assist more households.

- The Lead Hazard Control Program provides grants for lead hazard remediation.
- The Minor Home Repair Program (owner-occupied properties) is a CDBG-funded program allowing lower-income homeowners the opportunity to make repairs and improvements.
- The HOME-funded Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program offers grants to qualified low- to moderate-income homeowners.
- The CalHome Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program will provide loans for lower-income households for home repairs necessary to eliminate blight for critical disadvantaged communities.

**Policy 4.11:** Strengthen neighborhoods through a partnership with nonprofits in the acquisition and rehabilitation of deteriorated properties and provision of long-term affordable housing.



**Policy 4.12:** Promote quality rental housing and strategies to address substandard conditions of units. Establish procedures to use the City's existing Code Enforcement program to hold landlords accountable for rental housing repairs. Dedicate funding to rental housing rehabilitation and connect owners of rental properties with code violations with funding programs.

Program 4.12.1: The Planning Division and Code Enforcement shall link Code Enforcement efforts with the City's housing rehabilitation programs. Code Enforcement staff will refer property owners cited for code violations to the City's housing rehabilitation assistance programs.

Program 4.12.2: To address issues of substandard rental housing, the Community Development Department shall provide a financial incentive for landlords to correct reported issue. Explore the feasibility of establishing a rent escrow account program, wherein tenants can deposit their rents into an escrow account when a landlord has failed to correct code violations within the time permitted. Partner with community-based organizations for outreach, promotion, and administration, as feasible.

**Policy 4.13:** Ensure that all rental properties in Huntington Park are safe and sanitary by performing inspections of all new and existing rental units. Educate and train rental property owners on best practices for property management. Connect property owners with resources for owners of rental properties to assist with repairs and improvements.

Program 4.13.1: By 2024, the Community Development Department shall develop a mandatory rental inspection ordinance that requires all rental units to be registered with the City and inspected to ensure compliance with all applicable building, fire, health, and zoning codes.

**Policy 4.14:** Inform residents about the dangers of in-home toxic material and pollution exposure (including lead, air pollution, asbestos) and the City resources available to address these issues.

Program 4.14.1: By June of 2023, the Community Development Department shall develop a Home Safety Guidebook mailer that informs residents about common household exposures and the City resources available to help resolve these issues.

**Policy 4.15:** Protect existing residents from displacement by expanding tenants' rights programs, enforcement, and legal assistance needed to access those rights.

Program 4.15.1: By 2026, the Community Development Department will evaluate the feasibility of adopting measures to protect residents from displacement, including, but not limited to:

- Adopting community benefit zoning and/or other land value recapture strategy



- Adopting replacement requirements in targeted growth areas such as transit stations, transit corridors, job and housing rich areas, downtowns and revitalization areas or policies, and on sites identified to accommodate the housing needs of lower-income households
- Adopting regulations requiring that first right of return be granted to existing residents and relocation policies that include moving expenses

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

### **Goal 5: Safeguard the health of residents and promote opportunities for physical activity in Huntington Park.**

**Policy 5.1:** Raise awareness about the local asthma risks and at-home mitigation strategies for reducing asthma risks in children and young adults.

Program 5.1.1: In the year 2023, the Community Development Department shall publish an informational document outlining the heightened local asthma risk and at-home mitigation strategies for reducing this risk in children and young adults. This document shall be sent out to local residences and published on the City's webpage in English and Spanish.

**Policy 5.2:** Broaden the availability and accessibility of City-sponsored public recreation programs to ensure that there are opportunities for physical activity for all demographics in Huntington Park, including the youth, senior citizens, and disabled residents.

Program 5.2.1: Perform an assessment of recreation programs through the Department of Parks and Recreation to identify any local sub-groups that do not have programs tailored to their needs.

**Policy 5.3:** Ensure that all City parks and open spaces are safe for resident use by assessing and retrofitting existing facilities with adequate lighting, playground equipment, bathroom amenities, and green space.

Program 5.3.1: Starting in the year 2023, perform an annual audit of existing park facilities to identify specific improvements and upgrades to be prioritized over the next fiscal year. Publish audit in both English and Spanish to the City's webpage.

Program 5.3.2: By 2025, Perform an update the City's Park and Recreation Master Plan to identify new priorities for the Huntington Park community, with a focus on underserved areas in the Western portion of the city.

**Policy 5.4:** Develop City-sponsored nutritional education resources and programs to bolster the health of Huntington Park residents.



Program 5.4.1: By 2025, Establish a nutritional education campaign that includes nutritional cooking courses, collaboration with farmer's markets, and utilization of community gardens. Pursue partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

**Policy 5.5:** Improve walkability across the city by improving sidewalk quality and pedestrian accessibility through the implementation of the policies and programs outlined in the existing Complete Streets Plan.

Program 5.5.1: Adopt a Safe Routes to School Resolution as recommended in the 2019 Safe Routes to School Launch Program.

**Policy 5.6:** Collaborate with local schools to disseminate informational materials in a variety of languages that encourage the use of active transportation in school commutes.

**Policy 5.7:** Support active transportation by expanding tree canopy and plant vegetation in the city through the development of an urban greening initiative by the year 2025.

Program 5.7.1: By 2024, the Landscape Maintenance Division shall develop a Street Tree Maintenance reporting platform through the City's webpage to allow residents to report trees that require maintenance.

**Policy 5.8:** Mitigate the severity of health-risks associated with undiagnosed asthma by partnering with local elementary schools to develop an in-school asthma screening program.

Program 5.8.1: The Community Development Department shall coordinate with the LA Department of Public Health and LA Unified School District to develop an in-school asthma screening program at local elementary schools.

Program 5.8.2: The Community Development Department shall coordinate with the LA Department of Public Health and LA Unified School District to develop a City-wide system for handling school days with poor air quality.

**Policy 5.9:** Explore the feasibility of developing local Fire House Clinics, which offer free primary and preventative healthcare services, at the two fire stations located in Huntington Park.

**Policy 5.10:** Expand the route of the Huntington Park Express transit bus to direct transportation to clinics and hospitals in the City.

- Reference Environmental Justice Program 2.3.3



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### **Goal 6: Cultivate equity and empowerment in Huntington Park through broad and inclusive civic engagement.**

**Policy 6.1:** The Communications Department shall publish all outreach and public resource materials released by the City in English and Spanish.

**Policy 6.2:** Provide translation services, upon request, at all public meetings that include services for those who speak Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog, and American Sign Language.

Program 6.2.1: The Community Development Department and Communications Department shall provide instructions for requesting translation services on the City's Meeting webpage and on all meeting notification documents.

**Policy 6.3:** The Community Development Department and Communications Department shall develop strategic partnerships with trusted community leaders and local non-profit organizations to ensure that community engagement reaches broad and diverse facets of the community.

**Policy 6.4:** The Communications Department shall ensure that community meetings are held at times and in locations that are accessible to diverse community members in Huntington Park.

**Policy 6.5:** The Community Development Department shall establish an understanding of the unique needs of all residents within Huntington Park, especially those who are underrepresented, by hosting a series of workshops focused on learning about community priorities.

Program 6.5.1: Between the years 2022 and 2023, perform a Neighborhood Workshop Series, which involves workshops across the various neighborhoods in Huntington Park. The Neighborhood Workshop Series is to be focused on identifying the community priorities of residents within different areas of the city.

Program 6.5.2: Using the Neighborhood Workshop Series, develop Neighborhood Plans that serve to outline small-scale projects, such as specific sidewalk improvements or community gardens, that can support the unique needs of each Huntington Park neighborhood.

**Policy 6.6:** Partner with local schools to disseminate engagement materials for City meetings and programs through student hand-outs.

**Policy 6.7:** Continue to meet with the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee over the lifetime of the Environmental Justice Element to assist in monitoring implementation of the programs and policies outlined within the document.

Program 6.7.1: By 2023, the Community Development Department shall establish an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee as a permanent body to assist in monitoring City implementation of the Environmental Justice Element.



Program 6.7.2: The City's Community Development Department shall publish an annual report on the status of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element policies and programs as part of the General Plan Annual Report. The Environmental Justice Advisory Committee shall review the Environmental Justice component of the General Plan Annual Report to ensure continued efforts towards policy implementation.

**Policy 6.8:** Establish a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training program by the year 2024 to foster equitable and informed interactions between City staff and community members.

**Policy 6.9:** Disseminate a tri-annual City newsletter to inform residents about current community projects and the latest updates in City operations.

Program 6.9.1: Starting 2023, the Communications Department shall develop a tri-annual newsletter to inform residents about City news and operations.

**Policy 6.10:** Ensure that local Indigenous communities are invited to participate in community engagement events regarding topics that may impact tribal resources and/or locally indigenous community members.



# HUNTINGTON PARK GENERAL PLAN



## APPENDIX EJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TECHNICAL REPORT

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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The following report provides a technical analysis of the environmental justice context in the city of Huntington Park. The report was developed to guide the creation of the Huntington Park Environmental Justice Element, consistent with the latest state legislation. California Government Code Section 65302 expanded the mandatory requirements of the General Plan by requiring an emphasis on the role of environmental justice in urban planning. Cities are required to adopt an Environmental Justice Element as part of the General Plan. To inform policies and programs related to environmental justice, public agencies must assess the existing environmental justice context for their jurisdiction. The assessment of the environmental justice context for the city of Huntington Park is provided below.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

Historically, negative environmental impacts have been shown to disproportionately affect marginalized populations, including racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic minorities (CEJA 2017). As a result, disproportionately affected populations can face a range of environmental impacts including increased exposure to air pollutants, unsafe drinking water, and contaminated facilities/structures, while also having relatively limited access to public resources. This unequal context associated with negative environmental externalities has been traced to discriminatory local policies, land-use planning trends, enforcement deficiencies, and lack of equitable community engagement.

Environmental Justice is a concept focused on addressing the systemic determinants of the unequal environmental burden placed on disadvantaged communities, especially minority populations. Efforts towards environmental justice have aimed to improve the status of disadvantaged communities through effective planning and policy decisions. In California, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 1000) was established to address the role of environmental justice in local and regional planning practice. Formally, California law defines "environmental justice" as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Government Code Section 65040.12, subd. (e)). Through Senate Bill 1000, jurisdictions are now required to identify environmental justice communities (called "disadvantaged communities") within their planning area and incorporate environmental justice into their general plans.



## 1.2 DEFINING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Senate Bill 535 defines disadvantaged communities as areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation and/or areas with concentrations of people that are of low-income, high unemployment, low levels of home ownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment. To define local disadvantaged communities, the Office of Planning and Research recommends utilizing the CalEnviroScreen tool to identify CalEPA designated disadvantaged communities. In addition, the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommends applying a locally specific methodology to further screen for disadvantaged areas. Both methodologies were applied to Huntington Park and are described below.

### CALENVIROSCREEN 4.0 METHODOLOGY

CalEPA has developed the CalEnviroScreen tool to identify disadvantaged communities throughout California. The tool uses existing environmental, health, and socioeconomic data to rank census tracts based on 20 distinct indicators. The 20 indicators are grouped into four indicator categories which are then summed into two primary data groupings: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics. The groupings are multiplied together to calculate the overall CalEnviroScreen score (OHEEA 2017). In general, the higher the score, the more impacted a community is by pollution burdens and population vulnerabilities. Designated disadvantaged communities are those communities that scored within the highest 25 percent of census tracts across California (CalEnviroScreen percentile scores of 75 or higher). The indicators in each grouping are shown in Figure 1. Indicators are grouped as follows:

#### ***Pollution Burden***

- **Exposures** are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental Effects** are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.

#### ***Population Characteristics***

- **Sensitive Populations** are indicators that measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health.
- **Socioeconomic Factors** are indicators based on conditions that may increase peoples' stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.



## ***CalEnviroScreen Results for Huntington Park***

The city of Huntington Park planning area is composed of the following 26 census tracts displayed in Figure 2. The census tract numbers have been truncated from their full ten-digit nomenclature (60375xxxx).

1. Tract 32500	10. Tract 33502	19. Tract 33002	28. Tract 34802
2. Tract 33501	11. Tract 33503	20. Tract 33103	29. Tract 34803
3. Tract 33502	12. Tract 33201	21. Tract 33104	30. Tract 34804
4. Tract 33503	13. Tract 33105	22. Tract 33106	31. Tract 35300
5. Tract 33201	14. Tract 32606	23. Tract 33107	32. Tract 34900
6. Tract 33105	15. Tract 32605	24. Tract 33202	33. Tract 34700
7. Tract 32606	16. Tract 32604	25. Tract 33203	
8. Tract 32500	17. Tract 32603	26. Tract 34502	
9. Tract 33501	18. Tract 32700	27. Tract 34501	



**Figure 1 20 CalEnviroScreen Indicators Grouped into Two Categories**

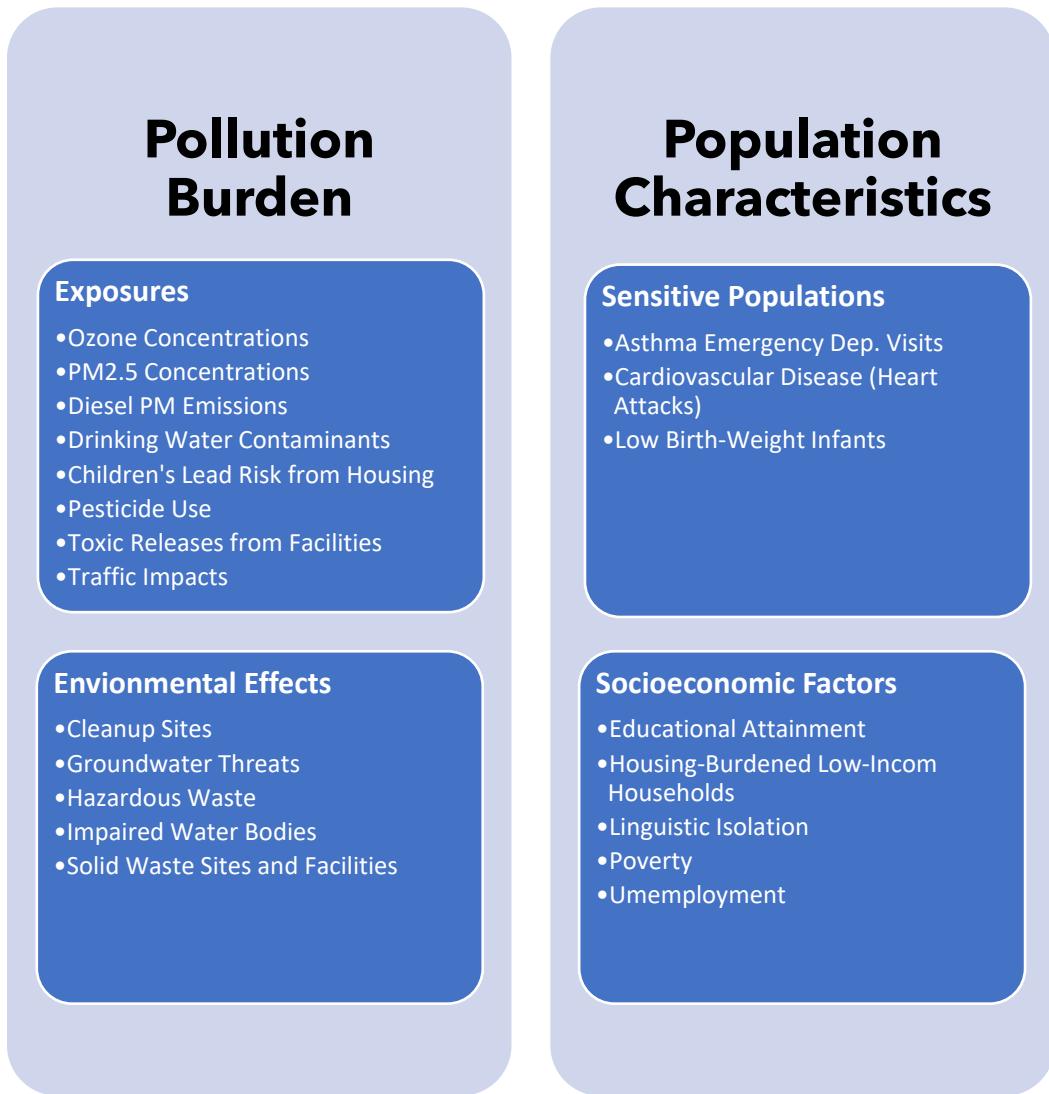


Figure 2 depicts all census tracts within the Huntington Park planning area that received a CalEnviroScreen percentile score at or above the 75th percentile threshold. These census tracts qualify as designated disadvantaged communities. As shown in Figure 2, all but one census tract in Huntington Park's planning area are designated as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) by CalEnviroScreen. The results of applying the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 methodology for defining disadvantaged communities in Huntington Park indicates that the city is collectively burdened by pollution and population characteristics relative to the rest of California. The single census tract in the planning area that does not qualify as a CalEnviroScreen designated DAC is Census Tract 34700, located in the city's sphere of influence (SOI) to the south of the city.

The CalEnviroScreen percentile score for the non-qualifying census tract in the Huntington Park planning area is 68. Although all but one census tract within Huntington Park has been identified as a DAC per CalEnviroScreen thresholds (75th



Percentile and above), the CalEnviroScreen percentile scores for the designated DACs within the city range from the 75th percentile to the 100th percentile depending on the census tract.

Table 1 shows the CalEnviroScreen score percentile range for each census tract in the city.

**Table 1 CalEnviroScreen Comprehensive Score Overview**

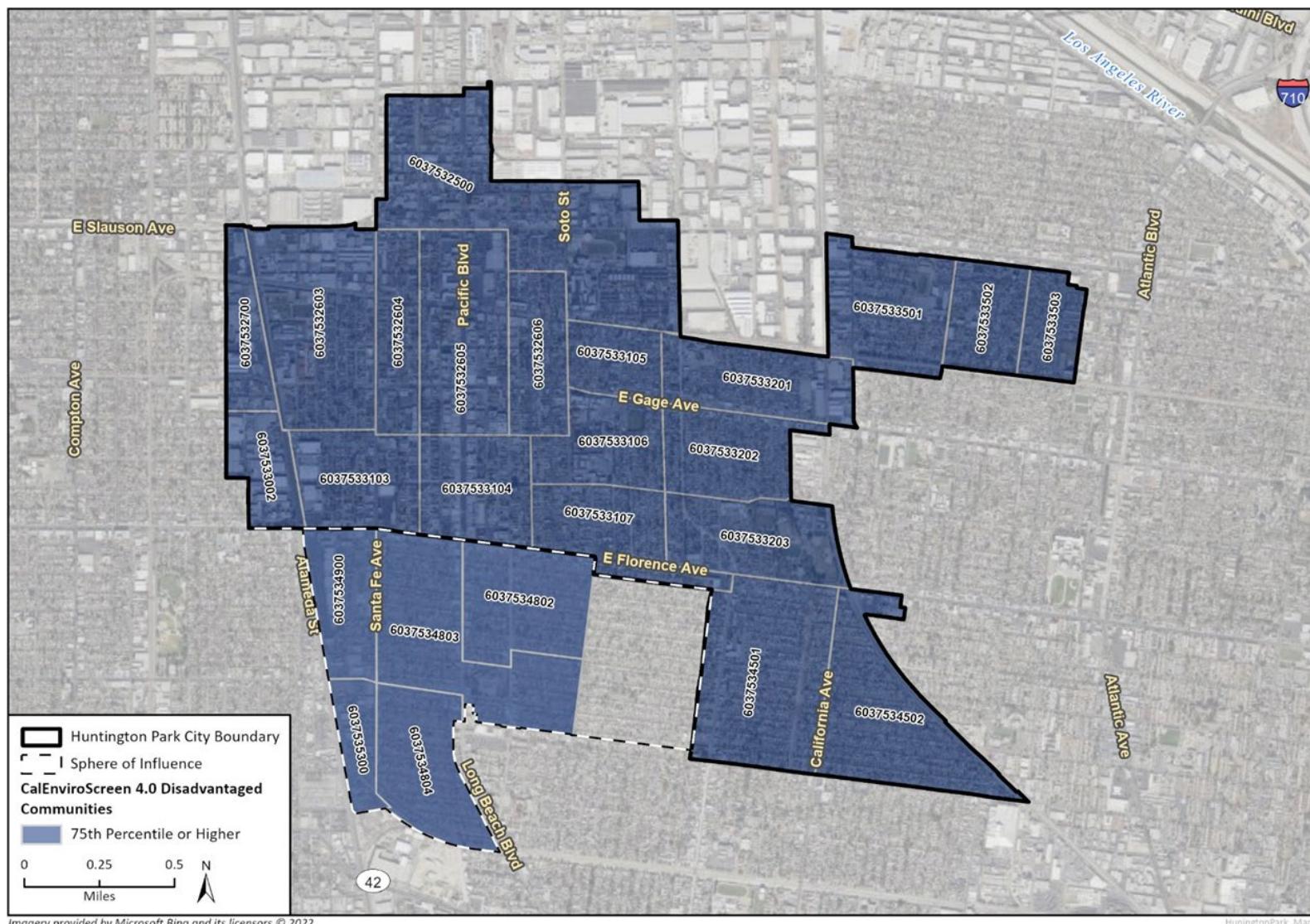
Census Tract	Overall Score Percentile Range
532500	98.15
532603	98.89
532604	94.33
532605	91.53
532606	93.03
532700	97.45
533002	98.93
533103	94.07
533104	80.94
533105	92.75
533106	79.36
533107	87.33
533201	92.15
533202	88.77
533203	87.32
533501	92.18
533502	80.52
533503	85.33
534501	84.54
534502	95.93
534802	84.86
534803	88.53
534804	91.69
534900	94.25
535300	97.33
534700	68.00

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0

Given the broad results of applying the CalEnviroScreen methodology, a secondary methodology was utilized for this report to identify those census tracts within Huntington Park that face disproportionate pollution and population characteristic burden relative to the remainder of the city.



**Figure 2 CalEnviroScreen Designated DACs in Huntington Park**



## LOCALLY SPECIFIC METHODOLOGY

The locally specific methodology for identifying DACs in Huntington Park defines a DAC as those census tracts that are identified as low-income that simultaneously face a heightened pollution burden relative to all city census tracts.

Low-income communities were identified using the definition of low-income recommended by OPR. The OPR classification defines low-income communities as a census tract with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093. Figure 3 depicts all census tracts in Huntington Park that qualify as low-income per the OPR definition defined above.

To identify communities that face a heightened pollution burden relative to the remainder of the city, this report utilizes CalEnviroScreen's pollution burden score and adopts a threshold of significance set at 75. All local census tracts with a CalEnviroScreen pollution burden score at or above the 75th percentile are considered to face a heightened pollution burden relative to all city census tracts.

For the purposes of this report, those census tracts within Huntington Park that meet both; the definition of low-income and the definition of heightened pollution burdened as defined above, are considered Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities (LS-DAC). Figure 4 depicts LS-DACs within Huntington Park.

## 1.3 DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN HUNTINGTON PARK

As previously mentioned, both the CalEnviroScreen methodology and LS-DAC methodology were applied to Huntington Park to identify a comprehensive list of local communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental and population burdens. All but one census tract in Huntington Park has qualified as disadvantaged per the two methodologies described above, this census tract is Census Tract 34700. Given that Census Tract 34700 was the only city census tract that did not qualify as disadvantaged, a focused analysis was done to assess the unique conditions of this community. Within this analysis, it was determined that Census Tract 34700 has significantly elevated levels (75th percentile and above) of three pollutants that warrant heightened attention. These elevated pollutants include Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5), Lead from Housing, and Toxic Release. Therefore, Census Tract 34700 has been included as a disadvantaged community, consistent with all other census tracts in Huntington Park.

Given that all census tracts in Huntington Park qualify as disadvantaged, this report includes an assessment of environmental and population impacts for the entire Huntington Park planning area.

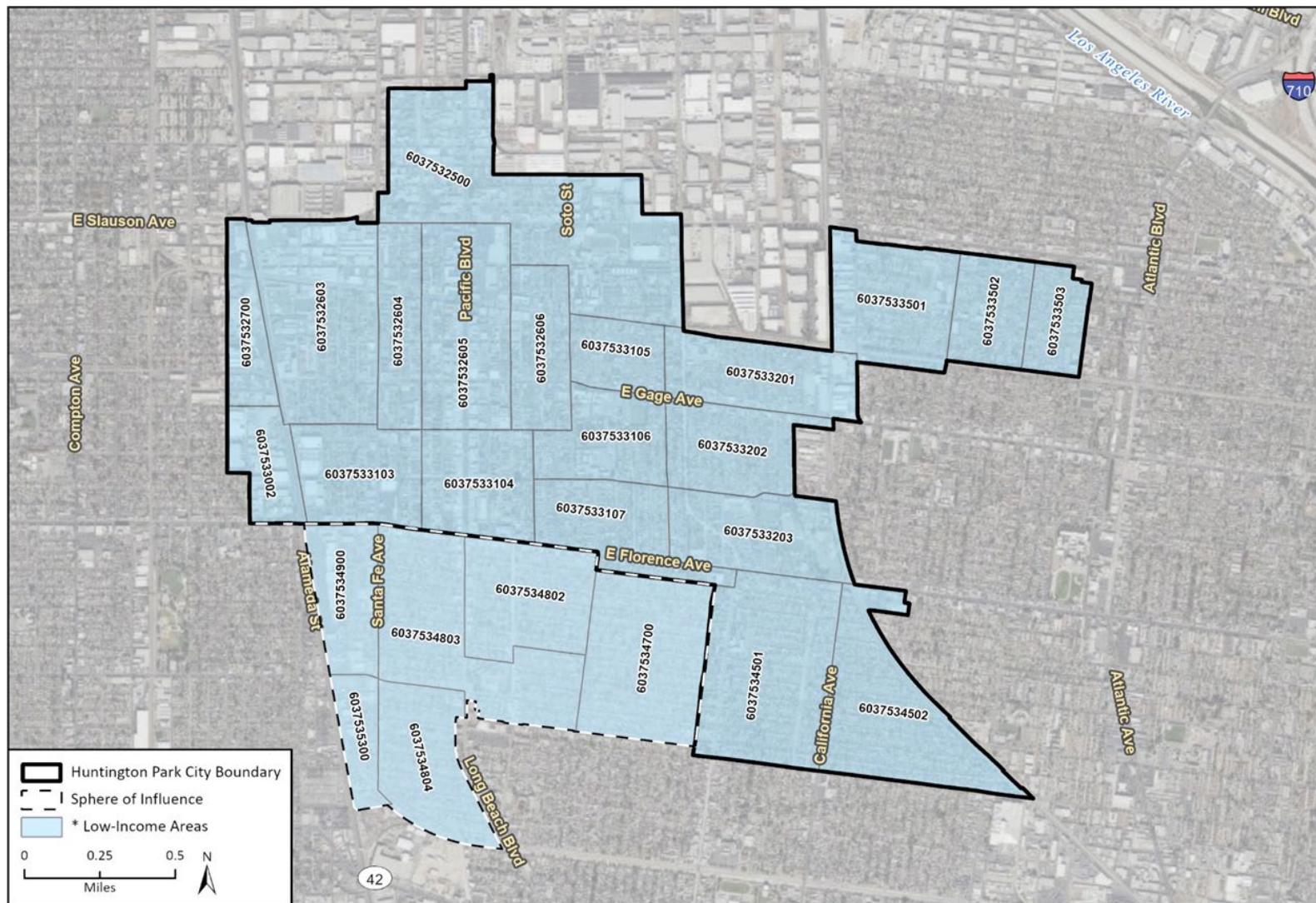


## 1.4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The analysis of disadvantaged communities in this report was developed concurrently with a range of community engagement activities, including a public survey, advisory committee, and two community workshops. The information within this report was supplemented and reviewed through the various community engagement efforts to ensure that the analysis is consistent with community understanding and that details gathered through public input were incorporated.



**Figure 3 Low-Income Communities in Huntington Park**

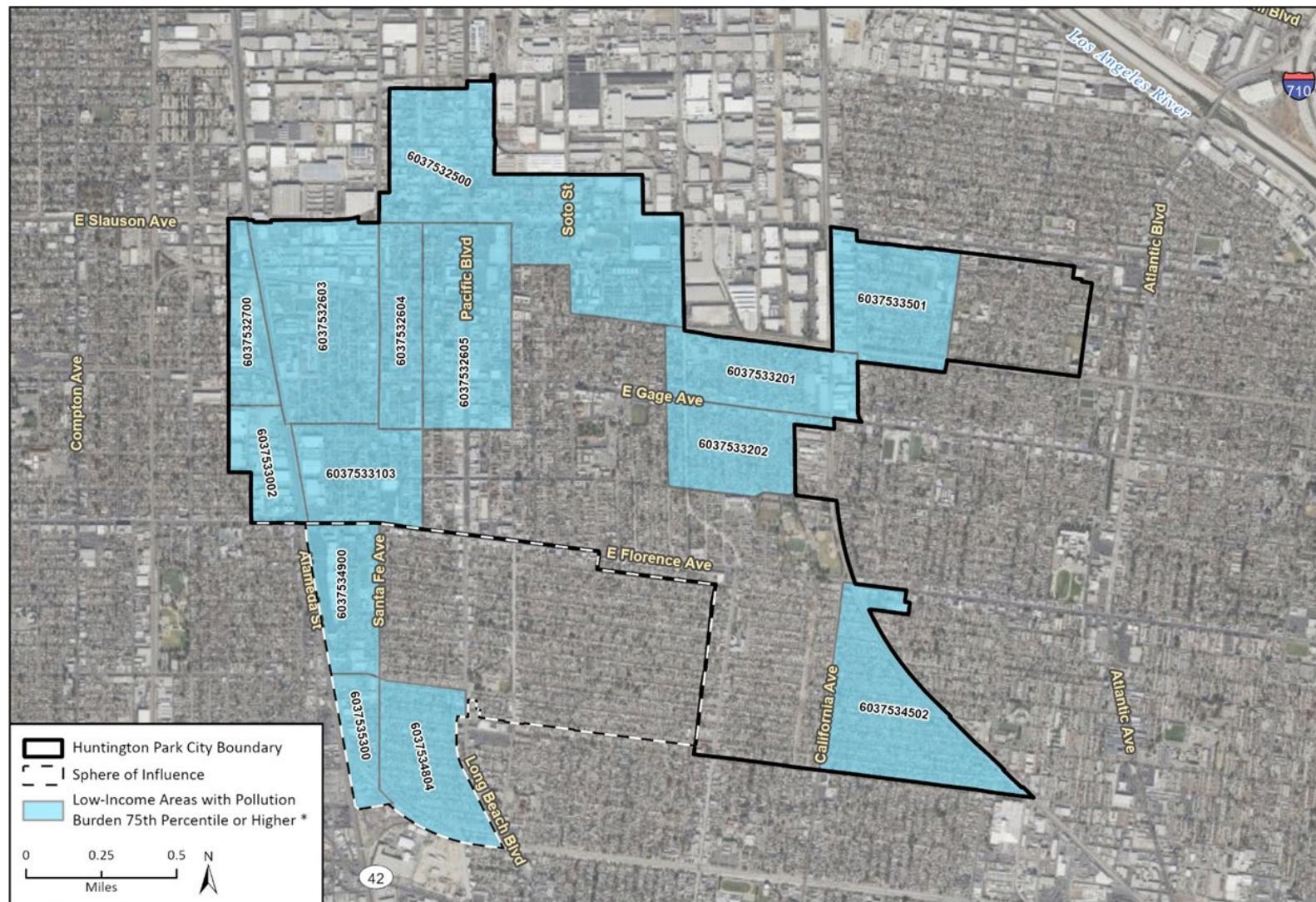


HuntingtonPark\_Map

Fig. 2 Low-Income Areas in Huntington Park



#### Figure 4 Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities (LS-DACs) in Huntington Park



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2022. Additional data provided by CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022; California Air Resource Board (CARB), 2022; Priority Population Investments 4.0, 2022.

\* CalEPA uses two thresholds to identify low income areas: 1) household median incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (\$58,672), or 2) household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the HCD's list of state income limits.

HuntingtonPark\_Maps

## 2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DETERMINANTS

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The negative impact of environmental hazards and pollution on communities in California can be measured across seven key focus areas. These focus areas encompass the range of environmental factors that may influence a person's health status, they are referred to as the environmental determinants of health (California Government Code Section 65302) The analysis below outlines the environmental determinants of health impacting the city of Huntington Park. The impacts are assessed across the following environmental determinant areas:

1. Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
2. Public Facilities
3. Safe and Sanitary Homes
4. Physical Activity and Public Health
5. Food Access
6. Civic and Community Engagement

### 2.1 POLLUTANT EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

Pollutant exposure is an environmental determinant of health that may disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities (WHO 2016). Huntington Park is located within South Coast Air Basin. Air Quality is a primary form of pollution within the basin. CARB is the agency responsible for establishing air quality standards and assessing regional attainment of these standards. In 2022, Los Angeles County had a state designation of nonattainment for ozone and particulate matter (PM10 and PM), indicating that the County did not meet state standards for those air pollutant types. Exposure to particulate matter and ozone are associated with aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and other respiratory conditions. Table 2 depicts the attainment status for Los Angeles County across all measured criteria pollutants.



**Table 2 CARB State Attainment Status (Los Angeles County)**

Criteria Pollutants	State Attainment
<b>Ozone</b>	<b>Nonattainment</b>
<b>PM 10</b>	<b>Nonattainment</b>
<b>PM 2.5</b>	<b>Nonattainment</b>
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment
Sulfates	Attainment
Lead	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	Unclassified <sup>1</sup>
Visibility Reducing Particles	Unclassified

<sup>1</sup> Where the state board finds that data is not sufficient to determine the attainment or nonattainment status for an air basin, the state board shall identify the air basin as unclassified (Government Code Chapter 3. General Powers and Duties [Sections 39600 - 39619.8]).

Source: California Air Resource Board (CARB). Attainment status by county. 2022

To facilitate air quality standard attainment and broader air quality improvements, the South Coast Air Quality Management District has developed a Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) for Southeast Los Angeles. The city of Huntington Park is included within this CERP, which was adopted on December 4, 2020. The CERP contains policies and strategies for air quality improvements in the region.

## POLLUTION EXPOSURE BY CENSUS TRACT

Table 3 presents the CalEnviroScreen Pollution Burden scores for all associated tracts in Huntington Park. The Pollution Burden score is calculated using a range of exposure indicators and environmental effects indicators that are based on measurements of various types of pollution that people may come into contact within their environment.

In Huntington Park, a significant number of census tracts have a Pollution Burden percentile that exceeds the 75th percentile. Only twelve out of the twenty-six census tracts within the Huntington Park planning area scored lower than the 75th percentile for pollution burden. Elevated Pollution Burden scores indicate that Huntington Park census tracts have significant exposure to environmental pollution relative to the State average. Figure 5 depicts the pollution burden percentile scores for census tracts in Huntington Park. Census tracts in Huntington Park with the lowest pollution burden are primarily located in the center of the planning area, while census tracts with the highest pollution burden percentiles tend to be located on the peripheries of the planning area. This may be due to the location of manufacturing uses on the peripheries of the city, as well as the site of major inter-city highways along the city's edges. A detailed assessment of pollution exposure based on census tract is included within the report.



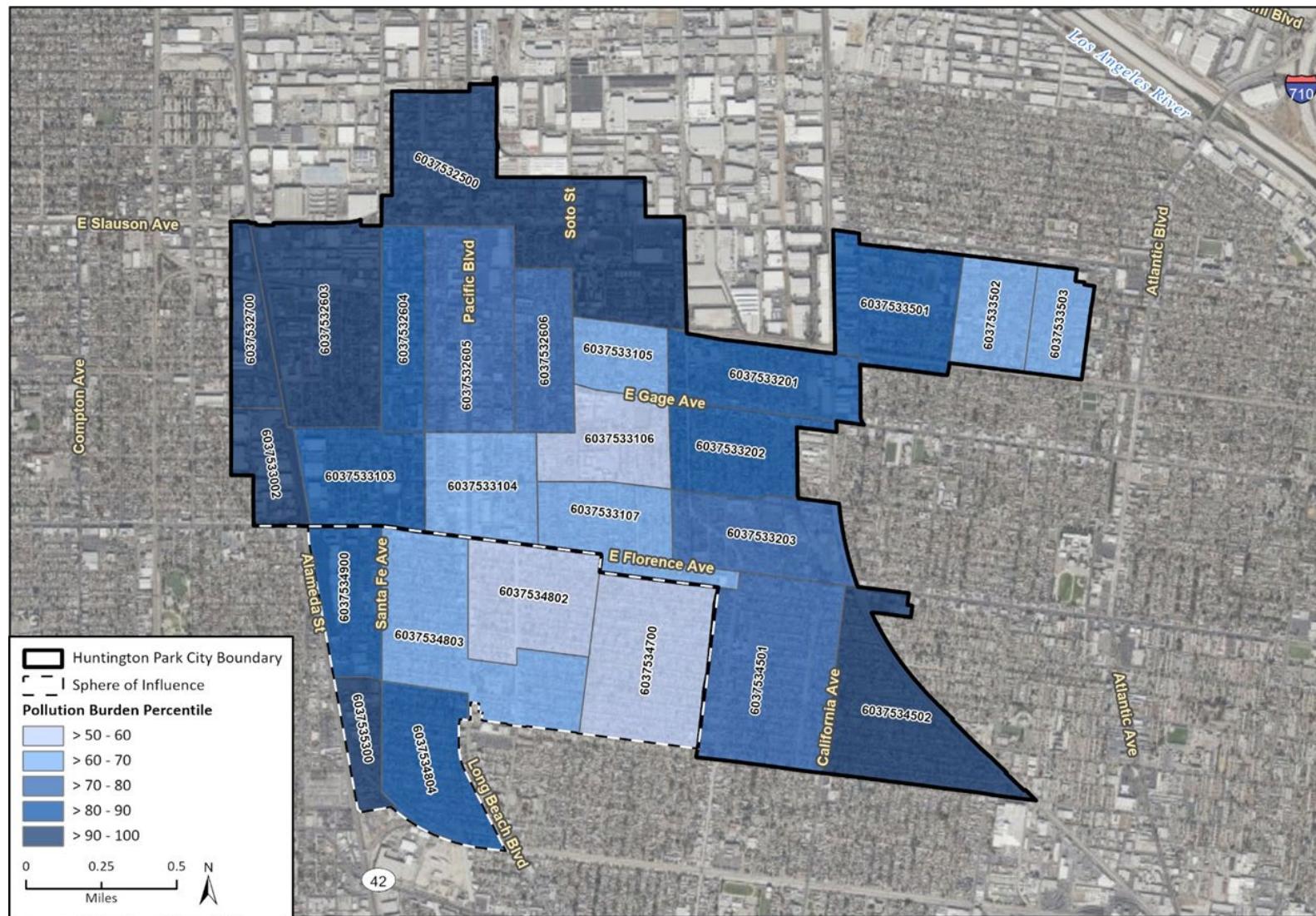
**Table 3 CalEnviroScreen Pollution Burden Scores**

Census Tract	Pollution Burden Percentile
532500	98.62
532603	94.06
532604	85.05
532605	78.22
532606	72.81
532700	95.36
533002	94.84
533103	88.84
533104	60.87
533105	66.88
533106	57.54
533107	64.32
533201	83.48
533202	80.01
533203	73.48
533501	87.67
533502	68.92
533503	68.70
534501	70.28
534502	91.03
534802	52.98
534803	68.24
534804	83.83
534900	88.69
535300	94.10
534700	55.00

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022



**Figure 5 Pollution Burden Percentiles in Huntington Park**



## CALENVIROSCREEN EXPOSURE INDICATORS

The CalEnviroScreen tool (Version 4.0) provides a detailed assessment of the pollution exposure indicators used to calculate Pollution Burden across each census tract in California. The indicators listed below compose the exposure categories (OEHHA 2017) for the tool. Census tracts are scored based on the presence and/or burden of each pollution exposure indicator within that area. Scores are expressed using a percentile ranking that expresses each census tracts score in relation to other census tracts within California. A high percentile indicates that a census tract had a higher pollution burden score relative to other communities. CalEnviroScreen scores for exposure indicators are provided in Table 4. Census tracts that qualify as LS-DACs (Low-Income + Pollution Burden Score 75+) are highlighted. As shown in Table 4, all census tracts across the planning area (including LS-DACs) are largely associated with elevated Lead, Toxic Release, PM 2.5, and Diesel PM compared to the other indicators.

- **Ozone.** Ground-level ozone is created by the chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds produced by cars, energy plants and industrial operations (CalEnviroScreen 2021). Ozone pollution is known to trigger wheezing and shortness of breath and can worsen asthma symptoms. Groups most sensitive to ozone include children, the elderly, people with respiratory disorders, and people who exercise strenuously outdoors (CalEPA 2021). CalEnviroScreen scores indicate low to moderate levels of ozone in Huntington Park, with all census tracts scoring between the 40th and 50th percentiles.
- **PM 2.5.** PM 2.5 is a particulate matter no more than 2.5 microns in diameter. The particulate is generally associated with combustion processes as well as formation in the atmosphere as a secondary pollutant through chemical reactions (CalEnviroScreen 2021). Elevated levels of PM 2.5 can be associated with respiratory stress and decreased lung function and increase the risk of long-term disease (WHO 2016). CalEnviroScreen scores indicate a high PM 2.5 presence in Huntington Park relative to other California census tracts, with all census tracts scoring within the 80th percentile. There is no clear relationship between the levels of PM 2.5 and LS-DACs in the planning area. All census tracts had consistently elevated percentile scores in the 80th percentiles.
- **Diesel PM.** Diesel particulate matter (DPM) is emitted by diesel engines and is considered a Toxic Air Contaminant (CARB 2022). DPM impacts are characterized by carcinogenic risk and by chronic (i.e., long duration) and acute (i.e., severe but of short duration) effects on human health (WHO 2016). CalEnviroScreen scores indicate that Huntington Park has a disparity in the presence of Diesel PM across census tracts. Some census tracts within the city scored between the 30th and 60th percentiles, while others scored notably high in the 80th percentile. There is no clear relationship between the LS-DACs and levels of DPM across the planning area. Geographically, areas located on the peripheries of the planning area had



the highest levels of DPM. This trend is likely due to the location of major inter-city roadways along the edges of the planning area.

- **Pesticides.** Pesticides applied in agricultural areas can drift into neighboring communities and can be associated with illness and, in some cases, longer-term health conditions such as birth defects or cancer (WHO 2016). CalEnviroScreen scores indicate zero presence of applied pesticides for all of the census tracts in Huntington Park. The CalEnviroScreen measure of pesticides presence only includes pesticides used on agricultural commodities.
- **Traffic.** Although California has established strict standards for vehicle emissions, major roads and highways, which are associated with air pollution and noise disturbance in residential neighborhoods (CalEnviroScreen 2022). Automobile exhaust can contain toxic chemicals that are associated with cancer, make it difficult to breath, and can be associated with low weight and premature births. Children who live or go to schools near busy roads have higher rates of asthma and other lung diseases than children in areas farther from roads (WHO 2016). CalEnviroScreen scores indicate that most census tracts in the Huntington Park planning area scored within the 40th to 60th percentile, with no major variation based on geography.
- **Drinking Water Contaminants.** Chemical and bacterial contaminants are routinely detected in drinking water and may result from agricultural operations, natural sources, or other sources (CalEnviroScreen 2022). CalEnviroScreen scores for drinking water contaminants indicate that the city's water supply is not significantly burdened relative to the rest of California, with all Huntington Park census tracts scoring moderately for this indicator. A majority of census tracts scored within the 40th percentile and all census tracts scoring below the 69th percentile.
- **Toxic Releases.** Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. If released, people living near facilities may breathe contaminated air regularly or periodically (WHO 2021). CalEnviroScreen scores show that toxic releases are a major concern in Huntington Park, with all census tracts scoring between the 87th and 92nd percentiles. LS-DAC census tracts had similar levels of toxic release in comparison with the rest of the planning area, with consistently elevated levels across all census tracts. According to CalEnviroScreen, there are at least six toxic release facilities within the Huntington Park planning area. These facilities are primarily located in the northern portion of the planning area, consistent with a trend in slightly higher toxic release percentile scores in the northern portion of the city. CalEnviroScreen identifies toxic release facilities and their impacts by utilizing the U.S. EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a database of emissions and other releases for certain toxic chemicals. The toxic chemicals identified within the TRI include 593 chemicals identified in the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), as well as persistent Bio accumulative and Toxic (PBT) Chemicals. Facilities are required to report to the TRI if they operate within a set of industrial sectors outlined by TRI and



manufacture more than 25,000 pounds or otherwise use more than 10,000 pounds of any listed chemical during the calendar year.

- **Lead.** High levels of lead exposure can lead to a range of detrimental health outcomes, including anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage. Lead poisoning can often result from lead exposure at-home due to the use of contaminated materials such as lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in older buildings. Lead exposure can also occur through contaminated air, water and soil. Lead exposure levels across the Huntington Park planning area are significantly elevated with percentile scores ranging from the 79th percentile to the 100th percentile. There is no identifiable trend in the percentile scores for lead in relation to LS-DACs.



**Table 4 Exposure Indicator Percentile Scores in Huntington Park**

Census Tracts	Percentiles							
	Pollution Percentile	Ozone	PM 2.5	Diesel PM	Drinking Water	Lead	Toxic Release	Traffic
532500	98.62	46.99	84.53	89.67	68.79	87.07	87.56	44.39
532603	94.06	44.98	86.70	84.04	40.04	97.68	88.40	44.70
532604	85.05	44.98	86.70	54.91	40.04	90.42	88.38	49.39
532605	78.22	44.98	86.70	55.12	40.04	79.07	88.32	42.25
532606	72.81	44.98	84.53	58.13	40.04	90.50	88.37	37.74
532700	95.36	42.56	86.47	82.94	63.94	99.38	88.23	44.81
533002	94.84	42.56	86.47	78.61	63.94	99.50	90.02	62.85
533103	88.84	42.56	83.02	71.09	40.04	98.87	89.68	64.79
533104	60.87	44.98	83.02	51.94	40.04	93.59	89.73	50.65
533105	66.88	44.98	84.53	74.35	40.04	98.03	88.87	40.01
533106	57.54	44.98	82.30	40.14	40.04	98.80	89.22	46.08
533107	64.32	44.98	82.30	39.43	55.81	99.08	90.36	58.08
533201	83.48	46.99	81.42	62.86	40.04	99.86	88.80	36.99
533202	80.01	44.98	82.30	42.54	40.04	99.07	89.53	47.10
533203	73.48	44.98	81.57	42.89	40.04	99.65	90.35	64.54
533501	87.67	48.45	84.67	58.43	48.36	99.28	88.55	23.60
533502	68.92	48.45	81.14	76.44	40.91	95.09	88.48	26.09
533503	68.70	48.45	81.14	76.44	41.14	98.01	88.51	42.14
534501	70.28	44.98	81.57	34.81	55.74	95.01	91.75	49.06
534502	91.03	44.98	80.51	49.28	40.04	98.61	92.27	40.10
534802	52.98	42.56	82.12	37.50	33.50	96.48	90.74	48.73
534803	68.24	42.56	82.12	37.65	33.50	98.63	91.37	42.63
534804	83.83	39.99	82.12	82.44	33.50	96.75	92.31	44.69
534900	88.69	42.56	85.25	57.15	63.94	98.12	91.07	52.63
535300	94.10	39.99	82.71	65.84	63.94	96.56	92.44	48.10
534700	55.28	42.56	81.57	33.43	33.50	96.26	91.55	54.05

Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities



LS-DACs

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022



## CALENVIROSCREEN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS INDICATORS

The CalEnviroScreen Environmental Effect Indicator tool identifies the presence of toxic compounds and hazardous sites within a community. The indicators used within the tool are considered potential sources of environmental pollution.

CalEnviroScreen scores for environmental effect indicators are provided in Table 5. As evident through the table, LS-DACs tend to have higher percentile scores for every environmental effects indicator in comparison to the remainder of the city planning area.

The following is a list of the assessed environmental effect indicators.

- **Solid Waste Sites.** Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and other types of waste are collected, processed, or stored. Landfills, transfer stations, and composting facilities are considered solid waste sites. These facilities can release air pollutants and impact water quality if compounds present in refuse leach into soils (CalEnviroScreen 2022). CalEnviroScreen scores show that there are large disparities in the impacts that solid waste sites have in Huntington Park, depending on census tract. Figure 6 depicts the CalEnviroScreen percentile scores for Solid Waste Sites in the planning area. Areas in the northwestern and southeastern portions of the planning area tend to have higher solid waste percentile scores than all other census tracts. These tracts with elevated solid waste percentiles are fairly consistent with the identified LS-DAC census tracts.
- **Cleanup Sites.** Cleanup sites are areas that are contaminated with harmful chemicals and require remediation to remove the contaminants. Information from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and US Environmental Protection Agency to assess exposure to cleanup sites. People living near cleanup sites may be more exposed to chemicals from the sites than those living farther away. Impacts from cleanup sites vary greatly across the city planning area. The highest percentiles for this indicator are located along the boundaries of the city's planning area. LS-DACs have the highest cleanup site percentile scores in Huntington Park.
- **Groundwater Threats.** 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, heavy metals, and pesticides (CalEnviroScreen 2022). Impacts from groundwater threats vary greatly across Huntington Park census tracts, ranging from the 10th percentile to the 90th percentile. Figure 7 depicts the CalEnviroScreen percentile scores for groundwater threats in Huntington Park. Census tracts with the highest percentile scores for groundwater threats are also designated LS-DAC census tracts. Many LS-DAC census tracts have groundwater threat percentile scores in the 75th percentile and above.



- **Impacted Water Bodies.** Streams, rivers, and lakes are used for recreational purposes and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies can be designated as impaired. CalEnviroScreen uses a unique criterion for identifying the impacts of impaired water bodies on the surrounding community. This criterion involves identifying the State Water Resource Control Boards List of Impaired Water Bodies and calculating the number of pollutants listed in streams or rivers that fell within 1 kilometer (km) or 2 km respectively of a census tract's populated blocks. Each California census tract is then scored based on the sum of the number of individual pollutants found within and/or bordering it. Impacted water body scores in Huntington Park indicate major disparities in impacts to water resources in different census tracts. A majority of census tracts had a percentile score of 0 for this pollution measure. However, five census tracts in the planning area had a 66th percentile score. These census tracts are primarily located in the northeastern portion of the planning area. Of the five census tracts with elevated scores, three are LS-DACs.
- **Hazardous Waste.** Wastes created by commercial or industrial activity can contain chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health (WHO 2016). Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store, or dispose of this type of waste and are distinct from cleanup sites. Hazardous waste includes a range of different types of waste, including household compounds, such as automotive products, and waste materials produced by factories and businesses. CalEnviroScreen bases the City's Hazardous Waste scoring on the proximity of specific Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators. Permitted hazardous waste facilities were selected from the DTSC database. Hazardous waste generators were identified from the DTSC Hazardous Waste Tracking System for 2018 to 2020, only large quantity generators were included in the identification. Figure 8 shows the CalEnviroScreen percentile scores for impacts from hazardous waste in Huntington Park. There is a large disparity in the percentile scores across Huntington Park, with scores ranging from the 20th percentile to the 99th percentile. Local impacts from hazardous waste tend to be focused in the northern and western peripheries of the planning area. A majority of the census tracts that scored with high hazardous waste percentiles are designated LS-DACs.



**Table 5 CalEnviroScreen Scores Environmental Effect Indicators**

<b>Census Tracts</b>	<b>Percentiles</b>					
	<b>Pollution Percentile</b>	<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>Cleanup Sites</b>	<b>Groundwater Threats</b>	<b>Impacted Water Bodies</b>	<b>Hazardous Waste</b>
532500	98.62	75.95	91.69	86.19	66.74 (7)	99.54
532603	94.06	94.66	96.55	44.83	0.00 (0)	99.47
532604	85.05	70.42	78.29	35.68	0.00 (0)	92.40
532605	78.22	44.54	59.31	50.27	0.00 (0)	96.20
532606	72.81	25.73	28.67	65.32	0.00 (0)	90.09
532700	95.36	91.25	98.97	40.76	0.00 (0)	99.52
533002	94.84	43.21	87.74	76.96	0.00 (0)	92.28
533103	88.84	43.21	81.21	74.86	0.00 (0)	66.60
533104	60.87	22.96	31.93	42.67	0.00 (0)	32.03
533105	66.88	2.52	50.99	60.77	0.00 (0)	27.08
533106	57.54	22.08	38.43	39.45	0.00 (0)	28.30
533107	64.32	35.72	28.67	32.77	0.00 (0)	32.03
533201	83.48	22.96	89.49	78.58	0.00 (0)	71.69
533202	80.01	35.72	73.98	68.92	0.00 (0)	72.59
533203	73.48	52.90	50.41	44.83	0.00 (0)	40.93
533501	87.67	22.08	83.87	43.85	66.74 (7)	88.44
533502	68.92	0.00	44.01	27.76	66.74 (7)	32.03
533503	68.70	0.00	31.93	10.64	66.74 (7)	35.62
534501	70.28	52.90	37.79	56.95	0.00 (0)	35.62
534502	91.03	73.01	75.03	75.61	66.74 (7)	53.51
534802	52.98	0.00	25.68	41.54	0.00 (0)	46.80
534803	68.24	0.00	59.31	70.45	0.00 (0)	71.99
534804	83.83	9.67	97.03	59.60	0.00 (0)	80.49
534900	88.69	0.00	85.18	86.90	0.00 (0)	91.58
535300	94.10	52.90	97.35	93.34	0.00 (0)	88.91
534700	55.28	35.72	23.50	23.44	0.00(0)	43.30

Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities

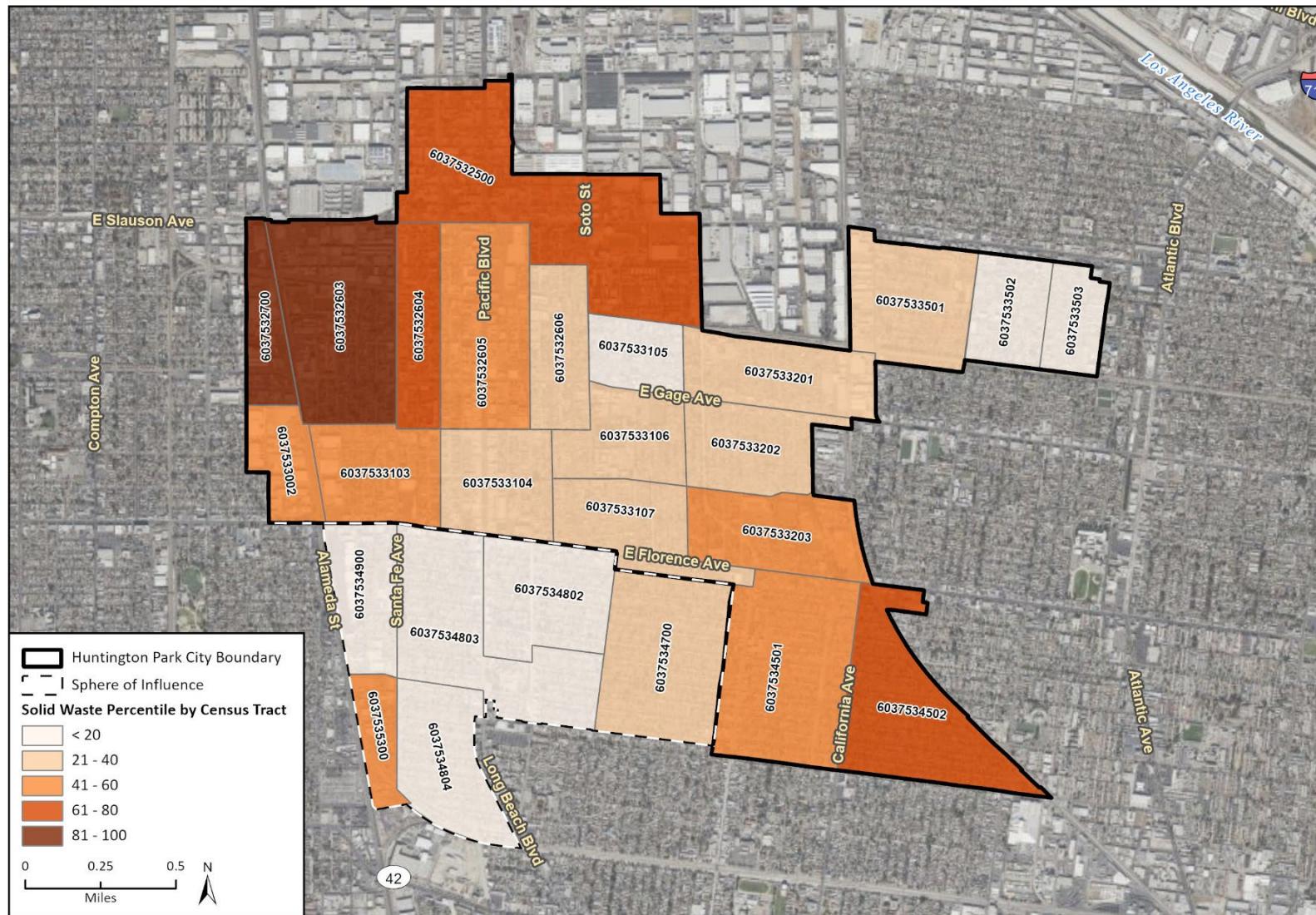


LS-DACs

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022



## Figure 6 Solid Waste Sites in Huntington Park (identified in CalEnviroScreen)

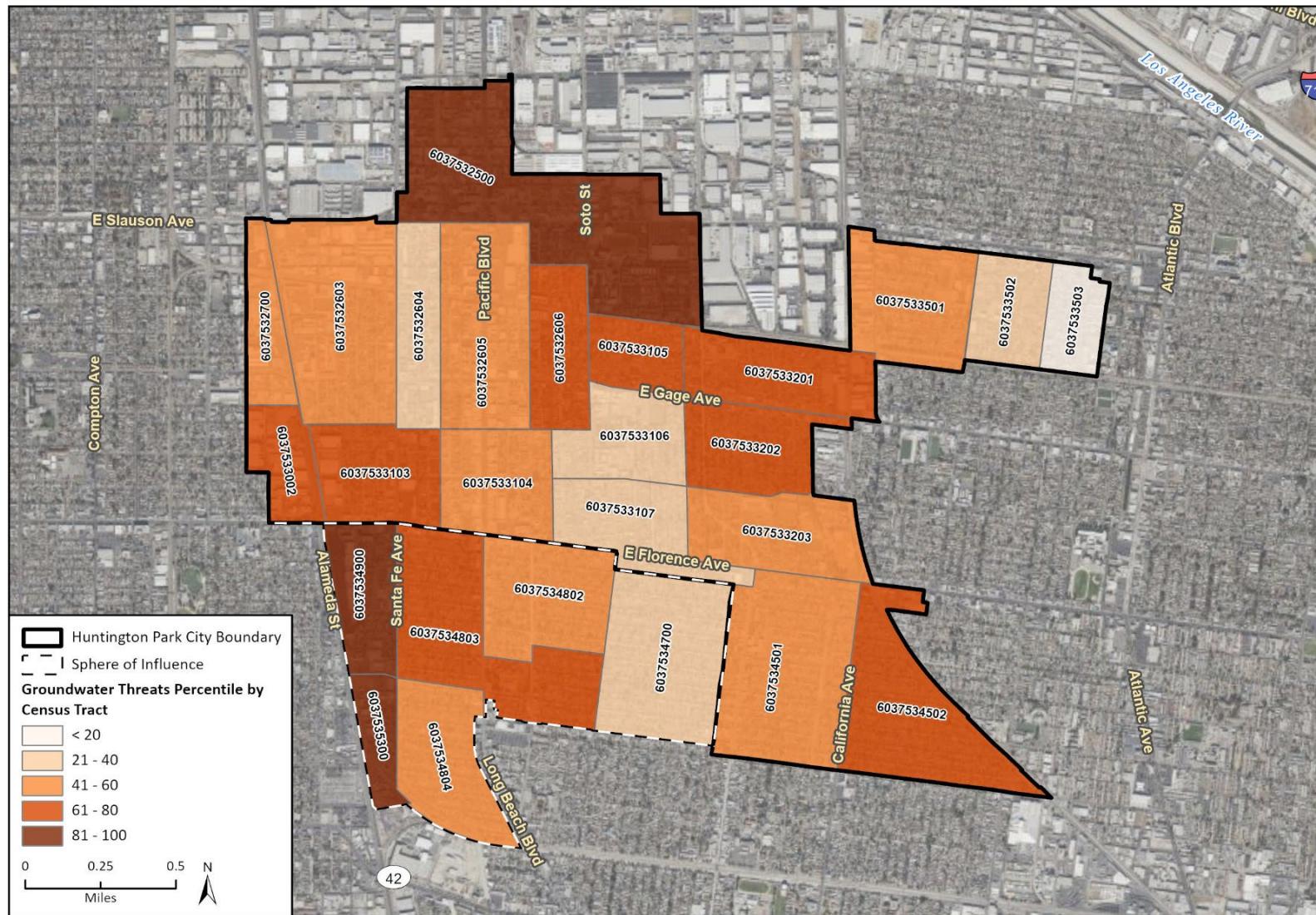


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Additional data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, 2021; CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022.

HuntingtonPark\_Maps  
Fig X CalEnviroScreen 4.0



**Figure 7    Groundwater Threats in Huntington Park (identified in CalEnviroScreen)**

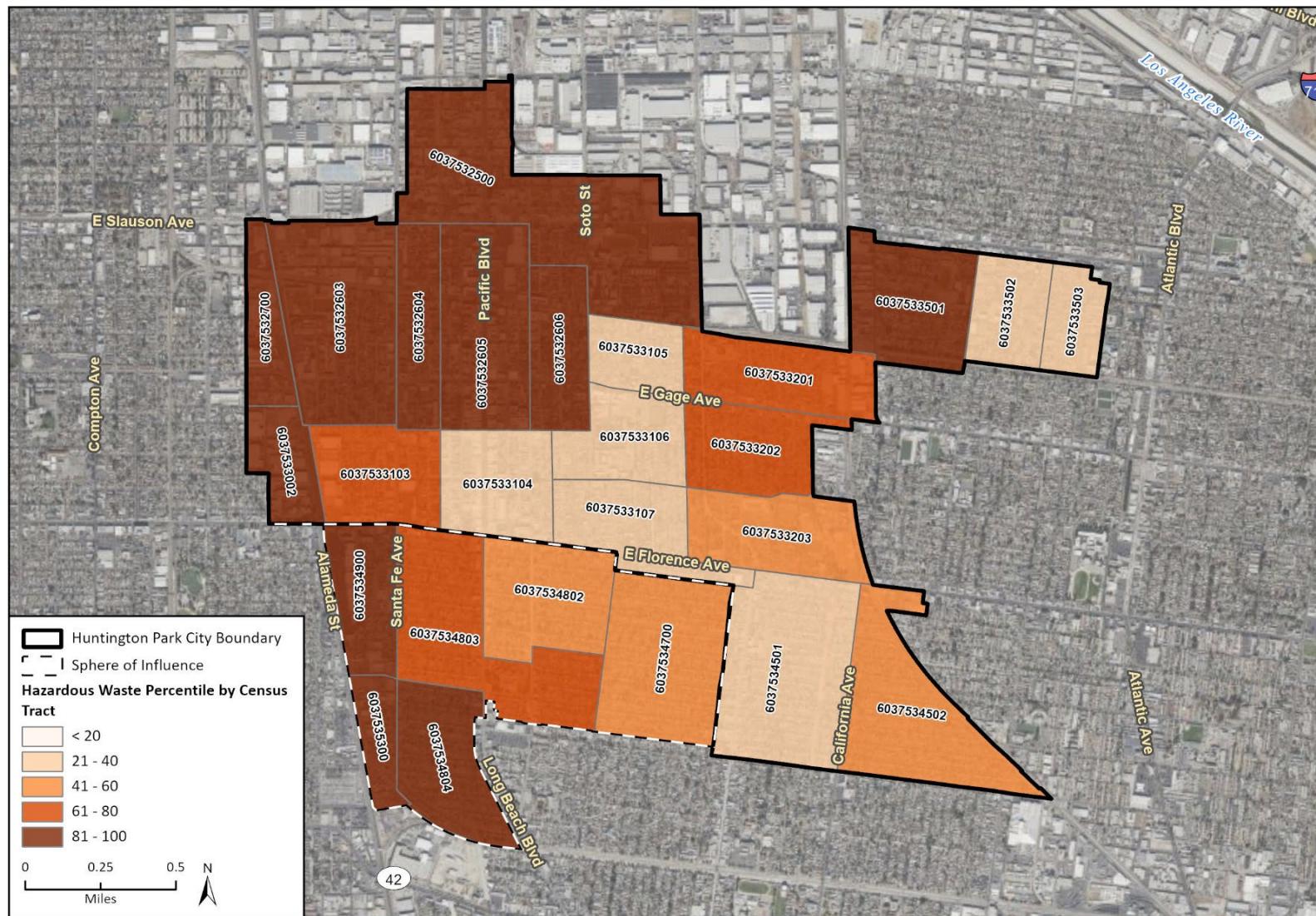


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Additional data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, 2021; CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022.

HuntingtonPark\_Maps  
Fig X CalEnviroScreen 4.0



**Figure 8 Hazardous Waste Sites in Huntington Park (Identified in CalEnviroScreen)**



## 2.2 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Access to public facilities and resources is included as environmental determinant of health in CalEnviroScreen. Under State law “public facilities” include, but are not limited to, public improvements, services, and community amenities (Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A)). These facilities include cultural centers, streets and roads, government buildings, schools, public transit, and public open space. Low-income and minority communities have historically had fewer public investments in their neighborhood and less access to critical public resources (OEHHA 2017). The following discussion identifies the range of public facilities available in Huntington Park and evaluates community accessibility to these facilities.

### PARKS, SCHOOLS, AND CULTURAL CENTERS

The availability of greenspace (parks, fields, open space) in proximity to housing can create opportunity for physical activity and social interaction (WHO 2016). Both physical activity and social interaction have been linked to improved health outcomes. Similarly, public schools and cultural centers provide opportunities for recreation and community engagement that are necessary to supplement the mental and physical health of residents. The city of Huntington Park provides residents with approximately 31 acres of total park space.

The following is a list of city parks and open space available to the residents of Huntington Park:

- Chesley Park
- Robert Keller Park
- Freedom Park
- Salt Lake Park
- Senior Citizen Park
- Skate Park
- Raul R. Perez Memorial Park

Schools can also support community health as they provide opportunities for the attending children to engage with their communities and participate in recreational activities during operating hours. The following is a list of public schools located within Huntington Park.

- Huntington Park Elementary School
- Huntington Park High School
- Pacific Boulevard School
- Linda Esperanza Marquez High School
- Hope Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Miles Avenue Elementary School
- Gage Middle School
- Nimitz Middle School
- Middleton St. Elementary School
- Lucille Roybal-Allard Elementary School



Of all residents in Huntington Park, 13 percent live further than a half mile from a park. The California Statewide Park Program (Public Resources Code Section 5642) defines “critically underserved” communities as those communities having a ratio of less than 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents or is a disadvantaged community with insufficient or no park space and recreation facilities. According to the California Department of Parks and Recreation’s Park Access Tool, approximately 96 percent of residents in Huntington Park live in areas with less than 3 acres of parks or open space per 1,000 residents and are therefore critically underserved.

Figure 9 shows the distribution of parks and the park access per 1,000 residents throughout the Huntington Park planning area by census tract. As seen in Figure 9, a majority of census tracts in Huntington Park have less than 1 park acre per 1,000 residents. All but two census tract in the planning area have less than three park acres per 1,000 resident and thus qualify as critically underserved. The single census tract with adequate access is Census Tract 33203 and Census Tract 34900.

## BIKE LANES

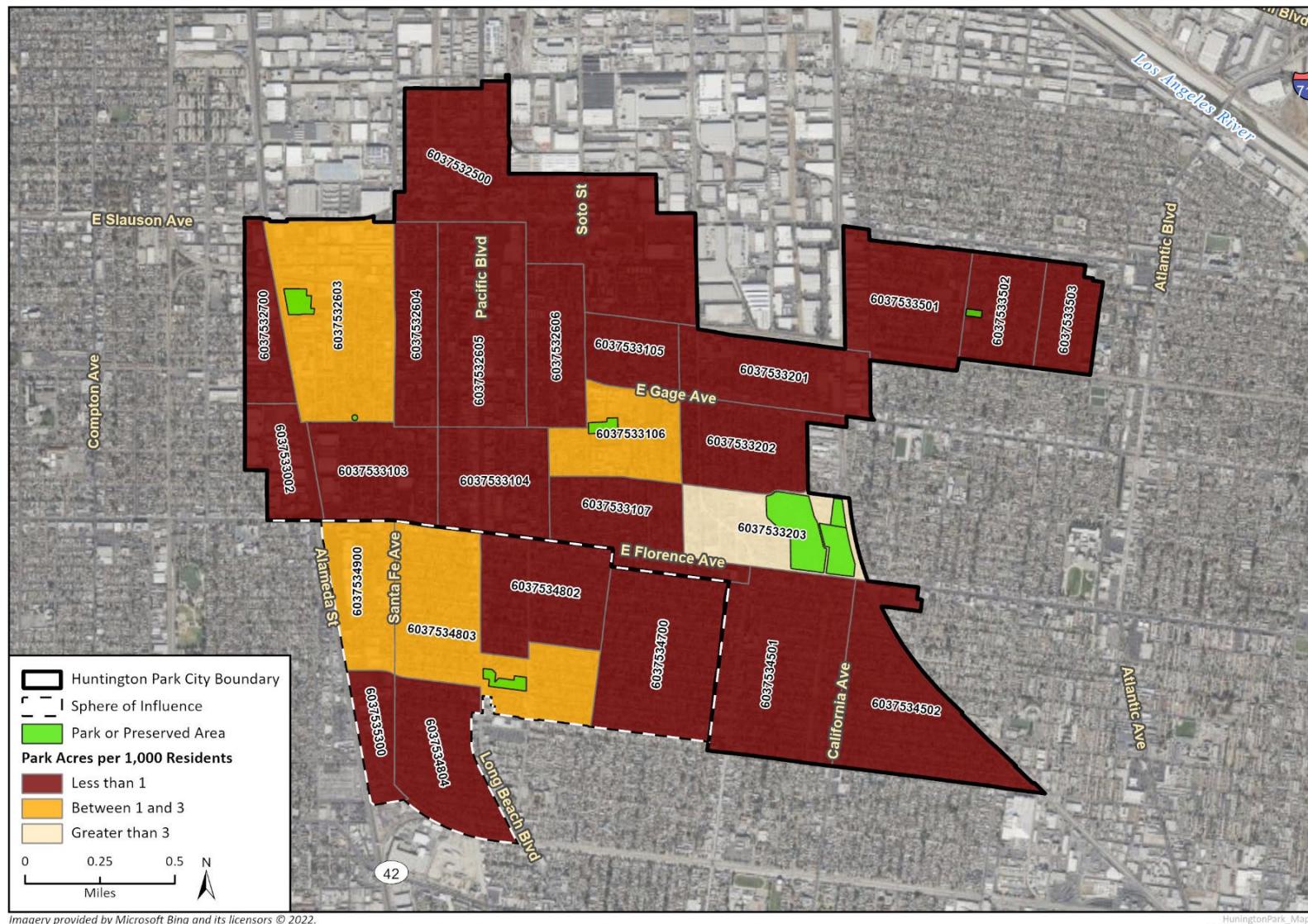
Bike lanes are a public facility that enable residents of a community to access necessary resources without the availability of an automobile. In this way, bike lanes democratize transportation to allow for increased food access, increased opportunity for exercise (access to parks and open space), and improved connectivity to regional transit (Castillo 2019). According to the Healthy Places Index Tool, approximately 14.5 percent of workers (16+) in Huntington Park commute to work via active transportation (public transit, walking, or cycling). This is higher than the Los Angeles County measure of 9.01 percent. Commute patterns are often informed by residential vehicle access. Those who do not have access to a vehicle may be forced to resort to active transportation as a means of commuting. In Huntington Park, 12.8 percent of households do not have access to a vehicle. Huntington Park has a lower vehicle access rate than 87 percent of all other California cities (HPI 2022).

The City of Huntington Park encompasses a total area of 3 square miles. According to the Huntington Park Bicycle Master Plan, there are no bike paths, lanes, or routes within the City of Huntington Park. In addition, there are only two existing bicycle facilities within cities and communities adjacent to Huntington Park (City of Huntington Park 2014). The following bike facilities are located in communities adjacent to Huntington Park.

- Los Angeles River Trail - City of Vernon
- Southern Avenue Bike Trail - City of South Gate



**Figure 9 Access to Parks**



As of 2014, existing end of trip bicycle facilities within Huntington Park were limited to bike racks located at schools, parks, the civic center, and within commercial districts. Field observations performed within the city's Bicycle Master Plan showed that existing end of trip bicycle facilities were not heavily used when they were located within commercial districts due to poor visibility or inadequate security. According to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), there are a number of Class I, Class II, and Class III bike lanes planned within the city of Huntington Park boundaries (SCAG 2019). These bike lanes are not currently in existence.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT

The availability of public transit within a geographic area can serve to improve resource accessibility for disadvantaged communities by ensuring that those residents without automobile access can maintain mobility (WHO 2016).

Huntington Park is served by two different transit providers: the city of Huntington Park and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). The city operates two local bus lines and a dial-a-ride service for Huntington Park residents through the HP Express local transit bus. LA Metro operates the regional bus lines that pass through the city across 11 bus lines and an extensive network of bus stops.

LA Metro operates the following bus lines in the city of Huntington Park:

- **60.** Pacific Street
- **102.** Florence Avenue
- **108/358.** Slauson Avenue
- **110.** Gage
- **111/311.** Florence
- **251.** Slauson, Pacific, Florence
- **254.** Gage, Santa Fe
- **611.** Florence
- **612.** Florence
- **751.** Slauson, Pacific
- **760.** Pacific

The City of Huntington Park transit service details are described below based on transit type.

- **Dial-A-Ride.** The city operates a budget-friendly taxicab service that offers door-to-door transportation for eligible Huntington Park residents.
- **HP Express.** HP Express operates Monday through Friday between 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.



The existing public transportation system in Huntington Park is intended to provide adequate local and regional accessibility for those residents that cannot rely on automobile transportation. There are 43 existing HP Express bus stops across the city, with bus stop locations in a majority of city census tracts. The HP Express does not service census tracts outside of the city boundaries within the city's SOI. Free ridership on the HP Express is offered to seniors (62+), persons with disabilities, Medicare cardholders, and children 4 years old and younger.

## 2.3 FOOD ACCESS

Access to healthy food is a key determinant of positive health outcomes and quality of life. Historically, low-income communities have been disproportionately impacted by lack of food access. This inability to access nutritious food has been associated with, among several factors, lack of transportation resources, and a lack of local affordable and nutritious food sources (USDA 2019). Food access can be measured by food-insecurity and the presence of food deserts. It should be noted that the recent global impact from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID 19) is likely to have increased issues with food access and elevated the food insecurity rate in Huntington Park.

### FOOD INSECURITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The food insecurity rate in California is measured to be at 10 percent of the total population, with 72 percent of those food insecure people being eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Feeding America 2022). The city of Huntington Park is located within Los Angeles County. According to Feeding America, the food insecurity rate in the County is 10.7 percent, with approximately 1,079,900 people defined as food insecure (Feeding America 2022). Of those who are classified as food insecure, 84 percent are considered eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. These statistics reported for Los Angeles County are fairly consistent with the state measures.

The most recent data on food insecurity in Huntington Park is from the year 2015. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported a food insecurity rate in Huntington Park of approximately 25 percent for the year 2015 (LADPH 2018). This city statistic is more than double the County and Statewide statistic for the same measure and indicates that food insecurity among the population of Huntington Park is a significant issue.



## FOOD DESERTS

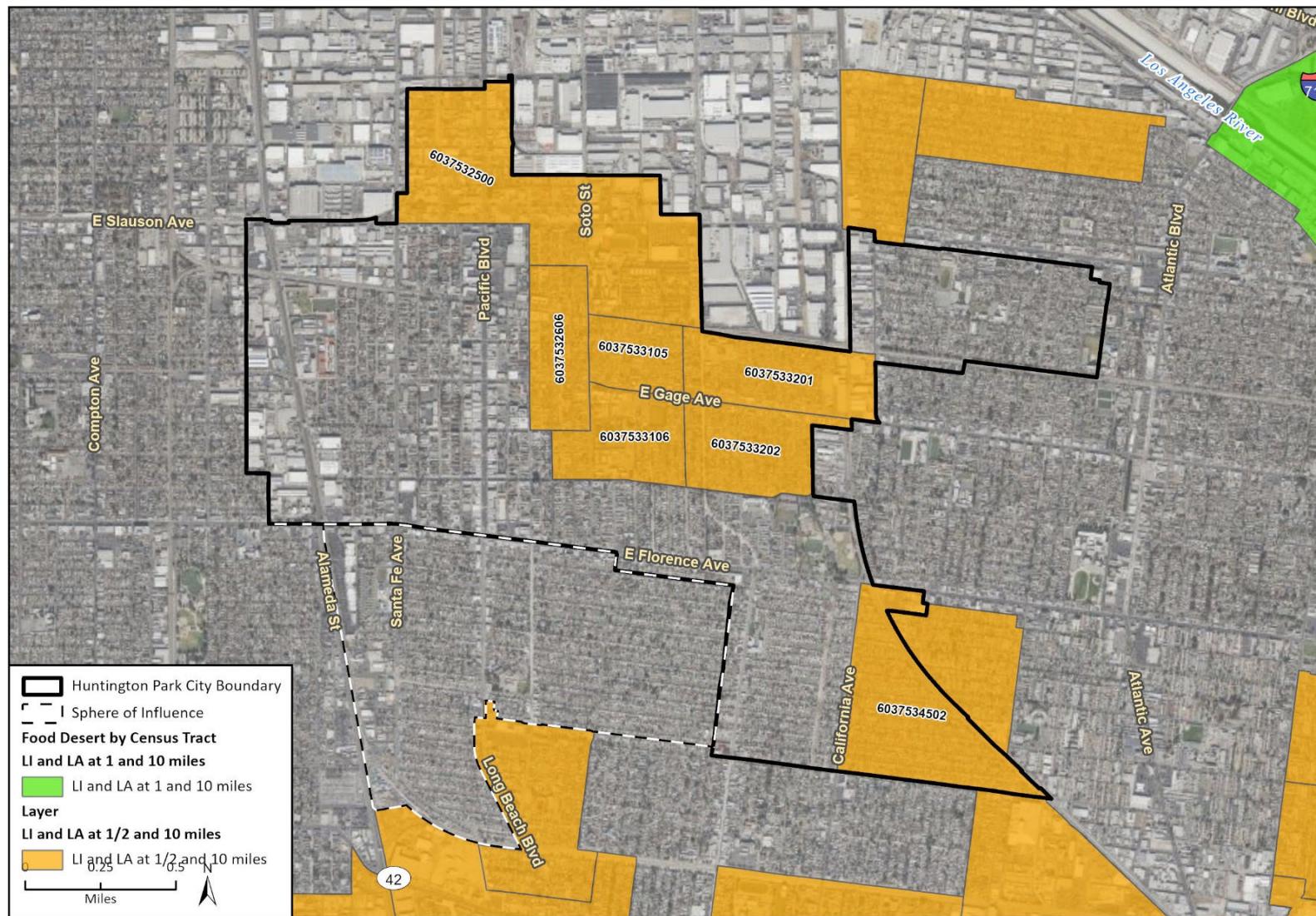
"Food desert" refers to a census tract with a substantial share of residents who live in low-income areas that have low levels of access to a grocery store or a healthy, affordable food retail outlet (see, e.g., HR 4344 (July 1, 2021): proposed amendment to 42 USC Section 1769). The USDA maintains a Food Access Research Atlas that identifies food deserts by census tract within the United States. The USDA defines the food desert classification as low-income census tracts with a substantial number or share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods (USDA 2011). For the purposes of the Food Access Research Atlas, low-income and low-access census tracts are defined below:

- Low-income. A census tract with a poverty rate of 20 percent or greater, or median family income at or below 80 percent of the statewide or metropolitan area median family income.
- Low-access. A census tract with at least 500 people or 33 percent of the tract's population living more than 1 mile (urban areas) or more than 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket or grocery store.

Figure 10 depicts the food desert layout for the city of Huntington Park. Based on the definitions above, there are no identified food deserts within the Huntington Park planning area. However, there are several communities that are classified as Low-income and Low-access at an impaired access distance of more than 0.5 mile from the nearest supermarket or grocery store. These census tracts are primarily located in the central portion of the city.



**Figure 10 Food Desert Layout in Huntington Park**



## 2.4 SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

Low-income residents may be financially incapable of maintaining their homes in a manner necessary to provide a healthy living environment (Krieger 2002). Poor housing conditions such as poor ventilation and substandard building materials/quality can result in mold generated through moisture, exposure to asbestos, and exposure to extreme climate variations (WHO 2016). Other factors that can contribute to unsafe housing conditions include landlord neglect and overcrowding. Low-income communities with limited opportunity to remove themselves from unsafe conditions may be forced to bear the health burden associated with an unsafe home (Krieger 2002).

Low-income households are disproportionately more likely to experience severe housing problems (Krieger 2002). These housing problems can include physical defects to a unit, overcrowded conditions, and housing cost burden. In Huntington Park, approximately 54 percent of all households reported one or more housing problems (AFFH Data Viewer 2022).

## COST BURDEN, OVERCROWDING, AND AGE OF HOUSING STOCK

### *Housing Cost Burden*

Cost burden is defined by Title 24 Housing and Urban Development Code of Federal Regulations Section 91.5 as “[t]he extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 30 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.” Households spending a minimum of 30 percent of their total gross income on housing costs are considered cost burdened, whereas households spending over 50 percent on housing costs are considered severely cost burdened. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019 5-year estimates, 50 percent of all renter households in the United States are cost burdened (U.S. Census Bureau 2020).

CalEnviroScreen measures housing burden by census tract in California by identifying census tracts that are both high in housing cost burden and low in income. Figure 11 shows the CalEnviroScreen housing burden percentiles across Huntington Park. A majority of census tracts within the Huntington Park planning area scored above the 75th percentile for housing burden relative to all other California census tracts. Only two census tracts within the planning area scored below the 75th percentile: Census Tract 32606 (74th percentile) and Census Tract 34501 (21st percentile). Census Tract 34501, located in the south of the City, has a notably lower housing burden than the rest of the city.

Figure 12 depicts the percent of overpayment by renters in each census tract in the Huntington Park planning area. There is no notable geographic trend in overpayment by renters across census tracts within Huntington Park. Most census tracts score between the 40th and 80th percentiles. Only one census tract within the city’s planning area scored below the 40th percentile for the measure of overpayment by



renters: Census Tract 34900. Census Tract 34900 is located outside of the city limits within the city's southwestern SOI.

### ***Age of Housing Stock***

Housing age is an important indicator of a community's housing condition. Like any other tangible asset, housing is subject to gradual physical or technological deterioration over time. In addition, older homes were often built using harmful home construction materials, some of which are now associated with increased risk of disease (Krieger 2002).

According to 2020 ACS 5-year estimates, there are a total of 14,621 occupied housing units within the city of Huntington Park. Of the total occupied housing units in the city, only 3 percent were built after the year 2000. Approximately 77 percent were built before the year 1980; most houses having been built before 1940. Huntington Park's older housing stock suggests that housing units within the city may have quality issues related to the age of the structures.

### ***Overcrowding***

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines an overcrowded unit as one occupied by 1.01 persons or more per room (excluding bathrooms and kitchens) (HUD 2007). According to the 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 34 percent of all occupied housing units in Huntington Park were considered overcrowded. For reference, the statewide overcrowding percentage was 8.2 percent, while the slightly higher percentage for Los Angeles County was 11.2 percent. The percentage of overcrowded units within Huntington Park is significantly higher than the statewide and County averages for the same measure.

Data at the census tract level indicates that all but one census tract in the planning area had a greater than 20 percent overcrowding rate. People with low income are more likely to live in overcrowded homes. Overcrowding increases risk of respiratory infections and activation of tuberculosis (Krieger, 2002). The presence of major overcrowding within Huntington Park may be a significant risk factor for poor health outcomes within the community.



## Figure 11 Housing Burden in Huntington Park

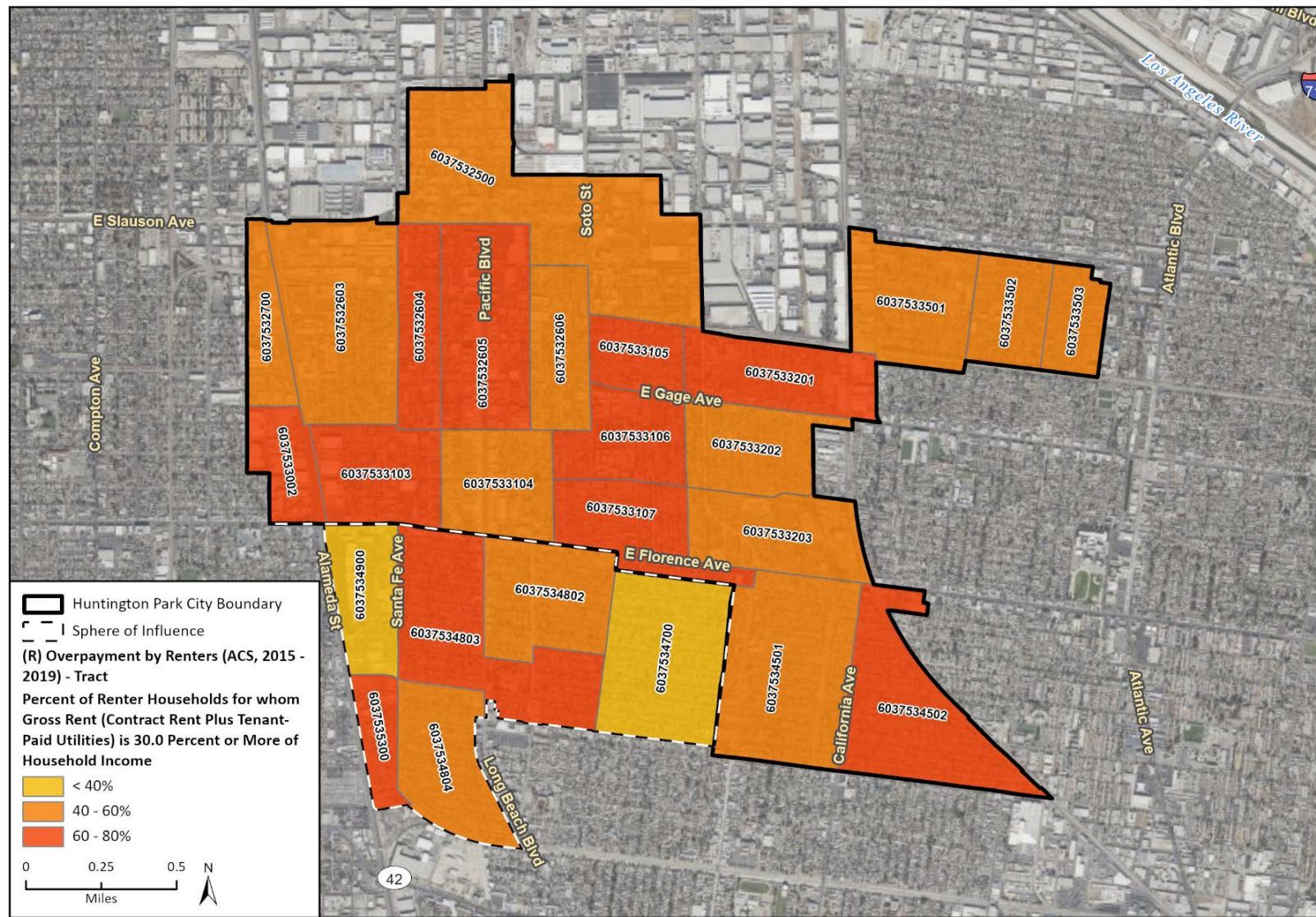


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Additional data provided by U.S. Census Bureau, 2021; CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022.

HuntingtonPark\_Maps  
Fig X CalEnviroScreen 4.0



**Figure 12 Overpayment by Renters in Huntington Park**



HuntingtonPark\_Maps  
Fig X CalEnviroScreen 4.0



## 2.5 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Lack of physical activity is associated with increased levels of chronic disease, including heart disease, diabetes, and obesity (Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2022a). The environmental context within a community can serve to promote or discourage levels of physical activity for residents. Communities with adequate access to open space, nutritious food, and multimodal transportation are more hospitable to physical activity and are therefore more likely to have better health outcomes. Lower-income communities tend to have decreased access to those key contributors to physical activity, and thus may be disproportionately impacted by the negative results of physical inactivity (WHO 2016).

Access to resources including food access, transportation, and open space is addressed in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this report. This section assesses the physical fitness and health demographics associated with the city of Huntington Park.

### PHYSICAL FITNESS

According to the Los Angeles County Health Survey, the percentage of adults (18 years and older) who met recommended guidelines for physical activity in Huntington Park was 28 percent. For Los Angeles County, the same measure of adults who met recommended guidelines was 48 percent (LCDPH 2018). The City of Huntington Park had a significantly lower percentage of adults meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines compared to the County.

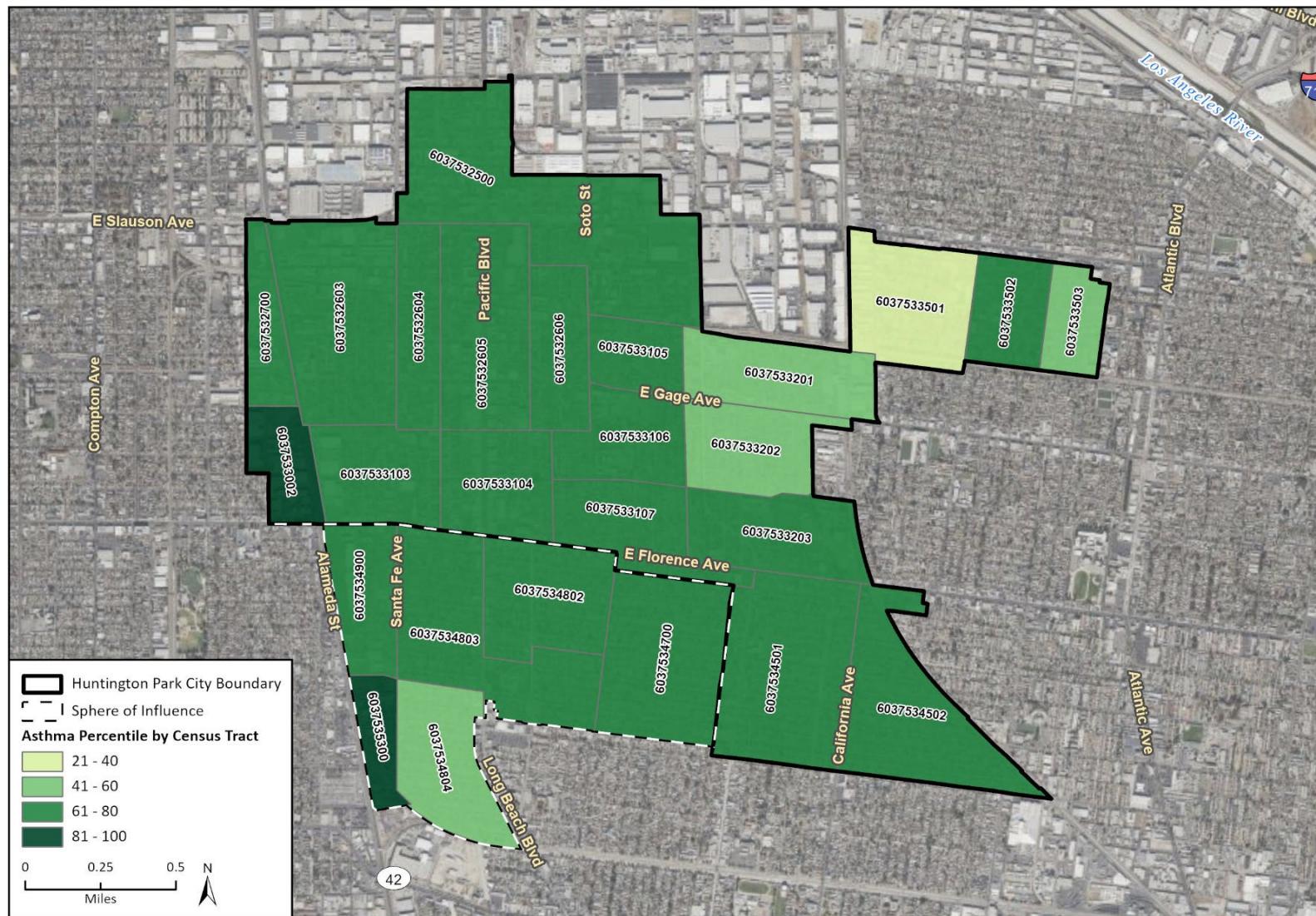
### HEALTH DEMOGRAPHICS

#### *Asthma*

In Huntington Park, 5 percent of children and teens were diagnosed with asthma in 2015. This local measure is 2 percent higher than the children and teen asthma rate for Los Angeles County (LADPH 2018). The rate of asthma visits (per 10,000 people) in the Huntington Park planning area varies significantly by census tract. Figure 13 depicts the CalEnviroScreen percentile scores for Asthma rates in the planning area relative to other California census tracts. A majority of census tracts in the planning area had an asthma percentile rate within the 60th to 70th percentile relative to all California census tracts. Census tracts located in the northeastern portion of the city had a notably lower percentile score for asthma compared to the broader city. Census tracts in Huntington Park's southwestern planning area scored the highest of all census tracts in the city, with three census tracts scoring above the 75th percentile (Census Tract 35300, Census Tract 33002, and Census Tract 34900). It should be noted that a significantly large portion of these three census tracts are located outside of the City's SOI.



**Figure 13** **Asthma Percentiles in Huntington Park**



## ***Obesity***

Obesity is a chronic disease associated with lack of physical activity and reduced life span. An environment hospitable to physical activity and healthy food access can reduce the likelihood of obesity within a community (WHO 2016). The reported prevalence of obesity among adults in Huntington Park was measured at 33.8 percent in 2019 (CDC 2019) and 30 percent in 2015. This data indicates an increase in obesity prevalence over a 4-year period. The obesity prevalence in Huntington Park in 2015 was higher than the County and State level for the same measure year of 24.3 percent and 24.2 percent, respectively (UCLA 2016).

## ***Cardiovascular Disease Deaths***

Lack of physical activity is associated with increase death related to cardiovascular disease (WHO 2016). Cardiovascular disease-related deaths include deaths due to heart disease and stroke. The cardiovascular disease deaths (per 100,000 population) in Los Angeles County were reported to be 204.8 in the year 2016 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2021). This statistic is higher than the State average of 143.1 for the same year, indicating that health outcomes related to cardiovascular disease in Los Angeles County are significantly worse than State outcomes. The city of Huntington Park had a cardiovascular disease rate (per 100,000) of 198.2, indicating that Huntington Park had a higher rate of disease than the State measure but a lower rate than the County.

Within the city, the rate of cardiovascular disease (measured by the number of heart attacks per 10,000 people) did not vary significantly across census tracts. A vast majority of census tracts within Huntington Park had a significantly high percentile score for cardiovascular disease (75th percentile +) (CalEnviroScreen 4.0). This indicates that the identified heart attack ratio across census tracts in Huntington Park is consistently higher than 75 percent of census tracts in California. A large portion of census tracts in the planning area had a percentile score above the 90th percentile, indicating the severity of cardiovascular rates across the community.

## **2.6 CIVIC OR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Equitable planning for a community involves a comprehensive approach to community engagement that enables all residents to participate in the local decision-making process. Senate Bill 1000 affirms that public agencies should develop future community engagement programs in a manner that strategically involves disadvantaged communities and other protected classes. By involving and engaging disadvantaged communities in decision-making processes, policymakers can effectively meet the needs of all residents within their jurisdiction.

Disadvantaged communities often have culturally or demographically specific needs that must be considered within local outreach strategy to ensure community success. These needs include, but are not limited to, language requirements, location requirements, and timing requirements. Public agencies are encouraged by the State



of California to accommodate the needs of all subgroups within their local community as a strategy for creating an equitable and environmentally just document.

## POPULATION BY AGE

Understanding the age demographics within a community is essential to the development of an engagement strategy that reaches a broad group of residents. Depending on the distribution of age across a population, different approaches to outreach and community interaction should be explored. Aging populations may be less hospitable to online engagement tools and/or evening civic meetings. While younger populations within a community may be less hospitable to traditional outreach methods (phone calls, newspaper outreach, etc.) and/or midday meetings. To develop an appropriate engagement strategy, public agencies should assess local age demographics to determine what approaches and tools would best meet community needs.

Table 6 shows the age demographics for census tracts within Huntington Park. The age layout across the city is relatively consistent with state population trends. There are no geographic patterns related to age layout in the planning area. In those census tracts with slightly higher populations of persons over 65 years of age, traditional engagement strategies can be coupled with novel tools to broaden the span of public engagement efforts. By utilizing traditional practices of engagement, such as telephone notification, elderly communities can remain connected and aware.



**Table 6 Population Age Demographics (Huntington Park)**

Census Tracts	Population Over 64 (%)	Population 10-64 (%)	Population <10 (%)
532500	7.65	76.9	15.45
532603	6.17	72.97	20.86
532604	10.48	74.92	14.6
532605	13.57	69.96	16.48
532606	12.44	71.96	15.6
532700	5.53	75.86	18.61
533002	7.13	71.61	21.26
533103	8.07	76.36	15.57
533104	12.57	69.72	17.71
533105	5.98	82.55	11.47
533106	15.7	71.2	13.1
533107	6.8	83.2	10.0
533201	19.2	70.5	10.2
533202	11.4	73.2	15.4
533203	16.2	74.5	9.3
533501	20.9	72.4	6.7
533502	15.7	72.9	11.5
533503	11.6	76.8	11.6
534501	8.42	79.12	12.46
534502	11.35	72.48	16.18
534802	12.4	75.48	12.12
534803	10.44	76.73	12.84
534804	9.05	76.69	14.27
534900	7.41	80.87	11.73
535300	6.68	76.35	16.97
534700	14.09	76.87	9.04
Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities			
 LS-DACs			
Source: CalEnviroScreen, 2022			



## LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 40 percent of the population in California speak a language other than English at home. Households that are linguistically isolated are those households where no person over the age of 14 speaks English proficiently (Siegel, Martin, & Bruno 2001). For these households, standard community engagement strategies may not be sufficient for gathering input. Jurisdictions that contain a significant amount of linguistically isolated communities must ensure that these isolated communities are included within the engagement process. Engagement of linguistically isolated communities can be achieved through identification of predominant language demographics within a jurisdiction, translation of written materials to relevant languages, and inclusion of translation services at events and meetings.

The CalEnviroScreen linguistic isolation indicator measures the percentage of households in each census tract in which no one over 14 speaks English well. The language isolation percentages for the census tracts in Huntington Park are outlined below in Table 7 indicate that all census tracts within Huntington Park have a high rate of linguistic isolation. All census tracts in the planning area had a linguistic isolation percentile score above the 75th percentile, with many census tracts scoring above the 90th percentile. However, there is no notable geographic trend in linguistic isolation among census tracts in the planning area.

Across the city, the primary language spoken besides English was Spanish. Numerous census tracts within the planning area also had significant portions of the population who spoke Chinese and Tagalog. Integrating the local language context into community engagement strategies may support equitable and comprehensive planning processes within Huntington Park.



**Table 7 Linguistic Isolation (Huntington Park)**

Census Tracts	Linguistic Isolation Percentage	Percentile Score
532500	28%	94
532603	26%	93
532604	25%	93
532605	35%	98
532606	41%	99
532700	23%	90
533002	24%	91
533103	27%	94
533104	45%	99
533105	26%	94
533106	18%	84
533107	28%	95
533201	25%	92
533202	25%	93
533203	34%	97
533501	25%	92
533502	24%	92
533503	28%	95
534501	18%	82
534502	14%	75
534802	22%	90
534803	31%	96
534804	26%	85
534900	20%	93
535300	19%	86
534700	25%	92
Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities		
 LS-DACs		
Source: CalEnviroScreen, 2022		

## INCOME

The U.S. Census Bureau defines unemployed persons as those people who are 16 years of age or older, out of work and able to work, but not working. Stress from long-term unemployment can lead to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, and can shorten a person's life (WHO 2016). Unemployment can be associated with the availability and location of resources within a community, including public transit access and automobile access.

According to the Employment Development Department (EDD), in 2021 the rate of unemployment in California was 7.5 percent. The rate of unemployment in Los Angeles County was above the state level at 8.9 percent. The rate of unemployment in Huntington Park is consistent with the County rate at 8.9 percent (EDD 2021). This indicates that unemployment in Huntington Park is higher than the average unemployment for California. Table 8 shows the percentages of people in Huntington Park by census tracts who are unemployed and considered below the federal poverty level. A majority of the census tracts that had unemployment percentages that were above the 75th percentile of all California census tracts also qualified as LS-DACs. These LS-DAC census tracts are highlighted in the table below.

The U.S. Census Bureau determines the federal poverty level each year. The poverty level is based on household size and the age of family members. If a person or family's total income before taxes is less than the poverty level, the person or family are considered in poverty. In Los Angeles County, the poverty level was measured to be 20.8 percent for the year 2019 (Public Policy Institute of California 2022). In comparison, 21.6 percent of people in Huntington Park lived at or below the federal poverty line in 2021. (U.S. Census Bureau 2021). Numerous studies have found that people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution (CalEnviroScreen 2022). Due to the high cost of living in California, CalEnviroScreen 4.0 calculates poverty percentages and percentiles based on those living twice below the federal poverty level. Table 8 depicts the CalEnviroScreen poverty percentage by census tract in Huntington Park. There are no identifiable geographic patterns related to poverty across Huntington Park.



**Table 8 Poverty and Unemployment Rates**

Census Tract	Poverty Percentage	Unemployment Percentage
532500	48.3	8.9
532603	59.9	7.1
532604	50.1	4.3
532605	65.7	9
532606	58.2	9
532700	68.9	11.1
533002	67.6	9.5
533103	65.1	2.7
533104	64.3	5.7
533105	69.8	9.4
533106	65.7	12.2
533107	64.7	9.7
533201	53.6	16.2
533202	45.2	8.9
533203	64.9	13
533501	54.8	8.9
533502	42.1	10.8
533503	50.2	7.4
534501	45.2	7.1
534502	44.3	5.8
534802	49.8	7.4
534803	49	4.8
534804	50.2	10.1
534900	39.7	10.9
535300	52.6	4.9
534700	36.5	5
Locally Specific Disadvantaged Communities		
 LS-DACs		
Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2022		

## 3 KEY FINDINGS

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This technical report makes the following key findings:

- All but one of the twenty-six census tracts in the Huntington Park planning area are considered designated disadvantaged communities (DACs) per CalEnviroScreen 4.0.
- Per the locally specific DAC (LS-DAC) criteria, fourteen census tracts in the Huntington Park planning area qualify as LS-DACs.
- Based on the combined methodologies and additional analysis for screening disadvantaged communities, all census tracts in Huntington Park qualify as disadvantaged.
- Only twelve census tracts within the Huntington Park planning area scored lower than the 75th percentile in CalEnviroScreen's pollution burden measure.
- LS-DACs in the Huntington Park planning area were disproportionately impacted by environmental effects indicators in comparison to all city census tracts.
- Housing Burden across the Huntington Park planning area was significantly high for a majority of census tracts.
- Park access across the Huntington Park planning area is fairly limited, with a majority of census tracts being classified as significantly underserved.
- Bike connectivity and opportunities for active transportation are fairly limited within the planning area.
- Local impacts from hazardous waste tend to be focused in the northern and western peripheries of the planning area. A majority of the census tracts that scored high hazardous waste percentiles are designated LS-DACs.
- All census tracts across the planning area (including LS-DACs) are largely associated with elevated Lead, Toxic Release, PM 2.5, and Diesel PM compared to the other indicators.
- Geographically, areas located on the peripheries of the planning area had the highest levels of DPM. This trend is likely due to the location of major inter-city roadways along the edges of the planning area.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported a food insecurity rate in Huntington Park of approximately 25 percent for the year 2015 (LADPH 2018). This city statistic is more than double the County and Statewide statistic for the same measure.
- According to the 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 34 percent of all occupied housing units in Huntington Park were considered overcrowded. All but one census tract in the planning area had a greater than 20 percent overcrowding rate.



- Of the total occupied housing units in the city, only 3 percent were built after the year 2000. Approximately 77 percent were built before the year 1980; most houses having been built before 1940.
- A majority of census tracts had a percentile score of 0 for a measure of impacted water bodies. However, five census tracts in the planning area had a 66th percentile score. These census tracts are primarily located in the northeastern portion of the planning area. Of the five census tracts with elevated scores, three are LS-DACs.
- Impacts from groundwater threats vary greatly across Huntington Park census tracts, ranging from the 10th percentile to the 90th percentile. Census tracts with the highest percentile scores for groundwater threats are also designated LS-DAC census tracts. Many LS-DAC census tracts have groundwater threat percentile scores in the 75th percentile and above.
- Impacts from cleanup sites vary greatly across the city planning area. The highest percentiles for this indicator are located along the boundaries of the city's planning area. LS-DACs have the highest cleanup site percentile scores in Huntington Park.
- Areas in the northwestern and southeastern portions of the planning area tend to have higher solid waste percentile scores than all other census tracts. These tracts with elevated solid waste percentiles are fairly consistent with the identified LS-DAC census tracts.
- Lead exposure levels across the Huntington Park planning area are significantly elevated with percentile scores ranging from the 79th percentile to the 100th percentile. There is no identifiable trend in the percentile scores for lead in relation to LS-DACs.
- CalEnviroScreen scores indicate that Huntington Park has a disparity in the presence of Diesel PM (DPM) across census tracts. Some census tracts within the city scored between the 30th and 60th percentiles, while others scored notably high in the 80th percentile. There is no clear relationship between the LS-DACs and levels of DPM across the planning area. Geographically, areas located on the peripheries of the planning area had the highest levels of DPM. This trend is likely due to the location of major inter-city roadways along the edges of the planning area.
- CalEnviroScreen scores indicate a high PM 2.5 presence in Huntington Park relative to other California census tracts, with all census tracts scoring within the 80th percentile. There is no clear relationship between the levels of PM 2.5 and LS-DACs in the planning area. All census tracts had consistently elevated percentile scores in the 80th percentiles.



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